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TO: The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM

DATE: 27 July 2017

**SUBJECT: CTSAMM INVESTIGATION REPORT 047 – THE SITUATION IN
JONGLEI AND BOMA STATES**

Your Excellency,

Please find attached a CTSAMM report on investigations into the complex situation in what are known as Jongle and Boma States, with reference to potential violations on the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements (Chapter II of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan of 26 August 2015).

This report was discussed at the CTSAMM meeting of 20 July 2017.


Major General Molla Hailemariam

Chairman

Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism



DRAFT CTSAMM REPORT NUMBER 047
INVESTIGATION REPORT - JONGLEI AND BOMA STATES

Executive Summary

It is alleged that Bor Dinka Youth groups have been supported by Jonglei State and elements of SPLA-IG-IG forces in Bor to conduct attacks on Murle youth in Boma state.

Jonglei State has made a counter accusations that Murle youth groups are being supported by SPLA-IG elements in Pibor and the Boma state authorities and the state in Pibor.

The effects of the violence spread beyond intra communal violence and has affected NGOs, traders and civilians attempting to use roads along routes to and from Juba, Pibor and Bor.

CTSAMM finds evidence that both Bor-Dinka and Murle youth groups have been receiving support from the state governments and elements in the SPLA-IG.

The TGoNU response and the peace talks between Jonglei and Boma State are positive developments.

CTSAMM acknowledges that this is a complex situation and assesses that the ongoing peace initiative must continue to be fully supported.

INVESTIGATION REPORT JONGLEI AND BOMA STATES

1.0 Background. The legacy state of Jonglei has been the epicentre for intra communal violence in South Sudan for many years, predating the civil war which broke out in 2014. Clashes are traditionally between Bor Dinka, Murle and Lou Nuer and are conducted over large areas of land for protracted periods. In 2012 the extent of the violence resulted in the SPLA-IG deploying forces to Bor and surrounding areas to deal with the insecurity. Bor State (Governor and population) and the SPLA-IG units based in Bor from 8 Division is Bor Dinka in ethnicity. Boma state (Governor and the population of Pibor) and the units from 8 Division based in Pibor is Murle in ethnicity.

2.0 Allegations: It is alleged that the 'Government' have been providing support to Bor Dinka youth groups through the SPLA-IG in the form of weapons, vehicles, uniforms and training. In so doing the level of violence in clashes between Murle and Bor Dinka has been increased and sustained.

3.0 Aim: The purpose of this report is to describe the incidents, provide an assessment of the circumstances, and make recommendations.

4.0 CTSAMM Investigations.

4.1 CTSAMM has conducted a number of patrols to assess the situation in what are now known as Jonglei and Boma States. Interviews have been conducted with a wide range of stakeholders including the governors of Jongeli and Boma states, SPLA-IG representatives and the Deputy Commander of 8 Division in Pibor.

4.2 Counter Accusations: In conducting follow up investigations in Bor CTSAMM received counter accusations that:

- Murle Youth groups were receiving support from Boma State authorities and the elements of 8 Division SPLA-IG based in Pibor.

- The activities of the Bor Dinka Youth are a retaliation to provocative actions conducted by the Murle youth.

5.0 Findings.

5.1. Support for Bor-Dinka Youth. It is verified by CTSAMM that SPLA-IG units based in the Bor area have been providing support to Bor-Dinka youth in the form of SPLA-IG transport and command and control. There is very clear state level political support for the youth in Jonglei.

5.2. Support for Murle Youth. There is evidence that the activities of the Murle youth are being supported by Boma state. Murle factions within 8 Division based in Pibor had to be prevented from joining the fighting against the Bor Dinka Youth and it is likely that Murle elements of the division were actively supporting the Murle Youth.

5.3 TGoNU Response. The TGoNU response called for the withdrawal of SPLA-IG units and of the respective Youth groups from flashpoints in Jonglei and Boma states and for restraint to be exercised by the state authorities. This was followed on 22 May by the inauguration of a peace conference in Juba which was attended by both Jonglei and Boma state delegations. Both governors have made strong recommendations to the government for sustaining the initiative. A key element of their recommendations was the request for the deployment of a police presence to flashpoints in the disputed areas between the states.

6.0 Conclusion: CTSAMM concludes that support to both Bor-Dinka and Murle Youth Groups has been provided at state level and by factions within 8 Division SPLA-IG. The violation is assessed as a local level sequence of events which has impacted on the civilian population of Boma and Jonglei states. The TGoNU response has been to de-escalate the violence by removing SPLA-IG forces and armed groups from flashpoints and to sponsor a regional peace initiative.

7.0 Observations and Recommendations:

7.1 CTSAMM observes that the timely intervention of TGoNU has reduced the SPLA-IG presence and contributed to security in what are now known as Jonglei and Boma States.

7.2 CTSAMM recommends that the ongoing peace process in Jonglei and Boma states be fully implemented

7.3 That the deployment of a robust police presence to flash points in Jonglei and Boma States is prioritised by TGoNU.

7.4 The TGoNU intervention has demonstrated the benefits of delivering an effective national response to a local conflict. TGoNU is encouraged to repeat the process when dealing with similar scenarios in other parts of South Sudan.