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TO: The Chairman, JMEC
FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM
DATE: 04 Sep 2017

SUBJECT: CTSAMM REPORT 050 – VIOLATIONS IN WONDURUBA, CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

Your Excellency,

Please find attached a CTSAMM report on violations of 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) in Wonduruba, Central Equatoria State. This report was discussed at the CTSAMM meeting of 23 August 2017.

Signed:

Major General Molla Hailemariam
Chairman
CTSAMM

**CTSAMM REPORT NUMBER 050
VIOLATIONS IN WONDURUBA**

Executive Summary

CTSAMM undertook a routine patrol to Wonduruba in Central Equatoria State from 24 to 26 July 2017. This was the first visit by CTSAMM to the town, and the first by UN personnel since 2014.

The MVT found the town to be almost empty of civilians, and all civil buildings – and most civilian houses – to be occupied by SPLA-IG personnel. Local people told the MVT they had been forcibly evicted, and those civilians who have not moved to Juba or fled to Uganda now live in the bush.

There is no SPLM-A-IO (RM) presence in the area, but despite this the local civilian population is treated with suspicion and live in fear of the SPLA-IG. Information from multiple sources indicate that civilians were killed by SPLA-IG in 2015 and 2016 for allegedly supporting SPLA-IO (RM).

The local SPLA-IG commander had little knowledge of the peace process and demonstrated complete ignorance of his duty under the PCTSA to protect civilians.

CTSAMM finds SPLA-IG to be in violation of those articles of the COHA and PCTSA that oblige the Parties to ensure that all units under their control comply with the agreements, and all articles pertaining to the protection of civilians.

VIOLATIONS IN WONDURUBA

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background:

- Wonduruba in Central Equatoria State has not seen any fighting. However, the town is heavily militarised and there have long been stories of the suffering of the civilians in the area. There have been no previous visits by CTSAMM and the UN has not visited since 2014 when they found people living in fear of occupying SPLA-IG forces.
- The CTSAMM visit to Wonduruba was not as a result of any specific allegations, but a routine joint patrol to an area not previously visited in order to assess and monitor the implementation of the PCTSA in accordance with its mandate.

1.3 Aim: The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of the situation in Wonduruba, and to attribute responsibility for any violations of the PCTSA.

1.4 Methodology:

- The MVT based in Juba undertook a patrol to Wonduruba from 24 to 26 July 2017.
- During the time the MVT spent in Wonduruba, they were able to meet with local traditional and religious leaders, as well as civil and military authorities. The team were also able to meet a large number of local civilians, many of whom came into the town specially to meet with the MVT and accompanying UNMISS personnel.

2.0 Findings

- 2.1 Wonduruba is heavily militarised. The town of Wonduruba, and the three other towns in the area are completely occupied by SPLA-IG personnel. Civil buildings such as schools are used as barracks and most civilian homes have been looted and many occupied. There are only a few mainly elderly people living in the town, the inhabitants have moved into the surrounding area or gone to Juba or indeed neighbouring countries. Multiple sources told the MVT that the civil population had been forcibly displaced from the towns.
- 2.2 Opposition Forces passed through Wonduruba in December 2013, and it was occupied by SPLA-IG several months later in 2014. There are no SPLA-IO active in the area, but the civil population has been accused of supporting the SPLA-IO and suffered accordingly. Young men in particular have been treated with suspicion.
- 2.3 Multiple sources told the MVT that civilians have been killed by SPLA-IG in Wonduruba and the surrounding area. 52 civilians were allegedly killed in September 2015 (apparently because they were suspected of being sympathetic to the SPLA-IO), and despite representations by local traditional leaders to the County Commissioner these alleged killings were never investigated. The MVT was also told there were further alleged killings of 23 people (reportedly tied up and shot) in August 2016 following the events in Juba which took place in July. The MVT saw clearly that the civilian population live in fear of SPLA-IG forces.
- 2.4 Many citizens reported they suffer significant harassment from the SPLA-IG, specifically denial of freedom of movement and the looting of cassava crops and other foodstuffs
- 2.5 The SPLA-IG commander in Wonduruba did not know the provisions of the PCTSA, especially those concerning his duty to protect the civilian population.

He demonstrated little understanding of the peace process and ignorance of the role of UNMISS or CTSAMM.

3.0 Assessment:

3.1 SPLA-IG forces in Wonduruba are not compliant with the PCTSA. Indeed their treatment of the civilian population – their own citizens who they have a duty to protect – is in clear violation of the PCTSA.

3.2 The Parties are obliged under the COHA and PCTSA to ensure that all forces under their control observe the agreement. The forces in Wonduruba are from a regular SPLA-IG unit and subject to SPLA-IG discipline and command, but despite this they are ignorant of all the agreements they should be compliant with. The Government has clearly failed to ensure that after all this time the forces in Wonduruba have been told about and understand the meaning of the COHA and PCTSA even in the most simple terms.

4.0 Conclusion:

4.1 It is the opinion of CTSAMM that SPLA-IG forces in Wonduruba are in clear violation of Article 1.7 of the PCTSA (prohibited actions outlined in the PCTSA), specifically:

- Article 1c of the COHA (Cessation of Hostilities): "...ensure that all forces or armed groups under their influence, control or/and command shall observe this agreement"
- Article 1.2 of the PCTSA: "The warring parties shall disseminate the provisions of this Agreement to all forces under their command or influence,

and allies, to ensure compliance immediately upon signing.”

- Article 3 of the COHA (Protection of Civilians) and 1.7.5 of the PCTSA “Acts of hostility, intimidation, violence of attacks against the civilian population...”

5.0 Observations and Recommendations:

- 5.1 There has been no fighting in Wonduruba. There are no active SPLA-IO elements in the immediate area of Wonduruba, but despite this the town is militarised and the population lives in fear of SPLA-IG soldiers who treat them (South Sudanese Citizens) with hostility and contempt.
- 5.2 The alleged killing of a large number of civilians in September 2015 and August 2016 should be investigated, and if the allegations proved true the perpetrators should be held to account.
- 5.3 The COHA was signed three and a half years ago, and the ARCSS two years ago. It is unacceptable that officers serving in regular units of the SPLA-IG remain ignorant of the provisions of these agreements, and in this instance especially those provisions concerning the protection of civilians. CTSAMM recommends that the SPLA-IG not only ensures that at least the basic provisions of the PCTSA are promulgated, but also officers receive the appropriate guidance and training in order that these provisions are followed.