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TO: The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM

DATE: 3 November 2017

**SUBJECT: CTSAMM REPORT 051 – SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
IN THE YEI AREA.**

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) that took place in the Yei area during July and August 2017. This report was discussed at the 13th CTSAMM meeting of 23 August 2017.

Major General Molla Hailemariam
Chairman



Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

CTSAMM REPORT NUMBER 051
SGBV IN THE YEI AREA

Executive Summary

In the month of July 2017 over 20 cases of rape by soldiers from both SPLA-IO (RM) and SPLA-IG were recorded by the medical authorities in Yei. These 20 cases represent only a small proportion of rapes that take place – many women are too scared or feel too ashamed to report such cases, and those taken to or resident in areas controlled by the SPLA-IO (RM) are not easily able to report or seek medical attention.

The scale and nature of SGBV committed by uniformed men in the Yei area is clearly unacceptable by any standards, as is the impunity that the perpetrators seemingly enjoy.

Soldiers from both SPLA-IO (RM) and SPLA-IG are in clear violation of the PCTSA in respect of their treatment of women in the area.

SGBV IN THE YEI AREA

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background:

- CTSAMM has for many months been reporting on the situation in the Yei area. Civilians are suffering, and many have fled to Uganda.
- One recurrent theme of CTSAMM reporting has been the amount of SGBV – specifically rape – that women in the area have been subjected to. During the last CTSAMM meeting on 20 July we presented a monitoring report which outlined 4 alleged cases of rape by SPLA-IG personnel.
- During the recent patrol to Yei more evidence of the scale of SGBV in the area came to light, particularly horrific cases perpetrated by SPLA-IO (RM) soldiers.

1.2 Aim: The purpose of this report is to attempt to outline the scale of SGBV in the Yei area, illustrate the issue with reference to specific cases and attribute responsibility where possible.

1.3 Methodology:

- The evidence covered in this report comes from the first part of a patrol to the Yei area from 4 to 10 August 2017. The patrol continued until 17 August, and the finding of the second part of the patrol will be presented at the next CTSAMM meeting.
- The Yei MVT was accompanied during the patrol by the CTSAMM Gender Adviser, who has specific expertise in the area of SGBV.

- Evidence was collected through interviews with local people and from information given by medical professionals.

2.0 Findings

2.1 In the month of July over 20 cases of rape were reported, which, according to medical personnel, is a normal monthly number. These were rapes committed by soldiers from both SPLA-IO (RM) and SPLA-IG. It must be emphasised that many people are too scared or too ashamed to report rape cases, and it is assumed that the figure of 20 represents only a proportion of the total number of rapes that have taken place.

2.2 Examples: In order to illustrate the suffering these women have gone through, the MVT provided the following four examples of cases reported to the hospital and authorities in July 2017:

- A woman was admitted to hospital in a critical condition. In February she had been abducted by SPLM-IO (RM) soldiers whilst farming, and repeatedly sexually assaulted by 8 soldiers from February to July. She managed to escape. She told the authorities that three more women were abducted with her and they are still in the SPLA-IO (RM) camp. The woman had been subject to extreme mental and physical suffering.
- A woman working in the fields near Yei was abducted and raped by SPLA-IO (RM) soldiers. She was made to call her husband and tell him to bring money to secure her release, but she has not been heard of again.
- There were reports of groups of women being stripped, humiliated and harassed by SPLA-IO (RM) soldiers, and then being left without clothes to return naked to their homes.
- A woman of 60 was sexually assaulted by two SPLA-IG soldiers near Yei. She was too scared to report the case to the police, and the same two soldiers

have continued to be seen moving around the area. In another case an SPLA-IG soldier in uniform was seen beating a woman severely. She was rescued by her neighbours and the case reported to the police, but no action has been taken against the soldier responsible.

2.3 Women in the Yei area are scared of soldiers from both SPLA-IO (RM) and SPLA-IG.

3.0 Assessment:

3.1 The treatment of women by SPLA-IO (RM) soldiers is appalling. It is apparent there are cases of women being abducted and effectively used as sex slaves by soldiers in the bush. Given limited liaison with SPLA-IO (RM) forces it is difficult for CTSAMM to address this issue, but the MVT will continue to monitor the situation and report cases as they occur.

3.2 It is apparent that SPLA-IG soldiers in the Yei area have little discipline and can act with impunity in their relations with local women.

4.0 Conclusion:

4.1 It is the clear conclusion of CTSAMM that particularly soldiers from SPLA-IO (RM) but also those of SPLA-IG are in clear violation of Article 1.7.2. of the PCTSA: "Acts and forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and harassment..."

5.0 Observations and Recommendations:

- 5.1 The suffering of women in the Yei area is clearly unacceptable by any standards, and it is a terrible indictment of all parties to the current conflict that they allow such appalling abuses.
- 5.2 Under the current circumstances it is difficult for CTSAMM to engage with SPLA-IO (RM) in order to confront the issue of SGBV in the areas they control. In order that individual cases can be raised and resolved, it is important that there is contact and liaison.
- 5.3 To avoid further alienation of the civilian population in the Yei area, SPLA-IG soldiers who commit rape or other sexual offenses should not only be disciplined but also be seen to be disciplined. We refer not only to the instances described in this report, but also those outlined at the last CTSAMM meeting.