

**CTSAMVM CONFIDENTIAL**  
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**FROM:** The Chairperson, CTSAMVM

**DATE:** 14 December 2020

**SUBJECT: CTSAMVM REPORT 2020/10 – INTERIM REPORT ON TENSION  
AND FIGHTING IN CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE FOLLOWING  
THE CHANGE OF ALLEGIANCE OF MAJOR GENERAL MOSES  
LOKOJU**

Dear CTSAMVM Technical Committee Senior Party Representatives,

Please find attached an interim report on the situation in southern Central Equatoria State following the change of allegiance of Major General Moses Lokoju from the SPLM/A-IO to the SSPDF.

A final report will be submitted once the situation has stabilised.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration

Major General Tehsome Gemechu Aderie  
Chairperson



**Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification  
Mechanism**

## **CTSAMVM REPORT 2020/10**

### **INTERIM REPORT ON TENSION AND FIGHTING IN CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE FOLLOWING THE CHANGE OF ALLEGIANCE OF MAJOR GENERAL MOSES LOKOJU**

#### **Introduction**

1. Following the change of allegiance of Maj Gen Moses Lokoju Gabriel (the former commander of SPLMA-IO Division 2B) to the SSPDF the situation in the Moroto, Ajio and Kirwa areas has become tense and violent, with at least two clashes at Moroto Training Centre and allegations by the SPLM/A-IO that the SSPDF have been involved in supporting the SSPDF-affiliated forces of Maj Gen Lokoju.
2. Following an initial attack against Moroto Training Centre on 29 September 2020 steps were taken by JDB to stop the situation escalating, and various measures suggested. However, none of these measures were implemented and tensions continued until further fighting broke out in the area of Moroto Training Centre on 26 November 2020.
3. The issues behind the tensions and violence have not yet been resolved, and at time of writing CTSAMVM is continuing to receive reports of fighting.

#### **Aim**

4. The aim of this interim report is to summarise CTSAMVM reports about incidents so far, and to make observations and recommendations.

#### **Incidents – sequence of events**

5. 21 September 2020:
  - a. The SPLM/A-IO published a press statement saying that Maj Gen Moses Lokoju had “defected” to the SSPDF. He had reportedly been recalled to Juba previously by the SPLM/A-IO to answer disciplinary charges. CTSAMVM later



received a copy of Maj Gen Lokoju's resignation letter dated 21 September 2020.

- b. The CTSAMVM MVT in Yei received unsubstantiated information that Maj Gen Moses Lokoju had returned to the Kajo-Keji area, and was allegedly recruiting SPLM/A-IO soldiers from the Kuku tribe to change allegiance to the SSPDF.
6. 23 September 2020: CTSAMVM received unofficial allegations from the SPLM/A-IO that trainees at Moroto Training Centre had been issued weapons in case of attack, that Maj Gen Lokoju was recruiting members of the Kuku tribe for the SSPDF and that he was planning an attack on the Training Centre.
7. 24 September 2020: CTSAMVM visited Moroto Training Centre, and was informed by the Commander, Brig Gen Peter Wal Chuol SPLM/A-IO, that the trainees (all of whom are from the SPLM/A-IO) had not been armed. However, he said the security situation was not good since the arrival in the area of Maj Gen Lokoju who he claimed had been flown to Kajo-Keji in an SSPDF helicopter. He also claimed that Maj Gen Lokujo had been supplied with 3 armed Land Cruisers and escorted to Kirwa, which is not far from Moroto. 3 of Maj Gen Lokoju's soldiers had been reportedly captured whilst setting ambushes near the Training Centre.
8. 28 September 2020: The Commander of Moroto Training Centre reported by telephone to CTSAMVM that there had been fighting on 27 September in Kirwa between loyal SPLM/A-IO soldiers and those who followed Maj Gen Lokoju, and that the SPLM/A-IO had prevailed and were in full control of the unit – 3 Brigade – based in Kirwa.
9. 29 September 2020: CTSAMVM learnt from the Commander at Moroto Training Centre that it had been attacked by the SSPDF-affiliated forces of Maj Gen Lokujo in the early morning, and that after a fight lasting 3 hours Lokoju's forces were repulsed. On the following day he reported that the SPLM/A-IO had 3 casualties.

10.02 October 2020:

a. A senior CTSAMVM team, together with representatives of JTSC and JMCC visited Kajo-Keji, Panyume SPLM/A-IO Cantonment Site and Moroto Training Centre in order to investigate the attack against Moroto Training Centre on 29 September 2020.

b. The information given to the team was as follows:

i. Kajo-Keji:

- Brig Gen Lual Deng commanding 2 Brigade SSPDF at Kajo Keji told the investigating team that there had been a fight between different factions of the SPLM/A-IO on 27 September 2020 at Kirwa and Ajio.
- He said that on On 29 September 2020 the SSPDF-affiliated forces of Maj Gen Moses Lokujo attacked Moroto Training Centre, where there were SSPDF personnel as well as those from the SPLM/A-IO (*Note: the only SSPDF personnel at Moroto were instructors*). He said that 18 SSPDF personnel subsequently left the Training Centre and reported back to the SSPDF.
- Brig Gen Lual Deng stated that no SSPDF forces were involved in any of the fighting, and that he had not met Maj Gen Lokujo nor knew where he was. However, on the issue of change of allegiance he said he would welcome anyone wishing to join the SSPDF.

ii. Moroto:

- The team were briefed by the Commander of the Training Centre, Brig Gen Peter Peter Wol Choul. He said that the camp came under attack at about 07.30. The attackers hit the protection force camp - which is



about 1.5 to 2 Km from the Training Centre – first, then attacked the Training Centre itself.

- The protection force had not been there at the time of the attack but soon rallied and drove the attackers off. Brig Gen Peter said that 4 members of the protection force and 3 instructors had been wounded, and that many of the attackers had been killed. The investigating team were shown 4 decomposing bodies, all of whom were uniformed and had yellow bandanas. According to the SPLM/A-IO Maj Gen Lokoju's SSPDF-affiliated forces wear bandanas.
- About 12 Tukuls had been burnt and the water tank riddled with bullets.
- The total number of armed personnel at the Training Centre was 110 – 70 in the Protection Force and 40 instructors.

iii. Panyume:

- The investigating team was briefed by Maj Gen Mabei, commanding the SPLM/A-IO Mobile Ground Force. He stated that when Maj Gen Lokujo left the SPLM/A-IO he had no forces and very few weapons, and the he attacked SPLM/A-IO positions at Kirwa and Ajio on 27 September and Moroto Training Centre on 29 September with the support of the SSPDF.
- Maj Gen Mabei also said that Maj Gen Lokoju was a criminal who had killed some SPLM/A-IO officers in May 2020.

11.7 October 2020:

- a. The Minister of Defence led a delegation to the area. Her party included JDB and R-JMEC; it was accompanied by CTSAMVM and visited Kajo-Keji, Moroto and Panyume. During the visit the delegation was given the same information as the CTSAMVM investigation team on 2 October 2020.

- b. The Minister of Defence made statements outlining 3 confidence-building measures that were to be implemented:
  - i. The deployment of joint SSPDF/SPLM/A-IO forces in the Kerwa-Moroto-Ajio corridor in order to contain the current situation.
  - ii. JDB would summon to Juba the SSPDF commander at Kajo-Keji, whoever is commanding Maj Gen Lokoju's SSPDF-affiliated forces, the Moroto Training Centre commander and the SPLM/A-IO commander in Panyume in order to investigate the current situation and the attack on Moroto Training Centre.
  - iii. After the graduation of the current trainees at Moroto Training Centre, the next draft would include trainees from all parties and there would be a joint protection force.

12.8 October to 25 November:

- a. CTSAMVM continued to receive reports of tensions in the Moroto area, and there were rumours about the whereabouts and intentions of Maj Gen Lokoju.
- b. On 6 and 12 November 2020 CTSAMVM received allegations from the SPLM/A-IO in Moroto Training Centre and Panyume that the SSPDF-affiliated forces of Maj Gen Moses Lokujo continue to cause tension in the area by displacing civilians, denying movement and cutting access to Moroto Training Centre.
- c. On 6 November the commandant of Moroto Training Centre alleged the SSPDF-affiliated forces of Maj Gen Lokujo were preparing to attack the Training Centre.
- d. On 19 November 2020 CTSAMVM reported these tensions to the Ceasefire Technical Committee meeting and emphasised that none of the measures



outlined during the Minister of Defence's visit on 7 October 2020 had been implemented. CTSAMVM also reported this to the Board at its meeting on 24 November 2020.

- e. On 21 November 2020 CTSAMVM received information that Maj Gen Lokoju was alleging that the Kuku tribe was being targeted by the SPLM/A-IO which had been looting, raiding and stealing cattle. He allegedly threatened to attack Moroto Training Centre.

13. 26 November 2020: The SPLM/A-IO published a press release on social media claiming that the SSPDF-affiliated forces of Maj Gen Lokoju attacked Moroto Training Centre that morning. The JDB co-chair also reported this attack on the same day to the RJMEC Plenary. Afterwards, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson requested CTSAMVM to conduct an investigation.

14. 29 November to 7 December 2020:

- a. CTSAMVM carried out a series of visits in order to investigate the alleged attacks of 26 November. A team visited Panyume on 29 November; Kajo-Keji on 30 November and Moroto and Ajio on 1 December. Maj Gen Lokoju had promised to meet the team at Kajo-Keji but did not turn up and subsequent attempts to meet him were unsuccessful.
- b. The investigation team were told by the SSPDF 2 Brigade Deputy Commander Col Gush Dieng at Kajo-Keji that he bemoaned the failure of the JDB to implement a joint force to manage the situation in the area. He stated that because he had defected, Maj Gen Lokoju was the responsibility of the SSPDF, but in reality he had been left in control of a large area. The SSPDF 2 Brigade Commander (Brig Gen Lual Deng) had given Maj Gen Lokoju a standing order to undertake no offensive action, and that Maj Gen Lokoju occasionally reported to the Brigade: he had reported that on 17 and 19 November the SPLM/A-IO had attacked his forces in Kuria, looted cattle and

killed several civilians. Col Gush Deng had no information about the attack at Moroto.

- c. When the team visited Moroto Training Centre they found it empty apart from a few members of the guard force who had been left to watch over it. There were no signs of fighting at the camp itself, although it was obvious from empty cases, burnt tukuls and bullet holes in solar panels that there had been a clash at the protection force position about 1.5-2 Km from the main camp. CTSAMVM saw no obvious signs of tracked or wheeled vehicles. There were signs at the Training Centre that the trainees had left in a hurry. The food store had not been emptied and personal possessions were scattered.
- d. The trainees and instructors from the Training Centre had withdrawn to Ajio, where the team met the Commander and a number of trainees and instructors. According to the witnesses interviewed by CTSAMVM there were two attacks on 26 November, both directed at the protection force camp. The first was an infantry attack at 06.00 Hrs which was beaten off, and the second was at 18.00 Hrs supported by 2 APCs and 2 armed Land Cruisers with heavy machine guns and RPG's. The second attack overran the camp but did not reach the Training Centre itself. The guard force, trainees and instructors all withdrew to Ajio. The Training Site Commander, Brig Gen Peter Wal Choul made it clear that he would not reoccupy the Training Site until a joint SSPDF/SPLM/A-IO forces had taken responsibility for security in the area, and SSPDF-affiliated Maj Gen Lokoju and his forces had been moved from his present location.
- e. On 27 November 2020 CTSAMVM received unverified allegations for the SPLM/A-IO 3 Brigade commander in Panyume that Maj Gen Lokoju had attacked Ajio and would probably go on to attack Moroto again.
- f. On the morning of 7 December 2020 CTSAMVM received information from the SPLM/A-IO Senior National Liaison officer that the SSPDF-affiliated forces of Maj Gen Lokoju had attacked their positions at Ajio. CTSAMVM received



reports from the SPLM/A-IO of further fighting on 8 December 2020 although when contacted Maj Gen Lokujo denied this was the case.

- g. On 8 December CTSAMVM met with the commander of SSPDF 1st Bde Land Forces in Yei, Brig Gen John Lual, who said he had made arrangements with the Deputy Commander of the SSPDF Ground Force in Kajo-Keji, Col John Kamilo, to deploy SSPDF soldiers in Kirwa, Ajio and Mangaltori, so the forces of Maj Gen Moses Lokujo could be moved elsewhere away from the SPLM/A-IO.
- h. On 10-12 December 2020 CTSAMVM accompanied UNMISS on a patrol to Morobo and Panyume. The plan was to proceed to from Panyume to Ajio and Moroto, but whilst at Panyume information was received from the commander of Moroto Training Centre (who was in Ajio) that the security situation was not good there, and so the team postponed the visit and returned to Yei.

## **15. Observations and Recommendations**

- 16. The change of allegiance of Maj Gen Lokujo has not only created tension in the Moroto-Ajio-Kirwa area; it has also led to violence and the closure of Moroto Training Centre.
- 17. The SSPDF are responsible for the actions of Maj Gen Lokujo, but do not appear to have exercised any control over his forces.
- 18. The statement by the commander of SSPDF 1 Brigade in Yei that he has made arrangements to deploy forces in Kirwa, Ajio and Magalatore requires urgent clarification with JDB. Any movement of forces must be coordinated by JDB and CTSAMVM informed.
- 19. JDB failed to act in a timely manner after the 29 September attack against Moroto Training Centre. None of the measures described by the Minister of Defence were implemented.

20. Recommendations:

- a. That JDB takes action to reduce tensions in the area, and confidence-building measures are implemented as a matter of urgency.
- b. That JDB gives clear directions about the deployment and future of the SSPDF-affiliated forces under control of Maj Gen Lokujo.