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TO: Lt. Gen. Rabi Mujung Emmanuel (TGoNU)
Maj. Gen. Martin Gama Abucha (SPLM/A-IO)
Maj. Gen. Jany Kaway Yoakhor (SSOA)
Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (Former Detainees)

FROM: The Chairperson, CTSAMVM

DATE: January 2022

SUBJECT: CTSAMVM REPORT 2022/04 – ATTACK IN CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

Dear CTSAMVM Technical Committee Senior Party Representatives,

Please find attached a report on violations of the ACOH which took place in Central Equatoria State in November 2021.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Major General Teshome Gemechu Aderie

Chairperson

Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism

CTSAMVM REPORT 2022/04

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 6 November 2021 a group of armed men attacked the SSPDF barracks at Logwili. In the attack five people were killed including one of the attacking force. Amongst those killed was a civilian female, two SSPDF soldier and a police officer. During the attack dwellings were destroyed and burnt. On the evening before the attack a group of eight (8) civilians was abducted from a farm near Yei and held overnight by armed. The attack has caused displacement of civilians and fear of further violence amongst the community of Logwili and the surrounding area.

CTSAMVM attributes responsibility for the attacks and abduction to NAS.

CTSAMVM concludes that by attacking Logwili Barracks and abducting civilians on the 5th and 6th November 2021 NAS is in clear violation of the ACOH 24 December 2017, specifically Articles 2 and .



ATTACK IN CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

Introduction

1. Background:

- a. During the past 9 months CTSAMVM has submitted 2 reports concerning violations of the ACOH by NAS: Reports 2021/06 and 2021/12, the later of which covered 6 separate incidents related to NAS operations.

2. Allegations:

- a. On 8 November 2021 CTSAMVM received information from the SSPDF that an armed group suspected to be NAS attacked the SSPDF position at Logwili on 5 November 202, killing 3 SSPDF soldiers and 1 civilian.
- b. Logwili is approximately 6 Km northeast of Lainya just to the north of the Lainya – Juba road.

3. Aim: The aim of this report is to present the findings of CTSAMVM investigations into violations, to attribute responsibility for breaches of the agreements where applicable, and to make recommendations with regard to compliance actions that will help foster peace and reconciliation.

4. Methodology:

In order to investigate the allegation, CTSAMVM undertook a Long Duration Patrol to the Lainya area from 23 -26 November 2021.

- a. CTSAMVM met with a wide range of witnesses including:

- i. SSPDF: Brig Gen William Nyuon commanding SSPDF 1 Commando Brigade, Col Refus Aligo, SSPDF Logwili Barracks commander
 - ii. Civil authorities: Mr. Yona Lokudo, Acting County Commissioner of Lainya County, Capt Stephen Dennis, Lainya County Counter-Intelligence Di, 2nd Lt David Elisa Yokua, Lainya County Police Chief Inspector, Mr. Obedi Lukudo, Logwili Boma Executive.
 - iii. Traditional leaders: The Head Chief of Bereka Boma, the Paramount Chief of Lainya County.
 - iv. Other witnesses: Two witnesses who gave information about an NAS casualty.
5. The standard of proof used by CTSAMVM to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to verify that a Party is not in compliance with the provisions of the Agreements is "reasonable grounds to believe that the incident that is the subject of the investigation occurred." This is in accordance with accepted practice for monitoring mechanisms and human rights and humanitarian entities and signifies that sufficient facts and evidence have been collected to conclude that an event has occurred.
6. National Monitors were involved throughout the investigation.

Findings

7. Abduction:

- a. On 5 November 2021 at about 07.00 Hrs the Chief of Bereka Boma, together with 7 other people, was abducted by a group of armed men whilst working in his fields. The abductees were taken to a place adjacent to the Makire mountains which the Chief described as being about "5 miles from Lainya Town towards Logwili". The Chief told CTSAMVM that his abductors identified themselves as NAS.

- b. The Chief and the other abductees were released the next day at about 02.00 Hrs (6 November 2021), and were given specific instructions as to which route they should use to return to Lainya. The Chief reported that a few hours after his release there was an attack at Logwili barracks.

8. The attack:

- a. The civilian area of the SSPDF barracks was attacked at a time between 05.30 and 06.30 on 6 November 2021. 36 tukuls were burnt and personal property stolen. CTSAMVM confirmed scale of destruction.
- b. According to the commander of the SSPDF barracks, Col Algo, there were "250-300" attackers, some in uniform and some in civilian clothes but all well-armed. None of the other witnesses gave estimates of the numbers involved. Reinforcements were sent from 1 Commando Brigade SSPDF, but they arrived just after the attackers had left. The SSPDF did not follow the attackers.
- c. The SSPDF commander of Logwili barracks, Col Algo, Logwili stated that the attackers came from the north, from the direction of where the SSPDF believe there to be two NAS bases. The acting Lainya County Commissioner and the Lainya County Counter-Intelligence officer were both of the opinion that NAS perpetrated the attack.
- d. There were five fatalities. Two SSPDF soldiers and one female civilian – the wife of one of the soldiers - were killed, as well as a traffic police officer from Lainya who was visiting relatives in the camp. One of the attackers was killed.
9. The identity of the dead attacker: The body of the dead attacker was identified by local community representatives as being that of a local man from Logwili a Prison Officer but deserted in 2016 to join NAS and had not been seen in the area since. CTSAMVM followed up and made enquiries with the head Prison

Officer in Lainya and also other witnesses who knew the family of the dead man who confirmed his identity and background.

10. Assessment

11. The civilian area of Logwili barracks – where married soldiers live with their families – was attacked by an armed group on the morning of 6 November 2021. It was a surprise attack, during which tukuls were burnt and goods stolen.

12. CTSAMVM attributes the responsibility for conducting the attack to NAS. This is because:

- a. An armed group abducted a group of civilians the day before the attack. Members of this armed group identified themselves as NAS, and this was confirmed to CTSAMVM by one of the abductees. The group was close to Logwili when the abductees were released a few hours before the attack and it is probable that the abduction and subsequent attack were coordinated.
- b. Several sources reported that NAS had been operating in the area and had bases to the north of Logwili. There have been previous incidents of ambushes on SSPDF vehicles and civilian traffic on the Juba-Lainya road which were attributed to NAS. Witnesses stated that the attackers came from the north and departed in the same direction.
- c. There are no other identified armed groups in the area apart from NAS. The only military presence is SSPDF, there are no SPLM/A-IO units in the vicinity of Logwili.
- d. The dead attacker was identified by two witnesses to be a member of NAS.

13. Following the attack, the local community are fearful of further violence. Families have been displaced as a result of their homes being destroyed and for fear of more attacks.

Conclusions

14. CTSAMVM concludes that NAS attacked Logwili Barracks on the morning of 6 November 2021 causing the deaths of 3 soldiers, a policeman and a civilian woman, and in doing so they acted in clear violation of the ACOH 24 December 2017, specifically Articles 2 and .

Observations and Recommendations

15. NAS -as part of SSOMA – agreed to a ceasefire in Rome at the beginning of 2020. As well as acting in violation of the ACOH, this attack went against both the word and the spirit of the Rome Declaration and Resolution.
16. Civilians continue to suffer because of ongoing conflict between NAS and the SSPDF in Central Equatoria State. CTSAMVM recommends all Parties involved to re-commit to the Rome process, and for NAS to honour the obligations it has under the ACOH

