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Headquarters Ceasefire & Transitional Security Arrangements
Monitoring and Verification Mechanism
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TO: Lt. Gen. Rabi Mujung Emmanuel (ITGoNU)
Maj. Gen. Dr. Chuol Ruey Kompuok (SPLM/A-IO)
Maj. Gen. Jany Kaway Yoakhor (SSOA)
Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (Former Detainees)

FROM: The Chairperson, CTSAMVM

DATE: April 2024

**SUBJECT: CTSAMVM REPORT 2024/05 – CREATION OF A NEW SSPDF
DIVISION IN RUMBEK, LAKES STATE**

Please find attached a report on the creation of a new SSPDF Division in Rumbek, Lakes State.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

Major General Hailu Gonfa Edossa

Chairperson

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



CTSAMVM REPORT 2024/05 - CREATION OF A NEW SSPDF DIVISION IN LAKES STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Signatory Parties were required by the R-ARCSS to declare their forces to CTSAMVM. The SSPDF declared 10 Divisions. In early 2021 CTSAMVM was made aware of the creation of an 11th Division in Warrap State. Following repeated denials of access (Reference A) CTSAMVM eventually visited the Division in early 2022 and reported accordingly.

On 26th January 2024, it was reported in the press that a new SSPDF Division – 12th “Shark” Division – was established near Rumbek in Lakes State. There are no SPLM/A-IO or SSOA troops in Lakes State. Although in the past there have been IDP issues in the East of the State, there has been no fighting between Parties, and no ceasefire issues reported since the signing of the R-ARCSS. CTSAMVM has only occasionally visited Lakes State. Security issues in Lakes State are related to cattle raiding, and conflicts over land and pasture.

The 12 Division is based at Malou Barracks, an established military base going back to the 1950s. Until its creation in January 2024, it was the base of 17 Brigade from the SSPDF 6 Division. It has 3 Brigades, in Yirol West, Cueibet, and Rumbek North (the Headquarters). It is made up of troops from the original 17 Brigade plus others from “SSPDF Tiger Division and other Ground Force troops from mother units all over the country”.

The Commander denied any recruitment save for the reintegration of SSPDF personnel “still on the payroll” and just refresher training for existing soldiers. He said there were insufficient logistics to support the recruitment and training of new personnel.

The role of the Division was said to ensure security and its deployment was part of a plan to have a Division in each state in the country.



CREATION OF A NEW SSPDF DIVISION IN LAKES STATE

Reference:

A: CTSAMVM report 2021/03 – Denial of Access.

INTRODUCTION

1. Background:

a. The Signatory Parties were required by the R-ARCSS to declare their forces to CTSAMVM. The SSPDF declared 10 Divisions.

b. In early 2021, CTSAMVM was made aware of the creation of an 11th Division in Warrap State. Following repeated denials of access (Reference A), CTSAMVM eventually visited the Division in early 2022, and reported accordingly.

c. On 26th January 2024, it was reported in the press that a new SSPDF division – 12th “Shark” Division – was established near Rumbek in Lakes State.

d. There are no SPLM/A-IO or SSOA troops in Lakes State. Although in the past there have been IDP issues in the east of the State, there has been no fighting between Parties and no ceasefire issues reported since the signing of the R-ARCSS. CTSAMVM has only occasionally visited Lakes State. Security issues in Lakes State are related to cattle raiding, and conflicts over land and pasture.

2. Issues: The creation of a new formation and movement of troops prior to informing CTSAMVM are in violation of the R-ARCSS.

3. Aim. The aim of this report is to present findings of the creation of a new SSPDF division in Rumbek, Lakes State.



4. Investigation: Investigations were undertaken with the full participation of National Monitors.

5. Methodology:

a. CTSAMVM visited Rumbek between 12th – 16th March 2024 during which a range of witnesses were interviewed including:

- i. The Acting Governor of Lakes State, Dr Isiah Akol Mathiang.
- ii. The Acting UNMISS Head of Field Office.
- iii. The Commander of 12th Division, SSPDF, Major General Deng Mayiik Bilkuei.
- iv. Senior Staff Officers from 12th Divisions SSPDF including the heads of Administration, Logistics, Operations and Military Intelligence.
- v. The Acting Police Commissioner, Major General Machiek Acuolth.
- vi. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and Executive Director of Peacebuilding.
- vii. The County Commissioner of Cueibet County.

b. Standard of proof: 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. Findings: Include the following;

a. The 12th Division is based at Malou Barracks, an established military base going back to the 1950s. Until the creation of the 12 Division in January 2024, it was the base of 17 Brigade from 6 Division.



b. The Division has 3 Brigades, in Yirol West, Cueibet, and Runbek North (the Headquarters). According to the Commander, the Division is made up of troops from the original 17 Brigade plus others from "SSPDF Tiger Division and other Ground Force troops from mother units all over the country". The Commander denied there had been any recruitment, just the reintegration of SSPDF personnel "still on the payroll". He claimed there was no training of new recruits, just refresher training for existing soldiers. He said there were insufficient logistics to support the recruitment and training of new personnel.

c. The Commander told CTSAMVM that the role of the Division was to ensure security, and its deployment was part of a plan to have a Division in each state in the country.

d. CTSAMVM found that relations between 12 Division and the local community appeared to be good. None of the witnesses interviewed by CTSAMVM complained about either the presence or actions of the Division.

7. Assessment:

a. CTSAMVM was made aware of rumours concerning recruitment by 12th Division, but found no evidence to substantiate them. The Commander said that numbers were made up from SSPDF soldiers living in the community, sometimes referred to as 'deserters'. He specifically said they were soldiers "still on the payroll" of the SSPDF.

b. The Commander was clear that soldiers had been moved from other SSPDF units to augment the Division. Under the R-ARCSS the redeployment and movement of forces is prohibited except for 'administrative and logistical movement' which should be reported in advance to CTSAMVM. CTSAMVM received no notification that troops were being moved to 12 Division, and therefore the SSPDF failed in its obligation to do so.

c. Although 12 Division is based on the headquarters of 17 Brigade from 6 Division, it is a new formation which is in addition to the forces declared by the SSPDF when the R-ARCSS was signed.



d. In summary the SSPDF created a new formation which was not declared either at the signing of the R-ARCSS or when it came into being. Troops were moved to it from other SSPDF formations, which goes against the R-ARCSS, and the SSPDF failed to comply with their obligations under the R-ARCSS to report troop movements in advance to CTSAMVM.

8. Conclusion: It is the conclusion of CTSAMVM that: By accepting and creating a new formation which was not declared either at the signing of the R-ARCSS and moving troops from other formations is against the R-ARCSS. SSPDF failed to comply with their obligations under the R-ARCSS, specifically Article 2.1.10.4 and CoHA Article 11(6).

9. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The parties are supposed to declare all forces after the signing of R-ARCSS and not to increase the number of forces above the declared.
- b. CTSAMVM is urging ITGoNU to concentrate on unifying the Necessary Unified Forces rather than creating other new Divisions.
- c. CTSAMVM urges the JDB to expedite deployment of NUF to avoid creation of new Divisions.
- d. The parties are urged to inform CTSAMVM about the movement of troops at all times.

