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INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY
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TO: Special Envoys to South Sudan

FROM: Chairman, Joint Technical Committee, Monitoring and Verification
Mechanism, Juba, South Sudan

DATE: 3 December 2014

**SUBJECT: Report on Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement –
Detention of IGAD MVT and Helicopter Crew in Mayom County, Unity State 23 –
24 August 2014**

Your Excellencies,

Please find attached the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) report on violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (23 January 2014) concerning the incident of 23 - 24 August 2014 involving the detention of an MVT and IGAD helicopter crew in Unity State.

The aim of this retrospective report is to summarise the details of the incident and confirm responsibility for the violations for the record.

Major General (Retired) Negash Dagnev Ayele
Chairman, Joint Technical Committee



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JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC)

INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN UNITY STATE

(V019)

PRESENTED TO:

**THE SPECIAL ENVOYS TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

3 December 2014



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Executive Summary

- Following reports on 17 August 2014 from the Commissioner of Mayom County, Unity State that Government Forces had been attacked by those of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army-In Opposition (SPLM/A-IO), the MVT from Pariang was given the task of investigating and verifying what had happened.
- On 23 August the MVT flew in IGAD helicopter UR-AID to a site near Buoth, Mayom County in order to start the investigation. The helicopter was clearly marked with IGAD insignia. When the helicopter landed it was surrounded by armed men who claimed to be under the command of Major General Peter Gadet, SPLM/A-IO. The MVT spoke to Major General Gadet on a satellite telephone; he asked them what they (the MVT) was doing and then spoke to the commander of the armed group. Members of the MVT and the aircrew were then marched for about 8 hours under guard and held overnight at a village. During the march the GRSS representative member of the MVT collapsed and died.
- As a result of reports and a detailed internal investigation, it is the clear opinion of the of the JTC that SPLM/A-IO Forces violated the following articles of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA), 23 January 2014 in Mayom County, Unity State on 23 August 2014:
 - 7.2. a and b.



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REPORT OF VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN MAYOM COUNTY UNITY STATE

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The scope of this report covers violations of the COHA in Mayom County on 23 – 24 August 2014.

1.2 The aim of this report is to provide IGAD Special Envoys with an account of what happened to the Pariang MVT and the crew of IGAD helicopter UR-AID, and to confirm responsibility for violations of the COHA.

3.0 Violations of COHA – 23 and 24 August 2014

3.1 At 13.40 Hrs on 23 August IGAD helicopter UR-AID landed in the area of Buoth, Mayom County, in order to investigate alleged violations by the SPLM/A-IO following reports received from the Commissioner of Mayom County. There were 9 people on board the helicopter: a crew of 3 and 6 members of the Pariang MVT including the GRSS representative, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Maker Madut

3.2 When the helicopter landed it was surrounded by armed men. They claimed to be under the command of Major General Peter Gadet, SPLM/A-IO. Using a Thuraya telephone the MVT Team Leader called Major General Gadet who confirmed the men were under his command. He asked the Team Leader what the MVT was doing in “his” State and the Team Leader explained his mission. Major General Gadet then asked to speak to the commander of the armed men.

3.3 The MVT and helicopter crew were then searched for weapons and ordered to follow the armed group to an undisclosed destination. The MVT asked to be released but were told that Major General Gadet had given formal orders that the whole group was to be taken somewhere, but they did not say where.

3.4 The group was then forced to march for about 8 hours over rough country. On occasions their captors fired their guns at the ground and in the air to make them walk faster. During the march at about 18.30 Lieutenant Colonel Madut collapsed and was left at a village. Ten minutes later the MVT were taken back to the village to find that he had died. They were made to strip and photograph his body to confirm there were no gunshot or knife wounds on it.

3.5 The MVT and helicopter crew arrived at an SPLM/A-IO Battalion Headquarters at a place they were told was Wichok at about 21.30 Hrs. They were detained at this location overnight and were housed and fed. The MVT Team Leader was able to call the MVT in Bentiu and report what had happened.

3.6 The following day 24 August the MVT and air crew were released and recovered following conversations between JTC and Major General Peter Gadet. During these



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conversations Major General Gadet claimed that the IGAD team were “on a spying mission”. The helicopter was subsequently recovered but was grounded for some time afterwards because documents and equipment had been taken and never returned. At no time did Major General Gadet express regret for what had happened or for the death of Lieutenant Colonel Madut.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 It is the clear opinion of the of the JTC that SPLM/A-IO Forces violated the following articles of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA), 23 January 2014 in Mayom County, Unity State on 23 and 24 August 2014:

- 7.2. a and b.

4.2 This retrospective report is for the information of the Special Envoys should it be decided that any further action needs to be taken.

