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TO: Special Envoys to South Sudan
FROM: Chairman, Joint Technical Committee, Monitoring and Verification Mission,
Juba, South Sudan
DATE: 14 June 2014

SUBJECT: Report on Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

Your Excellencies,

Please find attached the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) report on the violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (23 January 2014) committed in Upper Nile State, South Sudan on 06 and 09 June 2014 (V005).



Gebre Egziabher Mabrahtu
Major General (Retired)
Chairman, Joint Technical Committee

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JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC)

**INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF
HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN UPPER NILE STATE**

(06 and 09 JUNE 2014) (V005)

PRESENTED TO:

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

16 June 2014



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Executive Summary

- Following the receipt of reports from the Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs) based in Malakal, which implied the likelihood of violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) in Upper Nile State on 06 and 09 June 2014, the JTC initiated formal investigation and verification processes. The results of the investigation and verification process are contained in this report.
- Reports indicate that hostilities between Government Forces and forces loyal to Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) took place in Renk (Upper Nile State) on 06 and 09 June 2014.
- Unconfirmed reports indicate that fighting resulted in a number of military and civilian casualties, as well as causing the temporary displacement of civilians.
- As a result of investigations, and the weight of evidence collated, it is the opinion of the JTC that neither the SPLM/A-IO Forces nor Government Forces can be found responsible for initiating the exchange of fire in the area of Renk on 06 and 09 June. However, forces loyal to both parties violated the following articles of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, 23 January 2014:

- 1.0-1.2 (inclusive) *Declaration of Cessation of Hostilities*



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INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN UPPER NILE STATE (06 and 09 JUNE 2014)

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The scope of this report covers hostilities between parties that occurred on 06 and 09 June 2014 resulting in reports of Government and SPLM/A-IO Forces fighting in Renk town (Renk County, Upper Nile State).

1.2 The aim of this report is to provide IGAD Special Envoys with an analysis of the events surrounding the hostilities in Renk, Upper Nile State on 06 and 09 June 2014. And, where relevant, apportion responsibilities for violations of the COHA to either of the parties.

1.3 This report outlines the investigation and verification methodology, citing key documents in the process. It summarizes the main events surrounding the potential violations and makes an assessment of possible violations of the COHA, based on evidence gathered. It concludes with the JTC's opinion on the attribution of responsibilities for the violations.

2.0 Investigation / Verification Methodology

2.1 Employing Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) Standard Operating Procedures, the MVT based in the UNMISS camp in Malakal initiated the investigation / verification sequence with Flash Reports and Daily Situation Reports on 06 and 09 June. Subsequently, the JTC formally issued Investigation and Verification Orders to MVT Malakal on 09 June, following direction from the JTC Chairman.

2.2 The MVTs conducted investigations in accordance with the orders, in order to augment the information already provided and corroborate reports received from other sources. The result of initial investigations was an MVT Investigation and Verification Report on 13 June. This report is based on the combined analysis of all reports and evidence received by the JTC up until 1200hrs on 15 June 2014. All relevant MVT reports are referenced in this document and available for additional scrutiny, if required.

3.0 Main Events – Renk (6 and 9 June 2014)¹

3.1 MVT reporting suggests that hostilities took place in the area of Renk on 06 June from 0630hrs -1200hrs, and 09 June from 0645hrs-1400hrs. On both occasions, Government and SPLM/A-IO Forces exchanged direct and indirect fire. Reports indicate that SPLM/A-IO Forces in a location known locally as the Jazeera (approximately 5km northwest from the center of Renk) exchanged fire with Government Forces from Abu-Khadara (approximately 8km north from the center of Renk). Government Forces control the east bank of the River

¹ Investigation and Verification Report 002 (Malakal)



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Nile around Renk, and SPLM/A-IO Forces are dominant on the west bank. Both parties are known to patrol their areas and contest for the control of the area known as Jazeera. Unconfirmed reports indicate that fighting resulted in a number of military and civilian casualties, as well as causing the temporary displacement of civilians.

3.2 The acting commander of the Government Forces in the Renk area during the time of the incidents was Brigadier Logochko Kolen Reuben. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the commander of the SPLM/A-IO Forces in the area to the west of Renk and south to Wadekona is Major General James Gai Yoach, along with militia leader Mohammed Shol.

4.0 Assessment – Renk (06 and 09 June 2014)

4.1 JTC assessments indicate that the investigations into events in the area of Renk (Upper Nile State) on 06 and 09 June are inconclusive. SPLM/A-IO Forces exchanged indirect and direct fire with Government Forces on both dates in the area between Jazeera and Abu-Khadara and, as such, both parties failed to cease all military actions in accordance with the COHA. However, responsibility for the initiation of the attacks has not been confirmed and is likely to be the result of a meeting engagement by patrols of both parties.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 As a result of investigations, and the weight of evidence collated, it is the opinion of the JTC that neither the SPLM/A-IO Forces nor Government Forces can be found responsible for initiating the exchange of fire in the area of Renk on 06 and 09 June. However, forces loyal to both parties violated the following articles of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, 23 January 2014:

- 1.0-1.2 (inclusive) *Declaration of Cessation of Hostilities*

5.2 It is therefore recommended that the IGAD Special Envoys take the appropriate action against the Government and SPLM/A-IO in response to the violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

