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TO: The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM


DATE: 27 July 2017

**SUBJECT: CTSAMM REPORT 046 – AMBUSH ON THE JUBA TO NIMULE  
ROAD**

Your Excellency,

Please find attached a CTSAMM report on a violation of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements (Chapter II of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan of 26 August 2015), specifically an ambush on a convoy on the Juba-Nimule road on 8 June 2017.

This report was discussed at the CTSAMM meeting of 20 July 2017

  
Major General Molla Hailemariam  
Chairman

**Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism**



## **CTSAMM REPORT 046 – AMBUSH ON THE JUBA TO NIMULE ROAD**

### **Executive Summary**

On 8 June 2017 an ambush took place on the JUBA-NIMULE road near the village of MOLI. A civilian convoy with military escorts was attacked and there were at least 12 people killed and wounded. Amongst the casualties were civilians from Uganda, locals and SPLA-IG personnel.

The attack was carried out by SPLA-IO (RM) whose spokesman admitted responsibility for it. There is no doubt it was a clear violation of the ARCSS.

## AMBUSH ON THE JUBA TO NIMULE ROAD

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background: There have been multiple ambushes and attacks along the Juba – Nimule road, with an escalation of incidents from the beginning of June 2017.

1.2 Incident: The incident covered by this report is an attack that took place at Moli on 8 June 2017.

1.3 Aim: The purpose of this report is to describe what happened and to attribute responsibility for violations of the PCTSA where appropriate.

1.4 Methodology:

- The CTSAMM MVT based in Torit monitored the situation following the incident by using its assigned Community Liaison Officers and through close liaison with UNMISS.
- On 12-14 July the MVT took part in joint patrols with UNMISS to visit Moli and Pageri in order to conduct more detailed investigations.

### 2.0 Investigation – findings

2.1 On 08 Jun 2017, at around 1000hrs, along TORIT-JUBA highway, a mixed civilian and military convoy was ambushed at MOLI. There were 23 vehicles in convoy. The first and the last vehicle were escort vehicles with NSS and SPLA-IG personnel. The remainder of the convoy comprised of civilian vehicles including 3 coaches. A military vehicle and a civilian vehicles were destroyed and are still at the ambush site.

2.2 From police and medical sources it is confirmed that 12 people were killed at the scene. Amongst the victims were 1 senior officer and 3 soldiers from the SPLA-IG, 5 Ugandans and 3 local civilians. A pregnant woman wounded at the scene

was taken to Nimule hospital but later died from her wounds. It is believed that up to 12 wounded personnel were also taken to hospitals in Juba but this is not verified.

2.3 The strength of the force which carried out the ambush is not confirmed nor whether they suffered casualties. It is reported that RPG, SMG and AK47 were the weapons used.

2.4 On 9 June SPLM-IO (RM) claimed responsibility for the ambush. In their statement the SPLA-IO (RM) spokesman confirmed their role in the ambush and that civilians had been killed in the incident. The spokesman claimed that the civilian victims were caught in crossfire.

### **3.0 Assessment:**

3.1 It is the opinion of CTSAMM that the attack took place as initially reported and that it was perpetrated by SPLA-IO (RM).

### **4.0 Conclusion:**

4.1 It is the opinion of CTSAMM that the attack which took place at MOLI was a violation of the PCTSA by Opposition Forces, particularly:

Article 1.1 of the COHA: "The parties shall cease all military operations....."

Article 1.7.5 of the PCTSA: "Acts of hostility, intimidation, violence or attacks against the civilian population...."

**5.0 Observations and Recommendations:**

- 5.1 The JUBA to NIMULE road is the main supply route for people and goods into and out of South Sudan. It is the primary route for deliveries of Humanitarian Aid into Juba for distribution to vulnerable communities throughout the country. SPLA-IO (RM) forces should respect the permanent ceasefire and allow full access to all users.
- 5.2 Claims by the SPLA-IO (RM) that civilians were killed in the crossfire can be discounted. SPLA-IO (RM) forces deliberately attacked a convoy which they knew to include civilians, and civilian casualties were a direct result of their actions.