

**CTSAMVM CONFIDENTIAL**  
**NOT TO BE ISSUED WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN**



**Ref: CM/2022/04/075**

To                   Maj Gen Rabi Mujung Emmanuel (ITGoNU)  
                      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:             22 April 2022

**SUBJECT: CTSAMVM REPORT 2022/11 – PRELIMINARY REPORT INTO THE  
ALLEGED ATTACKS BY SSPDF ON SPLM/A-IO LOCATIONS IN MAIWUT AND  
LONGECHUK COUNTIES IN UPPER NILE STATE**

Dear CTSAMVM Technical Committee Senior Party Representatives,

Please find attached a report on violations of the R-ARCSS and ACoH which took place in Longechuk and Maiwut Counties, Upper Nile State on 05 February and 20 March 2022 respectively.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Lt Gen Asrat Denero Amadi  
**Chairperson CTSAMVM**



## **CTSAMVM REPORT 2022/11**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The SPLM/A-IO had been controlling the two counties of Maiwut and Longechuk with forces at Jekau and occupying other areas of Kuerkeem, Wangkuarbiy, Lolnyaang and Biyien. Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet and Maj Gen James Ochan Puot defected from SPLM/A-IO and were integrated into SSPDF. However, they remained occupying positions and commanding forces in close proximity with SPLM/A-IO positions.

Since January 2022, tensions began rising with SPLM/A-IO alleging that SSPDF was planning to attack their positions with intentions to push the SPLM/A-IO forces and takeover control of all their positions.

CTSAMVM found out that the SPLM/A-IO positions at Wangkuerbiy, Kuerkeem, Loolnyang and Jekau were attacked on 20 Mar 22. The SPLM/A-IO forces were dislodged from their Division 5 HQ at Jekau during the attack on 20 Mar 22. The Turu Declaration Chairman "Brig Gen" James Gatwech came out openly to claim that he and his armed civilians from the Cie Chany community in Turu, Jekau, and Nyetok Payams are the ones who attacked SPLM/A-IO on 20 Mar 22.

There is no humanitarian assistance in the area due the tension in Jekau. The Maiwut County Commissioner told CTSAMVM that, "access to Jekau was restricted."

CTSAMVM concluded that SPLM/A-IO positions in Maiwut County at Jekau, Wangkuerbiy, Kuerkeem and Lolnyaang were attacked and overrun on 20 Mar 22 by the SSPDF allied forces of "Brig Gen" James Gatwech, the Turu Declaration Chairman in violation of Article 2.1.4 and 2.1.10.4 of the R-ARCSS and Article 3 2) (a) and (d) of the ACoH

It is strongly recommended that CTSAMVM be allowed access to Jekau to conclude this investigation.



**PRELIMINARY REPORT INTO THE ALLEGED ATTACKS BY SSPDF ON  
SPLM/A-IO LOCATIONS IN MAIWUT AND LONGECHUK COUNTIES IN UPPER  
NILE STATE**

**Introduction**

**1. Background:**

- a. The SPLM/A-IO had been controlling the two counties of Maiwut and Longechuk with forces at Jekau and occupying other areas of Kuerkeem, Wangkuarbiy, Lolnyaang and Biyien. They had been in these positions since the signing of the R-ARCSS in September 2018.
- b. Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet and Maj Gen James Ochan Puot defected from SPLM/A-IO and were integrated into SSPDF. However, they remained occupying positions and commanding forces in close proximity with SPLM/A-IO positions.
- c. Since January 2022, tensions began rising with SPLM/A-IO alleging that SSPDF was planning to attack their positions with intentions to push the SPLM/A-IO forces and takeover control of all their positions.

**2. Allegations:**

- a. On 05 Feb 22, CTSAMVM received information that on the same day (Sat, 05 Feb 22) at 0940hrs, SSPDF forces under the overall command of Maj. Gen. James Khor Chuol at Muor and Majiok villages, commanded by Col. Mangok Wuor and deputized by Lt. Col. John Nyal attacked Longechuk and Mathiang areas causing massive displacement of civilians.
- b. It was also alleged that the above attacks caused displacements of civilians by forces under the overall command of Maj. Gen. James Khor Chuol at Muor, and

Majiok villages commanded by Col. Mangok Wuor and deputized by Lt. Col. John Nyal on 05 Feb 22 at 0940hrs.

- c. On 20 Mar 22, CTSAMVM received information that at around 0850hrs, SSPDF forces had attacked SPLM/A-IO positions at Jekau, Kuerkeem, Wangkuarbiy, Lolnyaang and Biyen. It was further alleged that the cause of the conflict in Maiwut was because SSPDF wanted to push away SPLM/A-IO forces and takeover control of all their positions yet these positions were allocated to SPLM/A-IO by the Agreement
  - d. On 23 Mar 22, CTSAMVM received information that the forces loyal to Maj Gen Khor Chuol Giet were in Dutjiok by 22 March 2022 moving towards Longechuk County HQ with intentions to attack the SPLM/A-IO Division 5 HQ.
  - e. On 24 Mar 22, CTSAMVM was informed that the SPLM/A-IO forces at Guol/Panomdejop about 25kms south of Mathiang, Longechuk County HQ had been attacked in the morning by SSPDF forces from Malual Gahoth under the command of Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet combined with forces of Maj Gen James Ochan Puot from SSPDF Special Operations Brigade in Maiwut.
3. Aim: The aim of this report is to provide preliminary findings of CTSAMVM investigations into the allegations, attribute responsibility for breaches of the agreements where applicable and to make recommendations.
4. Methodology:
- a. CTSAMVM Sector II HQ combined with MVT Malakal undertook a Long Duration Patrol (LDP) to Maiwut and Longechuk Counties on 07 – 13 April 2022.
  - b. CTSAMVM interviewed the County Commissioner of Maiwut Hon. Bang Kawich Deng, "Brig Gen" James Gatwech Ruth (the Turu Declaration Chairman), Deputy Cmdr SSPDF Special Ops Bde in Maiwut, Former



SPLM/A-IO Women League Representative in Maiwut, Bde 18 SSPDF Cmdr, Chief of Arab nomads in Pagak, Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet, Chief Executive Director of Pagak. Finally, the team had a telephone engagement with SPLM/A-IO Deputy Cmdr 5 Division.

- c. CTSAMVM was not able to go to Wangkuerbiy, Jekau and Malual Gahoth because according to the Maiwut County Commissioner, "it was not safe for the MVT to go to the said locations because he could not guarantee the team's safety".
- d. 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 humanitarian entities and signifies that sufficient facts and evidence have been collected to conclude that an event has occurred.

## **Findings**

- 5. The SPLM/A-IO positions at Wangkuerbiy, Kuerkeem, Loolnyang and Jekau were attacked on 20 Mar 22.
- 6. The SPLM/A-IO forces were dislodged from their Division 5 HQ at Jekau during the attack on 20 Mar 22.
- 7. There was movement of forces of SSPDF 18 Bde forces from their HQ in Pagak to attack SPLM/A-IO Barracks at Yambura and Wangkuerbiy on 09 Jan 22 to revenge for their soldier who was allegedly killed by SPLM/A-IO forces which was a violation of Arts 2.1.2, 2.1.9, 2.1.10.4.
- 8. According to the statements of "Brig Gen" James Gatwech, the Turu Declaration Chairman, and Brig Gen Nhial Nyal Ding, Deputy Cmdr SSPDF Special Ops Bde,

the attackers are alleged to be armed civilians (Armed Youth) mobilized and commanded by Brig Gen James Gatwech, the Chairman of TURU DECLARATION assisted by members of his team from the Maiwut County government and from Juba who mobilized the Youth and other civilians and led them to attack the SPLM/A-IO positions on 20 Mar 22. The members of Brig Gen James Gatwech's team are also Turu Declaration members and they include:

- a. Mr. Dhan Chuol Kuoth – (Executive Director of Maiwut County)
- b. Mr. Gatluak Manyap Pal – (from Juba)
- c. Mr. Koang Simon Tut – (from Juba)
- d. Madam Elizabeth Mete Puok – (from Juba)

9. The security situation at the time of the LDP was still tense and unpredictable in Jekau, Wangkuerbiy, Kuerkeem, LolNyang and Malual Gahoth due the information that the SPLM/A-IO forces and their allied White Army were moving from Mandeng, Nasir and Longechuk to attack Malual Gahoth and Jekau in a bid to recapture Jekau.
10. The alleged spontaneous attack on SSPDF soldiers by SPLM/A-IO and killing of Pte Marko Okil Salvatore Lomin on 15 Jan 22, Pte Nicola Lado Otongo Micheal on 08 Mar 22, and Sgt Sultan Hassan on 20 Mar 22, appears to be a violation of Articles 2.1.2 and 2.1.9 of R-ARCSS. However, CTSAMVM could not fully conclude investigations on these alleged killings since the team did not engage with the SPLM/A-IO commanders.
11. There is no humanitarian assistance in the area due the tension in Jekau. The Maiwut County Commissioner stated that, "access to Jekau was restricted".
12. When CTSAMVM insisted on going to Wangkuerbiy to meet with SPLM/A-IO, "Brig Gen" James Gatwech said that there are no SPLM/A-IO forces in Wangkuerbiy.



## Assessment

13. Based on the statements of the various witnesses interviewed, CTSAMVM assesses that:

- a. Attack on SPLM/A-IO positions in Maiwut County. It was confirmed that the SPLM/A-IO positions in Maiwut County at Jekau, Wangkuerbiy, Kuerkeem and LolNyang were attacked on 20 Mar 22 and overrun. However, CTSAMVM could not ascertain the Party forces that attacked SPLM-IO since it was not possible to visit Jakau and Wangkuerbiy or to physically engage with the SPLM/A-IO forces. The SSPDF denied the allegations during the investigations. However, "Brig Gen" James Gatwech, the Turu Declaration Chairman came out openly to claim that him and his armed civilians from the Cie Chany community in Turu, Jekau, and Nyetok Payams are the ones who attacked SPLM/A-IO on 20 Mar 22.
- b. Security situation. The security situation was still tense and unpredictable in Jekau, Wangkuerbiy, Kuerkeem, LolNyang and Malual Gahoth due the information that the SPLM/A-IO forces and their allied White Army were moving from Mandeng, Nasir and Longechuk to attack Malual Gahoth and Jekau in a bid to recapture Jekau having been their HQ of Div 5.
- c. Access. Access to Jekau, Wangkuerbiy, Kuerkeem, LolNyang and Malual Gahoth was still very difficult due to the unpredictability of the security situation in those areas. The Maiwut County Commissioner could not guarantee security and safety of the CTSAMVM personnel.
- d. Causes of the conflict. Among other unknown factors, the conflict in Maiwut is assessed to have been caused by internal political grievances within SPLM/A-IO Party and Defections from SPLM/A-IO ranks.
- e. Violations. The events in Maiwut and Longechuk Counties constitute violations of the R-ARCSS and Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities (21 December 2017, ACoH) by the party signatories.

f. The County Commissioner of Maiwut (ITGoNU) seemed to admit that he knows more about the attack on SPLM/A-IO positions on 20 Mar 22, when he stated that, **the events that led to the 20 Mar 22 attacks on the IO positions started from when he took over office as Commissioner in May 2021 and the SPLM/A-IO refused movement of civilians from Jekau, Turu to go to Maiwut.**

g. Torture allegations. The allegations of torture of civilians could not be proven because the CTSAMVM was unable to meet any civilian victims. CTSAMVM was told that the NGO workers who were tortured had been taken to Ethiopia for treatment.

## **Conclusion**

14. It is the conclusion of CTSAMVM that SPLM/A-IO positions in Maiwut County at Jekau, Wangkuerbiy, Kuerkeem and LolNyang were attacked and overrun on 20 Mar 22 by the SSPDF aligned forces of “Brig Gen” James Gatwech, the Turu Declaration Chairman in violation of Article 2.1.4 and 2.1.10.4 of the R-ARCSS and Article 3 2) (a) and (d) of the ACoH.
15. The political leadership of Maiwut County is responsible for the humanitarian crisis in the area.
16. SSPDF should take responsibility of the actions of “Brig Gen” James Gatwech, the Turu Declaration Chairman which they have not condemned. These actions violate R-ARCSS, Article 2.1.4, 2.1.10.7.2.

## **Observations and Recommendations**

17. CTSAMVM recommends that JDB quickly constitute a team for a fact-finding mission, de-escalate the tensions and resolve the security situations in Maiwut and Longechuk.



18. It is strongly recommended that CTSMVM be allowed access to Jekau to conclude this investigation. It is difficult to make reasonable conclusions without engaging both parties especially the aggrieved SPLM/A-IO and the victim civilians.
19. Need to fast track processes of building the Necessary Unified Forces to address such conflicts.