

**CTSAMVM CONFIDENTIAL**  
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**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:** 23 May 2022

**SUBJECT: CTSAMVM REPORT 2022/14 – FINAL REPORT INTO THE  
ALLEGED ATTACKS BY SSPDF ON SPLM/A-IO POSITIONS 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 Amad**

**Chairperson CTSAMVM**



## CTSAMVM REPORT 2022/14

### 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 Biyen.

Maj Gen James Ochan Puot and Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet and defected from SPLM/A-IO and were integrated into SSPDF. However, they remained occupying positions and commanding forces in Turu, Maiwut and Malual Gahoth respectively, 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 out and takeover control of all their positions.

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

As it was stated in CTSAMVM Preliminary report 2022/11, CTSAMVM concluded that SPLM/A-IO positions in Maiwut County at Jekau, Wangkuarbiy, 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 together with the Maiwut County Commissioner and most likely supported by Maj Gen James Ochan Puot, 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.





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

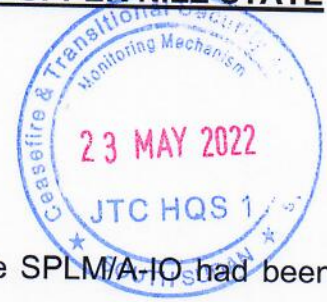
**Introduction**

**1. Background:**

- a. Since the signing of the R-ARCSS in Sept 2018, the SPLM/A-IO had been controlling the two counties of Maiwut and Longechuk with forces at different locations including Jekau, Kuerkeem, Wangkuarbiy, Lolnyaang and Biyien.
- b. Maj Gen James Ochan Puot and Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet defected from SPLM/A-IO in August 2019 and August 2021 respectively and were integrated into SSPDF. However, they remained occupying positions with their 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. 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 Biyien. 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.



- c. On 23 Mar 22, CTSAMVM received information that the forces loyal to SSPDF Maj Gen Khor Chuol Giet were in Dutjiok by 22 March 2022, moving towards Longechuk County SPLM/A-IO HQ with intentions to attack the HQ.
  - d. 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 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. The team further visited Jekou on 20 April, Malual Gahoth on 26 April and Mathiang on 27 April 2022.
    - b. In Maiwut, Pagak and Mathiang, CTSAMVM interviewed the County Commissioner of Maiwut-Hon. Bang Kawich Deng, “Brig Gen” James Gatwech Reath (the Turu Declaration Chairman), Brig Gen Nhial Nyal Ding-Deputy Cmdr SSPDF Special Ops Bde in Maiwut, Mme Elizabeth Mete Puok-Former SPLM/A-IO Women League Representative in Maiwut, Brig Gen Wal Deng Ador-Bde 18 SSPDF Cmdr, Sultan Ali Bello-Chief of Arab nomads in Pagak, Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet-SSPDF Allied Forces Comdr, Lok Gatkuoth-Chief Executive Director Pagak. In Jekou, Malual Gahoth and Mathiang, the team interviewed Maj Gen Pal Gatkuoth-the SPLM/A-IO Deputy Comdr 5Div, Mr Deng Pal Kueth-Payam Administarator Jekow, Mr Dolek Tut Kuach-Comdr White Army, Brig Gen Peter Gatwech Puoch-Area



Comdr Malual Gahoth faction, Hon Dak Tut Dei-Commissioner Longechuk County.

- c. CTSAMVM was not able to go to Wangkuerbiy, because SPLM/A-IO was not able to provide the coordinates of the exact location of their forces. However, CTSAMVM was able to engage on phone with the SPLM/A-IO 5 Division Commander at Wangkuerbiy.
- 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 Jekou were attacked on 20 Mar 22.
- 6. The SPLM/A-IO forces were dislodged from their Division 5 HQ at Jekou during the attack on 20 Mar 22.
- 7. According to the statements of “Brig Gen” James Gatwech Reath, 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 Reath himself, 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 Manytap Pal – (from Juba)
  - c. Mr. Koang Simon Tut – (from Juba)
  - d. Madam Elizabeth Mete Puok – (from Juba)
8. The Payam Administrator of Jekou Mr. Deng Pal Kueth alleged that the disagreements in Jekou were between the civilians and the SPLM/A-IO. He further stated that SPLM/A-IO stopped the civilians in the three Payams of Turu, Jekou and Nyetok not to go to Maiwut to report to the commissioner. However, this allegation is negated by the fact that the attacking forces burnt the civilian houses in Jekou which forced all the civilians to flee to Ethiopia. Had the civilians been against the SPLM/A-IO, they would not have run away since the SPLM/A-IO were pushed out of Jekou.







9. The Commander of the White Army, Mr Dolek Tut Kuach and the Payam Administrator of Jekou, Mr Deng Pal Kueth alleged that the SPLM/A-IO forces denied civilians to go to Maiwut and arrested Mr. Dhan Chuol Kuoth , Mr Anter Nyal and Pastor John Chuol accusing them of going to Maiwut. They claimed these to be the major causes that sparked off fighting. However, the SPLM/A-IO Division 5 Commander denied the allegation stating that, Mr. Anter Nyal is with him at Wangkeurbiy while Pastor John Chuol is in Maiwut.
10. "Brig Gen" James Gatwech Reath denied CTSAMVM any opportunity to talk to the few civilians who were in Malual Gahoth including Mr Dhan Chuol Kuoth, who was allegedly arrested by SPLM/A-IO on accusation that he went to Maiwut. Brig Gatwech Ruth refused Mr. Dhan Chuol speaking to CTSAMVM insisting that he (James Gatwech) was speaking "on their behalf".

11. Brig Gen Wal Deng Ador, SSPDF Bde 18 Cmdr claimed that “the civilians who attacked Jekou had a variety of heavy weapons including RPGs, PKMs, 12.7mm, etc which they probably acquired from Arab nomads (Palata) in Sudan or the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) rebels in Ethiopia”. However, “Brig Gen” James Gatwech Reath who owned up, claimed and accepted to have led the forces that fought in Jekou contradicted the claim saying that he only used AK-47 rifles (SMGs), which looks a cover up of something.
12. According to Maj Gen Pal Gatkuoth, the SPLM/A-IO Deputy Commander 5 Division, the SSPDF forces that attacked Jekou were armed with heavy weapons that included ZU 35, 14.5mm guns, mounted 12.7mm weapons and T55 Tanks. This was also stated on 16 May 22 when CTSAMVM engaged with Gen David Thok Chuol the Commander SPLM/A-IO 5 Division.
13. When “Brig Gen” James Gatwech Reath was asked by CTSAMVM whether he was getting support from any Party or from anywhere, he answered using a local proverb that “when a lion is going to roar, it has to find a firm base where to stand”. This proverb was an acceptance by “Brig Gen” Gatwech that indeed his forces together with the White Army were supported.







**Above:** County Commissioner Maiwut, Maj Gen James Ochan Puot and a Medical Assistant Mr. Enock Jafer Deng at Jekou Barracks after it was overrun.

**Below:** SSPDF soldiers and their vehicles at Jekou Barracks after it was overrun.

14. The Maiwut County Commissioner, "Brig Gen" James Gatwech Reath and all other SSPDF Commander denied CTSAMVM an opportunity to go to Wangkuerbiy claiming that the SPLM/A-IO forces were not there. However, CTSAMVM engaged on phone the SPLM/A-IO 5 Division Commander and he confirmed that he was at Wangkuerbiy. He further stated that the government committee met him and his forces at Wangkuerbiy on 14 May 2022.
15. The SSPDF Brigade 18 Commander alleged that there were spontaneous attacks on SSPDF soldiers by SPLM/A-IO that killed 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. The SPLM/A-IO Division 5 Commander denied the allegation and called it a fabrication.
16. Regarding the fighting in Longechuk County, the County Commissioner Hon Dak Tut Del (SPLM/A-IO) stated that "on 24 to 25 Mar 22, Longechuk County came under heavy and multiple attacks by the forces of SSPDF Maj.Gen James Khor Chuol Giet under the immediate command of Brig Gen. Mangok Wuor. On 24 Mar 22, Guol and Kapyomdhuol villages were attacked at 0700hr and Biot and Wechlew Bomas were also attacked at 0530hrs on the same day. On 25 Mar 22, at 0600hrs in the morning, Biot and Wechlew Bomas were again attacked and during this incident, an 11-year-old girl and 1-year-old child were wounded but there were no reported deaths. The civilians fled the villages and went to the Payam HQ for safety. The area was occupied by SSPDF forces under Brig Gen. Mangok Wour until they were defeated up to Biot. Both forces lost many soldiers on that day. Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet forces were defeated through the main road to Maiwut and retreated to Malual Gahoth. Other forces that ran through the road were rescued by the Maiwut County commissioner's vehicle and the injured were taken by ICRC for treatment".



17. The SSPDF Bde 18 Commander, admitted to having attacked SPLM/A-IO barracks at Wangkuerbiy on 05 Jan 22 allegedly to rescue their soldier who had been captured by SPLM/A-IO forces.
18. There was movement of forces of SSPDF 18 Bde from their HQ in Pagak to attack SPLM/A-IO Barracks at Yambura and Wangkuerbiy on 09 Jan 22 to revenge for their soldiers who were allegedly killed by SPLM/A-IO forces.
19. Col Deng Riak the Military Intelligence Officer (based in Pagak) 18 Brigade, 6 Division, SSPDF supplied ammunition to the SPLM/A-IO defectors specifically to Brig. Mangok under Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet.
20. Most of the civilians in the villages of Jekou, Biyien, Rar, Jerusalem, Kuerkem, LolNyang were displaced and crossed the border to Ethiopia territory.
21. There is no humanitarian assistance in the Jekou and Malual Gahoth. The Maiwut County Commissioner had earlier on told CTSAMVM that, "access to Jekou was restricted".

## **Assessment**

22. 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 and overrun on 20 Mar 22.
  - b. Basing on the statement of "Brig Gen" James Gatwech Ruth, to have got support, the type of weapons used and the presence of the Maiwut County Commissioner together with Maj Gen James Ochan in Jekou Barracks after the fighting, it is assessed that SSPDF appears to have supported the White Army to attack and overrun Jekou.

- c. Brig Gen James Gatwech Reath owned up leading civilians to attack Jekou using only AK-47 rifles thus contradicting Brig Gen Wal Deng Ador's version that the civilians attacked Jekou using a variety of heavy weapons including RPGs, PKMs and 12.7mm. The two commanders made contradicting versions of the weapons used to attack and overrun Jekou with a view to exonerate SSPDF from direct involvement in the Jekou incident.
- c. Access. The Maiwut County Commissioner together with "Brig Gen" James Gatwech deliberately denied CTSAMVM access to both Jekou and Wangkuerbiy.
- d. Causes of the conflict. Among other factors, the conflict in Maiwut is assessed to have been caused by the alleged disagreement between the government's County Commissioner and the SPLM/A-IO Commanders plus defections from SPLM/A-IO ranks.
- 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 SPLM/A-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 confirmed because CTSAMVM was unable to meet any civilian victims. CTSAMVM team was informed that the NGO workers who were tortured had been taken to Ethiopia for treatment.
- h. The massive displacement of civilians from their homes to cross the boarder to Ethiopia was caused by the fighting in Jekou.



## **Conclusion**

23. 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 together with the Maiwut County Commissioner and most likely to have been supported by Maj Gen James Ochan Puot and Maj Gen James Khor Chuol Giet, 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.
24. The political leadership of Maiwut County is responsible for the humanitarian crisis in the area, in violation of R-ARCSS Articles 2.1.10.1, 2.1.10.5 and 2.1.10.7.4.
25. SSPDF should take responsibility of the actions of "Brig Gen" James Gatwech Reath, the Turu Declaration Chairman which they have not condemned. These actions violate R-ARCSS, Article 2.1.4, 2.1.10.7.2.
26. The movement 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 soldiers who were allegedly killed by SPLM/A-IO forces is a clear violation of the R-ARCSS Articles 2.1.2, 2.1.9, 2.1.10.4.

## **Recommendations**

27. The Maiwut County Commissioner, Maj Gen James Ochan Puot, "Brig Gen" James Gatwech Reath, Brig Gen Wal Deng Ador (SSPDF Bde 18 Comd) be held accountable for the incidents in Maiwut, and Longechuk Counties.
28. The SPLM/A-IO is equally responsible for the death of SSPDF soldiers, namely 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.

29. There is urgent need to fast track processes of building the Necessary Unified Forces to address such conflicts.