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Headquarters Ceasefire & Transitional Security Arrangements  
Monitoring and Verification Mechanism  
Juba, South Sudan  
May 2024

Ref: CM/2024/05/63

TO: Lt. Gen. Rabi Mujung Emmanuel (ITGoNU)  
Maj. Gen. Dr. Chuol Ruey Kompuok (SPLM/A-IO)  
Maj. Gen. Jany Kaway Yoakhor (SSOA)  
Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (Former Detainees)

FROM: The Chairperson, CTSAMVM

DATE: 07 May 2024

**SUBJECT: CTSAMVM REPORT 2024/07 – ALLEGED RECRUITMENT OF SOLDIERS BY SSPDF IN MATHIANG BARRACKS OF AWEIL TOWN, NORTH BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE.**

Please find attached a report on the alleged recruitment of soldiers by SSPDF in Mathiang barracks of Aweil town North Bahr El Ghazal State (NBeGS).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Hailu Gonfa Eddosa", written over a set of horizontal lines.

Major General Hailu Gonfa Eddosa

**Chairperson**

Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism



**CTSAMVM REPORT 2024/07 – ALLEGED RECRUITMENT OF SOLDIERS BY SSPDF  
IN MATHIANG BARRACKS OF AWEIL TOWN, NORTH BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

It was reported in the press on Monday, 1 February 2024 that Hundreds of Recruits are being trained in Aweil again, in the post, a picture and video of a group of youth was posted on a morning run, being guided by men in Uniform. The recruits estimated to be around 573, were initially promised integration into the SSPDF and are said to be undergoing training at the Mathiang facility within Aweil town.

Historically, Mathiang was a base for the Sudanese army during the second Sudanese civil war. With the signing of the CPA in January 2005, the ceasefire agreement of December 2004 came into effect, where parties agreed to international monitoring and verification of the ceasefire which included redeployment of armed forces (from respective parties) and monitoring of military personnel deployed under the joint/integrated units.

The ceasefire agreement gave the UN a prominent role in verifying and monitoring the ceasefire by calling for the active participation of the United Nations in several bodies that were to be created to assist in the implementation of the Agreement. The Joint/Integrated Units (JIU) made up of the Sudanese Army and SPLA were positioned in Mathiang, while those opposed to the agreement remained in the bush. After South Sudan gained independence in 2011, the Sudanese military vacated the area, and it has not been recognized as a military base since.

Mathiang is located in the center of Aweil, in a densely populated area, the location was designated as North Bahr El Ghazal State (NBeGS) University by a presidential decree issued in 2020, and the vice-cancellor of NBeGS University has been in discussions with military forces to vacate the area since 2020 and was recently informed that military police forces are awaiting orders from their superior command of SSPDF 3 Div to relocate to a location along the Aweil-Aronya road in Aweil Central County, an area with eight boreholes and outside the city.

The SSPDF claimed that many of their deserters returned after the government began paying soldiers, those deserters were absent for a long time and they were required to attend a refresher training which was conducted and ended in 2022.

CTSAMVM was unable to obtain sufficient evidence of any military recruitment and training in Mathiang or elsewhere in the state.





**CTSAMVM REPORT 2024/07– ALLEGED RECRUITMENT OF SOLDIERS BY SSPDF  
IN MATHIANG BARRACKS OF AWEIL TOWN, NORTH BAHR EL GHAZAL  
STATE.**

Reference:

A: CTSAMVM report 2022/23: Recruitment and training in North Bahr El Ghazal State.

**INTRODUCTION**

**1. Background:**

a. Mathiang Barracks is located at the center of Aweil Municipality and is situated in a densely populated area under the command of SSPDF 3 Div.

b. Historically, Mathiang was a base for the Sudanese army during the Second Sudanese war between the central government in Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south; when the 2005 agreement was signed/Joint Integrated Units (JIU) made up of Sudanese Army and SPLA were positioned in Mathiang, while those opposed to the agreement remained in the bush. After South Sudan gained independence in 2011, the Sudanese military vacated the area.

c. It was reported in the press on Monday, 1 February 2024, that Hundreds of Recruits were being trained in Aweil. In the same post, a picture and video of a group of youth was posted on a morning run, being guided by men in Uniform was shown. It was further reported that the recruits estimated to be around 573, were initially promised integration into the SSPDF and were said to be undergoing training at the Mathiang facility within Aweil town.

2. Allegation: On 1 February 2024, it was reported that the government was allegedly training hundreds of new recruits at the Mathiang facility in Aweil town with the promise that they would be integrated into the SSPDF.

3. Aim: The aim of this report is to present findings of alleged recruitment of soldiers by SSPDF in Mathiang barracks of Aweil town NBeGS.

**4. Methodology:**

a. Investigation: Investigations were undertaken by a team comprising International Observers and National Monitors from all parties.



b. During the period from 2-6 April 2024, CTSAMVM MVT based at Wau visited NBeGS Governor's office in Aweil Town, Legislative office, SSPDF 3 Div Hqs Wunyiik in Aweil East County, NSS Hqs in Aweil, NBeGS Police Hqs in Aweil Town and Mathiang in Aweil Central.

c. CTSAMVM interviewed a total of 11 local witnesses including:

- (1) Lt Col Deng Santino the State Director of NSS.
- (2) Dr. Tong Lual the Deputy Governor of NBeGS Ho.
- (3) Brig Gen Ngong Akol the SSPDF DIV 3 Chief of Operations.
- (4) Maj Gen Nhial Nhial the Acting police Commissioner of NBeGS Police HQs,
- (5) Hon Santino Wol Aluk the Chairperson of the Peace security and governance committee of NBeGS MPs
- (6) Hon Daniel Akot Akot State MP and SPLM/IO State secretary
- (7) Maj Gen Osman Akol Ding the SSPDF 3 DIV Acting Comdr and his Chief of Military Intel Brig Gen Juma Mabeney.
- (8) Brig Gen Juma Mabeney the Chief Military Intelligence of SSPDF 3 Div.
- (9) Lt Col Garang Garang the Military Police Commander in Mathiang
- (10) Dr Stephen L Ajong the vice chancellor of NBeGS University
- (11) A civilian in Aweil.

5. Standard of proof: 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 incidence that is subject to the investigation occurred" this is per accepted practice for monitoring mechanisms and human rights and humanitarian entities and signifies that sufficient facts and evidence has been collected to conclude that an event happened.

6. Findings: Include the following:

- a. There is no evidence of SSPDF or police training new recruits in Mathiang facility.
- b. Refresher training was held for army deserters, when government began paying soldiers in the year 2022, and deserters who returned were required to attend refresher training after which they were redeployed to SSPDF Div 3 units.
- c. The SPLM/A-IO state secretary still claimed that recruitment is ongoing in Mathiang, with approximately 4,000 soldiers under the governor's supervision. CTSAMVM did not find any trace of these 4,000 recruits.





d. Pantit Training Center is the only recognized Training center in the State but closed after NUF forces graduated, now only a few instructors remain and no training currently taking place in Pantit or Mathiang.

e. SSPDF Military Police of a platoon strength occupying Mathiang has been asked to vacate the Mathiang facility, which was given to the University of NBeGS and the process of relocating the forces is currently underway. They will be relocated to a place along the Aweil-Aroya road in Aweil Central County.

f. The Police agreed that they were conducting refresher training for the upcoming elections, since they have never experienced an election before. All participants attend two hours of drills in the morning followed by 1.5 hours of lectures. CTSAMVM did not meet the trainees as they had already been dismissed.

g. Construction work has been launched in Mathiang including the building of university fence and main gate so that they could control the university's entrance. The state provided blocks outside of Mathiang to civilians who were staying there, and some of them have already left.

9. Assessment: CTSAMVM assesses as follows:

a. Except for ongoing Police refresher training, there is no evidence that the government is training new recruits in Mathiang.

b. Mathiang and Freedom Square is an urban setting and cannot be used to train military recruits within the town of Aweil.

10. Conclusion: It is the conclusion of CTSAMVM that there was no substantial evidence of any military recruitment and training in Mathiang or elsewhere in the state since Pantit training centre is currently empty.

11. Observations and recommendations:

a. There is no evidence that the government was training new recruits in Mathiang or elsewhere in the state.

b. Mathiang and the freedom square are in the densely populated center of Aweil town, making it impractical to train new recruits.

c. SSPDF 3 Division's Military Police (MP) should exit Mathiang facility to the newly allocated area so that the NBeGS University can fully commence its operations.

d. Refresher training should be reported well in advance so as not to cause panic among the locals.

