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

SUBJECT: CTSAMVM REPORT 2024/08 – FIGHTING INCIDENT BETWEEN UNITY STATE GOVERNORS CONVOY PROTECTION TEAM AND SPLM/A-IO FORCES IN JAMUS/BARKUOR.

Please find attached a report on the fighting incident between the Unity State Governor convoy protection team and SPLM/A-IO forces in Jamus/Barkuor.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

for Major General Yitayal Gelaw Bitew

Chairperson

Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism

**CTSAMVM REPORT 202408 – FIGHTING INCIDENT BETWEEN UNITY STATE  
GOVERNORS CONVOY PROTECTION TEAM AND SPLM/A-IO FORCES IN  
JAMUS/BARKUOR.**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 CTSAMVM received allegations of a fighting incident between the Unity State Governor's convoy protection team and SPLM/A-IO forces in JAMUS/Barkuor.

Before the incident, SPLM/A-IO troops in JAMUS were informed by the Rubkona County Commissioner to relocate to a Place called sixteen which is about 2km from their current location to create space for civilians to settle and also establish a market.

The Battalion commander in JAMUS advised the county commissioner to communicate with the SPLM/A-IO leadership in Tong. The SPLM/A-IO leaders agreed to relocate but requested for more time.

On the fateful day, the Governor was visiting his people in JAMUS when the fighting erupted as soon as he arrived. It is not clear who started the fight.

The JAMUS area became calm after the incident and the population has started returning to their homes in JAMUS.





# CTSAMVM REPORT 2024/08 – FIGHTING INCIDENT BETWEEN UNITY STATE GOVERNORS CONVOY PROTECTION TEAM AND SPLM/A-IO FORCES IN JAMUS/BARKUOR

## References:

A: CTSAMVM Report 2023/18 - Tension and violence in Unity state.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Background:

a. On, or about 7 October 2023, the SPLM/A-IO Sector 2 Commander, Lieutenant General Simon Maguek, “defected” from the SPLM/A-IO and joined the SSPDF. He moved to Leer together with a number of his followers and was welcomed by senior party officials.

b. On 28 November 2023 forces under the command of Lieutenant General Simon Maguek moved from Leer towards SPLM/A-IO positions on the Adok road and there was a clash at Kaigai. The fighting eventually stopped, due to the intervention of the SSPDF commander in Leer who persuaded the SPLM/A-IO to pull back away from Kaigai. This made Unity state to enjoy calmness.

c. The situation in Unity State remained calm until 29 January 2024, when the Governor was visiting his people in JAMUS, whereby fighting erupted as soon as he arrived.

2. **Allegations:** A 15 to 20-minute fighting incident between the Unity State Governor convoy protection team and SPLM/A-IO forces in JAMUS/Barkuor. The allegations by SSPDF are that the Governor was shot at by the SPLM/A-IO while SPLM/A-IO alleges that their position at Jamous was attacked by the SSPDF.

3. **Aim:** The aim of this report is to present findings on the alleged fighting incident between the Unity State Governors’ convoy protection team and SPLM/A-IO forces in Jamus/Barkuor.

### 4. Methodology:

a. **Investigation:** Investigations were undertaken with full participation of National Monitors from all parties.

b. During the course of investigation, CTSAMVM visited JAMUS village in Unity state, Rubkona County, Lalob/Rorjah, Barkuor/Jamus, Area Sixteen /kilo 10, Tong, Bentiu.



c. CTSAMVM interviewed a range of witnesses including:

i. Lalob/Roria:

- (a) Hon. James Juol, (Rubkona County commissioner).
- (b) Hon. Tuted Shan, (Rubkona County executive director).

ii. Barkuor/Jamus:

- (a) Mr. Kadjang Nyot Nyir, (Executive Director Barkuor/Jamus Payam).
- (b) Mr Chahan Ngop, (Barkuor Buma chief).
- (c) Maj Kurkut Gai, (Director of police Barkuor payam).
- (d) A civilian woman.

iii. Barkuor/Jamus Area Sixteen:

- (a) Col Padikdik Hoth Dong, Bn commander Jamus operation Bn.

iv. Tong:

- (a) Gorge Gatthuoy Thak, Ag sector II commander.
- (b) Brig Gen James Kuet Kot, chief of Mil intelligence for sector II SPLM/A-IO.
- (c) Major General John Trucode Kur, Division 4A SPLM /IO commander /ding ding containment site commander.
- (d) MAJ GEN kerdol Thong, sector II operation.
- (e) WOI Tireu Manyok, Regimental Seargent major SPLA-IO Bn in Jamus.
- (f) Sgt Bol Phan, SPLA-IO Jamus.
- (g) Maj Gen William Mayang Mayak, Div 4 infantry commander SSPDF.

v. Bentiu:

- (a) MR Yasser Pol Jack, Unity State National Security Director.
- (b) Dr. JOSEPH MANYTUIL KLJANG, Unity State governor.
- (c) Maj. Gen Sudan Dador, Unity state police commissioner.
- (d) Col Makol Joak, technical security advisor for Unity state.

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 in accordance with 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:** CTSAMVM visited Jamus from 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2024 and found the following:

- a. The Governor of Unity State had planned to address the people of Barkur/Jamus on 29 January 2024.
- b. Before 29 January 24, the Rubkona County commissioner made communication for SPLM/A-IO in Barkuor/Jamus to relocate to a place called sixteen (16) about 1½ - 2km from Jamus to settle the increasing number of civilians and also create space for the market.
- c. The SSPDF forces and SPLM/A-IO forces were deployed in Jamus by the Governor to protect workers of the road construction from Rubkona to Mayom. In May 2022, SSPDF forces moved 4 km towards Mayom from Jamus while the SPLM/A-IO remained in Jamus. In June 2023, SPLM/A-IO forces were asked to relocate to area sixteen (16) but were allowed to wait until they harvested their crops.
- d. The commander of Dingding CS of the SPLM/A-IO had no objection to the relocation of the troops to Jamus and promised to talk with the forces at Jamus. He was positive with the fact that the army was not supposed to live among the civilians and the police were to be deployed there to protect the civilians.
- e. On 27 January 2024 the County Commissioner went to Jamus and informed the commander of SPLM/A-IO to relocate, he was advised to communicate with the Leadership of SPLM/A-IO in Tong who agreed.
- f. On 28 January 2024, the security advisor called the sector commander of SPLM/A-IO and informed him to accompany the Governor to Jamus the next day. He replied it was fine but he had to transport the soldiers first to Bentiu and he would follow them the next day.
- g. On 29 January 2024, the County Commissioner brought a bulldozer to clear the road to sixteen and the site for the new camp for the SPLM/A-IO forces.
- h. The Governor informed the County Commissioner that he would address the civilians in Jamus on his way back from Nornikur in Mayom County, the Commissioner then joined and traveled with the Governor.
- i. The reception of the Unity State Governor was preceded by organizing the women and the youth to line along the roadside, the Governor's convoy arrived led by 3 cars with a protection team leading the way, followed by a motorcycle with two policemen and then 3 white cars. All the politicians and commanders in the convoy had their protection force and normal escort cars.





- j. The civilians had been staying with the SPLM/A-IO soldiers peacefully and they had no problem with each other and on the fateful day they were lining up together to receive the Governor. The County Commissioner has also been visiting the camp before.
- k. When the Governor's convoy was about to reach Jamus fighting started between the Convoy protection force and the SPLM/A-IO at Jamus lasting for about 10- 15 minutes and there was chaos.
- l. The initial claim that the Governor's convoy was fired upon as it passed where SPLM/A-IO soldiers were lining up, prompting return fire from the convoy's protection force was refuted by the SPLM/A-IO's Sector II Chief of Mil intelligence stating that their soldiers were attacked at the check point. They reported casualties, including a Captain who was saluting the convoy being shot in the stomach and six soldiers killed. The skirmish lasted approximately 10 minutes, but it remains unclear who initiated the shooting.
- m. 4 SSPDF soldiers died including their commander a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and 9 SPLM/A-IO soldiers also died on spot. One civilian was wounded.
- n. The wounded including the director of military intelligence Div 4 SSPDF, the director of wildlife services in Unity State, and a small boy who was wounded on the hand were evacuated to Juba and those from SPLM/A-IO were evacuated to SPLM/A-IO base at GARIA at Sudan Border
- o. SPLM/A-IO soldiers also later shot the bulldozer operator who was clearing the road to sixteen breaking his leg and took him captive to their camp in Garia 20 km north of Jamus.
- p. Armed groups from Nornikur in Mayom County came and looted goods in the market and also took some goats from the village. They later returned 50 goats and sheep after the Governor went to Nornikur and talked to them to return the goats but 50 others are still unaccounted for.
- q. A youthful civilian woman in Jamus said they scampered to safety from where they were lining to receive the Governor, as they heard gunshots but could not know who started the shooting, she reported that goods in shops and animal were looted.
- r. After the shootout, the SPLM/A-IO forces left to their base in Garia as such it was not possible for CTSAMVM to interview the SPLM/A-IO commander whose unit was involved. Currently the new location at Area Sixteen (16) coded as K10 is being occupied by the police and the SSPDF.
- s. The state and county authorities visited Jamus later and pleaded with the civilians not to retaliate against anyone for the sake of peace and seek meetings to prevent this from happening in the future, and if there is something in the hearts that can be resolved, should be done through dialogue.





t. The root cause of the conflict was the relocation of the SPLM/A-IO forces in Jamus.

7. **Assessment:** CTSAMVM assesses as follows:

a. On the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, there was a fighting incident where the Governor of Unity State's convoy protection force and SPLM/A-IO force in Jamus clashed. This was majorly orchestrated by the relocation of the SPLM/A-IO forces in JAMUS to Area sixteen.

b. The clash could have been avoided and casualties eliminated if the planning of the reception was done in collaboration of the two parties to avoid suspicion on the D-day.

c. Although it is difficult for CTSAMVM to conclusively identify who started the shooting, both SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO forces acted in suspicion of the other and almost fired simultaneously.

8. **Conclusion:** It is the conclusion of CTSAMVM that the two Parties; the SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO uphold and respect the Agreements by cessation of all hostile military actions and protection of civilians as provided for under Article 2.1.10.7.2 of the R-ARCSS and Article 3.2(a) and 5.1 of the ACOH.

9. **Observations and recommendations:**

a. The Governor, an appointed government official, should at least coordinate and use proper channels of communication to ensure that such violent clashes do not occur in the future.

b. The state leaders should at least use the NUF police for protection and not the military and in the case of more than 1 official visiting the same area, they may consider using escort detail of the principal official only.

c. The JDB to fast track deployment of the Necessary Unified Force to the affected area.

d. When incident between parties do occur, JDB should take action to de-escalating the situation.

e. Parties should remain vigilant and take all the necessary measures to avoid outbreak of violence.

f. Parties should ensure that their forces are cantoned in officially recognized areas as provided for under Article 2.2.3.3 and 2.2.3.4 of the R-ARCSS.

g. CTSAMVM should always be informed of movement of forces prior as per the provisions of Article 11.6 of the ACOH.

