



**REPORT OF CEASEFIRE AND TRANSITIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS  
MONITORING AND VERIFICATION MECHANISM (CTSAMVM) AND OUTCOMES  
OF CTSAMVM  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN  
20 September 2024**

The CTSAMVM Technical Committee Meeting (CTC) was held on 20 September 2024 at the Beijing Juba Hotel in Juba. All Parties were represented as shown below. The Chairperson Maj Gen Yitayal Gelaw Bitew opened the meeting at 1020Hrs/10:20 am with a word of prayer led by Brig Gen Andrea Mangu Adala and Maj Farhan.

ATTENDANCE		
<b>Chairperson</b>	Maj Gen Yitayal Gelaw Bitew	CTSAMVM
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>	Brig Yassir Hassaballah	CTSAMVM
<b>Representatives from the Parties</b>	<b>ITGoNU</b> Lt Gen Rabi Mijung Emmanuel Maj Gen John Daniel Kipa Maj Gen Gatkuoth Duop Kuich Maj Gen Wuoi Mayom Deng Maj Gen Thomas Gador Kic Wur  <b>SSOA</b> Maj Gen Jany Kaway Yoakhor Maj Gen Amos Amin Elia Maj Gen William Bol Kai Maj Gen Peter Riiny Mabior Maj Gen Yuodo John Otor Brig Gen Samuel Chan Mut	<b>SPLM/SPLA-IO</b> Maj Gen Dr. Chuol Ruey Kompuok Maj Gen Johnson Mayen Maj Gen William Deng Buom Brig Gen Andrea Mangu Adala Col Jackson Juma Lasu Col Ezekiel How K Gatluack  <b>Former Detainees (FDs)</b> Maj Gen Bior Leek Kuareng
<b>CTSAMVM Secretariat</b>	Mr. Edmund Agaba	CTSAMVM DCOS



<b>CTSAMVM Staff</b>	Mr. William Roy Mr. Chen Wengen Mr. Hassan Ali Mr. Felix Kioko Mr. Liu Bo Mr. Gebeyehu Asfaw Mr. Farhan A. Hassan Ms. Chara Bol Ms Ebtihal Ahmed Mr. Anthony Kisanya Ms. Samantha Minga Mr. Getachew Jenbere Ms. Paska John Amis	CTSAMVM Senior Reports Officer CTSAMVM Reports Officer CTSAMVM Operations CTSAMVM Head Legal CTSAMVM Fusion Cell CTSAMVM Fusion Cell CTSAMVM Fusion Cell CTSAMVM Gender CTSAMVM Gender Advisor CTSAMVM CoL CTSAMVM Protocol CTSAMVM HR CTSAMVM Procurement asst
<b>In Attendance</b>	Mr Jeff Mapendere	RJMEC

The CTC then reviewed the proposed Agenda. The agenda was adopted without amendment. The Chairperson then proceeded with opening remarks:

<b>Item 1</b>
<p><b>Opening Remarks by the Chairperson:</b></p> <p>Dear Senior Party Representatives and CTC members, IGAD Representative, RJMEC Representative, Defense Attachés, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,</p> <p>Good morning.</p> <p>I welcome you to this meeting and express my sincere gratitude for your contributions to addressing the issues affecting the peace process in the Republic of South Sudan.</p> <p><b>Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,</b></p> <p>The ceasefire continues to hold in the areas CTSAMVM Monitoring and Verification Teams have accessed during this reporting period. Today, we have two investigative reports and one violation report to discuss. These include the armed attacks in Yambio that have resulted in the deaths of three security forces personnel and injuries to a further three security forces personnel</p>





and two civilians. Additionally, CTSAMVM MVTs have recently deployed long-duration patrols to Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile to demonstrate CTSAMVM's commitment to maintaining an operational presence across the entirety of South Sudan.

**Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am happy to report that last week, CTSAMVM deployed a long-duration patrol to Nasir Town to investigate the worrying reports of armed clashes between armed youth and SSPDF soldiers. The results of this investigation are currently being prepared for discussion within the Joint Monitoring Coordination Office. Preliminary findings suggest that although tensions have reduced, significant trust-building work remains.

I am relieved to report a marked downturn in National Salvation Front activity, particularly within Western Equatoria. Central Equatoria continues to endure NAS operations, which are largely confined to criminal enterprise. The ongoing security force operations to deter and disrupt NAS activity and secure the civilian population are progressing. This has led to armed groups operating as NAS affiliates to target NGO workers in order to extract ransom payments.

I would like to take a moment to speak about the Necessary Unified Forces. During the last CTSAMVM Board Meeting, we heard encouraging and complimentary testimony from civil society representatives regarding the conduct and impact of NUF forces. This theme has continued during this reporting period. What is clear from the Daily Monitoring Reports submitted by the Monitoring and Verification Teams is the high level of expectation among the population, who eagerly await the arrival of the unified forces. The unification of forces represents the single most visible example of signatory party cohesion and commitment to peace for the South Sudanese people. It is also a tangible demonstration to the international community that implementing security arrangements remains a priority for the Transitional Government. CTSAMVM again urges that the positive stabilization and confidence-building effects of NUF deployments be reinforced with the necessary resourcing to enable a wider deployment footprint across South Sudan.

**Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you know, the Transitional Government has taken the necessary steps to extend the transitional period by two years. CTSAMVM welcomes the consensus that made the decision possible. This will afford additional time to complete the implementation of the transitional security arrangements. Which in turn will set the conditions for hosting a stable electoral process. However, the practical implications of our continued operational presence remain unknown.

During the last CTSAMVM Board meeting, I highlighted the increasingly competitive demand





for donor funding and the budgetary constraints across the multiple security mechanisms underpinning the R-ARCSS. Those same concerns remain, and securing additional donor funding to ensure continued monitoring and verification activity will be challenging. CTSAMVM will explore all options that maintain our ability to deliver our mandate. However, we must be pragmatic and prepare for the possibility that adjusting our operational model within resource constraints may be necessary.

With these few remarks, I declare this CTC meeting open and invite Senior Party Representatives to make their remarks. Thank you.

**The Senior Representative of ITGoNU;**

He thanked the CTSAMVM leadership for convening the meeting to discuss two investigation reports and one violation report. On Nasser report he congratulated CTSAMVM for sending a team to Nasser and expressed that they were looking forward to the report being tabled for discussion and members contribution so as to maintain peace and stability in the area. Concerning the activities of NAS he expressed that they were not happy with its activities and they were working hard towards total peace and security. He urged NAS to use peaceful means to resolve their issues. On NUF he stated that there were high expectations and thus urged the government and the security mechanisms concerned to expedite deployment of the forces to their area and to commence phase 2 of NUF during the remaining period of the implementation of the Agreement. He further thanked the leadership of the country for postponing the elections and extension of the transitional period. He termed this as a wise decision and was of the view that if the government is supported then the outstanding issues shall be implemented and this will ensure free and credible elections. He pledged that as CTSAMVM they shall be ready to help the Parties in implementing the Agreement through investigations, verification and reporting. He emphasized that if the security mechanism are not supported during the extension period then it shall be difficult for them to execute and implement the outstanding issues in the R-ARCSS. He urged the international community to support the government in the two years in order to conclude implementation of the Agreement. Lastly, he appreciated RJMEC leadership for their decision to endorse the Council of Ministers, the Parties and the people of South Sudan to extend the Agreement.





### **The Senior Representative of the SPLM/A-IO;**

He appreciated and welcomed the timing of today's meeting and concurred with the extension of the Transition Period for the next two years. He appreciated the decision by the leadership of South Sudan to extend the period. He noted that citizens may not be happy with the decision to extend but expressed that it is better to save lives than having the speculated elections whose outcome is uncertain. He further noted that even though it is the wish of many to hold elections, however with conditions set in the Agreement having not been met it might send the country back to conflict. He supported the decision to sacrifice the elections and to save lives. He also supported the efforts and endorsement of the RJMEC based on the decision of the leadership of the country to extend the R-ARCSS. He urged the leadership to double their efforts in order to implement the provisions and protocols that are remaining for implementation. He also expressed that there will be challenges regarding finance but noted that it is a matter of priority for the government to mobilize resources for the implementation of the agreement and holding of elections without delay. He urged CTSAMVM to also double its efforts at this crucial period of the extension and ensure credible reporting is done despite the challenges of resources. On funding he urged the donors to consider and fund the mechanisms that are implementing the Agreement.

The representative also stated that South Sudan has its own challenges and success does not come easily but above all this, the relative peace that is there must be appreciated. On NUF he submitted that it is a requirement to have unified forces to support the elections thus he called upon the leadership to assent to the names submitted and the president to sign on the names and deploy them. He called upon the funding of all agencies to be supported to speed up their processes in order to ensure free and fair elections. He hoped for peace to endure in the country and development and education to be in place so that South Sudan can compete equally with other countries. Lastly he urged that despite the few resources, CTSAMVM to review its decision to reopen the three closed MVTs whose areas are volatile.

### **The Senior Representative of SSOA;**

He welcomed the meeting as it will address key issues affecting the peace process and obstacles that are holding back the implementation of the Agreement. He reminded CTSAMVM to work

af

CRK

CRK

SOM



BL



tirelessly to implement the Agreement. He also thanked the leadership of the president and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for the wise decision to extend the Agreement in order to complete the remaining provisions of the Agreement. He urged CTSAMVM and RJMEC to work closely with the government to ensure the key provisions of the Agreement are implemented before the period of two years is over. He reminded members that the ongoing training at the Dr. John Garang Stadium outside the unified training is clear evidence of violation by the SSPDF and this will impact on the peace process noting that the R-ARCSS does not allow for private training centres and the training must stop.

On the issue of recruitment by military groups he noted that this is a big concern as it involved the recruitment of children yet it is the right of children not to be recruited in the military. He supported the recommendation to have the president confirm the list of names forwarded to him by the Parties as it will go a long way to having a strong military which is able to defend South Sudan territory from both internal and external threats.

#### **The Senior Representative of Former Detainees;**

He emphasized that it is a critical time to solve issues. He noted reports of many violations by NAS and wondered where CTSAMVM was getting the reports and whether they were coming from the media. He also expressed the fact that no one is holding NAS responsible for the violations. He urged CTSAMVM to bring forth a critical report on it. He stated that the SSPDF are tasked with defending the country and they should engage with with NAS. On the extension he noted that the parties have extended the life of the the government by two years which is good for them as it will maintain status quo but wondered whether the normal citizen supports it. He called for the media to find out whether the people are for the extension.

On the road-map he commented that if it failed it is because the people tasked to implement the Agreement were not serious and still the same people will be tasked to monitor and implement the Agreement and therefore it will still fail in the coming two years. He was also concerned that there may be no funding for the two years of extension thus there will be even more extensions.





On NUF he expressed that only a small percentage of 10% had been deployed which is a serious failure and which will lead the people not to trust the government. He therefore urged a change of the people tasked with monitoring the Agreement including those in the NTC. On the Nairobi Tumaini talks which includes the hold out groups he urged the government to find out if they supported the extension. On election he stated that an election could not be held by hungry people. Lastly, he pointed out that the High Level Committee gave a budget of USD 433m and wondered where that money will come from.

## Media Departs

### CTSAMVM Report

#### Implementation Status – The Ceasefire

- The ceasefire continues to hold in the areas to which CTSAMVM Monitoring Verification Teams have access. CTSAMVM monitoring has identified the following issues since the previous CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) meeting.

1. Tension in Nasir County between SSPDF and civilians: It was reported that armed civilians clashed with the SSPDF, resulting in the death and wounding of SSPDF personnel and civilians. The soldiers are reported to have used heavy calibre munitions within the civilian areas.

2. CTSAMVM deployed a LDP by air to investigate the incident and confirm SSPDF dispositions in relation to the occupation of civilian buildings in Wech Yaradiw. Report has been received and will be considered for review at the Joint Monitoring Coordination Office.

1. Ongoing National Salvation Front (NAS) presence in Equatoria States. Groups alleged to be affiliated to NAS were reported in the areas of Tore Payam, Yari and Lulumba Bomas, in Yei County, CES. From the recent reports it is assessed that NAS activity is being constrained by ongoing security force operations and presence. NAS activity has been limited within this reporting period. Increasingly their operations lack a coherent strategy for political or ideological advancement. Recent incidents suggest that operations attributed to NAS are being conducted by local criminal groupings with limited evidence of coordination or direction.

2. Activities allegedly attributable to NAS affiliated groups;

a. The Director of Tore Payam informed MVT Yei that on 31st August, NAS gunmen arrived at Lulumba Boma, around 35miles from Yei Town. They reportedly looted civilian motorcycles and took around 3,000,000SSP from the local community before departing in the direction of the DRC.

*Handwritten signature*

CRK

SCM



*Handwritten signature*



b. On 4 Sep, MVT Yei received a report that a 17 year old male had been abducted by NAS in Yari Boma. His whereabouts are currently unknown.

3. The Director of NSS in Yei Town reported that on 5 Sept around 15km along Yei-Maridi road near Minyore, several gunmen suspected to be NAS abducted a local NGO worker (Rural Women for Development of South Sudan).

a. He described how initially, five local workers were detained as they travelled in a single vehicle (four males and one female). Three workers were released shortly after (two males and one female) and two males retained.

b. Around 2000hrs the same day, the NGO Project Manager received a call to retrieve the two abducted personnel at a location around 3km from Yei town along Yei-Lasu road. When the Project Manager arrived at the location, he was himself abducted and the other two released. To date the whereabouts of the Project Manager is not known.

4. During an UNMISS Senior Management Meeting in Yei on 9 September, concern was raised regarding the current NAS tactic of abducting NGO employees and demanding a ransom payment. It was alleged that an unspecified NGO staff member had recently been released following the payment of a \$7,000 ransom. This is having a critical impact on humanitarian access to deliver services in the field.

5. On 16 September, UNDSS reported that one of the youths abducted in the Ligi area last month had escaped from a NAS base in DRC. He arrived on foot to Yei and has been admitted to hospital.

6. A follow up to the last CTC report highlighting the security stabilization operation in Mundri East County. On 9 September, the Brigade Commander of 4Bde, 9A Div, SPLM/A-IO, reported that all NAS affiliated groups have evacuated from the area of Minga Payam.

**Implementations Status – Deployment of Necessary Unified Force (NUF)**

1. To date, CTSAMVM has received verbal confirmation from the Joint Defence Board (JDB) Secretariat that eight Military Bns of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) have been deployed. Represented as; one Bn in Malakal, one Bn in Aweil, one Bn in Maridi, one Bn in Renk, one Bn in Wau, one Bn in Torit, one Bn in Jamus and one in Tonja/Wunkur.

2. On 13 September, CTSAMVM submitted a written request to the Joint Defence Board requesting an update regarding NUF deployments.





3. The deployment of NSS, Civil Defence, Wildlife and Prison Service Phase 1 graduates has yet to occur. It is unclear if the Police deployment referenced in the Inspector General of Police's letter dated 16 July has been realized.
4. Phase 2 training plans have not been released. The Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC) considered that there will be no effective preparation for Phase 2 NUF training, prior to the deployment of the balance of Phase 1 graduates and confirmation of lists from other signatory parties.

### Implementations Status – Visits and Verification's

#### • MVT Juba verified:

1. Lologo TC – On 28 August, MVT visited the training centre. The Chief Instructor stated the established strength was 121 Instructors, 3117 trainees (796 female). The parade state on the day was 198 personnel. The Chief Instructor reported that missing personnel were attending secondary employment due to lack of food and infrastructure.
2. There is no date for the deployment of graduates. The Training Centre is suffering from acute shortages of real life support. The last food delivery was received on 10 December 2023. Graduates have not received salaries and there is a lack of female hygiene products and medicine. The Chief Instructor noted that an Officer and soldier had recently died as a result of illness.

### Implementations Status – Occupation of Civilian Buildings

MVT MALAKAL			
LOCATION	OCCUPIED BUILDING (School, Dispensary, etc.)	PARTY OCCUPYING THE BUILDING	PLAN TO VACATE (If any)
Nasir	Wech Yaradiw (Nasir Town)	SSPDF	The Head Chief of Mituyal Community in Nasir stated that Wech Yaradiw is traditionally civilian territory as ancestral land. The Wech Yaradiw Barracks was established in 2014, with forces deployed in 2018. A portion of these forces was stationed in NASIR Town to assist with the return of civilians to the County.
Nyirrol	Waat Payam	SSPDF	Military presence in proximity to civilian areas.
MVT YAMBIO			
Hai-Tarawa	Nabaagu Primary School	NUF	The NUF have established their camp 200m away from the school.
Tindoka	Tindoko Primary School	NUF	Three rooms are occupied by NUF soldiers while students are present in the school.
Badi	Duduma Girls' Primary School	NUF	The building is occupied by NUF soldiers and located in the same compound as Badi 02 Private School which is not occupied.
MVT YEI			
Goli (Yei)	Goli Primary School	SSPDF	Last visited on 23 Apr 24, the Catholic Bishop of Emmanuel Christian College. The Payam Chief and local community had agreed for the soldiers to stay in the school buildings to provide security to the Community and the College. An alternative learning environment for the Primary School was located within the College Compound with a fence separating the Primary School from the rest of the compound. This arrangement was confirmed by the SSPDF Commander in the area.
Lasu (Yei)	Lasu Payam HQs	SSPDF	On Dec 2023, the SSPDF were scheduled to leave the Payam HQs after their reconstructed barracks is completed.
Kirwa (Kajo-Keji)	Kirwa Health Facility	SSPDF	On 6 May 24, the Honorable County Commissioner reported that the area was no longer occupied. The Private secretary to the Commissioner reported that Kirwa Health was vacated and the soldiers had moved to the Payam Headquarters, LDP 15-17 October.
Bori (Kajo-Keji)	Bori Primary School	SSPDF	On 6 May 24, the Private secretary to the Commissioner reported that Bori primary school is now empty. LDP 15-17 October.





### Summary of occupied civilian Areas/buildings

SERIAL No.	MVT	OCCUPIED		
		SSPDF	SPLM/A-IO	NUF
1.	MALAKAL (Bor)	2		
2.	YAMBIO			3
3.	YEI	4		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9</b>		

### CTSAMVM REPORTS

- There are two Investigative and one Violation Reports:

- S3/104 – Shootings in Yambio County resulting in the death and wounding of signatory party uniformed personnel Aug/Sept 2024.
- S3/105 – Presence of foreign forces in Raja County.
- 2024/11 – Allegation of training outside of the NUF structures at the John Garang Stadium, Bentiu.

### YAMBIO TIMELINE

NO	DATE	SOURCE	LOC	EVENT
1	22 Aug 24	MVT Yambio	Kip-Siro Bks	Around 02:00hrs, unknown gunmen shoot and kill a NUF soldier.
2	22 Aug 24	SSPDF 6 Div Comd	Home of Brig Gen Abiuda Malesh	Brig Gen Abiuda Malesh's wife is arrested.
3	25 Aug 24	SSPDF 6 Div Comd	6 Div HQ	9B Div Comd arrested
4	25 Aug 24	MVT Yambio	Masia Market	Around 20:30hrs, unknown gunmen wound two NUF soldiers and two civilians.
5	26 Aug 24	SSPDF 6 Div Comd	West Yambio municipality	One SPLM/A-IO soldier is shot dead during a house search. One SSPDF soldier is wounded in the leg.
6	26 Aug 24	SSPDF 6 Div Comd	6 Div HQ	9B Div Comd released and Brig Gen Abiuda Malesh detained
7	1 Sep 24	MVT Yambio	Naagori 2 residential area of Yambio	NSS member is shot whilst arresting an individual for desertion.
8	2 Sep 24	OC 3 Pl, 1 Bn NUF	Tindoka	Armed attack on NUF soldiers
9	4 Sep 24	OC 3 Pl, 1 Bn NUF	Tindoka	Wife of Brig Gen Abiuda Malesh released.
10	11 Sep 24	SSPDF 1 Bde Comd	1 Bde HQ Yambio	Brig Abiuda Malesh reportedly in Maridi with Div Comd.





S/N	DATE	APPOINTMENT/OFFICE
1	27 Aug	Div 6 Comd
2	28 Aug	WES Governor
3	29 Aug	Div 9B Cmdr, Ri-Rango
4	02 Sept	Executive Director, Vision South Sudan
5	02 Sept	Executive Director, United Youth Organization For Peace & D
6	02 Sept	Programs Manager, Rotary Peace Fellow South Sudan
7	04 Sept	MP General Assembly WES and Chairperson Gender, Child an
8	05 Sept	OC 3Pln, 1Bn NUF

### KEY FINDINGS GENERAL

- It has been approximately three weeks since the shooting incidents began in Yambio, resulting in the deaths of three security forces personnel, injuries to a further three security forces personnel and two civilians. The security situation in Yambio remains precarious due to the persistent nature of the attacks. The unknown gunmen who mounted attacks on 22 and 25 August remain at large.
- Two people have so far been arrested in connection with the murder on 22 August. Brig Gen Abiuda Malesh and his wife. His wife was released from custody on 4 September.
- There is inconclusive evidence linking SPLM/A-IO Brig Gen Abiuda Malesh to the killing of a NUF soldier in Kip-Siro on August 22, 2024. Evidence cited included footprints from the scene to the Brig Gen's home and a gun with two bullets missing from the magazine.

### KEY FINDINGS SPECIFIC

- SPLM/A-IO Brigadier General Abiuda Malesh was arrested on 26 August 24, on suspicion of being complicit in the killing of a NUF soldier at Kip-Siro on August 22, 2024. He is believed to be detained at Bde HQ, the MVT have been unable to confirm presence or well being at this location.





- b. SSPDF deserter, Private Abyel, who shot and killed a NSS soldier on 1 September 2024, in Yambio Municipality, has been arrested and is currently in detention at Bde HQ. MVT have been unable to confirm presence or well-being at this location.
- c. The Officer in Charge (OC) of the NUF unit in Tindoka reported that unknown individuals were still attempting to attack his soldiers. He showed evidence to the MVT of bullet strike marks near to the soldiers sleeping quarters.
- d. A six person committee has been formed to investigate the original incident and interview Brig Gen Abiuda Malesh. The committee will be comprised of three members of SSPDF, one CID, one NSS and one SPLM/A-IO.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. There is currently no conclusive evidence that the attacks were carried out with the prior knowledge or sanction of a signatory party. The Yambio MVT believes that on the balance of probabilities the attacks are attributable to deserters, local criminals or members of the armed forces operating individually or in independent groups and motivated by personal grievance.
2. The findings of the six person committee are pending, including Brig Gen Abiuda Malesh's account of his movements on the evening of 22 August 2024. The outcomes of the committee findings will likely shape the future security relationships within Yambio Town.
3. The cordon and search operation mounted in the aftermath of the first incident has now concluded. The operation was intended to remove unauthorized firearms from the local populace. The operation impacted freedom of movement and was perceived as heavy handed by the civilian population. SPLM/A-IO Senior Officers perceive the operation was one-sided targeting their bodyguards and intimidating their Officers.
4. All the witnesses interviewed have opined that the delay in unifying the signatory party forces is the main contributory cause of insecurity in the area.
5. The witnesses further assessed that the prolonged cantonment of forces without adequate real life support was a complimentary cause of insecurity in the area. The MVT reported that at the SPLM/A-IO Cantonment Site at Ri-Rango, located approximately 23 km north of Yambio Town, the soldiers at this site are awaiting deployment or training under NUF. The soldiers are not receiving salaries, food, or medical support. Some have deserted with firearms, and there is a feeling of discontent and frustration. Of note, the deployed OC NUF reported that his soldiers have all received salaries.





- S3/105 - CTSAMVM MVT Wau conducted an LDP to Raja Town from 3-7 September 2024 and engaged with multiple Government and local officials to obtain a balanced overview of the security situation. Key area of interest was reports of presence of Ugandan People's Defence Forces (UPDF) in Raja County. Key interviewee's are described below.

S/N	DATE	APPOINTMENT/OFFICE	LOCATION
1	04 Sep	The Acting County Director National Security Service.	Raja Town
2		The Deputy Executive Director of Raja County.	Raja Town
3	05 Sep	Raja County Police Commissioner.	Raja Town
4		Acting Base Commander SSPDF 11 Bde HQ	Raja Town

- Following interviews with key Government officials and military Commanders in Raja Town, Wau MVT concludes that there is no overt presence of UPDF in Raja Town and no knowledge of such among Raja County Officials and Security Officers.
  - In a statement to MVT Wau on 27 August 2024, the State Governor of WBeG, H.E. Sarah Cleto Rial, emphasized that the State Government had not been informed about the presence of UPDF forces in WBeGS. H.E further stated that coordination of such activity is solely carried out by the National Government.
- CTSAMVM REPORT 2024/11 – Alleged recruitment and training outside of NUF structures.

S/N	DATE	APPOINTMENT/OFFICE	Location
1	03 Sep	Unity State Police Commissioner	Bentiu Town - Police Commissioners Office
2	04 Sep	Chief of Police Training Unity State	John Garang Stadium – Bentiu Town
3	04 Sep	Trainees	John Garang Stadium – Bentiu Town
4	05 Sep	IDP Camp High Committee Cabinet	Rubkona IDP Camp High Committee Offices
5	05 Sep	Rubkona IDP Camp Joint Police Commander	Rubkona IDP Camp Police Post
6	06 Sep	Commandant Kaljak Training Centre	Ariab (Bentiu town)
7	09 Sep	Governor of Unity State	Bentiu town - Unity State House





## KEY FINDINGS

Following interviews with key Government officials and Police Commanders in Bentiu Town, Bentiu MVT concludes that;

1. Ongoing training is exclusive and not offered to all signatory parties.
2. Trainees have been enlisted into the Police outside of the Unified Force structure, recruited in 2021 and 2023.
3. Under aged individuals, under 18 were observed among the trainees. Trainees confirmed this when asked their date of birth. (Article 17 of the South Sudanese constitution defines a child as anyone under the age of 18).

## CTSAMVM Recommendations:

### Ceasefire:

- Signatory Parties are urged to actively promote mediation through dialogue in order to prevent an escalation of violence involving their forces, allies or militia under command.
- The National Salvation Front to adhere to CoHA 2017 and the Rome Declaration of 12 January 2020 and its resultant resolutions.

### NUF:

- Delays in training and deployment of the NUF runs contrary to the provisions of the R-ARCSS, specifically Article 2.2.1 and 2.3.1 on training and deployment.
- The R-TGoNU is respectfully requested to authorize JDB to provide updated data regarding the deployment of the NUF and share plans for the commencement of Phase 2 training.
- That R-TGoNU is encouraged to support the JDB with the necessary resources to alleviate the current living conditions within the training centres.

### Occupied buildings:

- CTSAMVM reminds the Parties that continued occupation of civilian areas is a violation of the R-ARCSS Art 2.2.3.1. Namely, civilian areas shall be immediately demilitarized.
- That named forces vacate the currently verified occupied buildings and are deployed in compliance with the R-ARCSS.





### Investigations:

- CTSAMVM Violation Report 2024/11, has concluded that the SPLM-IG initiated training being conducted at the John Garang Stadium in Bentiu Town violates the following articles.
  - a. Violation in respect of R-ARCSS Article 2.1.8 parties to cease security force recruitment and training of late recruits.
  - b. Violation in respect of R-ARCSS Article 2.2.9 forces shall be trained together.
  - c. Violation of CoHA 2017 Article 3 (f) recruitment and enlistment of children.

### CTSAMVM recommends that:

1. The current training at John Garang Stadium in Bentiu Town be halted.
2. The recruitment of new Police Officers should be halted and emphasis placed on the deployment of unified force elements.
3. All trainees under the age of 18 years to be immediately released and transported back to their families or guardians.
4. Further exclusive training which deviates from the transitional security arrangements to be halted.

### DISCUSSION ON CTSAMVM REPORT – IMPORTANT ISSUES AND EVENTS, JMCO UPDATES TO INCLUDE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS, UPDATES AND INCIDENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION

#### Action

#### Chairperson

The Chairperson invited the members to discuss the report as presented by the Senior Reports Officer.

#### SPLM/A-IO Representative

He reminded the members to stick to their mandate and not to use the forum to release their frustrations and bitterness. He urged that matters to do with Tumaini are not the business of CTSAMVM but main focus ought to be on violations. He cautioned on reliance on media reports and urged verification of reports. He pointed out the media reports on ransom by NAS as unverified and therefore it should not be discussed as there is no confirmation of any contacts with them. He was of the view





that NAS activities which disrupt the peace can be discussed if the MVT has verified. On the request made to JDB asking them to update occupied houses he stated that it is not JDB to inform but verification must be done to confirm if the areas are still occupied.

Concerning the report on recruitment in Bentiu he pointed out the Police Commissioner announced the recruitment of 1000 police publicly which is a violation and since he is present in the meeting he must inform members on the issue and why he is violating. On the presence of UPDF in South Sudan he urged the same to be verified as it was clear the forces are in South Sudan.

Further, the representatives wanted the reports to be clear. For instance on NAS activities in Western Equatoria State and Central Equatoria State they insisted that the report should give information on who, where and when. They also wanted clarification on who the local criminal groups are because to them the criminal groups are already known.

#### **ITGoNU Representative**

The representative was unhappy with the negative report by the MVT in Bentiu on police training of recruits. He clarified that the MVT was told the truth that only 780 police were attending the training in John Garang Stadium and they were training only police who were receiving salaries. The training was a refresher training to ensure security during elections and they were police who were receiving salaries since 2013 and further there was no budget to train new recruits.

On training of underage people they wanted to be given the details. They denied the training was for new recruits and invited the members to go and confirm.

#### **FDs Representative**

The representative expressed that they had no problem with the training of police to secure the people and their lives. On the presence of UPDF in Rajab he commented that he was aware of an agreement between the SSPDF and UPDF concerning LRA and the matter should be condemned only if UPDF came to Juba or if it was supporting the government to fight the opposition groups. On NUF he noted that they have not deployed for long and they will not be deployed and this includes the police who cannot be deployed since they do not have guns. He further noted that even though the senior officers list has been given but nothing can be done on the issue but wait for the leadership to make the decision.

#### **SSOA representative**

He pointed out that, in Nasir that have been many incidents which keep on repeating themselves but without a solution to the conflict. He was of the view that





deployment of the NUF could be the solution since it is representative of all the parties. On Motot he wanted clarification on the press release which stated that SPLM/IO had released a press statement of them being attacked by SSPDF. He raised a concern that the NUF police have not been deployed after training and wondered whether they should be in the Training Centre or their homes. He expressed frustration that eight years might end with nothing happening. He questioned the talk of phase two training yet phase one has not been fully deployed and they were not being paid and wondered where the new trainees will train from. He wanted the principals and RJMEC to take the issue up and resolve it and deploy phase 1 graduates.

Concerning the report of police training in Bentiu he supported training of police because they will provide security but questioned why there is a new recruitment yet in Kaljak there was a Training Centre with more than 2000 people and it is for all NUF. He was not convinced why the trainees in Kajak should be left and a new recruitment conducted. He supported the recommendation to stop the training and if there was need for training of police to monitor elections then those in Kaljak TC should be the ones to do so. Lastly, he supported that recruitment of children goes against children's rights and if there are underage recruits they should be taken out of training.

#### **ITGoNU Representative**

He raised a concern about the issue of the presence of UPDF being raised at every meeting and urged that CTSAMVM should go and verify this in Rajab. On police recruitment in Bentiu he responded that the Police Commissioner stated that it was a replacement training and not recruitment and this should be verified. He noted that the police will not be paid unless they went to the Training Centre. However, if there were new faces that would be a violation. He further noted that this may be a policy within the interior since there were several graduations in Torit, Wau and Yambio. He of of the view that the replacement training should be made known. On the extension he stated that it was not the decision of one party but all the parties and therefore there was no need for blaming any person and more-so since there is no right to cancel the extension. The public he added shall be informed. The extension he said had the benefit of maintaining peace but the downside of it is that there will be no development because of the big size of the government. Lastly he noted the need to encourage people to come for phase two training.

The other representative noted that there are no armed civilians mentioned in the agreement and wondered if there is any violation by armed civilians. He queried that if civilians are fighting among themselves then who will be there to safeguard innocent civilians.. On occupied civilian buildings or areas he was of the view that if



Q

CRK

SCM

Q

BL



pictures could be availed it will help people to understand where government is in occupation. He further mentioned that the Motot matter had been raised in previous meetings and it was time to go and verify and report. He reminded the members that previously it had been agreed to find a way forward on the matter especially regard the closed MVT sites. He wanted a meeting called to discuss the way forward.

Regarding mention of violations against NAS and the release of captured civilians and NGO staff he asked whether the released people had been interrogated by the teams or those were just allegations. He called for credible reports on NAS issues. He also inquired about the letter to JDB on deployment of Phase 1 graduates and requested for the update to be provided. However, he informed that there were plans for Phase 2 during the extension if it is supported. Still on the other letter to JDB on occupied civilian areas he was of the view that verification will have to be conducted to confirm if they are vacated. He supported the training and refresher training of civilians as long as there is a budget. He noted there is no accountability for violations. On postponing of elections he stated that the issue was to maintain peace and it was a decision of the principals.

#### **Chairman**

He called for the Secretariat to respond to the issues raised by the members.

#### **REPORTS Officer**

He informed the meeting that the reference to NAS came from witness accounts and were verified. On JDB update the JDB will give its plans for vacating and a report will be made to the CTC. On UPDF presence, he clarified that the MVT visited Rajab and as at the time of visit there were no presence of UPDF. Regarding the mention of armed civilians in Nassir he also clarified that a report will be provided on the issue.

#### **Concerns by members**

##### **FDs**

He wanted to know what is the accepted meaning of a child. He also wanted to know how many were recruited. He was also of the view that there are so many children in the streets dying there so there was no problem if they are trained.

#### **Chairman**

He stated that the concern of CTSAVM is not how many children were recruited but rather if any child was recruited.



SCM

BL



## **SSOA**

He noted that the MVT confirmed that the recruitment in Bentiu is new training yet the Police Commissioner said it was not a new training. He queried who was telling the truth and called for verification.

## **SPLM/A-IO**

He stated that the training in Bentiu is a new recruitment as per the documents presented and the Agreement does not allow separate training and thus it is a violation. He called for the parties not to do separate training and the government should be persuaded to unify forces. On Nasir conflict between the civilians and SSPDF he called for steps to be taken for the issues to be resolved without blaming each other. He urged the issue to be pushed to the leaders for resolution even without waiting for a report to come from CTSAMVM.

## **ITGoNU**

He stated that there is no recruitment in Bentiu and invited members to go and verify. On child recruitment he stated that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights does not allow training of children. On Motot he called for investigation so as to provide clear information but added that the area is now calm.

## **SPLM/A-IO**

He wanted the Police Commissioner to come clean on the issue of recruitment since it was announced publicly and therefore it is a new recruitment. He added that even if the training is intended to monitor elections then this should be by all parties.

## **Head Legal**

He clarified that recruitment of children is a violation of the Agreement and also of international conventions which South Sudan has ratified and therefore it cannot be justified as suggested by one of the members. He reminded the members that the children who were found in the training could not have been people who were receiving salary before and therefore the training was for new recruits.

## **DECISIONS CTSAMVM CTC on 20 September 24:**

### **The CTSAMVM Technical Committee decided that:**

#### **Ceasefire:**

- Signatory Parties are urged to actively promote mediation through dialogue in order to prevent an escalation of violence involving their forces, allies or militia





under command.

**Regarding the NUF deployment:**

- Delays in training and deployment of the NUF runs contrary to the provisions of the R-ARCSS, specifically Article 2.2.1 and 2.3.1 on training and deployment.
- JDB to provide updated data regarding the deployment of the NUF and share plans for the commencement of Phase 2 training.
- That R-TGoNU is encouraged to support the JDB with the necessary resources to alleviate the current living conditions within the training centres.

**Regarding the Occupied civilian buildings/areas:**

- Parties are reminded that occupying civilian areas is a continued violation of the R-ARCSS specifically Article 2.2.3.1. Parties are urged to vacate occupied civilian areas as a matter of urgency.
- CTSAMVM to update the verified status of occupied buildings.

**Investigations:**

- CTSAMVM Violation Report 2024/11, concluded that the SSPDF initiated training being conducted at the John Garang Stadium in Bentiu Town violates the following articles.
  - a. Violation in respect of R-ARCSS Article 2.1.8 parties to cease security force recruitment and training of late recruits.
  - b. Violation in respect of R-ARCSS Article 2.2.9 forces shall be trained together.
  - c. Violation of CoHA 2017 Article 3 (f) recruitment and enlistment of children.

**CTSAMVM recommends that:**

1. The current training at John Garang Stadium in Bentiu Town be halted.



*Qad*

*CRK*

*SCM*

*ang*

*BL*



2. The recruitment of new Police Officers should be halted and emphasis placed on the deployment of unified force elements.

3. All under 18 years of age trainees to be immediately released and transported back to their families or guardians.

4. Further exclusive training which deviates from the transitional security arrangements to be halted.

**Any Other Business:**

**ITGoNU Representative**

He stated that with the extension the situation might require a new approach and therefore CTSAMVM needs to have a workshop so as to adjust itself on how to implement the R-ARCSS. He requested the Chairman to obtain the documents relevant to the extension including the matrix showing how the implementation during the next phase shall be conducted. Additionally, he called for the opening of the three closed MVTs.

Another ITGoNU Representative urged for an administrative meeting to discuss administrative matters.

**RJMEC Representative**

He supported the request to have a workshop to review the timelines regarding Chapter two and how to convince the partners to provide support CTSAMVM.

**CHAIRMAN**

In his closing remarks the Chairman reminded the members that CTSAMVM has big challenges including funding. He said that, if it is supported by donors it is possible to review the operational plan. However the review will be based on the available budget. Lastly, he thanked all members for their active participation in the meeting and wished them safe travel until the date of the next meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

The date for the next meeting; is **16 October 2024**.

Meeting End: 1340 hrs



*Qus*

*CRK*

*Scm*

*af*

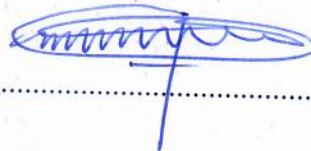
*BL*



Signed on 24 September 2024.



Lt GEN RABI MUJUNG EMMANUEL  
ITGoNU

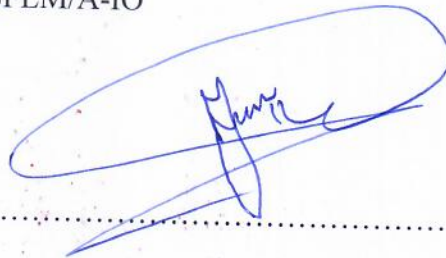


MAJ GEN DR. CHUOL RUEY KOMPUOK  
SPLM/A-IO




Brig Gen SAMUEL CHAN MUT  
For:

Maj Gen JANY KAWAY YOAKHOR  
SSOA



Maj Gen BIOR LEEK KUARENG  
FD



Maj Gen YITAYAL GELAW BITEW  
CHAIRPERSON



B2