



**REPORT OF CEASEFIRE AND TRANSITIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS
MONITORING AND VERIFICATION MECHANISM (CTSAMVM) AND OUTCOMES
OF CTSAMVM
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN
22 January, 2025**

The CTSAMVM Technical Committee Meeting (CTC) was held on 22 January, 2025 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 1014Hrs/10:14 am with prayers said by Brig Gen Andrea Mangu and Mr Fahran.

ATTENDANCE		
Chairperson	Maj Gen Yitayal Gelaw Bitew Brig Gen assir Hassab Alla	CTSAMVM Chairman Deputy Chairman
Representatives from the Parties	ITGoNU Lt Gen Rabi Mujung Emmanuel Maj Gen John Daniel Kipa Maj Gen Gatkuoth Duop Kuich Maj Gen Wuoi Mayom Deng Maj Gen Thomas Gador Kic Wur SSOA 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	SPLM/SPLA-IO 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 Former Detainees (FDs) Maj Gen Bior Leek Kuareng
CTSAMVM Secretariat	Mr Gunnar Gabrielsen	CTSAMVM COS

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CTSAMVM Staff	Mr. Roy William Mr. Gilberts Clement Awuzu Mr. Awgichew Fekade Mr. Wang Lixin Mr Morten Borch Jenssen Mr Hassan Ali Mr. Felix Kioko Mr. Gebeyehu Asfaw Ms. Chara Bol Ms Grace Wangari Ms. Samantha Minga Ms. Martha Mabior Ms. Paska John Amis	CTSAMVM Senior Report Officer CTSAMVM Report Officer CTSAMVM Secretariat CTSAMVM Senior Political advisor Deputy Ops/UNMISS Liaison CTSAMVM Chief of Operation CTSAMVM Head Legal CTSAMVM Fusion Cell CTSAMVM Gender Assistant CTSAMVM Civil affairs advisor CTSAMVM Protocol CTSAMVM HR CTSAMVM Procurement asst
In Attendance	Maj Gen Etefa Raija Mr Solomon Mamo Mr Jeff Mapendere	DA Ethiopia Embassy of Ethiopia RJMEC

The COS then reviewed the proposed Agenda with the CTC members and adopted the Agenda without amendment. The Chairperson proceeded with opening remarks:

CTC/01/2025/JAN/22: Item 1 - Opening remarks by CTSAMVM Chairman

Dear Senior Party Representatives and CTC members,

IGAD Representative,

RJMEC Representative,

Defense Attachés,

Observers,

Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

Firstly, please permit me to wish you all a belated Happy New Year and welcome you to the CTSAMVM Technical Committee meeting. I look forward to a New Year and of collaboration

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and contribution to address the issues affecting the peace process in the Republic of South Sudan.

Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During this reporting period, the ceasefire between signatory parties remains in effect across the majority of areas monitored by CTSAMVM's Monitoring and Verification Teams. However, for the first time in my tenure as Chairman, I regret that I cannot state that the ceasefire's integrity has endured across South Sudan. I refer to the armed clashes involving two signatory parties along the State boundary between Western Equatoria State and Western Bahr El Ghazal.

As reports of armed clashes first emerged over the weekend of 11 and 12 January, CTSAMVM was dismayed to hear from community representatives of civilian loss of life and displacement. The incident was immediately discussed within the CTSAMVM Joint Monitoring and Coordination Office, and it was unanimously agreed that Sector 3 Monitoring and Verification Teams would be tasked to investigate. Investigations continue into these and subsequent armed exchanges in the vicinity of Bo Bridge. CTSAMVM condemns this series of armed exchanges between two signatory parties and appeals to both parties to exercise the appropriate control of all forces under their command.

I would remind both parties of their responsibilities to lead by example and embrace dialogue and mediation to resolve grievances. Similarly, I would again take this opportunity to reiterate the RJMEC Interim Chairperson's previous comments after the incident in Juba at the end of November, emphasizing the need to strengthen the existing security arrangements.

Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we will again consider a report regarding armed exchanges in Nasir Town. Additionally, there are several important updates to ongoing investigations. I have already referenced the armed clashes in Western Bar-el-Ghazal. Additionally, our MVTs are investigating allegations of violations in Central Equatoria and Upper Nile States.

CTSAMVM has conducted or is currently undertaking three Long Duration Patrols (LDPs) in this reporting period. One each in Warrap, Upper Nile State, Jonglei. We have carried out six Dynamic Air Patrols to access the most difficult parts of the country in pursuit of our mandate.

Additionally, CTSAMVM visited the Upper Nile State Prisons Service. Staffing levels in some counties have impacted operational capacity, specifically in Nasir and Ulang Counties. In other counties, prison facilities are staffed with individuals without formal training as prison officers. The shortage of qualified personnel across the State underscores the need to deploy all the Necessary Unified Forces. Further delay in the deployment of graduated officers will erode the original purpose of Phase 1 training.

Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the last meeting seven weeks ago, CTSAMVM has received reports of NAS elements looting the property of travelers transiting to Yei—specifically, the road between Tore and Goli in Tore Payam. CTSAMVM condemns the continued targeting of civilians in transit and reminds NAS that they are responsible for acts of violence perpetrated by their forces, allies, or militia under command. In this instance, their obligations under Article 5 (Protection of Civilians) of the CoHA 2017.

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Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thus far, CTSAMVM has had cause to present a depressing portrayal of recent events as we journey into 2025. Allow me now to balance that picture. Following the LDP by MVT Malakal from 9-13 January 2025, CTSAMVM and several of our distinguished CTC and Board members conducted a joint dynamic air patrol to Nasir Town on 16 January 2025. The visit aimed to ascertain how the CTSAMVM CTC and Board can support ongoing peacebuilding initiatives in the area. During the visit, we met with security and civilian stakeholders to obtain an overview of the drivers of conflict.

As you are all aware, the citizens and security forces in Nasir Town have witnessed their share of suffering in the recent past. During this visit, the delegation listened to a breadth of participants express an authentic desire for peaceful coexistence. This indomitable spirit gives me the confidence that the people of South Sudan can overcome perceived injustices, no matter how deeply ingrained, through compassion, tolerance, and honest discourse.

Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

CTSAMVM expresses gratitude to the office of the Chief of Defense Forces, the signatory Parties, and stakeholders for their partnership during this reporting period. Notably, this spirit of collaboration has enabled unhindered patrols by our MVTs across various States, demonstrating effective cooperation and commitment to the peace process in South Sudan.

On that more optimistic note, I declare this CTC meeting open and invite the Senior Party Representatives to share their comments.

CTC/01/2025/JAN/22: Item 2 - Opening remarks by Senior Party Representatives

The Senior Representative of the ITGoNU

Chairman CTSAMVM, Deputy chairman, Chief of staff, parties' representatives, AU and IGAD representatives, RJMEC representative, Defence Attache' of South Sudan friendly countries present, dedicated and respected media houses covering this meeting, dedicated CTSAMVM Secretariat, Good morning and happy New Year. On behalf of my colleagues, General Gatkuoth of South Sudan national police service, General Thomas, and the two generals who will join later, General Rabbi, our senior representative and General John, who will join us later. I take this opportunity to welcome you all to this first CTSAMVM meeting in this new year 2025. The opening remarks of the CTSAMVM chairman and the agenda presented by the CTSAMVM secretariat will guide us through today's discussions and we eventually conclude it with an inclusive and transparent report.

The focus of today's meeting will be as usual comprehensive as of previous ones. It is a monthly report of the implementation status of security arraignment. I hope we will be engaged in open and constructive dialogue as we assess the progress. I urge the parties, the national component to approach this discussion with a spirit of cooperation while maintaining our impartiality. With equal moods.

I am requesting CTSAMVM leadership to exert extra effort in convincing the donor community to support CTSAMVM activities to foster and aid monitoring mandate. CTSAMVM leadership to effect the sleeping on, term of reference. Promote cooperation and mutual respect in CTSAMVM. Finally, I look forward to a revitalized CTSAMVM, which is responsible

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accountable and transparent. Thank you.

The Senior Representative of the SPLM/A-IO

Good morning everyone,

On behalf of the CTSAMVM, and on my own behalf, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for this meeting scheduled for January 2025. I wish everyone a happy New Year, and I hope that 2025 will be a year of peace, prosperity, and economic growth in our country.

I would also like to take this opportunity to appreciate the efforts of the CTSAMVM in organizing a joint field visit to Nasir. During this visit, members of the CTC and senior CTSAMVM members engaged in fruitful discussions, including board members who participated in the interactions. It was a valuable opportunity, and I urge the CTSAMVM to continue with joint field visits to other areas that are flash points.

I want to emphasize the importance of urging the principals to continue implementing the R-ARCSS. We expect the team sent to Nairobi for the *Tumaini* initiatives to return with a message of peace and consensus, ensuring that *Tumaini* becomes an integral part of the RARCSS. Additionally, we have heard the principal's commitment to ensure the list submitted is confirmed, followed by the deployment of the necessary unified forces. This is essential to prevent and address the clashes that have recently occurred in places like Boo Bridge.

It is our responsibility to follow up on such incidents, and those who instigate these acts must be held accountable. We sincerely hope that this CTC meeting will inspire hope among all South Sudanese, fostering a healthy relationship and a commitment to embracing peace.

I am glad to be here and urge my colleagues to engage positively. I also call on the CTSAMVM to maintain transparency in all their activities. Furthermore, I encourage revisiting the closure of the three areas that were shut down last year. As we revitalize and continue with the peace implementation, we also urge donor agencies to support the process to ensure that peace is fully realized.

Thank you for your attention, and I hope everyone resonates with the message we are delivering. Thank you very much.

The Senior Representative of SSOA

Chairperson of CTSAMVM Technical Committee, Deputy Chairperson, Chief of Staff, esteemed senior party representatives, IGAD and RJMEC representatives, Defense attaché, CTSAMVM secretariat, media personnel, international observers, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Today marks the first meeting of the year 2025 for CTSAMVM. We hope that God will lead us toward a peaceful year. Let us aspire that in 2025, all problems in South Sudan will be minimized through His will. I am pleased to speak on behalf of my fellow CTSAMVM members from SSOA, as we believe that all of us are attending this initial meeting of the year together. I would like to express my gratitude to the leadership of CTSAMVM for organizing this meeting at this time. I am also grateful to the Chairman for recognizing that the ceasefire continues to hold. As CTC members, our primary concern remains the implementation of the peace agreement.

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Regarding the recent joint field visit to Nasir, I thank the leadership of CTSAMVM for facilitating this opportunity for all leaders to witness the situation there. I was one of the members who visited Nasir and observed the circumstances. It has always been a point of concern for us, and we strive to understand the underlying issues. During our visit, we were briefed by the commissioner of Nasir. I found that the situation is calm, and efforts are being made to implement peace within the community, which includes both civilians and military personnel. One issue I observed during my time there was the misunderstandings arising from the administration of the area. This has often caused problems. The presence of the armed forces in the region has created tension, as both the military and the local population have competing needs for land. This issue is beyond the capacity of CTSAMVM to solve, but it is essential for us to recognize and address.

We are also aware of recent events that occurred in both South Sudan and Sudan, which have impacted the peace between our nations. The people of South Sudan were deeply affected by these events, and there was a strong reaction from the local community. However, we must strive for peace and coexistence with our neighboring country, regardless of the challenges. The recent incidents were tragic and should never be allowed to happen again. With God's help, we can restore peace and resolve these matters.

In closing, I thank God for allowing us to gather here today in good health. May we continue to work towards peace, fostering harmony among one another. Let this year be one of prosperity, peace, and unity. God bless South Sudan. Thank you.

The Senior Representative of Former Detainees

Chairman of CTSAMVM, Deputy Chairman, Representative of IGAD, Distinguished CTC Members, I greet you all and welcome you to the New Year. This year, I hope it will be a peaceful one if we are careful with the implementation of the agreements. I trust that the new Chairman of the NTC will do everything possible to ensure these agreements are put into action. The achievements thus far have been limited, so we hope the new Chairman will prioritize the implementation of these agreements.

Regarding our visit to Nasir, I observed a significant lack of trust, primarily due to insufficient dissemination of the agreements in the area. I urge all parties to cooperate and form delegations to Nasir in order to share the peace agreements with the people there. The residents of Nasir are citizens of this country, and they are the ones who will vote for the parties involved. It is crucial that these agreements are effectively shared with the populace.

Currently, there is only one NGO operating in Nasir. I hope other humanitarian organizations will recognize this need and work to provide more support for the citizens there. I also encourage the JDB, particularly the PMO political branch, to take steps to address the situation and promote peaceful coexistence in the area.

The citizens of Nasir are not opposed to the SSPDF; they have made this clear. They welcome the SSPDF in Nasir, but there are elements of the military that have overstayed their welcome. Some have remained in the same location for ten years, causing distress and homesickness among the locals. They wish to visit their families and home areas. I hope the JDB will reconsider this situation and explore options for redeployment or necessary changes in that area.

Furthermore, I urge the JDB to hold accountable those responsible for ambushing the MSF, as this is a criminal act. Those involved must be brought to justice because this incident resulted in

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injuries during the first week of this month.

Let me also emphasize that the demand for the transfer of forces should not be made by the citizens. Such decisions fall under the jurisdiction of the army, as was the case in Wanduruba. It is the JDB's responsibility to address these matters, not the public's.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to the government of South Sudan for protecting the lives of citizens from Sudan. The prompt actions of the army and police were vital in preventing a potential disaster. I sincerely commend the army, police, wildlife authorities, and security organs for their efforts in safeguarding the lives of Sudanese people in Juba and other towns. Thank you.

Media Departs

CTC/01/2025/JAN/22: Item 3 - CTSAMVM Report - presented by Senior Reports officer

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS:

The Ceasefire

During this reporting period, the ceasefire has held between the signatory parties in the majority of areas to which CTSAMVM Monitoring Verification Teams have accessed. However, two signatory parties were participant in a series of armed exchanges along the State boundary between Western Equatoria State and Western Bahr El Ghazal.

SECURITY

Signatory Parties.

On 11 Jan 2025, the SPLM/A-IO Comd at Bo Bridge reported that his forces had been attacked by SSPDF. He claimed that SPLM/A-IO forces had been attacked at Ngolamva village, five miles from Bo Bridge (WBeG). The SPLM/A-IO 2 Bde Comd reported that he had received a communication from the CMI SSPDF 5 Division advising him to refrain from intervening in issues involving SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO in Western Equatoria. He confirmed that there were no casualties resulting from the incident.

On 11 Jan 2025, the SSPDF 1 Bde Ops Comd reported that at 0700hrs, a SSPDF Reconnaissance Squad clashed with a SPLM/A-IO Reconnaissance Squad from Basia (WBeG). He claimed that the SPLM/A-IO Reconnaissance Squad fired a RPG and withdrew. One male on a Boda Boda was reportedly killed. The SSPDF Busure Bridge Checkpoint Comd (WBeG) reported that he was aware of a clash in the Gombulu area, and he was maintaining peaceful coexistence with the SPLM/A-IO. On 11 Jan 2025, the Bazia Paramount Chief reported hearing gunshots at approximately 0630hrs from the direction of Bo Bridge. He described this as an exchange of heavy machine gun fire. He noted that civilians have fled from Gombulu (WBeG) to Bazia Town.

On 13 Jan 2025, the SSPDF 1 Bde Ops Comd reported that SSPDF deployed to Bo Bridge on 11 Jan 25 to remove a SPLM/A-IO roadblock. During an armed clash, he claimed that SPLM/A-IO forces had killed a boy returning from Wau and his motorcycle taken. On 13 Jan 2025, the WBeGS Governor confirmed the armed exchanges between SSPDF forces from Western Equatoria and SPLM/A-IO in the Gombulu area (WBeG), approximately 16 km south of Bazia Payam. The Governor explained that these tensions originated from a resolution passed

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at a previous Governors' forum, which required security forces to remove illegal checkpoints across the country. He assessed that SSPDF units, under the command of WES, had entered WBeGS territory without prior coordination with State Authorities. This had resulted in the armed exchange with SPLM/A-IO soldiers in Bazia on January 11 and 12 2025.

The State Government has established a security committee chaired by the State Security Advisor. This committee is assigned to visit the affected area and ascertain the facts regarding the clashes, with a focus on identifying which forces initiated the hostilities. The Governor highlighted the importance of coordinating operations with SPLM/A-IO in WBeG. He called on both parties to cease any action that could jeopardize peace and to work together to remove illegal checkpoints along the Tambura-Wau road.

2. Named Armed Groups.

On 8 Dec 2024, the SSPDF Bn Cmdr in Maridi (WES) reported that NAS elements looted the properties of travelers transiting to Yei. Specifically, between Tore and Goli in Tore Payam of Yei County (CES). On 18 Dec 2024, the SSPDF 1 Bde Comd reported that Balanda militia had attacked SSPDF personnel, resulting in the death of one SNCO and the theft of his weapon. On 2 Jan 2025, the SSPDF Cmdr in Mundri (WES) reported that a NAS group had established a training center to train abducted youths from the Counties bordering CES. He claimed that the local community informed the SSPDF leadership of the location. On 1 Jan 2025, the SSPDF launched an operation to free the abductees. The youth are now returning to their original villages and the SSPDF Cmdr assessed that the NAS forces fled to CES following the clashes.

3. Organised Armed Groups

On 16 Dec 2024, the SSPDF 1 Bde Cmdr reported that on 14 Dec 2024, criminals attacked Mamazi Village. The village is situated on the Tambura - Nagero Road (WES). Two people were killed and several houses were set on fire. He also reported that on 15 Dec 2024, houses were again set on fire on the Tambura - Namutina Road (WES).

On 18 Dec 2024, the Tambura County Commissioner reported that on 17 Dec 2024, Tambura market was attacked by heavily armed men equipped with PKM machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. The SSPDF and other organized forces repelled the assailants. The SSPDF has since deployed additional soldiers to Tambura and is currently trying to identify the perpetrators.

On 27 Dec 2024, the SSPDF 1 Bn Comd in Tambura (WES) reported that on 25 Dec 2024, a food truck was dispatched to the IDP camp in Yubu Payam escorted by 4 SSPDF soldiers. The truck was attacked by unknown gunmen and one soldier was killed and the other three forced to withdraw. The gunmen proceeded to loot the food items, allowing the three soldiers to reorganize. They three attacked the criminals and forced them to flee, securing the remaining food items until further SSPDF reinforcements arrived.

4. Communities.

On 19 Dec 24, the Wonduruba Administrative Payam Security Coordinator described relations between the communities and the SSPDF Ground Force Unit stationed in Mongiling (CES) as hostile. He stated that the local population have requested the removal of this Unit from Wonduruba Payam, advocating for the area to be placed under the full control of the SSPDF Commando Unit.

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On 27 Dec 2024, the peace coordinator for Tonj North County (Warrap State), reported that there is a significant presence of armed youth engaged in an ongoing cycle of revenge conflict. He reported that the death toll has risen to 80 in the last three months, and involves the Panarek and Pankuei communities. A voluntary peace committee arrived from Juba to Alebek by air, to consolidate the various fighting groups and seek a mediated resolution. Unfortunately, their efforts were ultimately unproductive. On 20 Dec 2024, the State Governor established a committee of 13 members to engage the communities and restore stability in the area.

NUF Phase 1 and Phase 2

As previously reported, CTSAMVM received confirmation from the Joint Defence Board Secretariat that eight Military Battalions (Bn) of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) have been deployed. Additionally, elements of the VIP Protection Force have deployed to the Unity Oil Fields. On 7 Jan 2025, the SSPDF Tiger Division 3 Brigade Comd reported that two battalions from the NUF VIP Protection Force located in Luri TC have been integrated within 3 Brigade.

CTSAMVM understands that the Chairman of Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC) announced the preparation of a Bn of NUF for deployment to Nasir County UNS, to de-escalate the conflict. Although not yet realised, the intent remains. The deployment of NSS, Civil Defence, Wildlife and Prison Service Phase 1 graduates has yet to occur. The Police deployment referenced in the Inspector General of Police's letter dated 16 July 2024 has not been realised.

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.

VISITS AND VERIFICATIONS

MVT Juba verified:

On 13 Dec 2024, the Commander of Lologo Training Centre (TC) reported a deteriorating security situation. He highlighted a recent incident in which a trainee from the Civil Defence Force was stabbed to death by an unknown assailant while fishing at night along the river Nile. His body was discarded into the river and was recovered on 12 Dec 2024. The police have since arrested a civilian associate who was reportedly seen consuming alcohol with him earlier that day. The civilian is currently the primary suspect in the case.

The Commander recounted an earlier intrusion, when two individuals dressed in black breached a section of the TC fence at night. The intruders questioned graduates regarding the location of the Commander and firearms. The TC lacks adequate food, medicine and access to clean water, occupants rely on the river Nile for water. Women at the TC face severe challenges, with some children dying from causes possibly linked to sickness and hunger. The TC currently has no Doctor.

On 16 Dec 2024, the situation at Muni TC remains stable in terms of security and civil-military relations. However, the lack of essential supplies has led to significant disruption, with trainees leaving the TC to sustain themselves.

On 9 Jan 2025, the Chief instructor at Rajaf TC stated that the situation in the TC remains unchanged. The trainees are still awaiting deployment, with no information on a probable date. Additionally, the TC still faces significant challenges regarding food and medical supplies, with

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no deliveries received for an extended period.

MVT Wau verified:

On 31 Dec 2024, the SPLM/A-IO Comd at Dulu Cantonment Site (CS) (WBeG) reported that owing to the lack of logistical supplies, the majority of the CS soldiers have been permitted to leave to seek means to feed their families. The current reported strength at the CS is 1,500 soldiers. The CS Comd indicated that he had been assured that food items had been procured and they are currently in storage awaiting transportation. The CS commander stated that the last delivery of food was in 2020 and medicine in 2019. At present, there are 35 breastfeeding women in the CS without adequate care. Those with the financial means travel to Raja town to obtain medication, while others depend on traditional remedies, which may not be suitable for children and pregnant women.

OCCUPATION OF CIVILIAN AREAS

Four buildings/civilian areas are considered occupied that they have been vacated. This represents a reduction of two, namely Nyirol in Waat Payam, Jonglei and Tindoko Primary School, CES.

The list of currently occupied civilian areas and buildings are as follows:

MVT MALAKAL

LOCATION	OCCUPIED BUILDING (School, Dispensary, etc.)	PARTY OC CUPYING THE BUIL DING	PLAN TO VACATE (If any)
Nasir	Wech Yaradiw (Nasir To wn)	SSPDF	The Head Chief of Mitnyal Communit y in Nasir stated that Wech Yaradiw is traditionally civilian territory as ances tral land. The Wech Yaradiw Barracks was established in 2014, with forces d eployed in 2018. A portion of these for ces was stationed in NASIR Town to a ssist with the return of civilians to the County.

MVT YAMBIO

Badi	Duduma Girls' Primary S chool	NUF	The building is occupied by NUF soldi ers and located in the same compound as Badi 02 Private School which is not occupied.
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MVT YEI

Goli (Yei)	Goli Primary School	SSPDF	Last visited on 23 Apr 24, the Catholic Bishop of Emmanuel Christian Colleg e, The Payam Chief and local commun ity had agreed for the soldiers to stay i n the school buildings to provide secur ity to the Community and the College. An alternative learning environment for the Primary School was located withi
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			n 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.

SUMMARY

SER No.	MVT	OCCUPIED		
		SSPDF	SPLM/A-IO	NUF
1.	MALAKAL (Bor)	1		
2.	YAMBIO			1
3.	YEI	2		
TOTAL		4		

CTSAMVM Violation Report 2025/01 - REPORT FINDINGS

That an armed exchange did occur between the SSPDF and armed civilians on 16 October 2024. This happened following a shooting incident that occurred in the vicinity of a commercial premises within Nasir Town. Women and children referenced in a SPLM/A-IO allegation on 31 December 2024 were flown to Juba via Malakal. It is the finding of this report that the women were not coerced. The Nasir County Commissioner provided a list of the names of women and numbers of children. That looting of property belonging to the wives or dependents of SSPDF soldiers transiting to from Nasir market did occur. This act was perpetrated by two civilians and not SPLM/A-IO soldiers. The items were later recovered and returned to the owners. Armed SSPDF troops entered Nasir Town on 16 October 2024 and targeted civilian residential areas with indirect fire on both the 16 and 17 October 2024. The presence of SPLM/A-IO forces within Nasir Town remains unproven.

Civilians within Nasir Town and the surrounding environs are armed with weapons beyond what would reasonably be considered necessary for personal protection. Weapons included belt-fed light machine guns (PKM), some dress in military clothing to differentiate themselves from the remainder of the civilian population. This would indicate an attempt by civilians within Nasir and the surrounding environs to equip and organise themselves as an organised group separate from the State security structure. This armed civilian group (*routinely referred to in transcripts as White Army*), is not a signatory party and therefore not constrained by the articles contained within the R-ARCSS or CoHA.

Some SSPDF soldiers were able to return safely to the Nasir Barracks (3Km West of Nasir Town, referred to within transcripts as *Wech Yaradiw*) in the dark hours following the armed exchange. They were assisted in this endeavor by some Nasir Town civilian residents.

The perception among the civilian populous of Nasir Town and the surrounding environs is that the Nasir Barracks (3Km West of Nasir Town, referred to within transcripts as *Wech Yaradiw*), belongs to the Cie Mut sub-clan and is considered an occupied civilian area.



The casualty estimates during the armed exchanges of 16 – 17 October 2024, are four civilian fatalities and 17 wounded alongside 13 SSPDF fatalities and six wounded.

The Nasir County Relief and Reconciliation Commission (RRC) recorded that 28,600 civilians were displaced as a result of the October armed exchanges. As of January, the RRC estimate that 27,500 have since returned.

CTSAMVM REPORT SUMMARY

It is the conclusion of CTSAMVM that armed exchanges did take place between the SSPDF and an armed civilian group (routinely referred to in transcripts as White Army), on 16 and 17 October 2024.

That the use of indirect fire weapons within civilian areas by the SSPDF soldiers garrisoned at Nasir Barracks (3Km West of Nasir Town, referred to within transcripts as Wech Yaradiw), constitutes violations of R-ARCSS articles 2.1.10.1, 2.1.10.5 and 2.1.10.7.4 and CoHA article 6 (a).

The violations contributed to a large scale temporary displacement of civilians from Nasir County, however the actors responsible for initiating the armed exchange could not be determined.

The armed civilian group has organised and equipped members beyond the requirements of self-defence and has sought to establish a monopoly over security provision in Nasir Town and the surrounding environs.

Witness accounts recorded by the MVT over the period 9 – 13 January 2025, and stakeholder statements delivered during the CTSAMVM Joint Visit on 16 January 2025 request that the deployed SSPDF are relieved by a contingent of the NUF at the earliest opportunity.

CTSAMVM UPDATES

During this reporting period, in addition to routine short duration patrolling, CTSAMVM has conducted the following monitoring activity.

Dynamic Air Patrols (DAP);

27 December 24, MVT Bentiu DAP to Rupkong (US), 31 December 24, MVT Wau DAP to Dulu (WBeG), 9 January 25, MVT Malakal DAP to Nasir (UNS) (DAP return on 13 January 25), 16 January 25, Joint Visit DAP to Nasir (UNS), 17 January 25, MVT Bentiu DAP to Panyijar (US), 20 January 25, MVT Malakal DAP to Motot (Jonglei).

During this reporting period, in addition to routine short duration patrolling, CTSAMVM has conducted the following monitoring activity.

Long Duration Patrols (LDP);

16 - 19 December 24, MVT Wau LDP to Kuajok (Warrap), 9 - 13 January 25, MVT Malakal LDP to Nasir (UNS), 20 - 24 January 25, MVT Malakal LDP to Motot (Jonglei).

The MVT Wau LDP to Kuajok (Warrap State) 16 - 19 December 2024, assessed that the local communities lack access to State Government services to address their needs, specifically an

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inadequate Police presence in the area. This has led to ongoing incidents of violence between communities from Twic (Warrap State) and the Ngok (Abeyei AA). The dispute is centred upon control and access to Aneet Market. Both communities claiming the area falls within their territory. An incident occurred in early December 2024, involving armed youth and the SSPDF. During the incident two armed individuals were shot dead whilst attempting to loot trucks on the main road connecting Twic and Abeyei, by the SSPDF. No reports of retaliation or civilian adverse reactions have been noted.

CTC/01/2025/JAN/22: Item 4 - DISCUSSION ON CTSAMVM REPORT – IMPORTANT ISSUES AND EVENTS, JMCO UPDATES TO INCLUDE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS, UPDATES AND INCIDENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION

Action

The Chairman opened the floor for discussion.

RJMEC Representative

He stated that, First, I would like to thank the Chair for convening this meeting. I would also like to wish all members a happy New Year, as this is our first meeting of the year. Regarding the reports provided, I have a few areas that require clarification and some questions for which I would like answers. On page five, the first slide discusses an incident that occurred on January 11th involving a clash between the SSPDF recce squad and the SPLM/A-IO forces recce in those areas. I would like clarification on the measures or modalities established by the parties regarding recce missions. Specifically, I am interested in the designated areas, distances, and coordination. If any modalities have been created, this would help us determine whether these forces are adhering to established regulations. If no regulations exist, it might be advisable to recommend the creation of such modalities, potentially through the Joint Defense Board (JDB).

On page seven, slide four, there is a statement regarding the relationship between communities and the ground force units, which ends with reference to full control by an SSPDF commander unit. I would like to hear from the SSPDF about the difference between a ground force unit and a commander unit. On page eight, in the last slide, there is mention of the deployment of two battalions for NUF VIP protection to the Tiger Division, 3 Brigade. I would like to know the exact strength of these two battalions. Generally, we mention battalions without specifying the number of troops in each, which is important for understanding how many forces were trained during phase one and how many graduated in various capacities, including VIP protection. Knowing the deployment numbers is crucial, especially for maintaining a balance with regards to natural attrition and understanding the overall troop presence.

I am also interested in whether there are other NUF army units that have not yet been deployed. I have heard about another battalion earmarked for deployment to Nasir, and I seek clarification on whether these are newly formed units or if they will consist of soldiers already on deployment. This information would provide clarity on the balance of forces deployed and those remaining.

Finally, I would like to commend the efforts made to reduce the number of forces

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occupying civilian centers. It is encouraging to see that this number has significantly decreased from around 70 to 78 centers in 2018 to just four currently. This progress is commendable, and I appreciate the efforts made.

On behalf of the RJMEC Chair, I would also like to express our appreciation for the actions taken by the SSPDF leadership, particularly regarding the incident that occurred in the RJMEC compound on December 20th of last year. We value the actions taken and the apologies issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, both to RJMEC and the diplomatic community at large. Thank you very much.

SPLM/A-IO Representative

Chairman, I would like to address the reporting issues, as I usually do. Each time I emphasize the specifications, it is important to be specific about other issues as well, particularly concerning the occupation of civilian facilities. All buildings in civilian areas are considered occupied on the dates that have been marked. This situation represents a reduction in two locations: Nyirol in Waat Payam - Jonglei state, as well as Tindoko Primary School in Central Equatoria State. My request is that we need to be specific. The Central Equatoria State is quite large, and I believe we should provide clear details similar to what has been done for Waat Payam in Jonglei. It is crucial to identify the specific locations of these primary schools.

Additionally, I wasn't planning to address this, but a member mentioned something during the opening remarks that resonated with me. All of us want to see lasting peace in Sudan. It's vital that civilians in affected areas feel secure and that there is a noticeable improvement in their living conditions. Although there have been numerous attempts to foster peace—such as those by UNMISS—there are ongoing reports from locals indicating that their lives are still precarious.

We need to create a civil environment conducive to peace within the community. Recommendations have been made regarding the removal of certain personnel and the need for better transport systems, but these issues require serious attention. It is not enough to acknowledge the problems; actionable steps must be taken.

The transfer of personnel, such as the Sector Commander, should be considered if necessary, provided it is done thoughtfully and respects the community's needs. We cannot ignore the voices of the civilians affected by these situations. This is a pressing matter, and it's crucial that we take it seriously. We must ensure that civilians are allowed to live freely and safely in their own areas. Living under military oversight in Juba is not a sustainable solution. Thank you for allowing me to share these thoughts.

SPLM/A-IO Representative

Happy New Year! Thank you for the chance, and I hope we can meet again. I want to start by addressing your previous remarks. You mentioned clearly that the parties to the agreements clashed in West Equatoria and West Bahr el Ghazal. I acknowledge that these issues are more isolated, but they do exist. The major factor that triggered this conflict was the attempt by SSPDF to remove checkpoints in SPLM/A-IO controlled areas.

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As South Sudanese, we understand that during the general mapping of cantonments and barracks, there are certain areas that are indeed controlled by specific groups. If there are concerns or if any issues arise, the concerned authorities must seek permission from those in control of the land. The removal of all checkpoints in certain parts of the country will also require the leadership of the respective parties to be informed. It is essential that any planned removals be approached with caution, as they can lead to significant problems.

It's important to note that there was no issue before this—the problems arose when individuals attempted to remove checkpoints. This led to confusion and conflict. The leadership needs to prioritize communication regarding checkpoint removal, as not all conflicts are related to the checkpoints themselves.

Additionally, we need to verify the situation on the ground. We should assess whether conditions are returning to normal or if there is still underlying tension. Recently, a group went and destroyed a village, leading to the displacement of its residents. They were not all members of the same faction, but forces aligned with another group caused significant damage.

Lastly, there is a pressing concern regarding Wonduruba. There is a need for educational outreach from CTSAMVM to address tensions, as many people may not be aware of the situation. For example, when the team visited Nasir, things seemed to stabilize. Therefore, we need to prioritize a visit to Wonduruba to meet with the locals and address their concerns directly, fostering confidence and communication.

Our main objective is to monitor the situation and mediate as needed. I strongly suggest that we visit Wonduruba, meet with the local community, and address the reported instances of harassment and intimidation in the area. There have been many incidents that went unreported.

Regarding the issue of four buildings, it's crucial to discuss which areas are still occupied. We need clarity on how many areas remain occupied and what the current situation is. As a final note, it's important to communicate clearly about these matters, as some areas still require our attention. Thank you for considering these remarks.

SSOA Representative

I want to condemn the recent killings of people in Sudan, which have escalated in the last few days. It is truly horrific. What has happened is not representative of the behavior of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) that we know, as we were in close contact with them before the separation.

Secondly, regarding the situation in Nasir, we can refer to reports from UNMISS and other organizations about the issues concerning the civilian army and the SSPDF in Nasir. This situation indicates a lack of trust and confidence among these groups. There is also confusion surrounding the naming of the civilian army, sometimes referred to as the "White Army."

They are part of the principal opposition factions, including the IO and SSOA, and they are integral to the peace agreement. While some groups are prepared for

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deployment, others still carry weapons as they await decisions from their leadership.

Moreover, the headquarters of the SSPDF could take action. If there is communication between the SSPDF and the various groups, they could coordinate transportation to replace units strategically. This would help establish a more stable environment in the county. Currently, when confrontations occur between the SSPDF and the civilian army, it is the civilians who suffer the most. We need to address this situation carefully in our discussions to find a resolution. Thank you.

FD Senior Party Representative

He said, to my colleagues, there is a significant difference between those who are asking merely to survive, to eat, and to protect their children, and those who are seeking political positions. This is the current situation. Those who aspire to political power are exploiting those who are struggling to survive in order to climb the ranks. This creates a troubling scenario, particularly in the ongoing situation at Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria.

We are relieved by the recent removal of checkpoints, which has allowed us to travel more freely. The removal of these checkpoints reduces our travel time significantly. Additionally, the taxes imposed at these checkpoints were burdensome, and I don't think many people will resist their removal. We want to create a country where each faction can have its share and make a living. If we truly want to help our people, we must eliminate these checkpoints, as there is no valid reason for them to exist in Western Bahr el Ghazal or Western Equatoria.

The person who chaired the meeting was the Vice President, who issued the orders for these checkpoints. So, why should we need to seek permission from him again? There is no justification for their existence. We are observing the political games being played and the maneuvering involved. What's happening in Nasir is a proxy conflict, and the citizens are being caught in the middle. They are humble people with very little, yet they are being dragged into these political scenarios.

Additionally, there is a lack of trust that is concerning. The SSPDF commander in charge of the cantonment failed to attend the meeting because he feared for his life, worried he might be attacked. This illustrates the lack of trust within our ranks. It is crucial that we enable the Joint Defense Board (JDB) to visit the area to discuss peace. For the politicians there, these displaced 28,000 voters could make a significant difference in an election. If they vote for you, that counts, but if they vote against you, it means you could lose.

Let us prioritize the welfare of the citizens, as they are the ones suffering. There is illness in the area that needs our attention. The politicians from Nasir are hesitant to engage because they are divided, with each faction calling on their supporters for the issue of the barracks. The Wech yaar adieu barracks is located three kilometers outside of Nasir, and the old barracks, which the SSPDF could be shifted to is now within the city. I am uncertain if the citizens will accept the presence of forces returning to the old barracks, as that space is now occupied by them. This will create tension between the citizens and the government if the forces aren't relocated. We need to return the barracks to their original state, as they have been there since

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Sudan's independence.

If the people of South Sudan express that they do not want the army, this country could become vulnerable. Other nations might seize the opportunity to expand their territories, potentially impacting us significantly. For example, we could see the Ugandan border extending into Juba or the Kenyan border reaching up to Torit. Let us focus on the bigger picture and work together for the benefit of our people. Thank you.

SSOA Senior Representative

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinions. I have three key points that I want to bring to our attention.

Firstly, I see a significant problem in South Sudan regarding the removal of checkpoints throughout the country. This responsibility falls upon the government, not CTSAMVM function and I believe that removing checkpoints could lead to numerous issues. Some of these checkpoints have existed for a long time, dating back to the political turmoil before 1983.

For example, back in 1975, there were established checkpoints even before the government of South Sudan was recognized, and when the SPLM was formed, they created their own checkpoints. When peace agreement was reached in 2005, these checkpoints were not harmonized under any central authority. Consequently, many people remained outside of the formal government structure, leading to further complications. In 2013 SPLM?A-IO again went out and made their own check point, every belligerents in south Sudan have check points.

Checkpoints are critical for local communities as they provide vital resources. South Sudan shares borders with several countries, and the presence of these checkpoints often determines survival for many people. If the government decides to dismantle these checkpoints unilaterally, it could have disastrous effects on the population, as they rely on these points for essential goods.

In my opinion, if the government considers closing checkpoints, it must approach this task carefully and collaboratively, ensuring that all parties are unified in their actions. A unilateral decision to dismantle checkpoints can lead to conflicts. Currently, the various groups within the country are not fully integrated but are instead operating as unified forces. Dismantling checkpoints without consensus could escalate tensions.

Secondly, regarding the deployment of military forces, I believe the deployment of the Tiger Division is a positive initiative. However, my concern lies in the selective deployment of forces. Last year, deployments focused on divisions from specific regions like Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria, yet other critical areas were overlooked. What about the roles of police or other security services who are supposed to be the primary force dealing with citizens? Till today only the Army have been deployed. For seven years we have been training, is it only army trained so that they are deployed not other organised forces? Adequate attention must be given to all aspects of security within the country.

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During the joint team field visit to Nasir, we were unable to meet with the area commander, who seems to lack trust in us. Instead, we only met with civilians and the commissioner. This situation reflects the challenges we face in our efforts to safeguard the country. In contrast, the SPLM/A-IO commander did meet with the joint team. However, CTSAMVM was only able to hear from one side of the story, while it is essential for us to listen to both perspectives. To the members of CTSAMVM present in this meeting: whether you represent the government, the IO, or the SSOA, it is crucial that we build trust and operate as a unified organization. Our leaders must understand that we are collaborating to build peace together.

In summary, he urged the government to approach the conversation around checkpoints and military deployment with unity and careful planning to enhance stability. We cannot afford to overlook the significance of these matters, as they play a crucial role in maintaining peace and security in South Sudan.

ITGoNU Representative

I need to inform the CTC and the monitoring body that the SSPDF has a new command, the CDF, whom we initially thought would be more positive. This change promises to provide better accessibility and support for our work within the CTSAMVM. I believe it's important for you to know this, as it directly relates to our cooperation. We have been in need of this collaboration and the accessibility that his office can provide to the CTSAMVM, which is a significant improvement.

Regarding the occupied areas, a representative from RJMEC acknowledged our contributions. There used to be a lot of occupied zones, but it has reduced, and as of now, only four areas remain occupied. As we carry out our work, we are aware of our environment. It is crucial to note that the current situation concerning the occupied buildings is not solely due to the IO, SSPDF, or those occupying these buildings; rather, it is a logistical matter. We need adequate funding and tactical installations to establish new barracks, which is straightforward since there are unoccupied locations available.

Another important update is that the SSPDF, or whatever the new name will be, is undergoing significant transformation. This transformation is crucial for our work, as we aim to professionalize the army. A professional force will know how to effectively interact with civilians and cooperate with them. They will also be trained to promote peace and contribute to unifying the people of South Sudan. This transformation is already in progress and will be very beneficial.

Concerning the removal of checkpoints, this is a matter of government policy and comes from the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity. This decision was made during a governor's forum that included all relevant parties, including SSOA, IO, and SPLM-IG. Thus, it is a policy driven by national security considerations.

There was a concern raised by How regarding the necessity for official information to be communicated to the public before these changes are enacted. Without proper information, incidents like the one in Kubribo could occur, which is what he meant. When the last speaker addressed this issue, he referred to these checkpoints as a

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detail. should it be that areas under the control of the IO should be removed by the IO, and those under SSPDF by SSPDF.

In conclusion, I believe we should explore possible solutions, as we still have options on the table. Ultimately, I don't see any justification for maintaining the checkpoints; they need to be removed.

SPLM/A-IO Representative

Said he would like to address issues regarding the roadblocks. This situation cannot continue as it is, and believe the directive from Juba was incorrect. The directives coming from the area controlled by another party need to be reassessed by themselves. The implementation of these directives was not appropriate, and it was not the right approach for those affected in this region. The road being controlled by the security forces in that area; we acknowledge that. However, the directive should be clear about the activities along the road.

Its not viable to remove roadblocks in areas that are currently controlled by different parties. We all do appreciate the need to remove check points like the one of Yambio if it could also be carried out on Malakal road. We need to allow for free movement throughout the country without check points.

SPLM/A-IO Representative

Said he would like to take the opportunity to update on what happened in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria specifically the area in Western Equatoria called Bo, the situation at the checkpoint was not a concern because I was present there. In fact, SPLM/A-IO were operating in the area and the regional force joined them. They were staying with the regional force, and I'm unsure whether they had a police force or not. I asked their leader if they were cooperating with the regional force, and the commander confirmed that they were good with them. When inquired if there were any problems, he assured me that there were none. The commissioner also spoke with the regional command and affirmed that everything was fine. However, just two days later, clashes erupted.

I would like to advise a joint field visit to ascertain the truth about the situation. If we need to move quickly, we should proceed with caution and monitor the developments carefully to identify the source of the problem.

FD Senior Party representative

Requested the CTSAMVM secretariat to provide the dispositions of the forces, we have the disposition map, which will indicate which territories belong to whom. This is my only request.

ITGoNU Senior Representative

First of all, I would like to thank you for this opportunity. I would like to greet everyone and wish you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I believe we have gathered here to discuss important matters, and I would also like to thank the CTSAMVM leadership for convening this meeting on time. This marks our first

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meeting of the year 2025.

What I have observed is that the violations of 2024 have persisted and will likely carry them into next month. However, we wish for these violations to find resolutions so that we can fulfill the aspirations of the people for peace in our country. We also hope that the RTGoNU will reach a peaceful agreement through the ongoing Tumaini Initiative consensus initiative in Nairobi, allowing our brothers in the opposition to join forces with us as we continue to implement the RARCSS and the Tumaini Initiative.

Regarding the incidents that took place in Sudan, it is truly disappointing as responsible citizens, both in Sudan and here. The international community bears some responsibility for condemning these actions. However, we must not respond in kind. We should instead engage in dialogue to achieve peace, especially in the context of the ongoing conflict in South Sudan.

The situation in South Sudan requires our immediate attention, and I acknowledge the president's statement on this issue. As representatives of the people of South Sudan, we wish to maintain peace within our borders and with our neighboring country, Sudan. I appreciate your involvement in this meeting and commend the reporters for compiling the information, as well as the CTSAMVM MVTs for their short- and long-duration patrols. This report is the first of the year, and we have taken note of all mentioned violations. We will share these points with the relevant authorities.

My colleague mentioned the newly appointed Chief of Defense Forces (CDF) of the SSPDF, and I am aware that you have had the opportunity to meet with him. As members of the security mechanisms, we must continue to brief the new CDF on the challenges of implementing the RARCSS. I hope this will foster better understanding and responses.

One key point I emphasized during my briefing to him is the occupation of civilian buildings. I stressed the importance of resolving this issue in the new year. Specifically, the situation in Nasir was discussed during a meeting yesterday. Nasir has a barracks belonging to the army, but there is also civilian areas occupied by military that need to be addressed. The relief of forces in Nasir is a priority for the command, and steps are being taken to facilitate this process. We anticipate positive developments by the next meeting.

I appreciate the team that visited Nasir and submitted a report on the conditions observed there. I understand that even the commander of SSPDF forces in Nasir could not meet with the team due to time constraints. However, you now have a clearer understanding of the situation in that part of the country based on your visit. The command is actively working on the relief of forces and addressing the issue of occupied civilian buildings.

As we enter the new year, our hope remains for peace, harmony, and unity among ourselves. We need a thorough understanding of the situation in South Sudan, where the government is represented by the RTGoNU at the national level. There are ten states involved, and we must remain committed to achieving peace and stability.

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SPLM/A-IO Representative

I want to emphasize that the forces engaged with the SSPDF, even at the vice president's level, are struggling to communicate effectively. you may have received the information in Bilpam, but may not know what is on ground, and it seems as if you are not part of the discussions taking place. If we signed a peace agreement, why are we ignoring the realities on the ground?

Most areas talked about are currently controlled by the IO. How can you simply send forces to remove checkpoints along the road or the Nile River? Can you even travel from here to Malakal freely; There are different forces stationed along that route, not the SSPDF. This is why we have refrained from taking action; these are our forces, and a different group cannot be given those responsibilities.

If you truly want progress, it's essential to acknowledge the information we have on the ground. Some people are calling for change, and you need to communicate clearly with them. If you say there's nothing happening, how does that reflect on those who are genuinely receiving information? We need to be responsible in our communication and avoid misunderstandings.

Ignoring the issues at hand is not helpful; we must come together to agree on how our forces should operate. This is a crucial aspect of implementing the agreement. If you disregard those present in Juba while commanding from Bilpam, it creates a disconnect. It's not just a matter of miscommunication; we must understand each other clearly.

We are here to work together, not to hurt one another. We need to know who is present and working with us. If there are forces ready to help, let them proceed without obstruction.

When discussing roles and responsibilities, it's important to consider all involved parties. Clear communication is crucial for the operation to run smoothly. We must ensure that our words do not create unnecessary conflict among the groups.

In conclusion, we cannot continue like this. We need to find answers so that we can move forward effectively. Our focus should be on supporting those on the ground and ensuring that they are not overlooked.

Senior Reports officer

I would like to provide feedback on the investigations into Wonduruba and Bo Bridge areas, both of these investigations have received JMCO task numbers and are currently being investigated, our LDPs are in the process of being planned. Thank you very much.

FD Senior representative

He said he is feeling very confused right now. he thought we were here to make peace. But now it seems that each person will arrive with guns, which suggests that we're moving towards separation through violence. Chair, I want you to record the violations. A violation has been clearly stated regarding the presence of outside

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forces.

This is a violation because keeping forces outside indicates that we are heading for war. We've just completed Phase 1, which was meant to be 50% of the process. I requested the disengagement map because it will show us the exact locations of the SPDF forces, the IO forces, and the SSOA forces. This map will help determine which forces have encroached onto which side.

Secondly, I want to emphasize that we have set aside our weapons not because we do not know how to fight, but because we prefer to engage in discussion. Talking is our principle. However, I believe that things will take a different turn today. As we move to the second phase, I keep telling new participants that it may not happen as planned. The deployment of officers will be minimal, and it will depend on the forces involved. If we have thousands of troops, will they pick up arms again?

The people of this country are tired of fighting. They want to talk. Those who have been patient until now are the ones actually implementing the peace agreements. We have been at this for six years without any incentives, yet we are still committed to following the agreements. Our children are out of school, but we are hoping for the elections you mentioned.

An angry person like me—knowing the struggles my family faces—will not vote for people who have let us down. We will see who is willing to pick up arms if they are pushed. This is our only hope, but I know that after two years, you all will start discussions between the IO and the IG, extending the government's life because you benefit from it.

You will start talking about elections as they approach, but just when the time comes, you will engage in dialogue among yourselves, which keeps you in power. However, the situation will be different this time. We will not fight. We fought for this country to gain independence. I spent 21 years fighting in the bush, followed by another 12 years without clarity about my position. I assure you, this will be very different.

I know my colleagues are pursuing resources, leading to the creation of checkpoints where each person starts taxing citizens. I know this, and if this continues, no citizens will remain here because we will all be stuck at checkpoints. We must either eliminate these checkpoints and form a better government or continue down this path.

We are here to discuss these matters openly. I will not accept intimidation or war-like rhetoric. That approach will not lead to any productive outcome. Thank you.

SPLM/A-IO representative

He retorted that, it was far from ideal. I believe that in our ten states, during the governors' forum, all of them were present, as heads of security in their respective areas. It's important to note that every checkpoint must be removed, and this process has to be coordinated. The plan must go to the governor, who will then give the necessary orders. If it is coordinated properly, the Western governors will be informed, allowing the governor to confirm what actions need to be taken.

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This issue is not just at our level but at a higher level of authority. It's crucial that we stick to the protocols established, especially in light of the incident that occurred at the border. We need to follow through according to the guidelines set out, like the investigation into the events in Malakal.

I mentioned that the investigation needs to take place in Yambio to determine exactly what transpired, as we currently lack clarity on the situation. Once the investigation is complete, we will have a clearer picture of who is responsible. We all appreciate the efforts of those involved because we need to ensure that our cities are safe and will not suffer from these issues.

In conclusion, we must approach this matter without unnecessary panic or exaggeration. It's essential for the well-being of our country. Thank you.

Chairman

Thank you once again. I appreciate the entire CTC members for our candid discussions. Before I conclude, I want to express my appreciation for the newly appointed CDF who agreed to meet with us, during my visit, even though it was a very busy period, he welcomed us warmly and listened carefully to our interests in collaboration. He assured us he would work with us and granted us the freedom of movement necessary for our objectives. I would like to express my wish to continue updating him and discussing matters as we move in the new year.

A second point of discussion here is regarding checkpoints. this would not constitute our major discussions as it is not in our mandate. Everyone understands the importance of checkpoints because each country has its own. However, I want to emphasize the significance of trust—trust among signatory parties, among different armed groups, and between countries in the region.

It's well-known that conflict has both background, proximate and immediate causes. If we work on or focus on the underlying background of the problem, instead of triggering or immediate causes, it is simple to understand and solve the problem peacefully through constructive discussions. In light of this, Checkpoints cannot be the source of conflict, if both parties engaged in open discussions. We recognize that if discussions are hampered by excessive checkpoints, they can minimize or add them to achieve their objectives concerning taxation or sensitive issues like security. If we discuss matters openly, focusing on the common goals of the South Sudanese people including security problems can be resolved peacefully.

We have reached an understanding, and I want to emphasize the importance of promoting mediation through dialogue to enhance sustainable peace in South Sudan.

As I conclude my recommendations, I also want to mention the ongoing assessment of various areas, similar to what we did in mid-January in Nasir, which we will continue as much as possible.

Furthermore, we will maintain cooperation with the JDB, as there are several issues that require briefing the board members and working together in coordination. I also promise to engage with the new CDF to foster collaboration in the coming years.

Additionally, I want to mention the events that occurred last week. I appreciate the

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measures taken by security forces in South Sudan to manage the situation. However, it is important to recognize that this is not a sustainable solution. The incident serves as a reminder of the underlying problems we must address. Instead of being complacent with a difficult situation, we should leverage this conflict as an opportunity to address deeper issues wisely and in a timely manner.

Thank you for your candid and important discussions on peace in South Sudan. I appreciate your efforts.

CTC/01/2025/JAN/22: Item 5 - SUGGESTED 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 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) 2017 and the Rome Declaration of 12 January 2020 and its resultant resolutions.

NUF:

Delays to the deployment of the remainder of Phase 1 Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) graduates and to the commencement of training of Phase 2 NUF runs contrary to the provisions of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), specifically Article 2.2.1 and 2.3.1 on training and deployment.

The Joint Defence Board (JDB) is urged to provide updated information on NUF deployment locations and strengths, along with plans for the commencement of Phase 2 training.

The Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) and National Transitional Committee (NTC) are urged 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 Article 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.

VIOLATION REPORT 2025/01

ITGoNU to ensure that all military actions comply with the CoHA (Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities) and R-ARCSS (Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan) provisions to protect civilian populations and prevent retaliatory actions against non-combatants.

RTGoNU to accelerate the deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces in Nasir County to stabilise the area and promote trust and confidence among the civil population.

All parties involved in the conflict that led to death, injury or displacement of civilians should be formally investigated and held accountable for their actions.

CTSAMVM recommends that all armed civilian groups are disarmed to reduce the likelihood of further conflict with the SSPDF and among themselves. An attempt to implement a DDR

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programme at this time would likely exacerbate tensions in the area. Confidence building measures such as a NUF deployment to replace the SSPDF garrisoned at Nasir Barracks (3Km West of Nasir Town, referred to within transcripts as Wech Yaradiw), will almost certainly be a necessary prerequisite.

RJMEC and the IGAD Council of Ministers to take all appropriate and timely action at the political level as a response to this violation report to ensure those responsible are held to account.

Joint field visits should be planned to areas currently under tensions(Wonduruba and Bo Bridge)

CTC/01/2025/JAN/22: Item 6 - Date of Next Meeting:

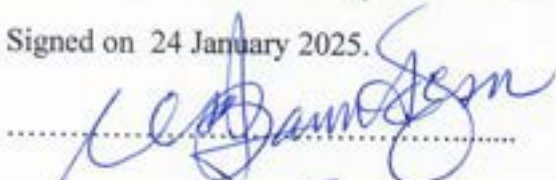
The date for the next meeting; **19 February 2025**


CTC/01/2025/JAN/22: Item 7- Closing:


The Chairman thanked all members for their contribution


The meeting ended at: 13:23pm/1323 hrs


Signed on 24 January 2025.


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Lt GEN RABI MUJUNG EMMANUEL
ITGoNU


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


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Maj Gen JANY KAWAY YOAKHOR
SSOA


.....
Maj Gen BIOR LEEK KUARENG
FD


.....
Maj Gen YITAYAL GELAW BITEW
CHAIRPERSON





