

CTSAMM CONFIDENTIAL
NOT TO BE ISSUED WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN



TO: The Chairman, IGAD Council of Ministers
The Chairman, JMEC

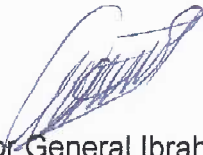
FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM

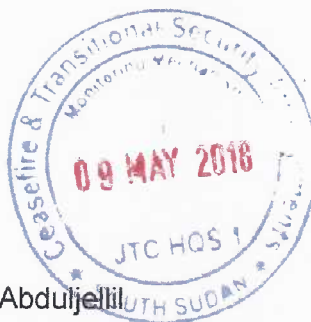
DATE: 9 MAY 2018

**SUBJECT: CTSAMM REPORT 2018/16 – ATTACKS AT MOTOT 19 AND 21
APRIL 2018**

Your Excellencies,

Please find attached a report on violations of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access (21 December 2017), specifically incidents that took place at MOTOT, Jonglei State, on 19 and 21 April 2018.


Major General Ibrahim Abduljelil
Chairman



Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

CTSAMM REPORT 2018/16

ATTACKS AT MOTOT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CTSAMM received an allegation from an SPLA-IO (RM) County Commissioner that the town of MOTOT had been attacked by the SPLA on 19 April 2018.

When CTSAMM deployed an MVT to investigate, it was found that there had been two attacks by the SPLA against MOTOT, one on 19 April and the other on 21 April 2018.

The first attack on 19 April 2018 resulted in some looting and burning of houses and shops in the town. On 21 April 2018 the SPLA mounted a deliberate attack against the town using vehicle-mounted machine guns. A number of tracked armoured vehicles were involved in the attack. Several civilians were reportedly killed and wounded and almost the entire population of the town fled. Houses were burnt, and civil buildings – including the school and medical centre – were looted. The one borehole in the town was vandalised.

By prosecuting attacks against a civilian community the SPLA acted in clear and blatant violation of the ACOH and International Humanitarian Law.



ATTACKS AGAINST MOTOT

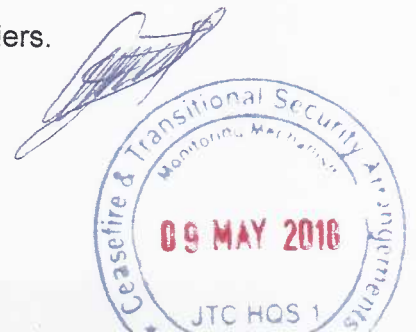
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background:

- The situation in the northern Jonglei State has been tense for a long time, with clashes reported in the YUAI and WAAT areas. Recent CTSAMM reports include 2018/11 about an attack by the SPLA against MODIT, and 2018/14 which concerned an attack against WAAT by the SPLA-IO (RM).
- MOTOT is a town about 15 Km to the west of WAAT. It has for a long time been under the control of the SPLA-IO (RM), although there is no garrison in the town. According to information given to CTSAMM by the SPLA-IO (RM) the nearest garrison to MOTOT is about 4 Km to the north at GUIY, although this has not been verified. During previous visits to MOTOT, CTSAMM observed no more than a few policeman in the town.
- CTSAMM had visited MOTOT on several occasions prior to the incidents described in this report, the last time being on 3 April 2018 when they observed a viable community of about 4,000.

1.2 Allegations:

- CTSAMM received information from the SPLA-IO (RM) Yuai County commissioner stating that the SPLA forces attacked MOTOT on 19 April at 1900hrs. He reported that 5 SPLA soldiers were killed in the attack, and that a great deal of damage was done to the town.
- CTSAMM received an allegation from the (Government) Deputy Governor of Bieh State stating that in the morning hours of 22 of April 2018, the SPLA-IO (RM) attacked an SPLA logistics convoy departing from WAAT to YUAI near the town of MOTOT. Furthermore he claimed that logistic convoys going to and from WAAT had been under constant attack from the SPLA-IO (RM) and this had resulted in the deaths of two SPLA soldiers.



1.3 Aim: The aim of this report is to describe the findings of a CTSAMM investigation into events which took place at MOTOT on 19 and 21 April 2018, and attribute responsibility for violations of the ACOH where appropriate.

1.4 Methodology:

- On 27 April 2018 an MVT was deployed to MOTOT to investigate the allegations.
- During the visit the MVT was able to inspect all damage in the town. Apart from a few people who had opted to remain, the town was empty as a result of the attacks. However the MVT was able to meet with a wide range of local officials including the SPLA-IO (RM) County Commissioner and several other officials who walked from GUIY to meet them. The MVT was also able to talk with some of the few remaining civilians in the town.
- All witnesses the MVT spoke to had been in the town during the attacks.
- The same MVT had visited MOTOT on 3 April 2018 and therefore knew what it was like before the attacks.

2.0 Findings

- 2.1 The MVT observed that the majority of the tukuls in the town had been burnt. Local officials claimed 400 dwellings had been destroyed. They also observed that brick-built facilities such as the school, the commissioner's office and an NGO storage and health facility had been looted. The only serviceable water in the town had been vandalised: pipes had been broken, and the solar panels which provided power for the pump stolen. See photographs at Annex A.
- 2.2 Apart from a few elderly people the population of MOTOT – approximately 4,000 – had fled to GUIY, a village about 4 Km north of MOTOT, following the attack of 21 April 2018.
- 2.3 According to witnesses there were 2 attacks by the SPLA against MOTOT. The first was on 19 April 2018 when they attacked the town and looted and burnt shops in the market area. The second attack was on 21 April, when the SPLA attacked the town from the south using vehicle-mounted machine guns.



- 2.4 According to witnesses several tracked armoured vehicles were used in the attack of 21 April. The MVT was able to identify armoured vehicle track marks on the ground and also saw cartridge cases from large-calibre machine-guns. Witnesses claimed as many as 28 vehicles were involved in the attack. The authorities in MOTOT claimed there was a screen of a small number of SPLA-IO (RM) soldiers south of the town, but they soon broke under the onslaught from the SPLA and there was no actual resistance in the town itself.
- 2.5 The MVT was told there were civilian casualties. Four people were reportedly killed (two men and two women) and five injured, including 1 child. The MVT was shown the grave of a Presbyterian pastor who was allegedly one of those killed in the attack.

3.0 Assessment

- 3.1 It is the assessment of CTSAMM that MOTOT was attacked by SPLA forces on 19 and 21 April 2018. A CTSAMM MVT visited MOTOT on 3 April 2018 and saw a working community of about 4,000 people; when it returned two-and-a-half weeks later it found a ruined and empty town devoid of the facilities necessary to sustain its population.
- 3.2 If the alleged ambushes by the SPLA-IO (RM) against the SPLA logistic convoys passing near MOTOT did take place, they would in no way justify the complete destruction of the town.
- 3.3 The civilian infrastructure of MOTOT has been damaged to such an extent that it will not be a viable community for some time to come. CTAMM observed that civil facilities had not only been looted, but key installations had been deliberately destroyed.
- 3.4 Witness statement alleging that both tracked and wheeled vehicles were used in the attack of 21 April were supported by the presence of track marks on the ground, which the MVT was able to trace moving throughout the town. The presence of large numbers of heavy-calibre machine-gun cartridge cases also support allegations that vehicle-mounted weapons were used during the attack.



4.0 Civilian impact

- 4.1 The deliberate looting of the school and the clinic in MOTOT has an obvious impact on the viability of the community, as does the destruction of the water supply system.
- 4.2 The attack has added a further 4,000 to the already huge number of internally displaced South Sudanese citizens.

5.0 Conclusion

It is the clear opinion of CTSAMM that by prosecuting attacks against and destroying MOTOT, the SPLA were in blatant violation of the ACOH, specifically:

- Article Three, 2): "All hostile military actions"
- Article Four, 2): "The Parties shall not occupy or damage any public or community property....."
- Article Six, (a) "Attackson the civil population"

6.0 Observations and Recommendations

- 6.1 The situation in northern Jonglei State continues to be an ongoing source of tension and conflict.
- 6.2 This is the second CTSAMM report about an SPLA attack against a civilian community in the northern Jonglei area within two months (CTSAMM Report 2018/11). Whatever provocations the SPLA might have been subject to, the deliberate destruction of a civilian community is completely unacceptable not only under the provisions of the ACOH, but also under International Humanitarian Law.
- 6.3 CTSAMM calls on the IGAD Council of Ministers and JMEC to confront the appropriate political and military authorities in the Government of South Sudan in order to prevent further instances such as this.

Annex:

A: Photographs from MOTOT.



Abbreviations:

- ACOH: Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access signed 21 December 2017.
- MVT: CTSAMM Monitoring and Verification Team
- SPLA: Sudan People's Liberation Army. Military forces under the command and control of the Transitional Government of National Unity, including those opposition forces under the First Vice President Taban Deng Gai now with the Government.
- SPLA-IO (RM): Sudan People's Liberation Army In Opposition and under the command and control of Dr Riek Machar.



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MOTOT



A view of MOTOT taken on 3 April 2018

[Handwritten signature]



[Handwritten signature]

Aerial and ground-level views of burnt tukuls and huts taken after the 21 April 2018 attack.



[Handwritten signature]





Tower showing missing solar panels and vandalised water pump



Looted and vandalised school and medical centre

