



Summary of Latest Reports of Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA)
Investigated and verified by the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism in South Sudan
As at 9 September 2015

Background: The IGAD Monitoring & Verification Mechanism (MVM) was set up in February 2014 to monitor implementation of the COHA by the two Parties to the Agreement, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the SPLM/A In Opposition, as well as any armed groups under their control or invited to support them. The MVM has 6 Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs) deployed to the states of Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity, where hostilities have occurred. The Teams monitor violations through direct observation and investigation, including information-gathering from varied sources. There is an extensive process of fact-checking before each violation is verified and submitted to the Office of the IGAD Special Envoys for South Sudan, who carry out a further review. The following is a report of the most recent verified violations.

Reference	Date of Violation	Location	Nature of Violation	Responsible Party
V047	23 August 2015	Nhialdiu Unity State	<p>Incident: SPLM/A(IO) Forces launched offensive operations against Government Forces in Nhialdiu. They were later repulsed by Government Forces</p> <p>Background: Since the Government Forces offensives in April and May in the counties south of Bentiu, localised attacks and skirmishes between the SPLM/A(IO) elements and Government Forces have continued to be reported. In mid-August rumours began to circulate that SPLM/A(IO) Forces were regrouping in Tuoch luak village south of Nhialdiu. The Government County Commissioner reportedly advised traditional leaders to inform the forces to move away from government controlled areas.</p> <p>Assessment:</p>	SPLM/A (IO)

			<p>The MVT based in the UNMISS camp near Bentiu gathered information from different sources including the Unity State Governor and other government officials, community contacts and traditional leaders, as well as UNMISS. Calls to their usual SPLM/A(IO) contacts went unanswered, but despite this the JTC decided that in the light of the available evidence there was no doubt that the SPLM/A(IO) had carried out the attack as it was reported, and had therefore violated the COHA. This violation occurred after the SPLM/A(IO) leadership had signed the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and therefore committed to the permanent ceasefire.</p> <p>Articles of COHA violated:</p> <p>1.1: The Parties hereby agree to cease all Military actions aimed at each other and any other action that may undermine the peace process.</p> <p>1.2 (a): Commit to immediately Cease all military operations and freeze their forces at the place they are in.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The JTC recommends that the Special Envoys declare and condemn the SPLM/A-IO in the strongest terms possible for violating the COHA of 23 January 2014, especially after they had signed the Peace Agreement in Addis Ababa on 17 August.</p>	
V048	2 September 2015	Lelo, Awarajwok & Detand, Panyikang County, Upper Nile State	<p>Incident: Government Forces helicopter gunships attacked SPLM/A(IO) positions on the west bank of the Nile opposite Malakal</p> <p>Background:</p> <p>Malakal has changed hands several times in the past 6 months. On 27 June it was taken by SPLM/A(IO) Shilluk Militia forces and was then recaptured by Government Forces on 6 July. Despite Government Forces control of Malakal, the airfield can be engaged by hostile forces from the west bank of the Nile.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>The MVT based in Malakal witnessed the helicopter gunships flying towards and engaging the SPLM/A(IO) Forces on the west bank of the Nile. There is no doubt that these attacks took place; the MVT also spoke to other witnesses to compare notes. The MVT later heard outgoing indirect fire from Government Forces positions towards the west bank of the Nile, and heard that Government Forces had crossed the Nile and were attacking SPLM/A(IO) positions. The JTC assessed this incident as a clear violation of</p>	GRSS Forces

		<p>the COHA.</p> <p>Articles of COHA violated: 1.1: The Parties hereby agree to cease all Military actions aimed at each other and any other action that may undermine the peace process.</p> <p>Recommendations: The JTC recommends that the Special Envoys condemn the Government Forces in the strongest terms possible and insist that they abide by their obligations to the COHA especially after signing the recent Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.</p>	
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Attribution and Type of Violations for the entire period of 8 February 2014 to 9 September 2015

As of 9 September 2015, in the past 19 months the MVM has reported a total of **48** incidents which resulted in violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. This includes **24** violations by the GRSS and **28** violations by the SPLM/A (IO). Some incidents include violations by both Parties and of more than one article and in more than one state.

Incidents including Violations	Attributed to Government Forces/GRSS	Attributed to SPLM/A (IO)	Article 1 Cessation of Hostilities	Article 2 Cessation of Hostile Propaganda	Article 3 Protection of Civilians	Article 4 Humanitarian Access	Article 7 Operations of the MVT
48	24	28	40	1	24	6	7

Violation by Location	UPPER NILE	UNITY	JONGLEI	JUBA
	28	17	7	2

**The IGAD Special envoys, STRONGLY urge all parties to desist from violating the COHA, as any violation will negatively impact on the ongoing implementation of the Compromise Agreement signed by the warring parties and other stakeholders.*

NOTE: Summaries of all verified IGAD MVM violations are on the website of the Office of the IGAD Special Envoys @ www.southsudan.igad.int