



Security Council

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Letter dated 29 June 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to paragraph three of Security Council resolution [2418 \(2018\)](#), in which the Council requested me to report, in coordination with the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, whether fighting has taken place and on the status of a viable peace agreement, the United Nations conducted an assessment of the security and political developments in South Sudan from 31 May to 27 June 2018. The present letter provides the conclusions of the assessment.

Background

According to the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism is responsible for monitoring and verifying the implementation of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements. As part of the high-level revitalization process led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a new Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access was signed on 21 December 2017. Under the cessation of hostilities agreement, the Monitoring Mechanism retained responsibility for monitoring and verification. The agreement states that in case of any violation, by any party, armed group, organization or person, the Monitoring Mechanism shall report such breaches to the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the Chair of IGAD, who, in accordance with its mandate, shall report to the Transitional Government of National Unity, the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council.

The signatory parties to the cessation of hostilities agreement are as follows: the Transitional Government of National Unity; the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO); the National Salvation Front; the Sudan People's Liberation Movement "Former Detainees" (SPLM-FD); the National Democratic Movement; the Federal Democratic Party/South Sudan Armed Forces; the South Sudan United Movement; the South Sudan Patriotic Movement; the South Sudan National Movement for Change; the South Sudan Liberation Movement; the People's Democratic Movement; the National Alliance Political Parties; the National Agenda Political Parties; and umbrella parties.



Reports of fighting

As requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2406 (2018), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) supports the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism in the implementation of its ceasefire monitoring and verification mandate (through logistics and force protection). For the preparation of the present report, UNMISS requested the Monitoring Mechanism to coordinate and share its verified reports. The report of the Monitoring Mechanism (2018/21) prepared pursuant to Security Council resolution 2418 (2018) is attached (see annex). The Monitoring Mechanism finds that since 1 June 2018 there have been 11 verified incidents of fighting between parties and 12 other potential incidents that are under investigation.

During the same period, UNMISS patrols came under direct fire three times. On 4 June, an UNMISS patrol encountered small arms fire from unidentified armed men in an area controlled by SPLM/A-IO near Rubkway in southern Unity. Subsequently, on 8 June, an integrated UNMISS patrol came under direct and sustained fire in Rubkway from 80 to 100 armed men later confirmed to be from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). UNMISS returned fire in self-defence.

On 26 June 2018, UNMISS peacekeepers providing force protection to humanitarian workers travelling from Yei to Lasu were attacked by unknown gunmen from a nearby forest and UNMISS returned fire. One peacekeeper was shot during the incident and died from his injuries shortly afterwards. My Special Representative followed up, separately, with the Transitional Government of National Unity and SPLM/A-IO officials. Both expressed condolences for the Mission's loss. In addition, the Minister for Defence, Kuol Manyang Juuk, attributed the attack to armed villagers. Meanwhile, in a statement issued on 27 June 2018, the SPLM/A-IO noted its policy of allowing access to UNMISS escorts in its areas of control and called on the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism to investigate the incident.

Progress towards a viable peace process

The IGAD Council of Ministers held its 62nd extraordinary session in Addis Ababa on 31 May 2018 to consider progress on the revitalization of the peace agreement and to outline the way forward. The Council of Ministers endorsed a revised bridging proposal on the outstanding governance and security issues and authorized a last round of intensive interlinked consultations with the parties to identify possible compromises and build consensus on the bridging proposal. The Council of Ministers also recommended that the Chair of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government consult the Assembly on the convening of an extraordinary summit and a face-to-face meeting between the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, and Riek Machar before the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to be held on 1 and 2 July 2018.

In line with the IGAD road map, the parties convened in Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 June 2018 for intensive interlinked consultations to consider the revised bridging proposal. The consultations, however, concluded without consensus, despite efforts by the parties to close the wide differences between them. A series of bilateral consultations were then undertaken by IGAD member States in support of the convening of a face-to-face meeting between the President of South Sudan and Mr. Machar, which took place on 20 June 2018, under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed.

Thereafter, IGAD held its 32nd extraordinary summit of IGAD Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa on 21 June 2018, and endorsed the outcome of the work of the Council of Ministers and the high-level revitalization forum process.

The IGAD Assembly condemned in the strongest terms repeated violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement by the parties. It was decided that Kenya and the Sudan should further investigate the violation reports submitted by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism and the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and report to the next IGAD ordinary summit the appropriate targeted punitive measures to be taken.

In an effort to expeditiously finalize the process, the Assembly mandated the President of the Sudan, Omer Hassan A. Al-Bashir, to build on the face-to-face talks held between the President of South Sudan and Mr. Machar within two weeks. The talks were to focus on resolving outstanding issues on governance and security and discuss measures to rehabilitate the economy of South Sudan through bilateral cooperation between the Sudan and South Sudan. The Assembly further decided that the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, would facilitate a third round of face-to-face talks between the two leaders and report the outcome and the way forward to the next ordinary session of IGAD. Finally, the IGAD Council of Ministers was instructed to work in concert with the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan, Ismail Wais, to finalize the remaining tasks of the bridging solution in the margins of the upcoming 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

In accordance with the decision made during the IGAD summit, the parties met in Khartoum on 25 June 2018 to continue the talks. On 27 June, the President of South Sudan, Mr. Machar and representatives of the South Sudanese Opposition Alliance, SPLM-FD and other political parties signed the Khartoum Declaration of Agreement between Parties of the Conflict of South Sudan. In the five-point Khartoum declaration, the parties agreed to declare a permanent ceasefire which would enter into force 72 hours from the signing of the declaration. The permanent ceasefire would be based on the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access signed on 21 December 2017.

The parties also declared their intention to adopt security arrangements aimed at building an all-inclusive national army, and police and other security organs, and to agree on policies to disarm civilians all over the country. Within two weeks, the parties declared, they would reach an agreement on the IGAD revised bridging proposal, which envisages a pre-transition period of 120 days, followed by a transition period of 36 months.

During the transition period, the parties would prepare for and conduct open, free and fair national elections conducted on the basis of the revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan of 2015. The parties also agreed to make efforts to improve infrastructure and basic services in sectors most connected to the livelihoods of citizens. Finally, the parties agreed to rehabilitate the oil fields in Unity State for the resumption and restoration of oil production, and committed to use the petroleum proceeds to improve livelihoods and to alleviate poverty and the suffering of the South Sudanese people.

Observations

There have been credible reports of fighting taking place during the reporting period involving parties to the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access. In that regard, UNMISS has documented gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, particularly in central and southern Unity. In June 2018, my Special Representative visited locations in

southern Unity to urge the Transitional Government of National Unity and SPLM/A-IO officials on the ground to immediately cease fighting and end human rights abuses against the civilian population and to respect the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities.

As far as the peace process is concerned, IGAD, with the support of the African Union and the United Nations, has made commendable efforts to revitalize the peace agreement. Those efforts are still ongoing and the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union is expected to consider the situation in South Sudan in July 2018. Moreover, the recent progress made in Khartoum gives cause for reasonable optimism. I commend the unwavering resolve of IGAD to advance the peace process and urge the parties to continue to demonstrate the political leadership required at this critical juncture to reach a viable peace for South Sudan.

While the outcome of regional and international efforts to deliver a political settlement of the conflict is yet unclear, I must reiterate that any revitalized agreement must be inclusive, fair and sustainable. Moreover, its implementation will require the continued political engagement of the Security Council. My Special Representative for South Sudan and Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan will continue to support the peace process through their good offices, regularly engaging the leadership of the parties to the conflict, civil society and in the region.

(Signed) António **Guterres**

**Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2018 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Report of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements
Monitoring Mechanism (2018/21)**

**CTSAMM CONFIDENTIAL
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TO: The Chairman, IGAD Council of Ministers
The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM

DATE: 27 JUNE 2018

**SUBJECT: CTSAMM REPORT 2018/21 FIGHTING BETWEEN PARTIES
FROM 1 TO 27 JUNE 2018**

Your Excellencies,

Please find attached a report which summarises incidents of fighting between parties in South Sudan since 1st June 2018.



Major General Ibrahim Abduljelli
Chairman

Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

CTSAMM REPORT NUMBER 2018/21
REPORT ON FIGHTING BETWEEN PARTIES FROM 1-27 JUNE 2018

Following communications from UNSC pursuant to the United Nations Security Resolution 2418 (2018) and based on the discussion with the JMEC Chairperson, CTSAMM have undertaken to report by 30th June on whether any fighting has taken place in South Sudan involving parties to the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities since 1 June 2018.

CTSAMM, in co-operation with UNMISS, has been closely monitoring the fighting between parties in South Sudan from 1 June 2018. This report summarises incidents of fighting between parties and does not include all violations committed by parties relating to other prohibited actions as described in ARCSS and ACOH. The report does not provide attribution of responsibility for the initiation of fighting, it simply identifies those incidents which are characterised by fighting between parties.

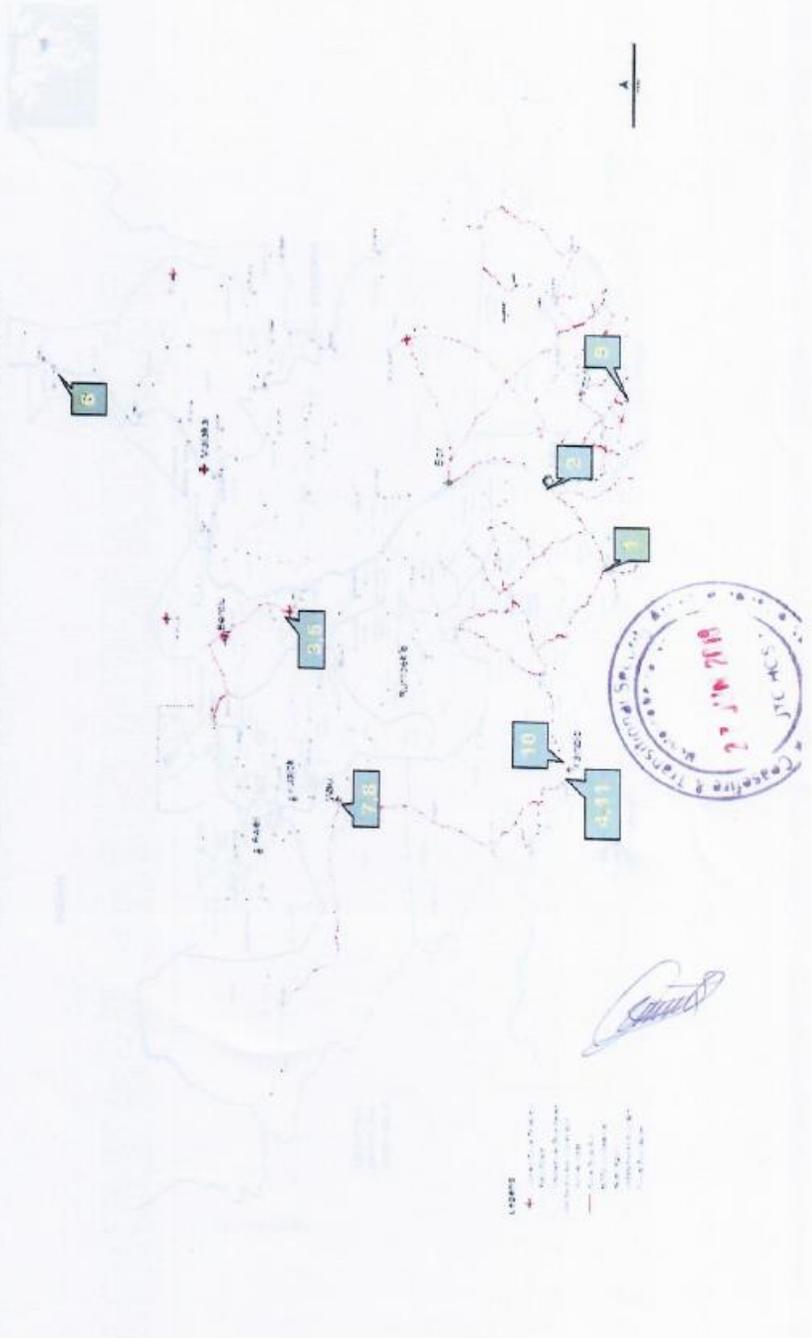
Since 1 June 2018 there have been 11 verified incidents of fighting between parties. There are 12 other potential incidents under investigation which may or may not be defined as ACOH violations. The occurrences of fighting are shown in the map at Annex A. The details of verified incidents and ongoing investigations are in Annex B. It is likely that the number of verified incidents will rise and that new incidents will arise which will also warrant investigation.



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ANNEX A TO
CTSAMM REPORT 2018/21

MAP SHOWING LOCATIONS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN PARTIES



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ANNEX B TO
CTSAMM REPORT 2018/21

Table 1 Verified Incidents of Fighting Between Parties

Serial	MVT	Date	Location/State	Incident Description	Verification Reference
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
1	Yei	01/06/18	Gogomule/C.Equatoria	SPLA-IO and SSNMC fighting leading to displacement	Report 13/06/18
2	Juba	2/6/18	Kuda/C.Equatoria	SPLA-IO ambush on SPLA. 10 killed 14 wounded.	MVT Juba Patrol Report 3/6/18
3	Bentiu/Leer	04/6/18	Rubkuay/Unity	SPLA fired on UNMISS Convoy near Rubkuay	DSR 20180604/UNMISS Report
4	Yambio	03-04/6/18	Saura/Li Rangu W.Equatoria	SPLA and SPLA-IO fighting.	DSR 20180604
5	Bentiu/Leer	08/6/18	Rubkuay/Unity	SPLA and SPLA-IO clash near Rubkuay, UNMISS patrol caught in crossfire.	SPLA Letter 8 Jun 2018
6	Malakal	06/06/18	Aradeb/UNIS	SPLA and SPLA IO clashes in Fashoda state	WSR 20180609
7	Wau	15/06/18	Baggari, WBGL	SPLA clashes with SPLA-IO	DSR 20180619
8	Wau	15/06/18	Wadhelelo/WBGL	SPLA clashes with SPLA-IO	DSR 20180619
9	Torit	17/06/18	Pogee/E.Equatoria	SPLA attack on SPLA-IO positions	SPLA-IO Letter, Telcom HQ
10	Yambio	17/06/18	Makpandu/W.Equatoria	SPLA-IO attack on SPLA Detachment	CTSAMM SPLA-IO
11	Yambio	19/06/18	Saura,Nambia/W.Equatoria	SPLA attack on SPLA-IO positions	DSR 20180607
					CTSAMM DSR 20180619/UNMISS



Table 2. Incidents of Fighting Under Investigation

Serial	MVT	Date	Location/State	Incident Description	Verification Reference/Task No
1	Yambio	1/6/18	Bazungua/W.Equatoria	SPLA-IO Ambush	YA24
2	Bentiu/Leer	05-06/6/18	Luai, Lieh, Buth/Unity	SPLA attacked villages	DSR 20180607 BE 40
3	Yambio	05/06/18	Tambura, Baragundu W.Equatoria	SPLA-IO Ambushes	YA 27
4	Bentiu/Leer	06/06/18	Gando/Unity	Armed youth affiliated to SPLA attack Villages	DSR 20180606 BE 39
5	Bunj	06/06/18	Mangok/Upper Nile	SPLA attacked Mangok, 2 civilians killed.	DSR20180608 BN24
6	Leer	12/06/18	Dabual/Unity	SPLA attack on SPLA-IO positions	BE41
7	Bentiu	14/06/18	Buaw/Unity	SPLA attack on SPLA-IO positions	BE42
8	Bentiu	19/06/18	Thonyour /Unity	SPLA attack on SPLA-IO positions	BE43
9	Torit	25/06/18	Imotong State/ E.Equatoria	SPLA attempt to attack on SPLA-IO positions	T029
10	Wau	23/06/18	Baggari,Mboro/ WBGL	SPLA attack on SPLA-IO positions	WA23
11	Yambio	21/06/18	Yambio/ W.Equatoria	SPLA-IO Hijack	YA31
12	Yei	26/06/18	Yei-Lasu/C.Equatoria	UNMISS convoy attacked, MLO killed	YE85

