



SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SPLM LEADERS (FPD)

PRESS STATEMENT
ON VIOLATION OF COH AGREEMENT OF 21ST DECEMBER, 2017

We, the SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees) condemn in the strongest terms possible the wide spread, persistent, deliberate and callous violations of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement of 21 December, 2017.

We note that each of the warring parties is blaming the other for violating the CoH Agreement while failing to acknowledge its own role and obligation in ensuring that the Agreement is observed, adhered to and that it holds, as it is only by doing so that some modicum of confidence and trust can be built to serve as a basis for meaningful discussions at the next round of HLRF talks in February, 2018.

We are particularly perturbed by the open and flagrant contempt and disregard that First Vice President (FVP) Taban Deng Gai by and indeed the regime of President Salva Kiir Mayardit is showing towards the 21st December, 2017 CoH Agreement by moving a large contingent of SSDF from Juba to Jonglei in broad daylight and in full view of all and sundry. It is appalling that the Government, through its Spokesman, Minister Michael Makuei has shamelessly come in the open to announce this violation while at the same time trying to justify it as an innocent and harmless visit by the FVP to his constituents. FVP Tana Deng Gai has never contested elective office in Jonglei, therefore has no constituents to visit in Jonglei. He is going as a state official, at the head of a combat force.

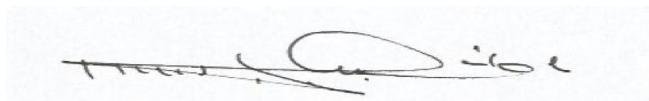
We cannot accept that FVP Taban Deng Gai can be allowed to violate the terms of CoH, move troops and war equipment and indeed conduct warfare with impunity; neither can we accept that the FVP can use the troops and other resources of the Government while the rest of the Government holds itself absolved of responsibility. Whether as a signatory to the CoH Agreement in his own right (SPLM-IO/Taban) or as part of TGoNU, FVP Taban Deng Gai is bound by the terms of the Agreement and should be held responsible for its violation as required by the terms of that Agreement.

Therefore, we urge the IGAD mediators, the Guarantors and witnesses of the 21st December, 2017 CoH Agreement to prevail on FVP Taban Deng Gai and indeed on the Government of President Salva Kiir Mayardit to immediately halt movement of the contingent of battle ready troops that has been moved into Jonglei recently with the intention of attacking and capturing Akobo and

surrounding areas. We further urge CTSSAM to investigate any reported violation as soon as it is reported rather than waiting for days, weeks or even months before doing it. In the event of one or more of the warring parties denying access to CTSAMM, this should be publicly made known as well as be reported to all other interested parties including the mediators, guarantors and witnesses of ARCSS.

We urge JMEC to make public the findings of CTSAMM investigations immediately after their submission and not to wait for another incident from an opposing party before releasing such findings. Far from conveying the impression of even-handedness, delaying release of CTSAMM investigation until a balancing act has been committed by the other party represents no more than a nuisance message and sends the unfortunate message of comparing a mountain to a molehill, thereby encouraging impunity.

Finally, we urge JMEC to prod IGAD and the Guarantors of ARCSS as a whole to sanction those who violate the CoH Agreement of 21st December, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kosti Manibe', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Kosti Manibe
For/ SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees)
15th January, 2018.