



**Press Release**  
**Response to the Allegation made by Amnesty International**  
**Regarding the use of Chemical Weapons**  
**In Darfur Region**

1-Cognizant of its responsibilities towards its populations, and in respect to its commitments as a member of the OPCW since 1998, its principles and objectives, the government of the Sudan established a National Fact Finding Committee to examine the allegations made by Amnesty International about the use of chemical weapons in Darfur region (Jebel Marra). The Sudanese National Committee started its work on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2016.

2-The Committee is composed of the following Sudanese departments:

- The Sudanese National Authority for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons NAPCW
- The Federal Ministry of Health
- The National Chemical Laboratories
- Criminal Investigation Department – Ministry of Interior.

Some of the committee members were trained by the OPCW. The committee visited North, South and Central areas of Jabel Marra, including the village of Fonga, Jaldo, Golo and Sharnoq. It interviewed citizens in the area and listened to their testimonies which confirmed that nobody was affected by chemical weapons and that there is no proof of any use of chemical weapons in Jabel Marra area as claimed by Amnesty International.

3-In this regard the Sudanese Embassy in the Netherlands would like to make the following clarifications:

A- Sudan's reaffirms its full commitment to the principles and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention CWC and its full cooperation with the OPCW.

B. Sudan is member state of the OPCW since 1998, throughout its history Sudan did not use, possess or fabricate chemical weapons. This information is ascertained by all the reports of the OPCW about Sudan, the most recent one is the report on June 2016.

C. Credible testimonies and statements strongly denies the allegations circulated by Amnesty International among this is the statement made by Mr. Martin Ihoegian Uhomoibhi Head of UNAMID mission, who made the following clarification:

- “Nonetheless, UNAMID has been requested to shed light on the claims in the Amnesty International’s report and the facts are as follows:
- In spite of the almost 20,000 UNAMID personnel on the ground in Darfur, none of them has seen any Darfuri with the impact of the use of chemical weapons as described by Amnesty International’s report.
- Not one displaced person meeting such description has shown up at any UNAMID Team Site clinics where they would have naturally gone for help.
- Amnesty International claimed to have made calls into Jebel Marra but did not for once call any of the almost 20,000 UN personnel all over Darfur, including in places like Sortony and Nertiti within a stone throw from the places where chemical weapons were reported to have been used.
- Not one among the leadership of the Armed Movements in Darfur discussed use of chemical weapons with me or my Deputy during several meetings spanning January, April, May, July, August and September this Year”

4- It should also be noted that UNAMID submitted several reports to the UN Security Council over the past years on the situation in Darfur, none of the reports indicated any use of chemical weapons in Darfur.

5- It worth mentioning that Darfur witnessed several visits of officials such as: the visit by US special envoy to Sudan last month in addition to visits by UNICEF and the World Food Program WFP to the same area and there were no indication of the presence or use of chemical weapons in Darfur.

6- These allegations came at a time when Darfur is witnessing considerable stability after the efforts undertaken by the government and same regional and international partners.

7- The allegations of use of chemical weapons by Sudanese Armed Forces are baseless and fabricated. The testimonies of the Head of UNAMID, H.E. Mr. Martin Ulomoibhi Quoted above (No. 3), is a crystal clear evidence from the ground that these allegations are unfounded.

8-In this regard, it worth maintaining that in 1998, the Shifa Pharmaceutical Factory in Khartoum was bombed and completely destroyed based on inaccurate and false information. Later on the Government of Sudan was eventually cleared and the owner of the factory was compensated. Such serious and unfounded accusations, like those of Amnesty International, are damaging and should be ignored.