## Press Release

An unjustified media escalation and unfounded information accompanied the incident that took place in El Geneina town in West Darfur beginning of January 2016 In this regard the Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan wishes to provide the following clarification:

The events began after a dispute between a limited number of shepherds which resulted in the death of one of the shepherds in the village (Molly). The relatives of the victim accused some persons in a neighboring village with the crime of murder and they reported to the competent authorities in the area. The governor took an immediate action and interfered to contain the conflict and to avoid any escalation, he went with a delegation with an intention to mediate between the two conflicting villagers, but due to the prevailing environment of tension and confusion the mediation delegation was attacked by some armed group. Two persons were killed but the governor the other accompanying persons survived that accident.

The escalation continued due to the intervention of the rebel armed group and resulted in burning of the house of the governor and other government office.

The government of the state made great efforts to contain the events, an investigation committee was formed to investigate the causes of the events and submit a detailed report about it, the committee includes state officials and the members of the legislative Council.

The Sudanese National Commission for Human Rights sent a committee to El Geneina town to collect information about the incident in order to prepare a report on the events, moreover the Commission issued a statement in which it stressed the importance of conducting an immediate investigation to identify those who are responsible for the damaging events.

The Minister of Federal Government Chamber made a press statement about the event of El Geneina , he qualified the events as isolated incident that were exploited by some people with bad intention. The Minister further stressed that investigation is going on and that any delinquency that prove to have happened from any person will be accounted for. The Minster further stressed the importance of the role played by civil administration together with all the components of the civil society, and he disclosed that a conference for civil administration will be held with the aim of promoting coordination between civil administration and the state government to ensure that such events will not happen in the future.

The Embassy of the Republic of Sudan would like to confirm the determination of the Government of the Republic of Sudan to: strengthen the rule of law in all parts of Sudan; promote stability, development and peace. The Embassy also stresses on the government's efforts to achieve National Reconciliation through inclusive and comprehensive dialogue.

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