

PRESS RELEASE ON THE ALLEGATIONS BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN DARFUR

The Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan in the Hague is surprised by the report of Amnesty International containing allegations of use of chemical weapons in Darfur. The timing of the release of the report raises questions because it comes at the time of the official declaration of the end of conflict in Darfur that erupted in 2003. The report also comes at the time when people of Sudan were celebrating the conclusion of the tenure of Darfur Transitional Authority which was mandated since 2011 with the implementation of Doha Peace Agreement. The report is utterly unfounded, is released at a time when the Government of Sudan is engaged with all partners and concerned countries to take more steps to consolidate peace and stability in all parts of Sudan.

Sudan is party to the International Convention on Prohibition of Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons since 1998 Sudan is by no means in possession of any type of chemical weapons. Sudan's industrial facilities, military and civil, are all open to the verification of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The United Nations African Union Hybrid Force in Darfur deployed in the region since 2007 . UNAMID comprises 17500 troops and personnel to monitor all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the entire region of Darfur. So far and during this year it has submitted around 5 reports to the Security Council of the United Nations, not including a single reference to such allegations which Amnesty International stands to clarify. Likewise, the Special Envoys to Sudan, including the US Special Envoy have enjoyed up to date unfettered access to all areas in Darfur.

The allegations of use of chemical weapons by Sudanese Armed Forces is baseless and fabricated. The ultimate objective of such wild accusation, is to stir confusion in the on-going processes which aim at deepening peace and stability and enhancing economic development and social cohesion in Sudan.

It worth mentioning that in 1998 the Shifa Pharmaceutical Factory in Khartoum was bombed and completely destroyed based on inaccurate

and false intelligence information. Later on, the Government of Sudan was eventually cleared and the owner of the factory was compensated. Such serious and unfounded accusations are damaging and should be ignored.

The Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan in the Hague would like to reaffirm its commitments to the Chemical Weapons Convention and its full cooperation with the OPCW.

29.9.2016