



Press Release

On the 9th of October, 2016 the Joint Special Representative of the African Union and the United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and Head of UNAMID H.E. Mr. Martin Uhomoibhi issued a statement to the media on peace in Darfur. The statement covered, inter alia, the allegations by Amnesty International on the use of chemical weapons in Darfur. He stated, inter alia, quote:-

- "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."

End of quote

The quoted points are crystal-clear evidence from the ground that refutes the unfounded and baseless allegations by Amnesty International. It is hoped that this statement will put the issue of the spurious allegations of use of chemical weapons in Darfur to an eternal rest.

New York, October 14, 2016

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- "I met with Abdul Wahid in Paris, where he resides on July 11; upon my request he agreed to hold a meeting of the Sudan Liberation Army leadership cadres in mid-September of this year to consider joining the peace process. He asked for UNAMID's assistance. I agreed to assist but asked for a formal written letter to process the request. He agreed to write immediately but till date, has failed to do so in spite of my writing two reminders."
- "I would like to use this opportunity to call on all members of the United Nations and respective Special Envoys of influential countries to exert necessary pressure on the Sudan Liberations Army/ Abdul Wahid, to join the peace process."

End of quote

The quoted statement clearly shows the unapathy of Abdul Wahid about the suffering of the people he claims to fight for. It is hoped that the international community specially the Permanent Members of the Security Council will redouble their efforts to achieve a lasting peace in Darfur. This noble objective can only be achieved if a real concrete pressure is put on the rebel movements to join the peace process and negotiate in good faith.

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