

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 17 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With regard to the recent allegations of mass rape in Tabit village in Northern Darfur State, and in the light of the request of the United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to visit the village for a second time, I have the honour to attach herewith a press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan on 16 November 2014 (see annex).

Having brought this to your kind attention, I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman **Elnor**
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 17 November 2014 from the
Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Government of the Sudan rejects the recent media allegations regarding the rape of two hundred women by Sudanese armed forces in Tabit village, North Darfur. The Government is confident in its position and trusts its armed forces, which are highly professional and have a track record of probity. It therefore allowed the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to visit Tabit and investigate. UNAMID arrived with 15 vehicles and a number of experts representing its military, policing and civilian components. The experts spent several hours in the village, which is of limited size. UNAMID then issued a press release stating as follows:

The team spent several hours touring the village and interviewing a variety of Tabit's residents, including community leaders, ordinary men and women, teachers and students, to ascertain the veracity of the media reports. Village community leaders reiterated to UNAMID that they coexist peacefully with local military authorities in the area (...). None of those interviewed confirmed that any incident of rape took place in Tabit on the day of that media report. The team neither found any evidence nor received any information regarding the media allegations during the period in question.

Although UNAMID has denied that any rape took place, the campaign against the Sudan has continued. Its purpose is to smear the image of the State and the Army and to violate the dignity of the women of that peaceful village. It is based on a single media source, Radio Dabanga, which is affiliated with the Darfur rebels and has become notorious for its fabrications and lack of credibility. The latter have also affected UNAMID, which has complained repeatedly.

Although the Government of the Sudan allowed UNAMID to investigate in the village, it was confident that the accusations made no sense. A significant number of members of the military contingent in the village are married to local women or live with families there. It would have been impossible for all of them to turn into predatory savages intent on raping all of the women in the village. The Sudanese Government has instructed the public prosecutor for crimes in Darfur to investigate the allegations.

On 13 November 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Joint Special Representative for the African Union and the United Nations. It said that the Sudan deplored the campaign of certain international circles, including within the Security Council and the United Nations, to criminalize the country.

During the meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Joint Special Representative said that UNAMID wished to visit Tabit a second time, and that UNAMID would request permission to do so on or after Monday, 17 November 2014. The response was that once the request was submitted, UNAMID would be notified of the decision of the Sudanese Government.

After the meeting, the Sudanese Government, the United Nations and UNAMID continued to liaise. The Government's position was that UNAMID had investigated the rape allegations and stated that no cases of rape had occurred. The Government expressed its doubts as to the motivations behind the insistence that UNAMID should visit Tabit a second time.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNAMID remained in contact on the understanding that the latter would submit its request on or after Monday, 17 November 2014, and that the Ministry would notify it of a decision upon receipt of the request. However, UNAMID breached that agreement: it requested permission to visit Tabit from the state-level authorities in Darfur. It did so on Saturday, 15 November 2014, two days before the agreed date. Moreover, it did not inform the Ministry of that request, something that was also contrary to the agreement.

The UNAMID team began to travel to Tabit with the approval of the state-level authorities, without reverting to the Ministry as had been agreed.

Based on those facts, the Ministry affirms that UNAMID has reneged on its agreement and begun the visit while the matter was still being discussed by the Government and UNAMID.

The accusations of rape have sparked considerable indignation in Tabit and the surrounding villages. The locals' anger has increased the tension in the area and created significant enmity towards UNAMID owing to the shame that has sullied the reputation of the local women, who are chaste and innocent.

The security situation is ominous. Clashes and other nefarious consequences are looming, and it would be difficult and dangerous to predict the outcome. The Government of the Sudan has therefore decided not to allow UNAMID to visit the village again.

The Sudan will continue to cooperate with UNAMID in accordance with the legal terms of reference agreed between the two sides.

Date: 16 November 2014
