

# Statement

We have monitored closely the violent incidents that took place on Friday and Saturday, 6th and 7th of March 2020 at 'Tawaheen Al-Dahab market, Abu Hamad, River Nile State, north of Khartoum, Sudan', where a Sudanese citizen was killed, a number of shops and cafes were damaged and burned, and approximately 80 persons were arrested.

The incidents escalated after hundreds of citizens of this area gathered and demanded the authority to impose security control on mining sites according to a statement issued by the Executive Director of Abu Hamad district, Yahya Khaled Abdel Baset. The citizens also demanded to deport whom 'Yahya Khaled' called as the 'persons of bad behaviors' outside the district. The statement also indicated that the killed citizen has been transferred to Atbara city, due to the refusal of the locals to bury him in the district's graves.

It is claimed by another statement issued by the Sudanese Mineral Resources Company in the River Nile State that the incidents happened as a result of holding a party in one of the cafes in Abu Hamad, while different stories claimed that the party is a "gay marriage" ceremony. This led to a security chaos that was fuelled by malicious incitement from some individuals at the market. The statement concluded that all the necessary legal measures have been taken to impose the security control and evacuate what is called "persons with bad behaviors" from all mining sites.

Even though all the received news does not conclusively confirm the reasons and causes of this escalation, they are all agreed on the death of a Sudanese citizen and the refusal to bury him in the district's graves as a result of these violent incidents.

These incidents followed by published videos contain homophobic verbal and physical abuse against a person; these videos showed this person while being severely beaten by perpetrators. Consequently, a homophobic social media campaign was outspread as an incitement to kill people with different sexual orientations.

Therefore, the undersigned entities condemn all acts of violence and sabotage, and we condemn the crime of incitement and hatred violence that killed a Sudanese citizen. We argue that there are no justifications for random killing under the rule of law, and we strongly refuse any attempts to use people's gender identity and sexual orientation to serve a systematic political agenda.

We affirm the necessity of holding all those who participated or incited in the murder crime accountable. We also hold the State responsible for protecting its citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Undersigned entities:

