



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 24, 2011

The Honorable Darlene M. Harris
President
City Council of Pittsburgh
510 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Ms. Harris:

Thank you for your letter regarding the detention of Ms. Hawa Abdullah, a staff member of the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). We are also very concerned about her detention and have been working with international partners to secure her release. We believe that ensuring respect for the human rights of the Darfuri people is key to international efforts to bring about a peaceful solution of the Darfur conflict.

Both the Special Envoy for Sudan, Ambassador Princeton Lyman, and I have raised Ms. Abdullah's case on several occasions with high-level officials of the Government of Sudan. Furthermore, I have consulted with UNAMID's head, Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari, who has also pressed her case, in particular because of her status as a UNAMID employee. I will be traveling to Sudan next week, and I intend to raise her case once again.

Thank you for your interest in the rights of the Sudanese people and the future of Sudan. Please do not hesitate to contact us again if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Dane F. Smith, Jr.
Ambassador
Senior Advisor on Darfur
Office of the Special Envoy to Sudan

cc: Council Member Bruce A. Kraus
Council Member Natalia Rudiak
Council Member Douglas Shields
Council Member Patrick Dowd
Council Member William Peduto