

**Committee:** Security Council

**Agenda Item:** The Situation in Sudan and South Sudan

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## Introduction

Many different conflicts have taken place throughout the course of history, with each nation experiencing different hardships. Genocides taking place, countries being bombed to destruction, people being forced to move from their homes, and illegal invasions of lands. What the people of Sudan have been going through the past 100 years and more do not only encapsulate all of these, but even add on to the list.

The issue covering Sudan and South Sudan is a long lasting issue that covers racial and religious tensions. It all starts from the divisive policy the United Kingdom followed in colonial era with Egypt and leads to two separate nations being born after two civil wars that lasts five decades and ends with yet another civil war.

The situation in Sudan and South Sudan is a complex one, requiring deep research into the roots of the division between the people and the country's history full of coups and conflict. It must also be said here that, whilst putting an end to the conflict is of utmost importance, the issue that can't be delayed in any sort is the humanitarian aid that is required by the people of Sudan. The situation is already being described as one of the worst humanitarian crises in history, and action should be taken quickly to avoid it from getting worse.

Let us delve into the conflict in the region of Sudan.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Insurgency:** "An occasion when a group of people attempt to take control of their country by force." ("Insurgency")

**Coup d’Etat:** “Sudden defeat of a government through illegal force by a small group, often a military one.” (“Coup d’Etat”)

**Sharia Law:** “Sharia or Islamic law presents a legal system that is based on the religion of Islam.” (“Sharia law definition”)

**Genocide:** “Certain acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. Genocide is an international crime, according to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948).” (“Genocide”)

## Major Actors Involved

### Sudan

As the host nation of the current conflicts, Sudan has a long history of military coups and insurgencies, however this might be the pinnacle of its civil wars. With the army and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) clashing in the southern region of the country, the nation is in a total state of chaos and the future is unknown. It is being reported by several authorities such as the Human Rights Watch that mass killings and genocide are taking place against minorities, and the humanitarian condition is degrading each passing day.

### South Sudan

As the nation declaring its independence from Sudan in 2011, South Sudan is deeply related and dependent on the outcome of the issue. Sharing a border with Sudan on its northern part, South Sudan is mediating with both parties to manage its oil fields and ensure its economy is safe. Its internal troubles are limiting the attention on the war in the north but South Sudan can still play a role in the conflict. In the end, South Sudan was the byproduct of one of the past civil wars.

### Egypt

As a nation that has historical ties with Sudan and also sharing a border with Sudan, Egypt has deep interests in the outcome of the Sudanese conflict. It has been supporting the army primarily since the advent of the crisis, partly to its fear of a divided Sudan or one run by the RSF, wanting stability rather than conflict in its southern border. The GERD dam also plays a crucial part in Egypt's support for the army as an ally could help strengthen their position, but Egypt is mainly aiming for stability.

### United Arab Emirates

UAE's interest in Sudan is one that is backed by financial interests. Over the course of the years, UAE has made several investments into the nation's gold, agriculture, and logistics fields, leading them to make serious contacts with people in the RSF who have control over the regions. Although the UAE denies having anything to do with it, many sources and the army criticize them for supplying weaponry to the RSF. UAE's cooperation within the issue may significantly impact the outcomes.

### United States of America

The United States has been both the mediator and the punisher in the history of Sudan. When the Second Sudanese Civil War was transpiring, the US imposed heavy sanctions on extremist groups, but when 2005 arrived it served an important role in the negotiations and worked towards helping South Sudan independence. The US has also been a major benefactor in terms of humanitarian aid, helping the nation through the Darfur War. Their main interests in the upcoming debates will be counterterrorism actions in Sudan and ensuring a safe living environment.

## General Overview of the Issue

To understand the situation in Sudan and South Sudan, it is necessary to learn the events that led up to the devastation in the nations today.

### Sudanese Uprisings

The lands of Sudan were being primarily controlled by Egypt and the United Kingdom in the 1930s. The British were ruling the lands with a division strategy where the northern part of Sudan, a region with Arab majority, was in charge of Egyptian rule and the southern part being governed by Britain. This difference in nation rule combined with the demographic distribution of the north and south set the stages for future conflicts as it invited division.

After the signing of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty in 1936, the Egyptian officials were allowed into the nation once again after a long term of British rule. The importance of this event was not about Egyptians, however, as its main results was the rise of an awareness amongst “educated Sudanese elite” that their opinion was not valued, not even consulted. This was the starting point for Sudanese nationalism (“Sudan”).

The nationalist movement birthed two main opinions on independence. One of these were the Mahdists, being the successors of the Mahdi (Muhammad Ahmad), a very Islamic focused group with demands of full independence both from British and Egyptian rule (“Sudan”). Their main political and religious rivals were the Khatmiyya which was less radical in their goals and wanted to gain independence with strong ties with Egypt. The two sides forming would lead to the nation’s first two political parties.

Following the end of the Second World War, the change in the UK’s policies against colonialism set the stage for rapid developments in Sudan (“First Sudanese Civil War Erupts”). The divided northern and southern rule method was abolished. At this point, it should be pointed out that the population of northern Sudan were much more educated, knowledgeable, and their lands had better infrastructure compared to the southerners had. So, when the division was removed, it led to distrust from the south as they believed that it was not possible for themselves to be represented equally in the nation’s administration. The Juba Conference of 1947 aimed to resolve these issues, but failed by not establishing solid solutions.

As the decolonization efforts were continued, the two leading parties of National Unionist Party (NUP) and Umma Party were established, the first aligning more with Egyptian support and the second full independence. These two parties were, as expected due to the state of the two parts of the nation, were mainly representatives of the north and southerners weren't being represented. Britain and Egypt allowed for a self-governed Sudanese government and the first elections were held in 1953, the NUP emerging victorious and Ismail al-Azhari becoming the prime minister. The election did not put a stop to the disputes between pro-Egypt and pure independence fractions, and the tensions continued to rise.

In 1955, rumours that focused on the replacement of British officials with northern Sudan officials to the south and also an alleged telegram that prime minister Azhari stated to disband some of the corps in the south that had served in the Second World War, a point of pride to the southerners. Feeling that these developments would further push themselves into marginalization from the north, the southerners rebelled in what is known as the Torit Mutiny and violence took place but was eventually oppressed ("First Sudanese Civil War Erupts"). Although ending in a failure, the Torit Mutiny was the spark that set aflame the First Sudanese Civil War. Sudan officially announced its independence on January 1, 1956.

### First Sudanese Civil War (1955-1972)

The first few years of the conflict saw dispersed insurgencies from various bands across the south, in an unorganized manner, being suppressed quickly (“First Sudanese Civil War Erupts”). The point where the conflicts turned into a major civil war began in 1958, when a Brigadier General named Ibrahim Abboud organized a coup and seized power in the government. Although the leaders before him were tough on the south and aimed at it being assimilated into the north, his policies were more vicious. He wanted to arrest all political leaders in the south which led to their escape from the nation. Afterwards, he also targeted any Christian influence in the south, blaming them for the disengagement of the north and the south through history, and suppressed Christian media or commencement in any form (“First Sudanese Civil War Erupts”). Abboud himself was later overthrown as well.

The exiled politicians fought back by finding the Sudan African National Union (SANU) in 1962 to help southern Sudan for their independence. Following the foundation, one year later, an organized movement rose from previous soldiers of the southern region calling themselves the Anya-Nya, which meant “snake venom”. (“First Sudanese Civil War Erupts”). The formation of this guerilla movement was the point where the war turned bloody and many casualties would follow in the following years, mostly including civilians. The seventeen year war would have no apparent victor.

The end result was the Addis Ababa Agreement of 1972. The agreement mostly consisted of a federal structure in Sudan where although a separate southern government did exist, its authority in the ruling country was doubtful, and its independence disappeared (Johnson). Many southerners, for the reason that independence was put aside as a result of this conflict which resulted in the death of more than 500000 people, viewed the agreement as a failure. Peace was temporary.

Perhaps the most important event in the First Sudanese Civil War was the rising new president by a coup: Gaafar Mohammed el-Nimeiri.

### Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005)

During the times of peace, “in the face of deteriorating relations with both the southern Sudanese and the traditionalists of the Ummah-Mahdī grouping, Nimeiri turned increasingly to the Muslim Brotherhood for support.” (“Sudan”) The shift to Islam in a scope of this size would eventually lead Nimeiri to rule the nation in an Islamic manner, declaring Sharia law in the nation in 1983. Tensions between the north and the south were already high due to discovered oil in 1978 between the border of the governments, but now it had reached the point of no return (“Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005)”).

The southerners quickly rallied and found the Southern Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) and a fight erupted. Inhumane acts began in the course of the war from day one. The war would end up in the death of over 2 million people in the region, with many atrocities and famine being reported (Center for Preventive Action).

Aside from the devastating size of the war, some of the important events that took place was the, yet again, another coup taking place that saw Nimeiri fall from reign and prime minister Sadiq al-Mahdi rose. His government and the SPLA was open to dialogue over the course of the war, however the ceasefires sometimes agreed by the parties failed constantly. The declaration of the Sharia law was also abolished by Mahdi. Then, Mahdi is overthrown by General Omar al-Bashir, in whose time tensions peak with Egypt due to an alleged assassination being blamed on Sudan and US missile attacks take place in regions suspected of chemical weapons (“Sudan profile - Timeline”).



The conflict eventually resulted in peace through the Machakos Protocol in 2002 and afterwards the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, in which the people of the southern Sudan were finally promised, or at least shown a way, for independence. The agreement stated that there would be a transition period where there would be an interim government for six years. After the six years, referendums would take place in the south to vote for independence or unity with northern Sudan ("Agreements between the Government of Sudan and SPLM/A."). Being a massive point of victory for the people demanding representation for southern regions of Sudan, the agreement proved crucial for peace between the two regions of Sudan. Despite all the fighting that took place over the course of 50 years, Sudan's problems were still only just beginning.

### The Darfur War (2003-2020)

Whilst the people that felt underrepresented in the south were promised liberty, the people in the west were not. Being a region with a non-Arab majority, insurgency once again rose in the nation, this time in the west. People protested peacefully but were met with violence. The government under Bashir sent out equipped Arab Militias – united under the name of Janjaweed – to put an end to their voices ("Sudan"). What followed was terror. People were killed, displaced from their homes, and left in need of humanitarian assistance. That required assistance was blockaded by the militias to reach the people, leading to deaths by famine and sicknesses. Over 2 million people were displaced as a result of the crisis and hundred thousands died. Formed ceasefire agreements were broken, signed peace treaties were not abided by.



During these events, the international community acted as well. The International Criminal Court (ICC) launched an investigation to prosecute Bashir and just after one year of investigations in 2009, he was found guilty of war crimes against the people in Darfur. Arrest warrants were issued on him. Although the international community's stance was clear, Bashir was still very popular in Sudan, managing to get reelected into the government. The first referendums were held in South Sudan as well and, even if the secession was not entirely peaceful and conflicts over the border arose, it was in 2011 that South Sudan saw its independence.

During the times of the Darfur War, many more crises took place as well that can't be mentioned here to keep brief. Some conflicts that can be mentioned are the National Congress Party threatening split from the government in 2013, the investigations dropping due to lack of support from UNSC, Bashir being reelected for another 5 years in 2015, and tensions rising in the government due to rising costs, media censorship, and arrests on opposing politicians. ("Sudan profile - Timeline")

### Fall of Bashir and Current Conflict (2019 - )

After three long decades of being president and committing many acts, Bashir was overthrown by a military coup in 2019. First a "joint military-civilian government" was established but afterwards "that was overthrown in another coup in October 2021." ("Sudan profile - Timeline") The coup in 2021 is the coup responsible for the current situation in Sudan. The two people organizing the coup were Abdel Fattah al-Burhan (head of armed forces and country's president) and Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo (head of Rapid Support Forces) ("Sudan Profile - Timeline"). They successfully organized a coup but then disagreed on the ways to rule the nation, which resulted in a war between the two of them. The current distribution of lands in the nation can be seen in the image below.



Image 1: Current Distribution of Forces in Sudan (“Sudan profile - Timeline”)

With RSF in the southwest and the army in the southeast, the country is now in a total civil war once again. The event has been prominent in social media in the last couple of months as well, with displays of mass killings taking place in cities by forces of both sides, a total sense of fear overtaking those in the nation. There are all around accusations toward the RSF for committing genocide toward non-Arab groups and humanitarian situation is getting worse every day, famine spreading wide and civilian running away from the nation. Sanctions are imposed on by parties like the US on the RSF, condemnation is widespread amongst the international community. The only lacking thing is the means for a solution that will solve Sudan’s issues for once and all.

## Timeline of Important Events

Date:	Event:
1947	The Juba Conference takes place.

1955	The Torit Mutiny occurs, southerners demand more representation. Start of the First Sudanese Civil War.
1 January 1956	Sudan officially declares independence.
25 May 1969	Nimeiri organizes a coup successfully and takes charge of the government.
1972	The Addis Ababa Agreement is signed, putting a stop to the First Sudanese Civil War.
1978	Oil is discovered in the southern regions of Sudan, leading to rising tensions.
1983	Nimeiri imposes Sharia law, leading to protests from the south and the beginning of the Second Sudanese Civil War.
1989	Omar al-Bashir takes charge with a coup.
20 July 2002	The Machakos Protocol is signed by the parties.
2004	The conflict in Darfur begins.
9 January 2005	The Comprehensive Peace Agreement is signed, effectively ending the Second Sudanese Civil War.
9 July 2011	South Sudan is officially independent.
2019	Bashir is overthrown after a military coup.
2021	Burhan and Dagalo organize a coup and dissolve the civilian government.
2023	Burhan and Dagalo fall into disagreement, and their respective forces commence violence.

## Related Documents

### [S/RES/2736](#)

One of the latest resolutions that the UNSC has passed on the issue. Contains demands against the RSF, calls for a ceasefire, and encourages peace processes.

### [Machakos Protocol](#)

The document that granted and gave right to South Sudan independence. It can prove crucial once again in solving the current situation.

## Past Solution Attempts

Humanitarian aid has been failing in Sudan for many years and it is a reason that the crisis is at such a high stake. Untrustworthy governments, or more truthfully military organizations, have been using the transportation of aid to their benefits to draw up costs, benefit from the additional supply of food and medicine, while the people actually in desperate need were rid of the supply. Old ways of delivering aid must be abandoned and a new, safe method must be developed, possibly with the UN intervening, to deliver aid.

Lack of foreign intervention has also been driving the crisis, not military intervention though. The international organs such as the European Union have been considering the situation as a means of advantage to themselves to prevent migration surge. The international community needs to be more knowledgeable and active in the crisis to prevent it from becoming a greater one, through encouraging dialogue and willingness to contribute in any means to accomplish peace. The countries need to change their approach.

Military coups are quite clearly not the solution for Sudan, and only lead to more future suffering. It must be ensured by the authorities willing to settle for peace in Sudan, from all Member States in the UN, and all foreign actors that the new solution will result in the establishment of a civilian government.

## Possible Solutions

One possible solution to temporarily pause the conflict within Sudan can be to establish a UN controlled and operated buffer zone between the RSF controlled territories and army controlled ones. This solution would prevent the violence between the forces from spreading wider and possibly allow for humanitarian aid to be delivered safely to those needing it. Two questions to think about if such a solution is to be implemented would be the operation of such a border and what precaution should be taken prior, and until what goal has been reached the buffer zone will stay operative.

Another, but more controversial, solution would be to push a two-state or independent government in Sudan. The nation has already split up into two over racial and ethnic tensions once in its history, it might be time for a second split for reasons of politics. Whilst this solution would solve the violence temporarily once again, it does not promise long lasting peace and still bears the questions of how lands will be distributed, a major question that was also asked during the South Sudan split.

The final solution idea is more focused on humanitarian aid. It must be ensured that strict sanctions and prosecution must be in place, nationally or internationally, for those committing war crimes and preventing aid from being delivered. This aim can be achieved by either establishing a UN taskforce in the nation to monitor such cases and reach a decision or trusting the establishments in the nation, which brings the question of which sides' organizations.

While these are all solution ideas, all of them have their cons as well. The reason the situation has been going on for this long is due to the complexity and the amount of levels to the issue. Past conflicts, racial divisions, humanitarian crimes, active fighting... The list goes on and it all adds in a negative way to reach the solution. No matter what way, dialogue is necessary between the parties. To achieve a long lasting peace, all sides of the argument must be addressed.

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