Security Council

The situation in Sudan

Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2023

"let us sing songs of freedom together"

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The situation in Sudan

Position: President

Introduction

The ongoing crisis in Sudan is one of great importance and global significance. Not only does it reflect an ongoing issue in much of Northern Africa and the Middle East, but on greater themes such as independence, identity and religious conflict. For the purposes of this research report, and to avoid confusion, the land above South Sudan will be called North Sudan. Although North Sudan's official title is solely Sudan, hopefully this distinction will provide clarity when following along with the report.

Having gained Independence in 2011, South Sudan has been in conflict with North Sudan over factors such as oil revenue sharing, border disputes, religious differences and unsettled, outstanding issues regarding the secession. When these countries were unified, they underwent two civil wars, both regarding the autonomy and civil rights of the mainly African Christian and Animist South, who were under the government in the North who were predominantly Arab-Muslims.

Definition of Key Terms

Sudan: A country in North-East Africa. Once unified with Egypt, the nation above it, it underwent a transfer where The United Kingdom colonised the country, separating it from Egypt. It has many different ethnicities, including Arabs in the North, and a plethora of African groups in the South (both predominantly, respectively). There are many African ethnicities in the South with different languages and practices, some Christian and some Animist. With Christianity and Animism being minority religions in Sudan, these groups underwent severe persecution.

Second Sudanese Civil War: a decades-long conflict between the northern Sudanese government and southern rebels, resulting in South Sudan's eventual secession.

Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA): the 2005 agreement that ended the Second Sudanese Civil War, leading to South Sudan's independence. From this one can see how the second civil war was the start of South Sudan's road to independence.

Darfur Conflict:

A protracted conflict in the western region of Darfur, characterised by ethnic and tribal tensions, displacement, and violence. A number of crimes against humanity have been recorded here.

Janjaweed:

Arab militia accused of committing atrocities in Darfur, allegedly with support from the Sudanese government (North).

Abyei:

A disputed border region between Sudan and South Sudan, with significant ethnic and political tensions.

South Kordofan and Blue Nile:

States east of the Abyei border region that are in Sudan's border region with South Sudan. It has been affected by conflict involving the SPLM-N

SPLM-N (Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North):

A rebel group that has been active in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, seeking greater autonomy and representation.

SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army):

The armed wing of the SPLM, which fought for the secession and autonomy of South Sudan during the Second Sudanese Civil War. It was founded by John Garang

John Garang:

a key figure in the Second Sudanese Civil War, founder of the SPLA and SPLM. He was an advocate for the South Sudan secession before his death in 2005, when his plane was shot down. In protests today, his face is a common sight to be seen on protest posters. He serves as a symbol of the South Sudanese people and their rights.

Omar al-Bashir:

The former president of Sudan who ruled for nearly three decades until his ousting in 2019. He's amongst one of the longest African presidents to have been in power. He faced international accusations of war crimes.

NCP (National Congress Party):

The political party of Sudan's former president, Omar al-Bashir, known for its authoritarian rule.

Transitional Government:

The government established after the ousting of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019, comprising both civilian and military leaders.

Sudanese Professional Association:

A key group leading protests against the Bashir regime and advocating for democratic reforms.

Khartoum:

The capital and largest city of Sudan, where political decisions and negotiations often take place. However during the conflicts between Sudan and South Sudan, negotiations took place in other African countries such as Ethiopia and Nigeria, noticeably both predominantly Christian, done to ensure a space for free speech for the minority Christians from South Sudan.

Juba:

The newly formed capital of South Sudan.

General Overview

It's important to note that while in the West Muslim minorities are often persecuted against, there are actually many indigenous Christian minorities in both Africa and the Middle East that are similarly persecuted against. For example, in the past many countries had a "Jizya", which was a tax imposed solely on Christians, so if Christian's converted, they would not need to pay this, which was especially helpful in a poor economic situation. This shows an example of how Christians and Animists were treated before South Sudan seceded, and perhaps is one of the reasons they felt persecuted against.

The situation in Sudan comprises many events including the Darfur Conflict, the First and Second Civil War, and the conflicts in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Below, there is a timeline summarising them.

Timeline of Events

Pre-20th Century:

- **19th Century:** The region now known as Sudan was historically divided into several kingdoms and sultanates, including the kingdom of Funj in central Sudan, the Sultanate of Darfur in the west, and the Mahdist State, which emerged in the late 19th century under the leadership of the Mahdi, Muhammed Ahmad. The Mahdist State challenged British and Egyptian influence.

20th Century:

- **1899:** Sudan becomes a condominium, a unique form of colonial rule jointly administered by Britain and Egypt. The anglo-Egyptian Condominium Agreement established this arrangement, effectively ending the Mahdist State's rule. The condominium was characterised by dual British and Egyptian authorities.
- **1953:** Sudan gains self-government through the Self-Determination Agreement with Britain and Egypt. This agreement marked a transitional phase toward full independence, allowing sudan to have its own government while remaining under British-Egyptian control.
- **1956:** Sudan becomes an independent nation on January 1, 1956, marking the end of the Anglo-Egyptian colonial rule. Sudan sovereignty was recognized by the international community, and it embarked on a path toward self-governance.
- **1958-1971:** During this period, Sudan experiences political instability, including a series of coups and changes in government. These upheavals reflect a struggle for power and political control, contributing to the country's tumultuous history.

First Sudanese Civil War (1955-1972):

- **1955:** The First Sudanese Civil War begins when tensions erupt primarily in the south due to economic disparities, political marginalisation, and ethnic and religious differences mentioned before. The Anyanya rebel movement emerged to fight for the rights of the southern population against the central government in Khartoum.
- **1972:** The Addis Ababa Agreement end the First Civil War. Brokered in Ethiopia, it granted regional autonomy to the southern region, marking a significant milestone in the peace process.

Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005):

- **1983:** The Second Sudanese Civil War transpires when the Sudanese government, under President Gaadar Mimeiry, imposes Islamic law (Sharia) on the predominantly non-muslim south. This decision, along with political marginalisation (non-muslims not being represented in the government or in the law), economic disparities and religious tensions, ignites the conflict and started the war.
- **1991:** Dr. John Garang becomes the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, a prominent rebel group fighting for the rights of the southern population. The war sees various phases, with significant displacement and humanitarian crises.
- **2005:** The comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is signed in Naivasha, Kenya, under international mediation, ending the Second Civil War. The CPA includes provisions for a referendum on southern independence, a transitional government of national unity, and the sharing of oil revenues, the latter being a topical issue as most of Sudanese oil is located in the south, with most of the oil trade, dealings and offices existing in the north.

Post-CPA and South Sudan's Independence (2005-2011):

- **2011:** South Sudan holds a referendum on independence as stipulated in the CPA, with an overwhelming majority of voters choosing secession from North Sudan.
- **July 9, 2011:** South Sudan formally declares independence, becoming the world's newest nation, with Juba as its capital. The birth of South Sudan marks the end of a long struggle for self determination, but progenerates a plethora of new issues such border disputes and unsettled dealings between North and South.

- **September 2011:** Dispute arose over oil revenues and transit fees between North and South Sudan. This leads to a cutoff of oil production and exports, severely impacting both economies and contributing to ongoing tensions and biases.

Darfur Conflict (2003-Present):

- **2003:** In retrospect, this conflict starts during the Second Sudanese War, where Janjaweed, a North Sudanese militia group whose members are mostly recruited among Arabized indigenous Africans, committed atrocities in the Darfur regions against the non-arab population. Many of these actions are unspeakable, but some are the lighter ones are sawing off the hands of a thief, and stoning to death someone who commits adultery. This violence was unheard off and caused international alarm. The rebel groups in Darfur, such as the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army led by John Garang, took up arms against the Janjaweed and the North Sudanese government who backed them.
- **2005:** The Darfur Peace Agreement was signed in Abuja, Nigeria, but it did not lead to a lasting resolution, as several rebel groups rejected the agreement.
- **2009:** The International Criminal Court (ICC) issue an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on charges of war crimes, crime against humanity, and later, genocide. This move brought international attention to the atrocities in Darfur. The conflict continues to the present day.

Omar al-Bashir's Ouster (2019):

- **April 2019:** Protests against President Omar al-Bashir's regime escalated. The demonstrations began in December 2018, initially sparked by economic hardships and later expanding to include political grievances.
- **April 11, 2019:** Amid sustained protests and growing pressure, the Sudanese military ousted President al-Bashir from power after 30 years of authoritarian rule. His removal was followed by negotiations between the military and civilian protest leaders.

Present Day:

- Following war crimes, civil wars, dictatorships, oil crisis, religious conflicts and border discrepancies, North Sudan and South Sudan have undergone a long period of political and economic turmoil. Now that these nations have been divided it's up to the Security Council to ensure a peaceful way forward. South Sudan is still dealing with the atrocities that North Sudan committed, including genocide. While North Sudan is struggling economically after losing much of its oil revenue. Both countries are now fighting over their newly formed border, which mainly is placed on a mountain range separating the two countries, making it difficult to define a proper border.

Major Parties Involved

United States of America

The United States closely monitors the conflict between North and South Sudan due to its humanitarian concerns and geopolitical interests. THe USA has historically supported South Sudan's independence, viewing it as a step towards democracy and stability. Alternatively, their support could come from wanting further instability in the region in order to get access to oil, a tactic repeated from the Arab Spring. They have provided humanitarian aid to South Sudan and imposed sanctions on individuals involved in human rights abuses. Aside from oil, the United States has interests in the region, including counterterrorism efforts and access to the Red Sea, a major trading point.

Egypt

Egypt has a significant stake in the North-South Sudan conflict, primarily due to its geographical proximity and concerns about the Nile River. Egypt desires stability along its southern border to prevent any potential threats to its water supply, as the Nile flows through Sudan into Egypt. While Egypt historically maintained a good relationship with Sudan, it has also been cautious not to take sides in the North-South dispute. Egypt supports regional diplomacy and peace initiatives, as long as they do not undermine its own interests.

China

They have economic interests in both North and South Sudan, particularly in the oil sector. China prioritises stability for its investments and has engaged with both sides of the conflict to protect its interests. They are North and South Sudan's largest trading partner and have invested a lot in Sudanese infrastructure alongside Russia.

The United Kingdom

The UK has a historical connection to Sudan and the North-South conflict, being a formal colonial power in the region. They are concerned about human rights abuses in the region, especially considering the influx of Sudanese immigrants seeking asylum in Britain. The UK has been known for sending humanitarian aid to the area, especially after the tragedies in Darfur.

North Sudan

Sudan has sought to manage regional and ethnic divisions within its borders and address economic challenges. The Sudanese government often emphasises its sovereignty and has at times been resistant to external interference, perhaps in fear of what they'll find. Over time, it has engaged in peace talks with South Sudan and allowed for its secession in 2011. Recently Sudan has experienced political changes and is in the process of transitioning towards democracy after the death of Omar al-Bashir.

South Sudan

Having gained independence in 2011, they have stability and clarification along their northern border. They want to prevent violence spillover from internal affairs in North Sudan as well as violence between Sudan and themselves. South Sudan often looks to international partners for support in addressing the conflict and maintaining peace.

Previous Solutions

- **United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS):** In 2005, following the signing of the CPA between the Sudanese government and the SPLM/A, the United Nations established the United Nations Mission in Sudan. UNMIS was tasked with monitoring and supporting the implementation of the CPA, which included provisions related to power-sharing, wealth-sharing, and the eventual referendum on South Sudanese independence in 2011.
- **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS):** After South Sudan gained independence in 2011, the UN establshed theUNMISS. UNMISS's primary mandate is to help consolidate peace and security and to support the newly independent country in building effective institutions and addressing the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crises. The mission provides protection to civilians, monitors human rights abuses, and supports the peace process, including the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, signed in 2018.
- **UN Sanctions and Arms Embargo:** The UN Security Council has imposed sanctions and arms embargoes on individuals and entities involved in perpetuating the conflict and

obstructing peace efforts in both North and South Sudan. These measures have been used to pressure parties to engage in pace talks and comply with agreements.

Possible Solutions

- **Encouraging North and South Sudan to Collaborate:** Encouraging the nations to negotiate peacefully regarding their border by offering incentives and paid innovation in both regions.
- **Picking a Side:** Settling the border disputes by assigning different regions to either North Sudan or South Sudan based on the ethnic demographics of each area.
- **Neo-Colonialism:** Assigning the leftover oil and disputed territories to a former colonial power such as the United States of America or The United Kingdom. This may be prone to international backlash.
- **Investigating**: Sending a UN-affiliated undercover organisation to take down and bring in those who have committed war crimes during the ongoing Darfur Conflict. These individuals would be brought before the International Criminal Court.

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