

Forum: Security Council (SC)

Issue: The Situation in Sudan

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Introduction (Henri)

Sudan is a Northeast African country bordering Egypt, Libya, Chad, CAR, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Red Sea, while its north is. After a coup in 2021, two generals, one from the Sudanese army and the other from a paramilitary organization controlled Sudan, with the intention for it to be temporary and allow the country to slowly move towards democracy, however, it resulted in a power struggle between the two generals. Sudan's capital, Khartoum is located where the White Nile River and the Blue Nile River join to form the Nile River, conflicts are mainly based around this area, but there are also conflicts happening along the Nile River, in the south of Sudan, and at Port Sudan. There have been a couple of ceasefire agreements which did not particularly work, and there are still ongoing peace talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 7.6 million people have been displaced since the conflict broke out in April 2023, along with more than 13,000 killed and 26,000 injured (ACLED and Federal Ministry of Health). Some of the issues besides displacement include abuse, sexual violence, and diseases, in fact, according to UNOCHA, there have been 9700 suspected cholera cases, with 269 associated deaths by 16 January 2024. There have been decent efforts to deal with the medical situation, with 2.6 million receiving medicines and 1.8 million out-patient consultations by the end of 2023, however, it is important to acknowledge that the UN's medical support for Sudan is quite underfunded.

Definition of Key Terms (Henri)

Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

Internal displacement describes the situation in which someone is forced to flee their homes as a result to avoid conflicts, generalized violence, violation of human rights and natural disasters. With the Sudan conflict, 6.1 million people have been internally displaced.

Paramilitary forces

Paramilitary forces are unofficial forces which are organised in a way that is very similar to a military force. These forces are often connected with official armed forces and assist the official forces, it could also be understood as semi-military forces. In Sudan, one side of the conflict is the Rapid Support Force (RSF), which is a paramilitary force formerly operated by the government of Sudan. It is largely made up of the Janjaweed militias which were notoriously known for different crimes.

Refugee

A refugee is, according to the UN, someone who is forced out of their country due to war, persecution, or violence. They are usually afraid to go home due to possible dangers. Someone needs to apply for protection in the state they are going into, and if their application is approved, they would receive refugee status, they could either be settled or waiting to be settled. The 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 protocol lays out the details about what rights refugees have and how to protect them.

Asylum seeker

An asylum seeker is someone seeking protection, like a refugee, but who is not given refugee status (yet), it is important to note that a refugee always starts as an asylum seeker, however, an asylum seeker isn't necessarily a refugee.

Humanitarian ceasefire

A humanitarian ceasefire is a stopping of war for humanitarian purposes including for the UN to supply key resources to the warring regions, these ceasefires usually don't last for too long but are indeed a safer time for those who would like to leave the region and seek protection elsewhere. It requires both warring parties to agree on the time and geographic location where humanitarian activities could take place.

Resilience

Resilience refers to someone's ability to cope with unexpected changes. In this context, it could be used to measure how weak someone is to the consequences of the conflict, eg violence and diseases, being more resilient means that they are not impacted as much by the consequences. In Sudan, the least resilient are women and children, who lack the capability to protect themselves from violence.

Coup

A coup refers to suddenly and violently overthrowing a government. A coup is conducted by a small group, unlike a revolution where massive amounts of people are involved and takes a long time, it is usually done in one day or a few days usually only the leader is changed but the social and economic policies of the countries are not massively changed. Coups rarely happen in countries with strong institutions. In the Sudan case, a coup happened in 2021, led by the two generals which resulted in a power struggle in 2023, leading to the current conflict.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The International Humanitarian Law is largely contained in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, with nearly every state agreeing to be bound by them. It is a set of laws that seeks to limit the effect of conflicts for humanitarian reasons. It protects those who are not part of the conflict or those who are no longer part of the conflict. However, it is important to acknowledge that although most countries agreed to be bound by it, however, the enforcement of international laws may not be as effective, and violations often end up with just sanctions, or if there is nothing the international community can put a sanction on, more “mild” violations are barely dealt with.

Sexual violence

It is through coercion, an act directed against someone’s sexuality, any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act without one’s consent. In Sudan, sexual violence is used as a tool to terrorise, subjugate, break and punish girls and women (OHCHR). The RSF and allied militias even target certain communities, as well as just the general sexual violence they do to the less resilient population, although the RSF claims that all violence and sexual violence are to be investigated impartially, it is done halfheartedly and the situation isn’t particularly improved.

Abuse

Treating someone in a cruel and violent manner, repeatedly and regularly, causing harm and distress. This is reported to be happening in Sudan where certain ethnicities, communities or just unfortunate individuals are targeted for sexual violence, torturing, arbitration and extortion.

Acute Hunger

Acute could be taken as a synonym of intense, or extreme, it is a famine-like situation where extreme food insecurity exists. This is a situation faced by hundreds of thousands of Sudanese civilians, because either outside food aid isn’t sufficient to feed all or the food aid could not reach everyone due to conflicts.

Cholera

Spreading through contaminated water, cholera is a bacterial disease which causes dehydration and diarrhea, if not treated well, the disease could lead to death. Therefore the stable supply of sanitised water is extremely important as there have already been more than 200 of those who died from Cholera after 2023, and more will continue to die if the problem of clean water and sanitation isn't dealt with.

Background Information (Henri)

RSF and the legitimisation of RSF

RSF is a group that evolved from the "Janjaweed militia", which fought in the Darfur conflict during the 2000s, they were used by the long-ruling previous president along with the army to put down rebellion, more than 300,000 were killed in that conflict. Commanders of the militia were prosecuted by the International Court of Justice for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. The militia grew and was made into RSF in 2013, and were used as border guards at the time, in 2015, the RSF began sending troops to fight the Yemen war along with the Saudi and Emirati, and granted the status of "regular force". In 2017, a law was passed to legitimise RSF as an independent security force. This is a notorious force with roughly 100,000 troops. The RSF is currently under General Hemedti's lead.

The 2021 coup

Sudan had been ruled together by civilian groups and the military since 2019, but in October 2021, the military general Al-Burhan conducted a coup d'etat, overthrowing the existing government and dissolving the power-sharing council between the civilian group and the military, detaining many government officials, including the prime minister Hamdok. The international community soon condemned the unjustified violent behavior. Al-Burhan allied with Hemedti, the leader of RSF, to ensure the coup successfully happens. Power is shared between Al-Burhan and Hemedti afterwards, promising to carry out an election in 2023, which never happened partly because Hemedti's ambitions grew.

Power struggles between the official army and RSF

Al-Burhan and Hemedti ruled the country together since 2021, however, there are power struggles which they both wouldn't give in, it is mostly about who rules the country and therefore owns the resources. Sudan has quite some natural resources like mineral deposits including gold, uranium, iron ore etc, as well as oil.

Peace talks happening in Jeddah

After 6 months, the two warring parties met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia where the peace talks are held. The talks are steered by the Saudi government and the US, who helped broker short ceasefires, the previous talks only ended up with limited results. RSF sought autonomy for 10 years but the army wants it to dissolve in 2 years, it is quite hard to reach to a result seeing that both parties want ultimate control of the country.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (Algeria)

Algeria has been showing its concern towards the situation in Sudan, especially regarding the human and material lost during the war. Since it considers the historic ties between Sudan and its government, it called to cease fire and will keep on monitoring the situation.

The Republic of Ecuador (Ecuador)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has reported the refugees and displaced people in Ecuador. Similarly, Sudanese face displacements and lack of supplies which the council can not "remain silent. (United Nations, 2023)" It called for the allowance of humanitarian access for 24 million of people and urged the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Force (RSF) to end the conflict.

The French Republic (France)

France's relations with Sudan started the day that Sudan announced its independence, 9 July 2011. It not only acknowledged its independence, but also established the first embassy in Sudan, followed by 50 more. As the civil war in Sudan became more violent, the French embassy was the only one that was kept open in 2013 and 2016. It is lined with the European Union (EU) which supports the meditation and fair treatment of human rights. With human rights being the top priority, France believes political involvement is required to reduce the tensions of the conflict.

Co-operative Republic of Guyana (Guyana)

Guyana has been implementing legal frameworks for governance and its obligation to protect civilians' rights and domestic violence. It recognized the independence of South Sudan in 2011 and expressed its appreciation towards the effort done by the UN. With more issues to be resolved in Sudan, it will continue to support the international community under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) 2005.

State of Japan (Japan)

Japan has been maintaining a partnership with Sudan since 1956. This is because Japan believes that Sudan is one of the most significant countries to help ensure peace and stability in the African region. It helped with imposing sanctions in Sudan with the UN in both years of 1996 and 2006. Additionally, millions of funds have been given to Sudanese civilians from 2009 to 2016. The two countries are linked together by their economic relations which technology, transportation, and petroleum are major products for trading. Japan has expressed its pressure in serving as a Security Council member to help countries in need.

The Republic of Malta (Malta)

Malta has been active in Sudan for 20 years, mainly developing health systems and ensuring the rights of women and children. It improved the health conditions of the population in South Sudan and provided food and water resources in 2013. In addition, women's and children's rights were underlined by Malta to prevent human rights violations, such as sexual abuse. The ongoing war and past conflict have stressed Malta which it voiced the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), an organization under the UN, aiming to eliminate ethnic discrimination and facilitate the delivery of aid for help.

Republic of Mozambique (Mozambique)

Mozambique and Sudan have their trading relations linked together. In 2021, there was a total of \$83.9k in goods exported from Sudan to Mozambique and \$43.2k exported from Mozambique to Sudan. Even so, the amount of exported goods has decreased. Mozambique tends to help Sudan from the recovery after the war ends. It mentions that it is willing to monitor mechanisms and address the difficulties of the Sudanese.

Russia Federation (Russia)

Russia has been supporting Sudan through the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Agriculture and Food Security (FAO). These two organizations are specialized agencies that aim to provide timely support, especially on food and nutrition. Russia delivered 30 tons of food and raised 2 million dollars from 2013 to 2014. This contribution helped Sudan face the COVID-19 pandemic and internal conflict.

The Republic of Korea (Korea)

Positive relations have been established between Korea and Sudan since 1950. However, the two countries have already had commercial trade before diplomatic relations have officially been settled.

This cooperation has promoted the economy between the two countries. Many private businesses in Korea entered Sudan to expand their influence in the African region. With the successful experience, they believe their shared knowledge of cultural differences and technological development can also bring significant improvements. Promoting friendship, training, and bilateral agreements became more common which Korea provided US\$500,000 to provide essential support. The World Food Programme (WFP) has estimated a total of US\$3.5 million given to Sudan by Korea since its independence. The cash provided not only helps civilians purchase their basic needs, but also enhances the flow of funds in Sudan.

People's Republic of China (China)

The relations and interests that China had in Sudan are caused by the potential of trading oil and gaining mutual benefits. There were even Chinese that brought in arms for exchange and were in favor of purchasing oil. Sudan once held the most stable relationship with China in the African region, but China became more cautious after the stepdown of President Omar al-Bashir. The possible benefits that oil brings do help maintain solid relationships between the two countries.

The Republic of Sierra Leone (Sierra Leone)

Sierra Leone is one of the few countries that served peacekeeping missions from 1998 to 2005. It is considered the biggest success in the United Nations with two-thirds of women being peacekeepers. These peacekeepers assist in different countries which they were often arranged to Sudan. Within six years, they managed to lessen the political and military tensions, such as preparing for the presidential election. Sierra Leone does not fall in providing support and its long-term contributions have been appreciated by the United Nations.

The Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia)

Slovenia is another donor to Sudan, which allocated EUR 300,000 and participated in the mission led by the Czech Presidency of the European Union (EU). The mission was to travel to Sudan to see the reality and civilians' hopes and expectations in 2020. This is not only an experience in interviewing civilians, but also a great opportunity to speak with the UN and World Food Programme's representatives. However, the extreme weather conditions, ongoing conflict, and insufficient of food have made the process much more challenging. Slovenia has recognized the issue in Sudan since 2003 and throughout this visit, it has raised the awareness in Sudan.

The Swiss Confederation (Switzerland)

Switzerland has been focusing on the supply of humanitarian aid and peacekeeping, especially after recognizing the breakout in Khartoum. The relationship between Switzerland and Sudan was far

established in 1980 and got closer in the year of 2011. To support its ally, Switzerland has been negotiating with international organizations on the Peace Agreement for Sudan in 2005 and debating, hoping to achieve inclusive governance. In addition, it provided 5 million francs for financial support and humanitarian aid to help civilians live their lives.

United States of America (USA)

The relationship between the United States and Sudan has been unstable and hard to maintain. Since the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war in 1967, Sudan has put a bad impression on the United States which has broken their diplomatic relations. Although their relations improved after a year, it got worse as the Palestinian terrorists murdered the US Ambassador, Cleo A. Noel. Sudan was even noted as the state sponsor of terrorism by the United States when it was governed by the The National Islamic Front. Hopefully, the title was removed in 2020 while the two countries remain at peace in their relationship. Despite the fact that the relationship between the two countries did not always remain positive, the United States is still generous in providing support. For instance, it is a large donor of providing humanitarian aid and food to the civilians.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)

The United Kingdom reports the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Force (SAF) and the Rapid Support Force (RSF) happened on April 15, 2023. These two groups are led by Mohamed Hamden Dagalo and Abdel Fattah al-Burhan who are well trained and experienced men. The powerful support behind the two groups also led to 604 deaths, 730,000 displaced people, and 177,000 people became refugees. During the ongoing war, there were two sides presented in the United Kingdom which some supported the British in Sudan, and the other called to cease the fire. Nevertheless, both sides agreed to make consensus, allow humanitarian aid for civilians, and follow the International Humanitarian Law.

Timeline of Events

You must include short sentences to explain the timeline. Follow the format presented below:

Date	Description of event
January 1 1956	Sudan became Independent
June 5, 1983	Second Sudanese Civil War:

There were nearly 2 million of people killed during the Second Sudanese civil war mainly caused by religious differences and the imposition of Islamic Sharia Law.

General Omar al-Bashir became the President:

October 16, 1993 He announced himself the president and took power over Al-Bashir, the previous prime minister of Sudan.

Started Exporting Oil:

August 30, 1999 The large amount of oil discovered in Sudan makes it a potential producer which helps increase its economy and purchase weapons. However, there were Sudanese that were displaced due to the oil development, but were not able to share the benefits of it.

United Nations Sanctions towards Darfur:

March 29, 2005 The United Nations Security Council established Resolution S/RES/1591 (2005).

War in Darfur:

January 25, 2011 The war in Darfur is a governmental-led attack that has displaced 70,000 people, including Sudanese and rebel groups

Opposition of President Bashi:

April 11, 2019 President Bashi refuses to resign from his 30-year presidential seat which movements were held by Sudanese. The chief of staff decided to be involved and ordered the arrest of President Bashi.

Conflict War in Sudan:

April 15, 2023 The conflict between Sudan Armed Force (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for the States' control.

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

- Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005), 29 March 2005, S/RES/1591 (2005)
- Security Council Resolution 2579 (2021), 3 June 2021, (S/RES/2579 (2021))
- Security Council Resolution 2636 (2022), 3 June 2022, (S/RES/2636 (2022))
- General Assembly Human Rights Council, 27 July 2021 (A/HRC/48/46)
- General Assembly Human Rights Council, 8 November 2021 (A/HRC/RES/S-32/1)

Possible Solutions (Henri)

Sending UN peacekeepers. This may require a constructive talk in Jeddah, reaching a ceasefire agreement, where the UN can then send peacekeepers to ensure that conflict does not break out again. This solution should be pretty effective in stopping conflicts, however, we need to acknowledge that one of the principles of UN peacekeeping is to have both warring parties' consent and that it is still needed to figure out who makes up the governing party of Sudan.

Under international supervision, carry out a fair referendum. The referendum should allow civilians to decide which side rules Sudan, or if a new civilian government should be formed (which will very likely be the case). However, this would require an agreement beforehand that whoever isn't elected would have to give up their military power, with measures ensuring their safety after giving up their army. The army would then belong to the newly formed government. We would need to acknowledge that the two parties would also realise the high possibility of them losing power, therefore a significant compensation would have to be paid for them to accept this.

Merging the two warring parties. The two parties would be merged into a system in which none of the two generals have absolute control of the army. The new merged army could then focus on the infrastructure of Sudan instead of the military aspect because Sudan does not need as much soldiers as there is right now. Because ultimately, the two generals started war for benefits, and if they could merge, focus on the development of Sudan and both get a good share of the benefit, with different measures to ensure that no one could break the balance, it should not be too hard for both parties to accept this result.

Splitting Sudan into two countries. This would give both sides their territory, therefore both are in charge of their own country, the split could be partly based on each side's control over different regions. However if each of them is in charge of one side, it does end the conflict in the short term but doesn't necessarily mean war can't break out in the long term.

Questions for Further Research (Henri)

- How could we fund the currently underfunded UNHCR operations?
- What may be some of the difficulties other than funding with the UNHCR operations?
- What are the most urgent needs for refugees?
- Who has higher risks and what can we do about these people?
- Which resources does Sudan lack most? What are the reasons?

- What are some violations of human rights?
- How can we continue education for Sudanese children?
- How might we rebuild after the conflict?

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