

FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Addressing the Sudanese civil war with regard to stability in the neighboring regions



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President and Deputy
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Date:



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Introducing Your Chairs	3
An Introduction To The Topic	4
Definition of Key Terms	5
A General Overview of the Issue	7
Historical Background	9
Major Parties Involved	11
Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue	12
Possible Solutions For The Issue	13
Timeline Of Key Events	14

Introducing Your Chairs

Hi :)

My name is Sam van Hoof. I am 18 years old. I graduated from the Lorentz Lyceum Arnhem last year and I'm currently in a break year, hoping to start Mechanical Engineering at the University of Twente next year.

As I have a lot of free time on my hands now, my hobbies are reasonably extensive. Throughout a normal week I have band practice twice (I play the bass), training once (Krav Maga), Scouting for basically the entirety of Saturday, and 2 to 4 workdays. Next to all these things, my favorite activity is riding around on Bob, my 50cc Cafe Racer. (Fun fact: Bob was named by Bente)

My MUN experience is quite extensive, although not as extensive as Bente's. My first MUN was in 2020, at the Rivers international school in Arnhem. The second one was a full year later, at an MUN held for students of our school, where I was a chair. After that chairing experience, I fell in love with MUNs and decided to join the OC for LmunA the following year. As OC member I have helped to organise 2 MUNs, both as part of the finance department. In total, I have been a delegate 4 times, a chair 3 times and OC once, organising two MUNs. I'd say there is enough experience between Bente and I to help you along during debate and around the conference.

An Introduction To The Topic

Addressing the Sudanese civil war with regard to stability in the neighboring regions

Sudan is a country in the north-eastern part of Africa. For a long time, the country has been tormented by civil conflicts. Multiple civil wars and internal conflicts have been going on since 1955, and are still going on to this day.

The first Sudanese civil war started in 1955 and lasted till 1972. The conflict was between the northern part of Sudan and the Southern Sudan region. In the conflict, the Southern Sudan region demanded representation and more regional autonomy. Although the Addis Ababa Agreement ended this first war, tensions arose again in 1983.

The second Sudanese civil war lasted from 1983 till 2005. The breakdown of the Addis Ababa Agreement resulted in the reigniting of the north-south conflict. This war, being the longest on record, originated in Southern Sudan and spread to the Nuba mountains and the Blue Nile. Multiple peace agreements resulted in the ending of the war. 6 years after the war ended, South Sudan became independent as a result.

Between the 15th of December 2013 and the 22nd of February 2020, there was yet another civil war, this time in South Sudan. President Salva Kiir Mayardit accused 11 people of attempting a coup d'état. After fleeing, one of the 11 people, Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon, led the Sudan People's Liberation - In Opposition. The civil war was ignited when the SPLM - IO started fighting the SPLM.

Currently there is still war going on in Sudan. A war between the Sudanese Armed Forces, under the lead of Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, under the lead of Hemedti, both rival factions of Sudan's government, started on the 15th of April 2023, during Ramadan. Although this war has not yet been going on for a year, uncountable amounts of people have been killed, internally displaced or made refugees.

Surrounding countries feel the effects of and are involved in the war. Egypt has military involvement. Egyptian military forces are said to be involved in airstrikes on RSF troops in Port Sudan. Next to this, Egyptian special forces have been deployed to provide intelligence and tactical support to the SAF.

Many surrounding countries are experiencing economic hardships due to displaced people fleeing into the countries. As of the 29th of December 2023, over 5.8 million people were internally displaced and more than 1.5 million others had become refugees, fleeing to surrounding countries.

Definition of Key Terms

Addis Ababa Agreement or Addis Ababa Accord

The Addis Ababa Agreement was a set of compromises made to end the First Sudanese Civil War. Direct negotiations between the Sudanese government and the SSLM were held in order to address and appease the concerns of the liberation and secession of southern Sudan. The agreement established the southern Sudan region as an autonomous region. The Agreement did, however, fall when in 1983 president Gaafar Nimeiry declared the country an Islamic state, forcing the non-Islamic majority in the southern region. The Second Sudanese Civil War was hereby initiated.

Anyanya

The Anyanya were a separatist rebel army from the southern Sudanese region formed during the First Sudanese Civil War. This group was considered the Anyanya I, the Anyanya II movement rose during the Second Sudanese Civil War. The Anyanya were founded in 1963, as the tribes from the southern Sudan region fought the Sudanese government. The Anyanya II started to fight again when the Addis Ababa Agreement fell apart. They were eventually defeated by the SPLM.

South Sudan Liberation Movement or SSLM

The South Sudan Liberation Movement is an armed group operating in the Upper Nile region of South Sudan.

Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army or SPLM/A

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement is a political party in South Sudan first made to be the political wing of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The SPLM has representation in the government of Sudan and was one of the main constituents in the government of South Sudan.

Sudan People's Liberation Movement - in opposition or SPLM - IO

The SPLM - IO, also known as the Anti-Government Forces (AGF), is a political party that split off from the SPLM. Their ideologies align with the SPLM, but they are more representative of the Nuer group. The SPLM - IO is a more rebel group

Sudanese Armed Forces or SAF


The Sudanese Armed Forces are the military forces of Sudan.

Rapid Support Forces or RSF

The Rapid Support Forces are a paramilitary group made up of the Janjaweed militias. The RSF fought on behalf of the Government of Sudan. Their actions in the war in Darfur are considered crimes against humanity.

Sudan Liberation Movement or SLM

The Sudan Liberation Movement is a Sudanese rebel group active in the Darfur region.



Justice and Equality Movement or JEM

The Justice and Equality Movement is an opposition group in Sudan. They want radical and comprehensive constitutional reform in order to create a greater share of power for the regions in ruling the country.

2023 Masalit massacres

The 2023 Masalit massacres are part of the war crimes committed during the war in Sudan. The massacres consist of the Geneina massacre, the Misterei massacre and the Ardamata massacre.

A General Overview of the Issue

As many civil wars in Sudan have passed, a civil war is still going on to this day. On the 15th of April 2023, during Ramadan, a war started between the SAF, led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary RSF, led by Hemedti. Both factions are rivals to the government of Sudan.


The RSF began attacks on government sites. Airstrikes, artillery and gunfire were reported across Sudan. The cities of Khartoum and Omdurman were divided between the two warring factions, and al-Burhan relocated his government to Port Sudan.

During a stalemate, after a treaty to ceasefire failed, both factions were joined by rebel groups. Around mid-November, the factions led by Minni Minnawi and Mustafa Tambour joined the fight alongside the SAF. The JEM joined the fight alongside them as well. The Tamazuj group joined forces with the RSF, while the al-Hilu faction of the SPLM - North made attacks on SAF forces in the south of Sudan.

In Darfur, the 2023 Masalit Massacres changed the course of the battle multiple times. In the end of May, the Misterei massacre took place. 300 RSF fighters, supported by allied tribes, surrounded the town of Misterei. Come sunrise, attacks started from the west, and continued from the north and south. Self-defense groups in the town were spread out thin, and there was no way out. Fights went on for 3.5 hours, where RSF and allies went from door to door, killing civilians. The wounded were brought to the mosque, which was later stormed by Janjaweed fighters, who shot at the wounded and their caregivers.

The Geneina massacres consist of multiple events. On the 13th of July 2023, a UN investigation found a mass grave, containing 87 individuals, allegedly killed by RSF troops. On the 19th and 20th of June 2023, several high standing people were killed in attacks by the RSF. Refugee camps were besieged by RSF troops. By the end of the 20th, all makeshift shelters and refugee camps were burned down by the RSF. Villages, neighbourhoods and cultural sights were also destroyed. On the 22nd of June, the Dar Masalit Sultanate made a statement that over 5,000 civilians had been killed in attacks between the 24th of April and the 24th of June. Footage emerged of bodies being used as barricades, strewn across the streets. The RSF also attacked refugees on their way to Chad. All who are walking are in danger of being shot by RSF troops. A refugee stated that "the road along El Geneina and Adré has a lot of bodies, nobody can count them".

In October, the momentum began to shift towards the RSF again. The RSF defeated army forces in Darfur, and made great gains in territory. On November 8th, RSF forces, alongside Janjaweed, massacred an estimated 800 to 1,300 civilians. These attacks happened when the SAF's 15th Infantry Division Camp retreated to the neighbouring country Chad. About 20,000 more refugees fled to Chad as well, as a result of the violence. All massacres point to racial and ethnic targeting, with the main targeted group being the Masalit community.



With pressure from foreign governments and right groups the SAF and RSF agreed to let negotiations led by the USA and Saudi Arabia continue in late October. Both factions have however not upheld ceasefires in the past. Foreign governments, humanitarian groups and international organizations call for a cease of the crimes against humanity being committed and access for humanitarian aid. Although there have not been any results yielded in establishing a ceasefire, the Saudi Press Agency reported that both sides reaffirmed past agreements to improve humanitarian access.

Surrounding countries are affected by the war going on in Sudan. The conflict has already killed more than 10,000 people and displaced 5.6 million. About 80% are internally displaced, seeking refuge in parts of Sudan that are less dangerous than their hometowns. Hundreds of thousands have fled to seek refuge in unstable areas in neighbouring countries. Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan are taking in more refugees than their economies can take. Which is resulting in starting or fueling economic crises. The displacement crisis is especially concerning due to the volatility of the bordering countries of Sudan, such as the Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya and South Sudan.

Historical Background

The current civil war going on in Sudan is not the first. The country has been tormented with civil conflict almost continuously since 1955, when the first civil war started.

The first civil war was between the northern and southern parts of Sudan. The first civil war is also called the Anyanya Rebellion, after the main group from the south of Sudan. At the time of the first civil war, South Sudan was still a part of Sudan. The southern part of Sudan, now known as South Sudan, wanted more representation, regional autonomy and government recognition.

The country of Sudan only became independent in 1956, when the British and Egyptian Condominium ended. Religious, cultural and political differences between the Arab Muslim north and Christian and animist south made for strife between the north and south. The south felt oppressed by the northern-centered government, which led to tensions rising.


The Anyanya started fighting the Sudanese government forces in 1955. The government responded with military action. The strife went on for 17 years, strating with guerilla warfare, the creation of the Anyanya insurgency, political strife within the government and the formation of the SSLM. During the 17 years of the war, around a million people died. The Addis Ababa Agreement ended the first civil war in 1972.

The Addis Ababa Agreement, however, failed to completely get rid of the turmoil. The breakdown of the agreement made for a reignition of the conflict between north and south. The war started when President Nimeiry declared Sudan, including the now relatively autonomous south, an islamic state. With this, the southern autonomous region was terminated.

Religion was once more a reason for division. The Islamic north wanted power over the entire country of Sudan, including dominion over the more Christian south. When the Islamic law was forced upon the non-Muslim south, tensions arose like they did almost 30 years before.

In the late 70's, many oil fields were found. Both the government and the rebel groups sought control over these fields. Oil fields were discovered in Bentiu (southern Sudan), Southern Kurdufan (central Sudan), Upper Blue Nile (central Sudan), Unity oilfields (southern Sudan), Adar oilfields (southern Sudan) and Heglig (central to southern Sudan).

The war is characterized by widespread human right abuses, forced displacement, slavery and atrocities by both sides. The war resulted in significant civilian casualties, displacement and famine. It also drew attention to slavery and the use of child soldiers. International efforts had to be made to end the conflict. These efforts included negotiations and peace initiatives.



The second Sudanese Civil War ended with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005. The CPA made the southern region of Sudan semi-autonomous. In 2011, a referendum was held to make the region of Southern Sudan independent. With this referendum, Southern Sudan became South Sudan. Years of conflict ended with this independency, however, both countries continue to struggle with internal conflicts.

Major Parties Involved

SAF Sudanese Armed Forces Led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Yasser al-Atta and Shams al-Din Khabbashi	RSF Rapid Support Forces Led by Hemedti, Abdelrahim Dagalo and Abdel Rahman Jumma
PDF Popular Defense Forces	Tamazuj Since August 2023
SPLM - N (Agar) Sudan People's Liberation Movement - North Led by Malik Agar	
SLM (Tambour) Sudan Liberation Movement Led by Mustafa Tambour Since August 2023	
JEM Justice and Equality Movement Led by Gibril Ibrahim Since November 2023	
SLM (Minnawi) Sudan Liberation Movement Led by Minni Minnawi Since November 2023	
Combined strength of 110,000-120,000	Combined strength of 70,000-150,000

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Ceasefires have been announced countless times, but have often been violated, leading to further clashes. The SAF and RSF continued to blame each other for incidents caused, while the Sudanese government is taking actions against international envoys.

The Treaty of Jeddah was signed by the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Sudan and representatives of the SAF and RSF. The agreement called for a week of ceasefire and the distribution of humanitarian aid. The agreement was set to be from the 22nd to the 27th of May, but was broken after a surge of clashes on the 23rd of May.

Peace negotiations are being held but are often stalled. After the Treaty of Jeddah, negotiations had been dormant. In late October, the RSF and SAF met up once again to attempt to negotiate peace. Neither side was however willing to commit to a ceasefire. Both parties however did agree to open channels for humanitarian aid. Negotiations were later suspended because neither the SAF nor the RSF actually opened up first aid channels.

Possible Solutions For The Issue

Solutions can be found in clear rules on ceasefires. The clashes have been going on for so long that it seems that both parties have lost all trust.

A permanent ceasefire should be put in place to make sure that the fighting stops. After that, humanitarian aid and refugee help is needed the most. Countless civilians are affected by the war going on. Wounded need to be tended to, famined need to be nourished and those displaced are in need of safe sheltering.



Timeline Of Key Events

April - May 2023: Initial engagements

- Battle of Khartoum begins
- Treaty of Jeddah

June - September 2023: Summer Stalemate

- Continued fighting in Khartoum
- Diplomatic efforts are made
- RSF forces frequently attack the city of Geneina

October 2023 - present: RSF gains momentum

- SAF collapses in Darfur
- Peace negotiations stall
- The RSF cross the Nile
- Hemedti travels abroad to meet with several African national leaders

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