

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The situation in Sudan

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Introduction

In the crucible of the African continent lies Sudan, an emblematic nation of the intricate interplay between historical narratives, geopolitical dynamics, and contemporary challenges. Unfolding against the backdrop of ancient civilizations, migrations, and coalescence of various ethnicities and religions (Ottaway and El-Sadany), Sudan holds a complex heritage that has left a mark on the nation's identity. This tumultuous tapestry, woven with both internal and external complexities, reached a pivotal juncture in 2011 when, through a decisive referendum, South Sudan chose the path of independence.

Amidst the persisting turbulence, unresolved ethnic issues linger as a testament to the complex geopolitical terrain. The management of oil sources furthers this intricate diplomatic standing (Laki). Civilians find themselves ensnared in the web of conflict. This conflict, embedded in the social fabric, not only inflicts internal wounds but reverberates across frontiers, affecting regional stability and requiring international attention.

Definition of Key Terms

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

Those who have been forced to flee their habitual place of residence but have not crossed a border (UNHRC).

Hacktivism

The act of accessing a digital system motivated by political, economic, or social purposes (Stanford University).

Background Information

Colonial legacies

The late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed the scramble for Africa, with European powers seeking to exploit the continent's resources and expand their empires. Sudan became a focal point of this imperialistic endeavour, falling under joint British and Egyptian administration in the 1899 Anglo-Egyptian Condominium Agreement. The arbitrary nature of colonial boundaries became evident as geopolitical considerations trumped ethnic and cultural affiliations in the demarcation process.

Colonial rulers, driven by strategic interests and economic considerations, often disregarded the intricate ethnic tapestry of the regions they sought to control (Laki). Communities found themselves divided across borders, and ethnic groups were often separated, sowing the seeds of future discord. The Anglo-Egyptian administration aimed to manage Sudan as a condominium, sharing governance responsibilities. However, this partnership was not without tensions. The northern part of Sudan, with its Arab-Muslim majority, developed closer ties with Egypt, while the southern regions, characterised by religious and ethnic diversity, found themselves subject to different administrative approaches (Ottaway and El-Sadany).

The War (2003-2020) and humanitarian crises in Darfur

The War in Darfur (2003-2020), a protracted and deeply entrenched conflict, stands as a pivotal chapter in Sudan's complex history, marked by ethnic tensions and resource disputes. Originating from the systematic marginalisation of specific ethnic groups, the conflict saw the emergence of rebel groups, such as the SLA/M (Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement). These groups sought to address socio-political disparities resulting from discriminatory policies favouring Arab communities. The Sudanese government responded to these uprisings with force, leading to widespread allegations of human rights abuses (Mustasilta). The government and its militias were implicated in a range of atrocities targeted against civilians, especially those belonging to non-Arab ethnic groups. Numerous reports documented instances of mass killings, where entire villages were razed to the ground. Men, women, and children were subjected to brutal violence, including extrajudicial executions, torture, and sexual violence. Rape was not only used as a means of terrorising communities but also as a tool of ethnic cleansing, where survivors faced not only deep physical and psychological trauma but also enduring stigma within their communities. Humanitarian workers themselves were not spared from the violence. Aid organisations struggled to operate in an environment of insecurity, facing attacks and obstruction of their efforts. The deliberate hindrance of humanitarian assistance exacerbated the suffering of those in need, creating a dire situation that demanded urgent international intervention (OCHA).

In August 2020, a significant peace deal was signed in Juba, South Sudan, between the Transitional Government of Sudan and the Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement. The agreement outlined the peaceful integration of these rebel groups into Sudan's transition into democracy (Mustasilta).

Nevertheless, in the context of the Sudanese Civil war of 2023, Darfur remains a region grappling with persistent challenges. The 2020 Juba Agreement excluded certain paramilitary factions, which has contributed to localised violence. Humanitarian abuses persist, with specific instances of ethnic clashes causing significant casualties. In January of 2021, fighting between the Masalit people and Arab nomads in West Darfur resulted in a tragic toll of 84 dead and 160 wounded, occurring just a fortnight after the withdrawal of United Nations Peacekeepers. Furthermore, the withdrawal of the UNAMID at the end of

2020 left a security vacuum (Ottaway and El-Sadany).

Internal displacement and regional stability

The conflict has triggered extensive displacement, presenting multifaceted challenges that extend beyond humanitarian concerns to encompass broader issues of regional stability. These internally displaced persons (IDPs) face dire conditions, including limited access to basic necessities such as food, water, and healthcare. This displacement crisis is exacerbated by the destruction of infrastructure and disruptions to essential services (UNHRC). The departure of UNAMID in 2020 further complicated the situation. With the withdrawal of the joint peacekeeping mission, there are concerns about the protection of IDPs and the potential for increased vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and human rights abuses. Living conditions in displacement camps or informal settlements are often substandard. Overcrowded and unsanitary conditions contribute to the spread of diseases, and a lack of proper housing exposes IDPs to the elements (OCHA).

Displaced populations often strain resources and capacity of host communities, leading to competition for scarce resources. This dynamic contributes to the escalation of local tensions, further destabilising the region. Reports state that IDPs, especially young males, are being subjected to arbitrary detention or forced recruitment by army groups (UNICEF). The lack of protection mechanisms and oversight in displacement settings facilitates this exploitation process. The vulnerability of IDPs to recruitment by armed groups poses an additional threat to regional stability (UNHRC). In situations of desperation and limited opportunities, displaced individuals may become susceptible to the influence of armed factions, potentially contributing to the perpetuation of the conflict and posing security challenges.

Major Countries and Organisations Involved

Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M)

The Sudanese Liberation Army or Movement is a rebel group based in the Darfur region. Originating in response to perceived injustices, the group seeks greater political and economic autonomy. (Ottaway and El-Sadany).

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)

The Sudanese Armed Forces is the official military apparatus of the Republic of Sudan. Established to safeguard the nation's territorial integrity and security, the SAF operates under the central government's authority in Khartoum.

United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)

The United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur is a joint peacekeeping mission, established in 2007, to address the humanitarian crisis and conflict in the Darfur region. UNAMID represented a collaborative effort between the United Nations and the African Union, aiming to facilitate peace, protect civilians (Laki).

Libya

Libyan politician and soldier Khalifa Haftar, bolstered by support from the United Arab Emirates and the Russian paramilitary Wagner group, assumed a significant role in pre-conflict preparations (Laki).

Wagner Group

The Wagner group not only supplied weaponry but also formed a strategic and operational alliance with the RSF (Ottaway and El-Sadany).

United Arab Emirates

The UAE faced allegations of orchestrating a covert operation in support of the RSF. Contrary to purportedly humanitarian efforts, reports show the UAE's involvement in supplying potent weapons and drones. Emirati cargo planes landing in Chad in August 2023 served as tangible manifestations of the intricacies characterising external involvement in the Sudanese theatre of war (Mustasilta).

Chad

Aside from claims of military provision, Chad also became entangled in the conflict amidst accusations of sending mercenaries to the RSF. Allegations against Kenyan President William Ruto, regarding business ties with RSF leader Hemedti, exemplify how regional diplomatic efforts are susceptible to external interference (Laki).

Egypt

Egypt, a historical actor in the region, deployed special forces that further complicated the geopolitical landscape. The RSF also claimed attacks by Egyptian fighter jets (Musalita).

African Union

Has played a pivotal role in peace-keeping methods with the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

Ukraine

From a distant vantage point, Ukraine emerged as a potential player in the conflict, with reports indicating the involvement of Ukrainian Special Operations Forces in drone strikes and ground operations against the Wagner-backed RSF (OCHA).

Timeline of Events

Date	Name	Description
January 1st, 1956	Sudanese independence	Sudan officially gains independence from joint British and Egyptian administration, marking the end of the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium Agreement. The nation embarks on a new chapter, facing the complexities of post-colonial

		reconstruction.
August 18th, 1955-March 27th 1972	First Sudanese Civil War	Ethnic, religious, and economic disparities fuel the First Sudanese Civil War. The conflict results in the Addis Ababa Agreement, granting autonomy to the southern region.
June 5th, 1983 - January 9th, 2005	Second Sudanese Civil War	Fought between the central Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. It was largely a continuation of the First Sudanese Civil War. As a result of the conflict, a referendum regarding independence is promised after a six-year interim period.
February 26th, 2003 - August 31st, 2020	War in Darfur	The Darfur conflict unfolds, characterised by resource disputes and human rights abuses. A peace deal is signed in Juba, South Sudan, outlining the integration of the rebels into Sudan's transition to democracy.
July 9th, 2011	South Sudan gains independence	South Sudan holds a decisive referendum and gains independence from Sudan.
January 2021	Darfur ethnic clashes	Ethnic clashes erupt in Darfur after the withdrawal of peacekeeping mechanisms.
April 15th, 2023	War in Sudan	A new chapter unfolds in Sudan's history as the country experiences civil war. Foreign involvement becomes a significant aspect.
August 2023	UAE and Chad cooperation	Emirati cargo planes land in Chad.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan, June 3rd, 2020, **S_RES_2524_(2020)**. This resolution establishes the Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), with the objective of supporting the democratic transition in Sudan.
- UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan, Extended, June 3rd, 2021, **S/RES/2579(2021)**
- UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan, Extended, June 3rd, 2022, **S_RES_2636_(2022)**

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The establishment of the United Nations Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) in 2020 reflects a proactive international response. Its objective lied in aiding Sudan's

transition into democracy. The Mission was terminated on December 3rd, 2023.

On June 1st, 2023, the United States imposed the first sanctions, followed by the United Kingdom on July 12th, 2023. The International Court of Justice has also taken action, launching an investigation in regard to violence and human rights abuses in Darfur on July 13th, 2023.

The African Union has played a significant role in attempting to mediate and find solutions for the Sudanese crisis. The African Union brokered the Darfur Peace Agreement in 2006, as well as the subsequent Doha Agreement in 2011.

Possible Solutions

Addressing the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region:

1. Bolstering international presence, perhaps entailing the deployment of robust peacekeeping forces with a clear mandate to protect civilians and halt human rights abuses. A diverse force, comprising troops from different regions to ensure ethnic sensitivity may enhance the effectiveness of this mission.
2. Strengthening accountability mechanisms to address past human rights abuses and prevent future atrocities. This may require cooperation with international bodies, such as the International Court of Justice (ICC) to investigate and prosecute individuals or groups who are responsible for said abuses.

Promoting peacekeeping efforts:

1. Establishing an integrated civilian-military approach is essential for comprehensive peacekeeping. This involves coordination efforts between military, civilian, and humanitarian components to address both security and development aspects.
2. Creating early warning systems as a means to aid peacekeepers in anticipating and preventing conflicts. Utilising technology, local networks, and intelligence gathering, these systems may provide timely information on emerging threats.
3. Valuing diplomatic and political engagement as pivotal in peacekeeping efforts. Facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties, supporting mediation initiatives, and leveraging diplomatic pressure contribute to maintaining sustainable peace.
4. Integrating clear and achievable mandates with regular reviews and adjustments.

Mitigating the impact of displacement on regional stability:

1. Enhancing the capacities of host communities to absorb and support displaced populations. This may include investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities.
2. Implementing a clear legal framework that addresses the rights and responsibilities of displaced persons. This framework should provide a basis for harmonised policies,

including access to basic services, legal protection, and opportunities for integration.

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