

PRHSMUN VI



Sudanese Civil War

Background Guide

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Letter from Chairs

Hello Delegates and Welcome to PRHSMUN VI!

I'm Muhrail Khalil and I will be your Chair for this year's specialized committee. As a Sophomore in Pearl River High school, I have been an active member of Model UN since freshman year. Throughout these two years I have been able to participate in the Yale and Boston Model UN conferences. Outside of Model UN, you can catch me checking finances as the Class of 2027 Treasurer or just enjoying some music and a good book. Last year I co-chaired the regional body at PRHSMUN, and I can't wait this year to be chairing! I am excited to see how the debate will go and the ideas that you come up with. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out by email at ModelUN@PearlRiver.org

Hi everyone! My name is Lauren Seidel, and I will be the co-chair for the Sudanese Civil War Specialized Committee this year. I am a sophomore at Pearl River High School, and I have been a part of Model UN here since eighth grade. I will also be participating in Boston at the BOSMUN conference this year. At School, I am part of the Ski and Snowboard club as well as Academic team and I participate in Tennis and Track. Outside of school, I love to ski, hike and play tennis. This is my first time co-chairing, and I am very excited for this year's PRHSMUN conference! If you have any questions, you can reach me at ModelUN@PearlRiver.org

Muhrail Khalil

Chair, Sudanese Civil War

Lauren Seidel

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Committee Background:

The United Nations (U.N.) is made up of various committees and ultimately 5 major active bodies. These 5 major bodies consist of the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the U.S. Secretariat. The Security Council is the one out of the major 5 bodies that is entrusted with the primary responsibility of ensuring peace and security internationally. The Security Council, a committee composed of 15 members from various countries, has been given the ultimate decision that all member states have to abide by regarding topics like war between two areas. Out of the 15 members on the Security Council there are 5 permanent members and 10 members that rotate bi-yearly. The 5 permanent members are made up of China, France, Russian Federation, The United Kingdom, and the United States; the ten rotating members are made up of Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, and Switzerland. The 5 permanent members have the power of veto, which gives those 5 members the ability to veto and that resolution or decision being voted on. The Security Council approves the members entering the GA while also administering and approving any changes made to the UN Charter. The Security Council works on topics such as the Sudanese Civil War, focusing on bringing back peace to the area and safety to its citizens. This mock session, regarding the Sudanese Civil war, will simulate an orderly and diplomatic discussion between important figures involved in the civil war to be able to come to a resolution best fit for all involved.



Introduction:

Sudan is not newborn to the idea of a civil war, being that there were two civil wars before the one they are currently battling through. Alongside political decline, the Sudanese people have suffered many casualties towards their health and safety. Although only a year old, the civil war has caused damage to the people and land in great numbers. With the severity the effects of the Sudanese Civil War has on Sudan, it is the ideal topic for the Security Council to discuss and quickly find a favorable resolution to the war.

Background & History:

Sudan, officially known as the Republic of Sudan, is a country in Northeast Africa with a rich and diverse history. The region has been inhabited since the Bantu migrations from 1500 BCE to 500 CE. By the eighth and ninth centuries, northern Sudan began trading with Arab merchants, which introduced Islam to the area[6]. In contrast, southern Sudan remained isolated from these interactions and retained a majority population of Coptic Christians and African tribal groups[8].

Throughout history, Sudan has faced ongoing conflict and tensions. In 1821, Sudan was conquered by Muhammad Ali, the Ottoman viceroy of



King Edward VII (Left)

The Khedive Abbas Hilmi Pasha (Right)



Egypt, who desired control over the region's resources, specifically gold and slaves. About 80 years later, the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium was established, a bilateral agreement between Egypt and the United Kingdom. Though officially a joint administration, the agreement granted the British much greater authority, while Egypt held only limited power[6].

During the colonial period, British authorities restricted Islamic expansion into the south, implementing a "closed district" policy that limited movement between northern and southern Sudan. This policy was a component of Britain's Southern Policy, allowing South Sudan to be administered independently from the North. This was designed as a protective measure against the North from taking advantage of the undeveloped South. Nonetheless, Britain's laissez-faire principles led the South to be uninvolved in multiple economic development projects sponsored by the government like the Gezira Irrigation Scheme which was one of the largest irrigation projects in the world[10]. Also, concerned that Darfur, a region in western Sudan, was under Ottoman influence, the British incorporated it into Anglo-Egyptian territory [8].

In 1955, a year before Sudan gained independence establishing itself as the Republic of Sudan, the Torit Mutiny marked the first armed revolt by southern Sudanese against the northern government. This mutiny, along with the formation of Anya Nya, a southern guerrilla movement, angered the northern authorities, sparking Sudan's first civil war. The conflict was rooted in broken promises, as the

southern Sudanese had been assured, then denied, the right to self-governance[8].



The internal divide between the wealthier, Islamic, north and the less - developed, Christian and southern tribal regions enhanced the growing tension and conflict. The south rebelled against the central government in Khartoum (capital in northern Sudan).

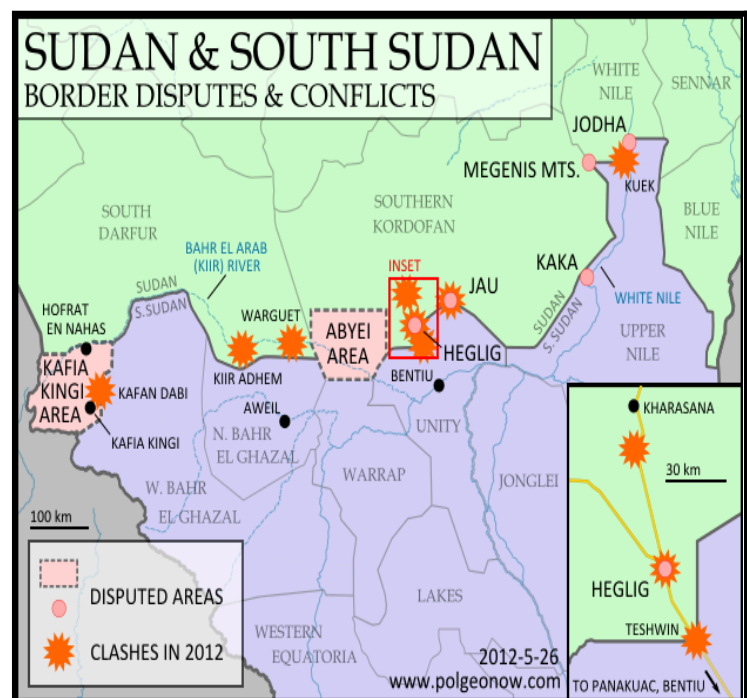
Due to impoverishment and lack of resources



in the south, two main factions were formed. First was Anya Nya, formed by Joseph Lagu and made up mostly of those from the Madi group, and second was the Sudan African National Union (SANU) which was founded by William Deng from the Dinga tribe. They used guerilla warfare tactics including child soldiers to attack [7]. Later in 1964, the prime minister was overthrown by an Islamic government in a coup known as the October Revolution and General Gaafar Nimeri took over using a socialist approach. He formed the Sudanese Socialist Union and in 1972 signed the Addis Ababa Agreement which granted the South autonomy and brought the 17 year civil war to an end[1].

However, coerced by other Islamic opponents, President Gaafar Nimeri, tried to reconsolidate Sudan. Therefore, in 1983 he implemented Sharia law into government. This prompted the introduction of Islamic Fundamentalism, like Wahhabist and Salafi ideologies, which are more severe, conservative sects of Islam[11]. Also, he demolished the Southern Sudan Autonomous Region that was previously created from the Addis Ababa Agreement.

Infuriating the south, the Southern People's Liberation Army (SPLA) led by Dr. John Garang, launched attacks against the government in Khartoum. This initiated the second Sudanese War lasting from 1983 through 2009 and taking the lives of over 2 million people. During the fighting the SPLA shifted from Soviet firearms to Ethiopian weaponry which allowed the south to hold true, positional attacks[16]. Later in 1985 Nimeri was



overthrown by a government promising to rule differently headed by Prime Minister, Sadiq al-Mahdi. However, the government was unproductive and General Omar Gassan al-Bashir took over in 1989, only a few days before a peace treaty was supposed to be signed[15]. The new president representing the National Islamic Front (NIF) only promoted more division between the people and would continue to rule as a dictator for 30 years[15].

The NIF succeeded in dividing the SPLA. In 1991 Riek Machar headed the Southern Sudan Independence Movement/Army(SSIM/A), a militia force made up mainly of Nuer tribal soldiers. Most of the Dinka forces were grouped together under Kerubino Kwanyin. The disunity between the different southern groups allowed the government to hone an edge against the rebels[15]. Throughout this period, fighting continued and horrible war crimes and abuse took place on both sides, until the Government of Sudan and the south came to an agreement known as the Machakos Protocol in 2002. Negotiations continued for a few years after, and on January 9, 2005, both sides signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which ended the war and formed South Sudan, six years later in 2011[14].

After the war, terms of peace were established and in January of 2011, Southern Sudan held a referendum known as the 2011 Independence Referendum where 90% of voters chose independence for South Sudan[2]. Even though the war ended, disputes still occurred specifically in the oil-rich regions of Abyei and Heglig, leading to periods of intermittent fighting[7]. Also, in 2013 there was political turmoil between leaders in South Sudan, President Salva Kiir and President Riek Machar which surged into another civil war in 2013, devastating the region[13]. Lastly, Omar al-Bashir's administration, which had ruled since 1989 was facing economic pressures and protests, leading to a coup in April of 2019[3]. His government was overthrown for a more democratic civilian elected system, but the government lacks stability.



Current Situation:

Under the third Sudanese war, the military group's main motive was sovereignty. The people protested to the president for a more democratic government but instead of a meeting on making Sudan more democratic, a revolution was



developed. Originally a coup was jointly run by Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) under the leadership of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a janjaweed militia led by Mohamed Hamdan “Hemedti” Dagalo. During the Bashir reign, the militia were funded by Bashir to repress southern Sudanese rebels and fight in the Darfur war. Since then, in 2013 they were officially the RSF being an employed border force. While the SAF is the primary military force for Sudan. Ultimately, RSF and SAF worked alongside each other in 2019 to establish a traditional government and the Transitional Sovereignty Council came under Burhan and Hemedti as his deputy. The RSF was supposed to integrate into the SAF being one military power but a deadline was not to be disclosed leading to continuous disputes over the integration. This had delayed Sudan's country transition efforts to a more democratic government[5].

Additionally, oil reserves have been the cause of many ownership disputes in the country. While more than 90% of South Sudan's economy depends on oil exports, a key pipeline that allows for the flow of oil to international markets has fractured due to the recent fighting. The Greater Nile Oil Pipeline, which runs through RSF territory and remains unrepaired, has had detrimental



effects on South Sudan's economy such as the depreciation of currency as well as the growing poverty rate. In response, the government of South Sudan and the RSF have struck a deal to oversee the pipeline and resume crude oil pumping[12].

On April 15, 2023 , a standoff between SAF and RSF at Khartoum led to heavy gunfire and official rivalry. Fighting in Khartoum persisted through various attempts of US and Saudi led negotiations. Accusations of ethnic cleansing and war crimes have substantially been promoted because of the numerous mass atrocities committed through conflict [5]. It is reported that fighting has caused up to 9,000 deaths and even more were forced out of their homes in Sudan to safer areas or neighboring areas[17].

Lastly, in early January of 2025, the United States accused the RSF of committing genocide against the Sudanese people. Anthony Blinken, the former US Secretary of State, describes that the RSF has been murdering civilians of all ages and has committed violent sexual crimes against women of non - Arab ethnic groups. Specifically in areas of the Western-Darfur region, the RSF has been said to have committed ethnic cleansing against the people. Therefore, the United States have placed sanctions against Hemediti and his family, prohibiting them from entering the US. Also, they have barred seven RSF companies based in the United Arab Emirates even though the UAE denies the allegations that it is aiding



and financing RSF with weaponry. The Rapid Support Forces in response, criticized the United States, blaming the Biden Administration for not working towards a solution for the Sudanese crisis earlier and only now deciding to get involved through action against the RSF. Although the United States

emphasizes that the source of the genocide is the RSF, statistics reveal that the SAF has also contributed to the violence and sexual assault in the region.



Hence, the UnitedS does not support either group and assert that both the RSF and the SAF are unfit to govern Sudan. Overall, the fighting in Sudan between the two armed forces have led to the displacement of over 11 million individuals since April of 2023. This number will continue to grow unless an agreement is reached[9].



Blocs:

RSF (Rapid Support Forces) and Allies (Libya, United Arab Emirates, Chad, Central African Republic, Omar Al-Bashir)

The RSF main goal is to gain control of Sudan and have overall control as they were attempting to do when they were hired by the SAF to take over the new pro-democracy government. The RSF doesn't want to cause any more damage but won't stop and will do what is necessary for them to be able to gain power. RSF and the United Arab Emirates are working closely together with there being many transactions in between areas and companies run by RSF in the United Arab Emirates [17]. Omar Al-Bashir hired the RSF, but also is in favor of both RSF and SAF simultaneously working together while he is in control.

SAF (Sudanese Armed Forces) and Allies (China, Russia, Iran, Turkey, Czech Republic)

The SAF is the original military of Sudan, the main goal is to get SAF back to being in control while also preventing pro-democracy movements from taking action. SAF wants to stop the violence and fighting that is occurring in Sudan as soon as possible and as quickly as possible. The SAF believes that most action that occurred is in self defence and the fire should stop for the sake of Sudan. Russia and other allies are helping tremendously by providing weaponry.

Neutral

The utmost main goal is for the war to come to a halt as soon as possible. As well as making sure that the children get an education, those who get displaced get a home, those in need of medical attention get the attention they need , the oil reserves are stabilized and flowing smoothly, and making sure programs are in place for women and the malnourished. A main concern is that there should be a



stable and supervised government until Sudan is able to stabilize itself so that there are no more violent conflicts or power imbalances.

Focus Questions:

- What other factors led to the internal divide between the north and south?
- How does the discovery of oil reserves affect the issue?
- How does Islamic Fundamentalism play a role in this conflict?
- What are the effects of the conflict on global affairs?
- How may the UN intervention affect the relationship between Sudan and South Sudan?
- How would the Security Council effectively influence Sudanese negotiations?
- How can other delegations help give humanitarian aid to those in need in northwestern Africa?

Consider these questions when creating your paper -

- What is your person's position on the topic?
- Who are your allies? Enemies?
- What could my person stand to gain from this conflict?



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