

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Addressing the ongoing violence and instability in Sudan

Student Officer: James Li

Position: Deputy President

Introduction

Since the Republic of Sudan first announced its independence in 1956, it has undergone 6 successful military coups, two of which have been within the past decade. These past two military coups, in 2019 and 2021, have resulted in mass dissolution of previous governmental legislative bodies, creating a near-total legislative vacuum. While the country is not within a state of emergency, an overall splintering of leadership has created escalating tensions that now result in a civil war between various political parties. For instance, territorial conflicts in Khartoum and Darfur between the SAF (Sudanese Armed Forces) and RSF (Rapid Support Forces) lead to disputed political leadership and battles within those regions, as civilians are harmed in the crossfire.

The country is no stranger to such political turmoil. While the country overall aims for a stable model of democratic governance, it finds itself again and again ridden with wars between various parties grasping for power. The region's vast ethnic and religious diversity now manifests in the form of ethnic cleansing and other extremist methods of political control.

On the heels of ousting a suppressive authoritarian leader, the SAF now focuses on removing the RSF from power, with the RSF as the last bastion of political power established under the rule of Omar al-Bashir. The RSF party, a former private militia now integrated into the Sudanese military, have continued to hold substantial power even after al-Bashir's removal as leader. Now, the party wishes to become an autonomous government body, aiming to fight for military and political power over Sudan through the ongoing civil war. In the meantime, various other political parties also involve themselves in the conflict, hoping to gain territorial, economic, and political control in the midst of the ongoing power vacuum.

Aside from certain Gulf Arab countries and Egypt, no countries have imposed any foreign involvement to address the ongoing political stability. However, various humanitarian countermeasures have been deployed, albeit facing difficulties from the active warzone. The primary UN objective during this time is to coordinate a ceasefire in all affected regions.

Please begin your introduction here. This chair report should be around 10 pages in length, excluding citations. Therefore, it should be somewhere between 2000 to 4000 words. You are encouraged to use graphs, maps, timelines, and other visual figures to supplement your report where possible.

As a few general formatting rules, all headings should be in **Arial size 14**, while the body of the report should be in **Times New Roman Size 11**. All paragraphs should begin with an indentation. Please apply 1.5 spacing for the entirety of the document. When approaching a new section, please leave one line blank.

When submitting the report, please save it as a Word document and name it in the following format “Last Name, First Name – Committee – Draft number”, e.g. “Tung, Bennett – General Assembly – Draft 1.”

Definition of Key Terms

Coup

The sudden overthrowing of a government. Usually synonymous with violent measures, although peaceful coups are also defined with the additional “peaceful” prefix.

Militia

A military force organized with civilian or otherwise nonofficial members designed to supplement, enact, or substitute an official military.

Revolution

The overtaking of a social order in favor of a replacement system; usually synonymous with social means, such as protesting.

Authoritarianism

A leadership model proprietarily enforcing an “authority first” model at the cost of democracy; usually synonymous with a lack of freedom. A small percentage of leaders yield significant authority, and political plurality is scarce.

Paramilitary

A pseudo military force, matching a formal military in practicality without the officialized title of being one.

Displacement (Population)

The forced migration of people from their settled environment and occupational activities.

Autonomy

The ability to self-govern.

Authoritarian Rule

Sudan has historically always been ravaged by political, ethnic, and religious turmoil since its inception. Having undergone two civil wars by 2005, Sudan called for a ceasefire officialized by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, notably granting South Sudan its independence and stability to the region. At this point in time, a man named Omar al-Bashir was the leader of the country, having taken power in a 1989 military coup during the second civil war (nomenclature, Second Civil War). This ceasefire, along with its clear legislative definition, allowed him to take unequivocal control over the newly re-organized country with a considerably authoritarian regime. His period of power is marked by humanitarian violations, political suppression, war crimes, and genocide. This regime also established various international challenges, with notable proceedings such as unpopular economic policies, international attention on humanitarian loss, and the harboring of terrorists. As a result, the country faced sanctions and general international isolation, while al-Bashir himself faced arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court.

The Janjaweed, the RSF

Much of the humanitarian wrongdoings during al-Bashir's regime were carried out by the RSF (Rapid Support Forces), a militia established by al-Bashir from the Janjaweed militias. The Janjaweed were a collective of militia forces arisen from conflicts in Darfur (a region in Sudan). As a collective comprised primarily of Arabized indigenous Africans, the Janjaweed notably carried out conflict and war crimes against the non-Arab population in Darfur.

al-Bashir's Ousting

Starting around December 2018, widespread protests took place in the country against al-Bashir's regime, criticizing the regime, with the focus mainly regarding al-Bashir's harsh economic policies. Despite the efforts of al-Bashir's RSF, he was ultimately removed from power in April of 2019. This was notably unanimously supported internationally as well.

In his place, a transitional military council (nomenclature, Transitional Military Council) was put in place. The TMC's primary goal was to facilitate the transition of power within Sudan to true civilian leadership, rather than governing the country themselves. Despite a subsequent history of controversy and criticism over the pace and flow of operation, the TMC did successfully establish a joint military-civilian sovereign council (nomenclature, Sovereign Council) that worked towards moving the country into democratic leadership.

2021 Military Coup

In October of 2021, a military coup was conducted by the Sudanese Armed Forces to disrupt the Sovereign Council's actions. The primary motivation behind this coup was disruption for the sake of disruption rather than a concrete result, as tensions stemmed from the uncertainty of the political influence held by the SAF in the present as well as the future. Put simply, the SAF didn't like where the restructuring of political influence was headed, and wanted to reset the process favorably towards another direction.

This coup, overall, was successful in being disruptive, significantly altering the political landscape of Sudan. Not only did this spark massive controversy with its civilian population, but it set the stage and the scene for other militias to step in and cause similar disruption down the line.

Present Day

In April, widespread armed conflict broke out in the capital city of Khartoum and the region of Darfur between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces, with both sides fighting to gain influence over the current government. This started as an alleged attempted coup by the RSF, as a large quantity of military forces raided Khartoum and took haven, with the alleged purpose of eventually taking the capital building by force. The SAF saw this as an opportunity to make a move on both the RSF and the capital as well, and the two sides are now engaged in a city-wide conflict due to the shared power struggle.

Political conflict aside, humanitarian aid is now desperately needed in the region, as an entire portion of the Sudanese population find themselves displaced as a result of this constant and expanding warfare.

Major Parties Involved

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)

The official military of Sudan since the country's inception. Led by a general named Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, they are the primary military force within Sudan, and formerly held the political power of the country (before the TMC and SC).

Rapid Support Forces (RSF)

A paramilitary within Sudan formerly established by authoritarian leader Omar al-Bashir, and part of the official security force of Sudan. They are an evolution of the Janjaweed militias, a militia previously known for humanitarian abuse and ethnic cleansing. Led by a man named Mohamen Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo.

Sovereign Council (SC)

A joint government council between notable civilian political parties alongside major military leaders, and the current acting government of Sudan. Their official goal is to help facilitate the transitioning of Sudan into a purely civilian-led democratic state rather than being a governing body, although their current practical role has been as the primary government body of Sudan.

Timeline of Events

| Date | Description of event |
|------------------|--|
| August 18, 1955 | First Civil War begins |
| January 1, 1956 | Sudan gains independence, the SAF is formed |
| March 27, 1972 | First Civil War ends with the Addis Ababa Agreement |
| May 16, 1983 | Second Civil War begins |
| June 30, 1989 | Omar al-Bashir enters power |
| January 9, 2005 | Second Civil War ends with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement |
| 2013 | The RSF is formed by Omar al-Bashir |
| April 11, 2019 | Omar al-Bashir is removed from power and the TMC is formed |
| August 21, 2019 | The Sovereign Council is formed by the TMC |
| October 25, 2021 | A military coup is carried out by the SAF |
| April 15, 2023 | Armed conflict breaks out in Khartoum and Darfur |

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

While many international organizations and NGOs have attempted to provide humanitarian aid within Sudan, these efforts are largely unyielding due to the numerous logistical issues scaling from an armed conflict of this scale. The UN has established various missions, such as the UNAMID (United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur) and UNITAMS (United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan), although the progress and impact of these missions are yet to be seen at the time of writing this chair report. Bear in mind that this is a violent event with a surprising lack of international attention.

Possible Solutions

The largest issue in Sudan arises from the logistical volatility of armed conflict. Thus, a ceasefire must be reached in the area before any solutions can be deployed effectively.

The political aid this situation demands is currently objectively outside the reach of the unified body of the United Nations as a whole. While delegates are encouraged to view the political rendition of this conflict through the lens of their country, the motivations and actions of each party involved does not correspond to any active country values, nor the values of the UN. Political instability is, frankly, not a strong suit of the UN to address.

Instead, the focus of the aid provided to this conflict should be humanitarian-focused. Any individual within the warzones in Darfur and Khartoum should be considered displaced, and addressed as such.

That being said, humanitarian aid is incredibly difficult to carry out without the cooperation of the political parties involved in the conflict. Thus, the resolution should also propose a temporary solution, alongside the ceasefire, that would satisfy non-violent means of facilitating a power struggle, and measures should be put into place to permanently stabilize this chaotic region from becoming the haven of another civil war in the future.

Bibliography

“100 Days of Conflict in Sudan: A Timeline.” *W*www.aljazeera.com,

www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/24/100-days-of-conflict-in-sudan-a-timeline.

Abdelaziz, Khalid, et al. “Sudan’s Army Chief, Paramilitary Head Ready to De-Escalate Tensions, Mediators Say.” *Reuters*, 15 Apr. 2023, www.reuters.com/world/africa/sudanese-politicians-blame-bashir-loyalists-discord-2023-04-14/.

Barber, Harriet. ““Men with No Mercy”: The Vicious History of Sudan’s Rapid Support Forces.” *The Telegraph*, 25 Apr. 2023, www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/terror-and-security/sudan-unrest-militia-rapid-support-forces-janjaweed/.

Camille. “More than 5,000 Reportedly Killed in El Geneina “Genocide.”” *Dabanga Radio TV Online*, 20 June 2023, www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/more-than-5000-reportedly-killed-in-el-geneina-genocide. Accessed 13 Dec. 2023.

“Darfur | Historical Region and Former Province, Sudan.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/place/Darfur.

Fulton, Adam, and Oliver Holmes. “Sudan Conflict: Why Is There Fighting and What Is at Stake in the Region?” *The Guardian*, 27 Apr. 2023, www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/27/sudan-conflict-why-is-there-fighting-what-is-at-stake.

Georgy, Michael. “How Sudan’s Hemedti Carved His Route to Power.” *Reuters*, 15 Apr. 2023, www.reuters.com/world/africa/sudans-hemedti-carved-route-power-by-crushing-darfur-revolt-2023-04-15/.

Haq, Ingrid Formanek, Kareem El Damanhoury, Sana Noor. “10,000 Reported Killed in One West Darfur City, as Ethnic Violence Ravages Sudanese Region.” *CNN*, 26 July 2023, www.cnn.com/2023/07/26/africa/sudan-west-darfur-thousands-killed-intl/index.html.

<https://www.facebook.com/middleeasteye>. “Sudan Timeline: From the Fall of Bashir to Street-Fighting in Khartoum.” *Middle East Eye*, www.middleeasteye.net/news/sudan-turmoil-bashir-fall-fighting-khartoum-timeline.

“South Kordofan Residents Flee as Sudan War Escalates.” *Al Arabiya English*, 23 June 2023, english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/06/23/South-Kordofan-residents-flee-as-Sudan-war-escalates.

Tubiana, Jérôme. “Between Two Wars: 20 Years of Conflict in Sudan’s Darfur.”

Www.aljazeera.com, www.aljazeera.com/features/longform/2023/6/30/between-two-wars-20-years-of-conflict-in-sudans-darfur.