

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Establishing stability in Sudan

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Introduction

The situation in Sudan is complex, as there are social, economic, and political issues needing to be addressed. Since its independence, it has seen civil conflict throughout with the exception of a peace period lasting for a mere decade. Its two main conflict arises from ethical differences in the North and South of Sudan; and accusations of ethical discrimination in Darfur. While appearing to be an African nation on the road to sustainable economic development, Sudan has suffered from internal problems, including rebel groups allied to Islamic militants, a corrupt political system, poor economic development, numerous human rights abuses, and finally the issue of the ongoing conflict in the Darfur area. The UN has repeatedly attempted to solve the Sudan situation and has sent various missions including the United Nations Advance Mission (UNAMIS) in 2004, United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in 2005, and the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

Definition of Key Terms

Omar al-Bashir

Former Sudanese president, following claims of human rights abuses and corruption, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for him, leading to sanctions on Sudan, as well as more political tension in the region.

Janjaweed

Armed Islamic militants composed of the Arabic speaking African tribes in the Darfur area, as well as western Sudan and eastern Chad. The Janjaweed are held responsible for many of the human rights violations in Sudan, and are considered a serious issue to Sudanese security and development

Comprehensive Peace Agreement

This was an agreement established by the Government of Sudan (North Sudan), and Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) after years of conflict in January 2005. It established the

unity of Sudan as a priority and set up a 6.5 year interim period when the nation would be governed by interim institutions.

Darfur Peace Agreement

This agreement was signed on 2006. It gave hope on improving the situation in Darfur. However, little progress as been made both forces against and for the agreement have repeatedly clashed.

African Union

The African Union (AU) is an intergovernmental organization made up of 53 African states, including Sudan, which has played a role in attempting to assist in the sustainable development of Sudan. It has deployed peacekeepers and pledged support to help the Sudanese in conflict regions such as Darfur.

National Congress/NCP

The current national party of Sudan, it has been accused of attempting to create an Islamic totalitarian state through the radical implementation of extreme Islamic ideologies. Headed by former president Omar al-Bashir, the presence of this party has hindered Sudanese development through ineffective economic management, conflict management, and human rights violations.

UNMIS

The United Nations Mission in Sudan was a peacekeeping operation authorized by the Security Council Resolution 1590 (2005). It consist of up to 10,000 military personnel and has assisted the implementation of the CPA.

UNAMID

The United Nations Missions-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was established by Security Council 1769 (2006) in response to the deteriorating situation in Darfur. This is a joint AU/UN peacekeeping operation.

General Overview

Sudanese political situation and human rights abuses

The Sudanese political situation is one of increasing tension, as pressure by AU and UN members on the current National Congress (NCP) has done little to alleviate the problem. The upcoming election will see Omar al-Bashir as a candidate despite his international criticism and ICC arrest warrant, and the fact that this election will be the first multiple-party democratic election in nine years means that

the results will be significant for the Sudanese people. Human rights abuses, primarily caused by the extreme political parties are another issue that needs to be addressed. Violations in areas of Western Sudan, such as Darfur, are the most significant, and action needs to be centered here.

Possible Solutions

Solutions to these two issues may include; intervention by UN peacekeeping forces to help limit human rights violations, ensuring fair elections, fostering peace between the opposing parties, and helping the victims of these human rights violations.

Map highlighting the Darfur area of Sudan



Caption #1: The Darfur area of Sudan

Economic situation in Sudan

Economically, Sudan is suffering due to several factors, with the main two being centered on an overdependence on oil revenue, and 80% of the workforce being employed in subsistence farming, limiting room for sustainable economic development. Political instability means that government assistance in economic development is minor, however somewhat successful implementation of macroeconomic reforms proposed by the International Monetary Fund in 1997 have helped improve Sudan’s economic standing.

Possible solutions

Possible solutions to the Sudanese economic situation may include; macro and micro economic reform, implementation of microeconomic policies to help decrease poverty rates, assistance provided by relevant UN agencies or NGO’s, development of the private sector, and decreasing dependence on oil exports.

Northern-Southern Conflict in Sudan

One of the two main civil conflicts taking place in Sudan. It is led by the Sudanese Government in the North and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). This conflict was settled by the CPA (above). Elections are set for 2010, and a referendum for secession of the South is set for 2011.

Darfur Conflict in Sudan

This conflict intensified in 2003 with accusation that Arabs were being favored over Africans. It is fought with the Janjaweed on one side and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A not SPLM/A) and Justice and Equality Movement on the other. The United States government has called it a genocide, while the UN has not classify it as such. Its gravity has caused the UN to expand the UNMIS into the Darfur area. The UNAMID mainly serves the Darfur area.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
June 30, 1989	NPC takes power in Sudan
2003	Darfur conflict intensifies with government intervention
January 9, 2005	Peace agreement signed between North and South Sudan, end of civil war
March 24, 2005	United Nations mission in Sudan (UNMIS) established with the purpose of humanitarian assistance and protection of human rights
July 31, 2006	UNAMID is established by Security Resolution 1769(2006)
March 4, 2008	Arrest warrant for Omar al-Bashir issued
May 11, 2008	Sudan cuts diplomatic relations with Chad in response to Darfur conflict
2010	Democratic elections due to take place

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

UN involvement in Sudan has been significant, with the following resolutions/treaties being passed/adopted;

- ICC issuing arrest warrant for Omar al-Bashir
- UN Security Council resolution 1590 being passed, responding to human rights abuses
- UN Security Council resolution 1769 being passed, authorizing AU/UN joint peacekeeping forces to be deployed in Sudan
- UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) being implemented

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