

**BACKGROUND PAPER:**

United Nations Security Council
Conflict in Sudan

Introduction:

The United Nations has been involved in the conflict in Sudan since the Security Council passed Resolution 1574. This resolution established the United Nations Advance Mission in Sudan in order to facilitate talks between the two warring parties. Once the CPA was signed, the UN Security Council in 2005, through resolution 1590, set up the United Nations Mission in Sudan. The purpose of the mission was to facilitate the implementation of the CPA and help in reintegrating the refugees that fled so many years ago into Sudanese society. It was also in Sudan to ensure no human-rights violations would occur during the re-unification process that was a priority of the CPA. The UNMIS was composed of 10,000 military personnel and a civilian police component of 715. The UNMIS was integral in achieving the free elections in 2010 and the referendum this year due to its insistence that the parties follow the CPA.

Background & History:

Since Sudan's inception as an independent nation in 1956, it has seen conflict for all but 11 years (United Nations Mission in Sudan). The conflict has escalated into an all-out civil war between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The conflict began once the Addis Ababa agreements collapsed in 1972. The agreement was established in order to end the First Sudanese civil war by granting the south a degree of autonomy. A decade of peace followed, but resource infringements escalated the tensions never truly dispelled from the agreement. Sudan collapsed when Gaafar Nimeiry, the President of Sudan, declared that all of Sudan was an Islamic state under Shari'a law. He then promptly abolished the Southern Sudan Autonomous Region, thus ending the Addis Ababa Agreement. Ever since then, a costly civil war between Northern Sudan and Southern Sudan has claimed over 2 million lives, uprooting approximately 4 million civilians from their homes, and expelling around 600,000 to other countries.

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) began, in 1993, an effort to bring peace to Sudan. Fortunately, they achieved some success in 2002 when the main parties involved in the conflict signed the Machakos Protocol. The protocol set forth guidelines for a "new Sudan". It set up new principles for governance and the rights for self-determination for the South Sudanese people. It discussed the issues regarding the nation as a whole and



the issues surrounding religious issues. They agreed to continue talks regarding, among other things, an eventual ceasefire.

In 2005, the government of North Sudan and the SPLM met in Nairobi, Kenya, to sign the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The CPA was meant to build off of the initial progress of the Machakos Protocol, discussing issues of resource sharing, additional autonomy for the South, and a six and a half year long interim period where various institutions would govern the country and strict international supervision would be provided. This interim period provided a brief pause in the conflict since its highest priority was to keep a unified Sudan. Once the interim period expired, national elections were held in 2010, and a national referendum was held this year. The overwhelming majority of the people, approximately 99%, voted to establish the sovereign nation of South Sudan, with its capital at Juba.

Current Situation:

Although there are now two separate countries, there is still much conflict in Sudan. Although UN Peacekeepers are in place, they have very little power to act against the Northern soldiers that continue to attack SPLM members in the south. The split did not actually end the conflict but propagated many new, small ones. President Omar Hassan al-Bashir declared Northern Sudan to be a “monolithic Islamic state under Shari’a law” and he began a program to start disarming the rebel groups that were against the North but unfortunately ended up within al-Bashir’s jurisdiction (Time). It is becoming clear that al-Bashir is committing crimes against humanity. He has engaged in massacres of unarmed civilians throughout his new domain, ordering his troops to burn down entire settlements. The Nuba people sided with the South, but ended up in the region of South Kordofan, a region in North Sudan. Al-Bashir claims to be clearing the state of rebels, but his troops do not discriminate between military and civilian personnel. Now, approximately 73,000 Nuba people are fleeing across the border to find some safety in the South. Safety is not even guaranteed there since al-Bashir’s Air Force, supplied years ago by the Soviets, conducts raids and bombing campaigns throughout populated areas.

The Problem:

The problems in Sudan are numerous. The primary issue is the human-rights violations that are occurring at the hands of al-Bashir’s troops. In addition, the multitude of refugees that inhabit South Sudan have no way of housing or feeding themselves. South Sudan is weak already, and it cannot support the massive influx that is coming from the North. Also, there is much conflict about the resources in Sudan. One example is Abyei, an oil-producing area that belonged to the South but was annexed by the North. Since Sudan had many natural resources, including oil, the division of these between the two nations will be difficult, and probably bloody.



Relevant Documents: *UN Resolutions mentioned*

Bloc Positions:

Latin American and Asian Nations- Latin America and the smaller Asian nations have provided little help or opinion in the debate of Sudan. In cases such as these, these nations usually defer to the judgment of ICC, who has issued an arrest warrant for al-Bashir, and to the previous resolutions that have been passed by the UN.

Russia, China, and Eastern European Nations- Resolution 1706, which placed peacekeeping troops in the Darfur, was passed unanimously with abstentions from only Russia, China, and Qatar. Although these nations have since voted in favor of subsequent resolutions regarding the Sudan region, these nations have tended to take a flexible approach to the situation in Sudan. Also bearing in mind that Russia at one time supported the actions of al-Bashir's Air Force, they may have a interest in seeing his government ultimately triumph.

United States, Japan, and Canada- the United States especially has an interest in the downfall of al-Bashir, allying with Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia to form the "Front Line Alliance", which is dedicated to stopping al-Bashir's numerous humanitarian crimes and checking the influence of the National Islamic Front government. These nations will undoubtedly seek increased UN Peacekeeping troop freedom to act against this government and protect the numerous Nuba refugees.

Africa- Nearly every African nation in proximity to Sudan has had a history of negative relations with Sudan. For example, Chad has no diplomatic relations whatsoever with Sudan following their war, and many other African nations have joined the ICC and the United States in declaring the National Islamic Front government completely illegitimate.

Committee Mission: The mission of this committee focus around three main goals-

- 1- The capture of al-Bashir. The ICC has issued two arrest warrants for this sitting head of state, and no actions have been carried against him since the warrants have been issued.
- 2- Humanitarian Initiatives- The fleeing refugees heading into the South are undoubtedly placed into an undesirable situation. Very few camps have been set up in order to receive them, and al-Bashir continues to massacre these individuals at will
- 3- The effective use of Peacekeeping Troops- Too many resolutions adopted in the United Nations entail the implementation of new Peacekeeping Troops. However, considering that there is already a great number of Peacekeeping Troops in the region, the redirection and reallocation of



troops and greater fighting freedom would be a better solution to this problem, rather than waste more resources on the same problem.

Questions to Consider:

- 1.) What would be the most effective way to utilize the troops already stationed in the combat area?
- 2.) What is the UN's true duty in this situation?

Sources for Further Research:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3496731.stm>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5js2gQSCC7dNAqloDrtLG2DnGX59A?docId=CNG.8da7524161341a630734bbb6cf9ce6e4.241>

<http://www.un.org/children/conflict/english/sudan.html>