



Security Council

Background Guide

University of Colorado Boulder
Model United Nations High School Conference
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To maintain
international peace
and security

To develop friendly
relations among
nations

To cooperate in
solving
international
problems and in
promoting respect
for human rights

To be a center for
harmonizing the
actions of nations



Notice : This topic, considering it is still ongoing and constantly changing, will be set on September 1st, 2023 as to allow for in depth research and exploration of the issue. Any resources utilized must be prior to this date.

Letter from the Chair:

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the University of Colorado Boulder Model UN Fall 2023 High School Conference; we are excited for you to join us as we discuss the fluid and complex interactions of our current socio-political world. The primary goal of this committee, the Advanced Security Council, is to protect the rights of States and their people to a degree unattainable by other committees of the United Nations. With both much more effective abilities on the international community and very centralized power within permanent 5 veto members, the Security council has to balance the wills of all nations all while understanding the impact on the general populace most affected by the actions of the security council. As an advanced council, we expect a broad understanding of both the international politics and inner workings of the United Nations but understand the more minute details of both the UN and of those member states to raise questions on the topic. An emphasis was placed on a topic that would push you to think about how to examine and question the role of the UN in regional affairs and crises along with the role and responsibilities of all actors in protecting human life. At the end of the day, we want you to come out of this conference and committee with a new perspective on how these key issues might be addressed and inspired to take on the problems of tomorrow. Most of all, we want you to have fun! We are excited to see what fresh ideas you bring this October!

Introduction and History of the committee:

The Security council was created with the inception of the United Nations. Its primary purpose is to maintain international peace and security by the UN charter.¹ The Security Council is also tasked with developing friendly relations among nations, being used as a forum to cooperate in solving international problems and promoting respect for human rights, and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations. The Security Council consists of five permanent members: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. These members also possess veto powers towards any submitted resolution. An additional ten members are elected, of which half are elected each year for two year terms.

The security council is by far the most powerful individual section of the United Nations with the capability to enact far reaching and decisive actions on the world stage. It is the only body within the UN to issue specific binding resolutions on Member states. It also has the ability to authorize embargoes, ceasefires, blockades, joint military action, among other powers.

Despite the ability of the Security council to create aggressive legislation, it strains to ensure peace, and compromises are the first measures taken. The Security Council has only resorted to military action a few times in the past and ensured these actions were only taken when no other alternative was viable. Additionally, the considerable influence of veto powers must be recognized in any debate, ensuring all

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>

P5 members are adequately satisfied so as to not halt any potential actions by the security council.

The Crisis in Sudan

Introduction:

Since its independence in 1956, Sudan, like many African countries, has been mired by internal and external conflict. Sudan has largely been under military leadership since 1969, following a coup by Colonel Gaafar Nimeiry. Omar al Bashir took power from 1993 until 2019 when a military junta replaced him. The military junta fractured this year when fighting between the regular army and members of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) broke out. Throughout its unstable leadership, the government has been in conflict with South Sudan before its independence in 2005. Internal conflicts lasted until 2020, resulting in ethnic cleansing by the government, extensive devastation of the country, and millions of refugees. United Nations peacekeeping forces have entered Sudan before; following **Security Council resolutions**, 1,590 peacekeeping forces enforced a transitional period between July 2005 and January 2011 over the negotiation and stabilization of South Sudan. The current conflict, spurred by the issues between the RSF and the regular army within Sudan, is still ongoing and likely will be in the foreseeable future. Already, more than two million civilians have been internally affected, and more than a million more have fled the country— around 10% of the population of Sudan.

Background:

Sudan, formerly a British Colony, gained independence following the Egyptian independence movement. In 1952, a vote was given to both the Northern and Southern parts of Sudan. Gaining independence in 1956, the Sudanese people enjoyed no rest as a civil war erupted immediately following the vote. Lasting until 1972, the First Sudanese Civil War resulted in around 500,000 deaths, leading to a contentious peace treaty. In 1969, amidst the civil war, Colonel Gaafar Nimeiry led a military coup ousting the elected government and banning all political parties.

Following in 1983, Numeiry instituted Sharia Islamic law, which furthered tensions in the nation. From 1983 to 2005, roughly two million people died from the conflict, famine, and disease that the Second Sudanese Civil War had caused. As a result, the United Nations enforced South Sudan's independence. The war promoted the influence of military leaders, allowing Colonel Omar al-Bashir to carry out a coup in 1989, deposing Nimeiry and becoming the president.

Before the end of the Second Sudanese Civil War, the war in Darfur commenced. Beginning in 2003, the war in Darfur lasted seventeen years between the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), and the Government. Extreme pro-Muslim laws led to protests and violent crackdowns from the government. These led to factions breaking out in armed revolt. This internal fighting resulted in the use of mass executions and many other tactics to remove non-Arabic ethnicities from Sudan systematically. In 2009, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for President Al-Bashur due to the ethnic cleansing and war

crimes that occurred during the War in Darfur. In 2019, President Al-Bashir was removed from office by the military, and in 2020, a peace agreement with the SLM was signed, ending the war in Darfur.

In 2023, internal fighting within the military began, fracturing the military junta, and this conflict between the regular Army and RSF forces is still ongoing. Starting over, the Army and Democratic groups urged for integrating the RSF into the existing military structure. The RSF leader, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, rejected these ideas, assuming that integrating the RSF would restrict them as an independent security force. In 2021, RSF troops staged, along with the Army, another coup to halt the transition to a democratic government, an internal condition of the 2019 coup. This has led to increasing pro-democracy protests and, in some cases, outbreaks of violence. This year's crisis alone has already resulted in over 2.3 million internally displaced refugees and at least 1,000,000 refugees leaving the country, with numbers varying up to 5 million total refugees. While neighboring countries have opened doors to many, there still exist technical and political limitations on the ability of nations to support the crisis. Neither the RSF nor the regular military have expressed solid interest in peace talks or hinted that tensions may lower. Numerous ceasefires have been implemented and violated, in turn. While both parties agree on the ideas of negotiation and the RSF just released ideas of a possible plan toward peace², both have failed to extend diplomatic invitations.³ Instead, it seems that the conflict will continue. The toll on civilians also rises as the region's food shortages worsen. These are expected to affect almost 20 million Sudanese people to critical levels on the Food Security classification, commonly

² <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/28/sudans-rsf-floats-peace-plan-as-rival-army-chief-eyes-regional-trip>

³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/15/sudan-war-will-end-with-negotiations-says-armys-second-in-command>

called famine⁴. The World Food Program (WFP) has been quick to act, already dispensing food aid, yet the conflict and the region's poor infrastructure have made it hard for the WFP to reach the Sudanese people in dire need. Furthermore, the current conflict and desperation of all involved have directly targeted aid programs in the region. WFP director for Sudan, Eddie Rowe, said of the crisis, "I have never faced an operating environment as challenging as the one in Sudan...40,000 tons of WFP food assistance has been stolen."⁵ This, coupled with further attacks on humanitarian outreach locations, has been used as a tool by both sides to gain supplies and disrupt distribution to potential adversaries. Nineteen humanitarian workers have been killed since the start of this most recent conflict, Twenty-two more in Southern Sudan. Leading experts continue to stress that care workers, along with facilities, are being directly targeted by both the RSF and the military⁶.

Conclusion of Topic I:

Sudan, like many nations on the African continent, is no stranger to conflict. In their pushes for interior unity in the wake of European imperialism, many nations have been left economically disadvantaged for the benefit of the traditional western powers. Yet, these conflicts' devastating toll on civilians, justified only by internal power grabs, is important to note. The United Nations strives to protect the human rights and livelihoods of those most affected by these conflicts.

While respecting the sovereignty of any nation is important, the Security Council has acted before to protect civilians and stabilize warzones during internal disputes

⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1139677>

⁵ <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/8/18/attacks-on-aid-workers-in-sudan-must-stop-now>

⁶ <https://www.care-international.org/news/crossfire-south-sudan-deadliest-place-humanitarian-aid-workers>

such as the 2011 intervention in Libya⁷. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) has already confirmed reports of RSF members violating international agreements on war crimes.⁸ Just this month (August 17th), the HRW documented 78 instances of rape between April and June of this year by the RSF, clearly lower than an actual estimate as it just includes those reported. Sudan is clearly in a position where action should be taken; the question is how. Is UN-imposed mediation necessary, or even enough, or are more drastic measures required? This leads to another issue: Which measures would adequately affect the fighting while protecting the most vulnerable of the population? Similar issues in the region and within Sudan itself have led to extensive famines and a lack of vital resources. Further instability in the African continent should also be noted, as any aid must take into consideration these hot zones. The ability of nations to distribute aid will be an issue for the continent, which is lacking in traditional infrastructure like railroads, large highways, and other imperative routes to transfer aid effectively.

Furthermore, the right to democracy and self-determination is a core tenet of the United Nations Charter. Military action has been used to stabilize the right of democracy within similar conflicts, however, many see UN action as being too weak and failing to protect these situations. Others have questioned if the use of military force has only further endangered civilians or been a political tool to justify external intervention and the interests of member nations not the interests of the people.

⁷ <https://press.un.org/en/2011/sc10200.doc.htm>

⁸ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/11/africa/sudanese-paramilitary-executes-dozens-intl/index.html>

Research guiding questions of Topic I:

- Does the situation in Sudan justify any action by the security council?
 - What are the possible effects of the security council's actions on civilians?
 - Does the international community have the right to intervene in domestic politics; where is this line drawn?
- How can the international community restore peace to Sudan and its people?
 - How do we ensure this peace continues?
 - Which groups have a right to be included in any mediation or peace talks?
- How do we ensure refugees from this conflict are protected?