

Committee: SPECPOL 1

Topic: The Question of South Sudan

Chair: Jago Burgess-Gibbs

School: Royal Russell

Summary

South Sudan is the most fragile state in the world. In 2011, Sudan successfully vouched for independence with the support of the Bush and Obama administrations. The world's youngest country, has received more than \$1 billion in humanitarian aid every year from the United States and the United Nations.

However, soon after a short-lived victory, the political party that had helped Sudan gain its independence began fighting amongst themselves. In 2013, the conflict took to the streets, due to the president accusing his vice president of starting a coup. President Kiir (elected in 2010), had reason to believe his vice president had attempted to form a coup, due to him being part of a rival community to Kiir's community known as a Nuer.

The conflict has continued for years, with a total of 413,000 people being displaced. Those who were displaced went to refugee camps in the first month. The humanitarian crisis has worsened over the past few months with death tolls rising day after day, with the likes of ethnic cleansing and massacres causing more and more destruction and mayhem by the day.

Definition of Key Terms

- **Civil War:** A war between two sides belonging to the same country, usually the sides have different religious beliefs or ideology. It's also often occurred due to disputes over who runs the country and who should be in power.
- **Displacement:** The act of moving a group of people from their original settlement to another.
- **Ethnic cleansing:** A series of mass killings on a group of a certain ethnic or religious group in area and carried out by those from another ethnic or religious group.
- **Humanitarian crisis:** Term used when the health of a large community or group of people is being threatened due to either natural disasters (e.g. tsunamis and famine) or man-made disasters (e.g. terror attacks and war).

- **Independence:** A state that seizes the right to have its own government, legislature and sovereignty.
- **SPLIM:** Sudan people's Liberation Movement.
- **SPLIM-IO:** Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition.

Background Information

In 2011 when South Sudan gained its independence from (northern) Sudan, conflict within the leading political party began to occur. This was then taken to the streets in 2013 and is now a major issue with hundreds of people having to flee their home in hopes of being safe from the conflict. The whole cause of the conflict revolves around two political parties, SPLIM and SPLIM-IO, both fighting for control over the government. The fighting broke out after president Kiir accused the vice president of forming a coup to overthrow the government in 2013.

In addition to the fighting, a series of famines and ethnic cleansing have taken place, such as the genocide in Yei where around one million people had fled to Uganda due to the severity of the killings. The ethnic cleansing in Yei was an attack from President Kiir in 2016, which saw UN representatives trapped in the middle of the chaos. The US and UN did nothing to aid those trapped there. The UN and US representatives argued that peacekeepers must be sent to Yei in order to fend off Kiir's forces, but no response ever came. The US in fact continued to aid and supply South Sudan's forces with weaponry which was seen as a violation of USA's laws. Rising the death toll of the south Sudanese people. The UN has made efforts to help those who had been displaced, by creating camps where food and water would be provided. Kiir was supported by his own community, the Dinka's who were the second most dominant community in South Sudan, yet rival communities such as the Nuer's opposed him, hence the amount of ethnic cleansing that followed during the conflict. The South Sudan government has repeatedly denied ethnic cleansing and human rights violations.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

African Union: Suspended Sudan from the African Union over the violence against protesters.

Catholic International Development Charity (CAFOD): Gave support to the refugees who had been displaced by the civil war and helped alleviate suffering and poverty.

Ethiopia: 321,342 refugees fled to Ethiopia.

Kenya: 90,181 refugees fled to Kenya.

Sudan people's Liberation Movement (SPLIM): The liberation army lead by the vice president in the Civil War and fight against SPLIM-IO.

Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLIM-IO): The opposition to SPLIM lead by President Kiir in the Civil War.

South Sudan: Location of the humanitarian crisis and the Civil War this topic focuses on.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS): It's role was to protect civilians in South Sudan and to monitor human rights during the Civil War.

Uganda: 520,577 refugees fled to Uganda.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description
July 2011	South Sudan gain independence.
August 2011	UN says at least 600 people are killed in ethnic clashes in Jonglei state.
January 2012	South Sudan declares a disaster in Jonglei State after around 100,000 flee clashes between rival ethnic groups.
July 2013	President Kiir lifted the immunity of Finance Minister Kosti Manibe and Cabinet Affairs Minister Deng Alor to open the way for an investigation.
December 2013	President Kiir accuses vice president of forming a coup. Civil war erupts.
January 2014	A ceasefire is signed but broken several times over subsequent weeks, and further talks in February fail to end the violence that displaces more than a million people by April.
April 2016	Riek Muchar finally returns as vice president but shortly returns to exile as conflicts commence.
November 2016	UN sacks Kenyan commander of its peacekeeping mission over the failure to protect the Sudanese civilians in Juba during July violence. Kenya then withdraws its UN peacekeeping troops from the peacekeeping mission.

December 2016	UN commission of human rights say a process of ethnic cleansing is underway in several parts of the country, a claim President Kiir denies.
February 2017	A famine is declared in parts of South Sudan. The UN describes this as a man-made catastrophe caused by the civil war and economic collapse.
May 2017	President Kiir declares unilateral ceasefire and launches national dialogue.
August 2017	The number of refugees fleeing the conflict in Sudan reaches the one million mark.
August 2018	President Kiir signs power sharing agreement with Riek Muchar and other opposition groups in a bid to end the war. The deal sees Riek Muchar return to his position as Vice President as one of five other Vice Presidents.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- **Power sharing agreement signed in August 2018** – Signed by Riek Machar and President Kiir in order to end the war. The deal saw Muchar return to power for good, as Vice President alongside another five Vice Presidents in order to maintain the peace and bring an end to the Civil War.
- **The January 2014 ceasefire agreement** – Repeatedly broken within the several weeks it was implemented and turned out to be a failure in solving the issue in South Sudan.
- **The May 2017 ceasefire agreement** – President Kiir announces unilateral ceasefire as well as launches a national dialogue.
- **UN claims ethnic cleansing in several parts of the country in 2016** - e.g. in Yei, Kiir is held responsible yet he denies these claims.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

- The creation of camps has been said to be used in the hope that this will be a safe place for refugees to go to avoid violence or to be fed and cared for. The creation of camps was mostly set up by Mercy Corps.
- In 2018 the UN appealed for 1.72 billion dollars to assist people in South Sudan.
- The UN are now appealing for 1.5 billion dollars for critical support in South Sudan
- There have been a series of attempted ceasefires that have failed since the start of the conflict, yet it was only until 2018 when a peace treaty was signed that gave Sudan hope for an end to the fighting.

Possible Solutions

- Despite the fact that this is SPECPOL, you may have some focus on humanitarian issues in your resolutions.
- The main problem now is the starvation, diseases and lack of housing; therefore, a reasonable solution would be to follow in the footsteps of Mercy Corps and to invest in camps ran by the UN or NGOs that can provide suitable living conditions and can be a place of refuge for families.
- To deal with disease, the UN has unlimited funds meaning we can invest in a large-scale vaccine and other medical aid projects that aim to reduce the rate diseases are spreading at.
- There is also the problem with housing. By setting up companies like Mercy Corps, we can provide farming tools, seeds and also housing for villages that need it the most. This tackles two problems as farming tools and seeds allow people to grow crops so that they may not rely on the UN as much to feed them. To tackle the issue with famines, global warming etc. the usage of green houses will have a positive effect on the agriculture in Sudan so famines and etc will not be as high of a risk.
- Putting the humanitarian issues aside, the higher demand for UN peacekeepers will ensure the protection of civilians in the risk of conflict are protected at all costs and so therefore casualties caused by said conflicts are at a minimum.

Bibliography

(Title of source, author, date of publication – you may also wish to list some useful websites)

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