

Forum: Security Council (SC)
Question of: The Situation in Sudan and South Sudan
Student Officer: Janice Ngai, Assistant President

Introduction

As the youngest country in the world, South Sudan was formed after the secession by referendum from Sudan in 2011.¹ The decision followed a vote on independence, where 99% of Southern Sudanese wished to secede in the referendum, but the long awaited decision was delayed by the cancellation of autonomy agreements by the Sudanese government. Despite South Sudan's wealth in oil reserves, the conflicts that have raged on after the split have left South Sudan as one of the world's most impoverished countries.² With the ongoing conflict, this year's theme, "*Bonds of Unity*" is apparent, where despite the differences faced in separated states, it is imperative to form an international alliance, where the peace and security of all can be maintained and prioritized.

The state had faced two civil wars leading up to its independence, both of which involved the South Sudanese fighting for their independence. Before this war, the British government had governed North and South Sudan as separate regions, and they merged a year after the war began due to the control of the British and Egyptian governments in 1956. The first civil war occurred from 1955-1972.³ The separated ruling created hostilities between the two regions, including factors such as religion, where most of the North were Muslim, the South were predominantly Christian, or differences in language prompted by cultural upbringings of each region. Many were killed during the war, with instances of guerilla warfare, also known as Anyanya, a Sudanese rebel group. Their protests were said to be civil disobedience, causing chaos in the country. This eventually led to the destabilization of the government and a military coup being staged. Throughout this war, many were displaced, with over half a million lives taken by the first war. After this ended, there was a brief 11 years of peace, albeit strained, between

¹ Venkatesh, Bhavya. "Great Expectations." The Hindu, December 6, 2021.
<https://www.thehindu.com/children/great-expectations/article37861074.ece>.

² BBC. South Sudan Profile - Overview." BBC News. BBC, April 27, 2016.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14019208>.

³ Momodu, Samuel. "First Sudanese Civil War (1955-1972) .", August 18, 2020.
<https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/events-global-african-history/first-sudanese-civil-war-1955-1972/>.

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the two regions, with the root causes of the issue still largely complicated. This peace was maintained by the fact that the first Southern Sudan Autonomous Region was created.⁴

The Second Sudanese civil war (1983-2005) largely continued the first one, where differences in religion were a main cause along with the abolition of autonomy for Southern Sudan's autonomous region. The president in 1983 imposed Sharia law on all of Sudan, and the mostly Christian Southern Sudanese were forced to conform to the new laws. When many were treated poorly as a result, the second civil war began.⁵ Another cause was the decolonization of Sudan, where most power was left with the Northerners. Throughout the war, the main conflict occurred between the Central Sudanese government and the Sudan's People's Liberation Army (SPLA), who also created the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), both playing significant roles within the Second Sudanese Civil War.⁶ During the war, there was a coup in April of 1985, intensifying the military power utilized in the war. This caused the 1983 constitution to be suspended and they also rescinded a decree of Sudan becoming a fully Islamic state. There were lasting implications of the war and abuses of human rights, including the deaths of around two million people, a strained economy and a lack of education.⁷ In the end, after peace talks held from 2002-2005, the SPLA, SPLM and government signed an agreement where South Sudan would be its own independent nation in 2011, hence the secession of South Sudan.

When South Sudan was formed in 2011, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was created to support the new system of governance.⁸ Yet in December of 2013, another civil war began. This was caused by a power struggle between ethnic groups who were mistreated and higher political groups who maintained the power. This caused the SPLM-In Opposition (SPLM-IO) to begin a fight with the government forces (SPLM). The leaders of this conflict were Salva Kiir Mayardit, president of South Sudan and part of the SPLM, and Riek Machar, vice president of South Sudan and part of the SPLM-IO. Kiir was supported by the ethnic group the Dinka, while Machar was supported by the ethnic group the Nuer. During the chaos, Kiir accused Machar and his ethnic group of staging a coup,⁹ intensifying the chaos occurring and increasing the violence after Machar fled the country. This struggle

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Momodu, Samuel. 2019. "Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005) • BlackPast." BlackPast. January 22, 2019. <https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/events-global-african-history/second-sudanese-civil-war-1983-2005/>.

⁶ "Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)." n.d. Irp.fas.org. <https://irp.fas.org/world/para/spla.htm>.

⁷ "Sudanese Civil War - New World Encyclopedia." 2020. Newworldencyclopedia.org. 2020. https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sudanese_civil_war.

⁸ "Mandate." 2015. UNMISS. October 16, 2015. <https://unmiss.unmissions.org/mandate>.

⁹ BBC News. 2013. "South Sudan Quashes Coup Attempt, Says President Kiir," December 16, 2013, sec. Africa. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-25396853>.

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with ethnic groups was a result of the government's inability to stop the ongoing corruption in South Sudan, leading to implications where the government failed to maintain their promises of improving the education system, battle famine and more. The lack of accountability has allowed them to exploit ethnic minorities unjustly.¹⁰ After the events in 2013 of the attempted coup and after two years of negotiations supervised by international parties and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Kiir and Machar managed to reach a peace agreement in 2015, where Machar returned in 2016 as vice president once again.¹¹ Yet his return galvanized violence from the opposing parties, and he fled once again only to be detained in South Africa. Finally, in 2018, a peace agreement seemed to be reached, where both Kiir and Machar signed several ceasefires and an agreement to share power in South Sudan, where Machar could still be vice president.¹² However, most of the human rights abuses, as well as violence between communities have continued to increase, as well as the rise of famine and hunger. South Sudan currently relies on foreign aid heavily, many of which have drained recently due to mistrust for the widely corrupt and unreliable government.¹³ Furthermore, the effects felt during this civil war were long-lasting, destabilizing the economy and social structures in South Sudan. This has manifested in continued violations of the peace agreement, and the estimated 4 million who continue to flee or are displaced within the country.

One of the main issues South Sudan continues to face today is the continued violence, many of which is against civilians.¹⁴ Increased competition for land has caused violence, only fueled by the supply of ammunition by political leaders. Furthermore, conflicts between the government forces and armed rebel groups have seen attacks on civilian groups as well. For example, the town Malakal was attacked, with the suspect being the group Dinka Padang, who are a relatively small military group, leaving civilians dead and injured after the attack. The violence gave rise to increased displacement of civilians, with many fleeing from the violence repeatedly. This occurred when their homes had been looted by government, rebel and civil defense forces. For example, in Tambura county, the breakout of a fight led to

¹⁰“South Sudan at a Crossroads.” 2021. Human Rights Watch. July 9, 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/09/south-sudan-crossroads>.

¹¹ Council on Foreign Relations. 2020. “Civil War in South Sudan.” Global Conflict Tracker. 2020. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>.

¹² Koos, Carlo. n.d. “Kiir and Machar: Insights into South Sudan’s Strongmen.” The Conversation. Accessed July 2, 2022. <https://theconversation.com/kiir-and-machar-insights-into-south-sudans-strongmen-182522>.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴ Human Rights Watch. 2021. “South Sudan: Events of 2021.” Human Rights Watch. December 22, 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/south-sudan>.

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over 80,000 displaced, along with others killed, and the cutting off of humanitarian aid resources, creating difficulty for assistance to be reached.¹⁵

Another issue faced is the violence against women in the area. This mainly involved sexual violence, and many instances have been recorded of rape. This is exacerbated by the unreliable justice system, where impunity remains, and most do not get tried for these crimes, allowing them to repeatedly commit. This violence and injustice towards women can manifest in child marriages as well, with 52% of young girls between 15 and 18 already married, and a third of them being pregnant by 15.¹⁶ This violates the law, where only those who are 18 and over are allowed to be married, but these cases are especially prevalent in rural areas. During these marriages, young women are forced by families due to overwhelming poverty, and are subjected to domestic violence and abuse after getting married off without a proper education.¹⁷

Freedoms of speech and media are suppressed in South Sudan, with those protesting against human rights abuses killed and arrested. For example, in March 2021, youths were arrested for protesting on the streets of Sudan. Moreover, many political advocates have been detained by the government, along with media workers who have been accused of working with activists. The government has repeatedly made threats regarding the use of ammunition on civilians during protests, creating an atmosphere where citizens are afraid, with their freedoms suppressed.¹⁸

The chaos that has erupted in South Sudan has resulted in a flood of internally displaced people (IDPs), and has been recognized as a humanitarian emergency. With over two million South Sudanese refugees fleeing to bordering countries such as Ethiopia or Uganda, the unexpected influx of refugees has left many unprepared to handle them. This has resulted in mass famine and food insecurity for the refugees. The lack of shelter for the refugees creates an unsafe living environment, where refugees live in constant fear of incoming attacks from armed forces. Coupled with the limited resources of neighboring countries, refugees are repeatedly displaced even after fleeing.¹⁹ Within refugee camps, there is also an increasing need for sanitation and hygienic conditions, where it is important to provide refugees with life

¹⁵ Idib.

¹⁶ News, A. B. C. n.d. "South Sudan Fights Child Marriage Where Girls Sold for Cows." ABC News. Accessed June 28, 2022.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/south-sudan-fights-child-marriage-girls-sold-cows-85550699#:~:text=South%20Sudan%20has%20the%20world>.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Refugees, United Nations High Commissioner for. n.d. "South Sudan Emergency." UNHCR.

<https://www.unhcr.org/south-sudan-emergency.html#:~:text=Inside%20South%20Sudan%2C%20nearly%20two>

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sustaining equipment after suffering the effects of the previous wars. Throughout the crisis, South Sudan has developed into one of the most dire humanitarian emergencies in the world.²⁰

The economic situation within South Sudan has depleted since the beginning of the wars. The ongoing conflict and violence have destabilized the economy. Due to the majority of workers in South Sudan being in the agricultural sector, environmental impacts severely damage the economy. For example, since the independence in 2011, droughts and floods have pushed back developmental progress made. Additionally, the violence ongoing has disrupted the coordination within the country, and conditions of poverty are ubiquitous for citizens.²¹ Along with the lack of education the youth receive in South Sudan, such as having one of the world's lowest literacy rates, it is difficult for development to occur in regards to employment in South Sudan.²² In addition, peace agreements made within Sudan and South Sudan are unstable and tenuous, with constant possibilities of danger arising. Examples of this include the constant fights breaking out by opposing rival soldiers, threatening the already fragile 2018 peace agreement.²³ This creates difficulties for organizations who wish to alleviate the situation, where aid workers are killed for their resources, forcing many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to relocate their missions or withdraw their workers.

One of the key actors who have played a role in attempting to solve the issue is the United Nations, primarily the Security Council. The main peacekeeping effort that the UN has been involved in with South Sudan is the United Nations Missions in South Sudan (UNMISS). It was established in 2011 after the secession and the mandate was to provide humanitarian aid, protect civilians and their human rights and promote peace.²⁴ In March 2021, the UNSC renewed the mandate, demanding increased conflict resolution between all parties as well as ceasing all violations of humanitarian and international law. UNMISS is involved in many activities within South Sudan. One sector involves the military, working towards stability within South Sudan. Mainly, their focus involves the protection of civilians from armed weapons, along with attempts of training SPLA soldiers for peacekeeping. Moreover, UNMISS have also implemented the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to clear mines and

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ "Overview." 2011. World Bank. 2011. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/southsudan/overview>.

²² Sikainga, Ahmad Alawad. "South Sudan - Education." 2019. In Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/South-Sudan/Education>.

²³ AfricaNews. 2022. "Sporadic Fighting Resumes in South Sudan Threatening 2018 Peace Agreement." Africanews. 2022.

<https://www.africanews.com/2022/03/24/sporadic-fighting-resumes-in-south-sudan-threatening-2018-peace-agreement/>.

²⁴ Idib.

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prevent ammunition from being destructive towards the people of South Sudan.²⁵ However, despite the intervention by military, police and other peacekeeping forces, the conflict has raged on, with some continuing to question the effectiveness of UNMISS. This comes after armed forces were seen forcibly entering Protection of Civilians (POC) sites, causing governmental forces to fire ammunition. It has been speculated that this difficulty is caused by insufficient communication and support between the host nation.²⁶ That being said, UNMISS has undoubtedly saved lives and provided humanitarian aid, and there will be methods to further improve this.

Another approach taken by the UN previously to resolve the conflict is the placement of the arms embargo, frozen assets and travel restrictions imposed on South Sudan.²⁷ This means that the sale of arms to specific individuals in South Sudan, whether direct or not, is prohibited. In addition, the resolution 2577 calls for progress to be made on 5 benchmarks. To summarize, this includes progress on defense and security; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; improved management of existing ammunition and arms; and implementing the Joint Action Plan to tackle sexual violence.²⁸ According to the UN, the extension on the arms embargo in 2021 came after limited progress made on the benchmarks previously, with council members suggesting consistent updates on the progression of the 5 benchmarks.

Other international actors have been involved in the situation in South Sudan as well. One of which is the European Union (EU). Similar to the United Nations, they have also enacted an arms embargo on South Sudan, justifying this with the extreme violence and abuse of human rights.²⁹ For example, they have sanctioned General Gabriel Moses Lokujo for his role in human rights abuses, executions and killings.³⁰ Additionally, the United States, recognizing South Sudan as a state in emergency, has also sanctioned them.

Humanitarian aid has been offered to South Sudan by multiple Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Many, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans

²⁵ Idib.

²⁶ Lux, Elisa D. n.d. "Mission Impossible? Lessons from UN Peacekeeping in South Sudan" Peacelab.blog. <https://peacelab.blog/2017/06/mission-impossible-lessons-from-un-peacekeeping-in-south-sudan>.

²⁷ Idib.

²⁸ "Security Council Extends Arms Embargo on South Sudan, Mandate of Expert Panel, Adopting Resolution 2577 (2021) by 13 Votes in Favour, 2 Abstentions | UN Press." n.d. Press.un.org. Accessed July 8, 2022. <https://press.un.org/en/2021/sc14536.doc.htm>.

²⁹ "South Sudan: EU Transposes UN Security Council Resolution 2428 Reinforcing Sanctions." n.d. Wwww.consilium.europa.eu. Accessed July 1, 2022.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/08/10/south-sudan-eu-transposes-un-security-council-resolution-2428-reinforcing-sanctions/>.

³⁰ Idib.

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Frontières (MSF) have been involved in providing humanitarian aid for refugees who have been displaced, with this aid provided at camps or neighboring countries where refugees have fled.³¹ Their work involves fighting the scarcity of food, providing life saving equipment for those who have faced violence during the war, improved sanitary conditions and materials to aid communities in continuing after the conflict.³² However, due to the instability of the nation, it is dangerous and difficult for proper coordination and distribution of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable. For example, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) documented armed gunmen who attacked and threatened several medical aid workers, taking supplies from food trucks and injuring peacekeeping forces. This makes it difficult for organizations to continue their operations in the region. Apart from this, many aid workers are killed in the crossfire during fights between groups. All of this suggests the progress from the 2018 peace deal has been minimal, with both parties largely ignoring promises made.³³

Definition of Key Terms

Secession by Referendum

A secession is the act of becoming independent and no longer part of the country.³⁴ Doing this by referendum means that the sovereignty is decided by the people through a vote through a referendum, which state they belong to. This occurred in Sudan in 2011 when they chose to secede, separating into South Sudan. During the voting period, over 98% of the population voted for the secession of South Sudan.³⁵

Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)

Now known as South Sudan People's Defense Forces, the SPLA began during the Second Sudanese Civil War as a guerilla movement and fought heavily in that war. Since then, they have renamed themselves and become South Sudan's army under President Kiir.³⁶

Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)

A key political party in South Sudan, with President Kiir as its chairperson. It was founded as the political side of the SPLA, and during the Sudanese civil wars, they pushed for the independence of South

³¹ "South Sudan Refugee Crisis." 2017. International Committee of the Red Cross. August 24, 2017. <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/africa/south-sudan/south-sudan-refugees>.

³² Idib.

³³ "Surge in Attacks on Aid Workers in South Sudan." 2022. Human Rights Watch. March 4, 2022. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/04/surge-attacks-aid-workers-south-sudan#:~:text=On%20February%2028%2C%20unidentified%20gunmen>.

³⁴ "Secession." n.d. Dictionary.cambridge.org. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/secession>.

³⁵ Idib.

³⁶ Idib.

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Sudan, which was achieved. The religion of the people represented by the SPLM are Southern and thus primarily Christian or indigenous. This religion has caused tension and conflict in the first Sudanese civil wars.³⁷

Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO)

SPLM-IO was founded in 2013, splitting from the original SPLM, and their leader is Riek Machar. Also known as the anti-governmental forces, they split due to tensions between Machar and Kiir (leader of SPLM). The conflict between SPLM-IO and SPLM led to the South Sudanese civil wars, where forces in support of both parties fought in many battles.³⁸

Sharia Law

Sharia Law is the law for Islamic religion. This law heavily punishes those who are not Muslims and limits rights of women. During the Sudanese civil wars in 1983, president Jaafar Nimeiry enacted Sharia law over all of Sudan, including Southern parts, who were predominantly Christian. This unjustly punished those who were not Muslims and therefore angered those in Southern Sudan, causing conflict and rebellion, especially with rebel groups increasing their use of violence after.

Ethnic Groups

An ethnic group is a group of people who share the same beliefs and values due to the culture they grew up in. In regards to South Sudan, both the SPLM and the SPLM-IO had ethnic groups supporting them as their leaders were born into these groups. The Dinka tribe were the ethnic group who supported Kiir and the SPLM. Many forces fighting for the SPLM were from the Dinka Tribe, where Kiir is from.³⁹ The Nuer tribe is the ethnic group who fought for Machar, the leader of SPLM-IO. Much of the civil war stemmed from ethnic differences, as well as worry for the security of the tribe and its political values and futures within South Sudan.⁴⁰

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

UNMISS is a United Nations peacekeeping mission in South Sudan after the country became independent in 2011. It was established by the Security Council in the 1996 resolution. The mandate of the UNMISS includes 4 main pillars, which are the "Protection of civilians", "Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance", "Supporting the Implementation of the Revitalised Agreement and

³⁷ Idib.

³⁸ "SPLM/A-IO Resumes Participation in Security Mechanisms." Sudan Tribune. Sudan Tribune. April 4, 2022. <https://sudantribune.com/article257299/>.

³⁹ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. 2019. "Dinka | People." In Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Dinka>.

⁴⁰ Idib.

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the Peace Process” and “Monitoring, investigating, and reporting on violations of humanitarian and human rights law”. Currently, there are around 20,000 peacekeepers in South Sudan with UNMISS.⁴¹

Timeline of Key Events

August 1955 - March 1972 - First Sudanese Civil War

After the decolonization of Sudan, the British chose to merge Northern and Southern regions, which were previously governed separately with different values religiously, culturally and politically. With the power given mostly to the Northerners, an inevitable Southern resistance formed. Although a peace agreement was signed at the end of this civil war, this was the beginning of the many conflicts in Sudan and South Sudan.⁴²

July 1972 - July 1983 - Autonomous Region of Southern Sudan is Formed

The autonomous region of Southern Sudan that was agreed upon during the peace agreement brought forth 11 years of peace, albeit tense in Sudan.

June 5, 1983 - Abolition of the Autonomous Region of Southern Sudan

President Jaafar Nimery abolished the autonomous region of Southern Sudan, as well as imposed Sharia law on all of Sudan, punishing the Southerners, prompting a second civil war in Sudan.⁴³

July 2002 - January 2005 - Negotiations between the Southern Rebels and Sudanese Government

After 3 years of negotiations, a peace agreement was reached, where there would be a permanent ceasefire, independence for the South Sudanese, and a referendum for independence in 2011. This gave the previously known rebels power in the South Sudanese government.⁴⁴

January 9, 2011 - Jan 15, 2011 - Referendum for South Sudan Independence

Citizens voted on the secession of South Sudan, with 98% voting for the secession.

July 9, 2011 - Independence Day and Establishment of UNMISS

⁴¹ “About UNMISS.” 2017. UNMISS. November 16, 2017. <https://unmiss.unmissions.org/about-unmiss>.

⁴² “Sudan in Crisis.” n.d. Origins. Accessed July 2, 2022. https://origins.osu.edu/article/sudan-darfur-al-bashir-colonial-protest?language_content_entity=en#:~:text=At%20the%20end%20of%201955.

⁴³ Joffe, Lawrence. 2009. “Obituary: Jaafar Nimeiri.” *The Guardian*. The Guardian. June 4, 2009. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jun/05/obituary-jaafar-nimeiri>.

⁴⁴ Idib.

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South Sudan becomes independent and is the world's newest country. UNMISS was established, for a temporary period of 1 year, which was soon extended.

December 2013 - Start of South Sudanese Civil War

President Kiir accused Vice President Machar of plotting a coup to overthrow him. This leads to the removal of Machar as vice president, who leaves the country.

August 2015 - Creation of Peace Agreements

Due to threats of sanctions, a peace agreement is signed that states Machar returns as Vice President on April 16, 2016. However, he was exiled again in July.

July 13, 2018 - First Embargoes Placed on South Sudan

In resolution 2428, an embargo is imposed on South Sudan, which is later renewed in 2021. This embargo was first suggested in 2016, but blocked. Later, in May, 2021, through resolution 2577, the Security Council at the UN decided to renew the embargoes, travel bans and sanctions on South Sudan as a result of the lack of progress in regards to further actions on 5 key benchmarks.⁴⁵

September 2018 - Second Sudanese Peace Agreement

The South Sudanese government and its opposition sign another peace agreement, offering collaboration. However, armed conflicts rage on despite this new arrangement.⁴⁶

February 22, 2020 - End of South Sudanese Civil War

After two more years of further negotiations, Machar, his opposition and several rebel groups decided to end the civil war through an agreement.

February 2022 - Continued Reports of Human Rights Abuses

Throughout the history of Sudan and South Sudan, the reports and recorded instances of human rights abuses have only risen, with organizations such as the Human Rights Watch reporting continued violence, lack of humanitarian access to food and water, and continued impunity.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ "Resolutions | United Nations Security Council." 2015. Un.org. 2015.
<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/resolutions-0>.

⁴⁶ "Timeline: South Sudan's History at a Glance." 2022. Concern Worldwide. January 10, 2022.
<https://www.concernusa.org/story/timeline-south-sudan-history/>.

⁴⁷ "South Sudan: Human Rights Priorities for the Government of South Sudan." 2022. Human Rights Watch. February 3, 2022.
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/03/south-sudan-human-rights-priorities-government-south-sudan>.

Position of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies

China

Since their recognition of South Sudan as a country in 2011, China has in general, taken a non-interference approach in regards to the political, peace and stability process, as is important to their foreign policy principles. They have rarely spoken regarding these processes. Yet recently, China has begun to make nuanced changes to their approach in South Sudan. For example, they have donated \$500,000 supporting the 2011 referendum. The first time China stepped in was in 2013, to support an end to the war. However, it could be argued that this was mainly for their own economic interests, especially due to their already drilled oil fields in these unstable regions. Currently, most of their aid involves infrastructure projects, along with humanitarian aid. Moreover, with the expansion of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), their oil companies in South Sudan have steadily increased, involving their own economic and national interests.⁴⁸

France

France has been heavily involved with the provision of aid to South Sudan. For example, France has donated \$1.29 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), with the goal of providing nutrition assistance to civilians. France has also issued statements, stating their willingness to provide this aid that is necessary for the survival of the people.⁴⁹ Throughout the crisis, France has also expressed concern for the impacts of violence, condemning acts of violence, and expressing their wishes to hold perpetrators accountable. Moreover, as a part of the European Union (EU), France has been involved in sanctioning South Sudan, along with voting for resolutions previously sanctioning South Sudan in the Security Council.⁵⁰

Russia

Similar to the stance of China, Russia stresses non-interference when it comes to other countries. With South Sudan, in March 2022, both Russia and China abstained from the resolution that extended the mandate for 19,000 peacekeeping troops, stating the measure focused excessively on the human rights in

⁴⁸ “Has China Changed Its ‘Hands-Off’ Foreign Policy in South Sudan?” 2022. The Africa Report.com. May 25, 2022. <https://www.theafricareport.com/197553/has-china-changed-its-hands-off-foreign-policy-in-south-sudan/>.

⁴⁹ “France Helps WFP Support Thousands of People in Crisis-Hit South Sudan - South Sudan | ReliefWeb.” n.d. Reliefweb.int. Accessed July 16, 2022.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/france-helps-wfp-support-thousands-people-crisis-hit-south-sudan#:~:text=JUBA%2D%20The%20United%20Nations%20World>.

⁵⁰ “Security Council Extends Sanctions on South Sudan, Adopting Resolution 2633 (2022) by 10 Votes in Favour, with 5 Abstentions | UN Press.” n.d. Press.un.org. Accessed July 16, 2022.

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc14908.doc.htm>.

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East African countries.⁵¹ On the other hand, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has negatively affected the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan as well. This is because the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) had to suspend their aid to almost 2 million people due to rising costs from the Russia-Ukraine conflict. While Russia and South Sudan are not geographically close, the blocking of Ukraine's black sea ports by the Russian President, Putin, has caused a spike in prices of food, since many could not be shipped out. The impacts of this have manifested in starvation across South Sudan.⁵²

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has actively engaged themselves within missions and aid for South Sudan. Firstly, they have stated their concern for the humanitarian crisis and the 'daily threat of starvation' people face in South Sudan. As a result, the UK has provided people with food and nutrition assistance, emergency water, hygiene and sanitation and emergency livelihood kits for families. Other than this, they have worked closely with the UNMISS, providing around 300 troops for emergency engineering and medical assistance vital for the protection of civilians.⁵³ However, recently the UK reported a 59% cut to international aid. While the UK will still remain one of the largest donors to South Sudan, this cut will undoubtedly cost lives and harm the development in South Sudan.⁵⁴

United States of America

The United States of America is one of the largest contributors of humanitarian aid to South Sudan, having donated \$1 billion in humanitarian support, through organizations like the UNMISS, World Bank and more.⁵⁵ The US has also recognized the lack of progress by the leaders of South Sudan, leading to their decision to withdraw their support from the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission. With regards to the people of South Sudan, the US stands with them, stating their

⁵¹ "UN Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan Extended for a Year." 2022. AP NEWS. March 16, 2022.

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-africa-china-sudan-middle-east-2e33a8b64ee0f623619d617e974da415>.

⁵² "Tell Them We Are Starving,' Beg South Sudanese as Food Aid Dries up Because 'White People Are at War' in Ukraine." n.d. Wwww.cbsnews.com. Accessed July 17, 2022.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ukraine-russia-war-impact-food-emergency-south-sudan/>.

⁵³ "UK Aid to Provide Vital Food to Hundreds of Thousands of People Living on the Edge of Famine in South Sudan." n.d. GOV.UK. Accessed July 17, 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-provide-vital-food-to-hundreds-of-thousands-of-people-living-on-the-edge-of-famine-in-south-sudan>.

⁵⁴ "NGOs Ask the UK Government Not to Cut Aid to South Sudan as Threat of Famine Looms - South Sudan | ReliefWeb." n.d. Reliefweb.int. Accessed July 17, 2022.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/ngos-ask-uk-government-not-cut-aid-south-sudan-threat-famine-loom>.

⁵⁵ Thaivalappil, Maureen. n.d. "The United States Stands with the People of South Sudan and Calls for Urgent Progress from South Sudan's Leaders." United States Department of State. Accessed July 17, 2022.

<https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-stands-with-the-people-of-south-sudan-and-calls-for-urgent-progress-from-south-sudans-leaders/>.

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commitment to work with other partners in the future to work towards a peaceful, prosperous state that South Sudan deserves after their fight for independence.

Albania

Although Albania has not played the most active role in the provision of aid to South Sudan, they have issued statements regarding their concerns for the humanitarian crisis, along with commending UNMISS for their work in South Sudan. Albanian soldiers and the army have also joined the peacekeeping forces, hoping to bring peace to South Sudan.⁵⁶

Brazil

Brazil was one of the first to recognize the independence of South Sudan and have an embassy in South Sudan. However, more recently, they have not played much of a role within the situation of South Sudan, with one of their last bilateral relations being the welcoming of Vice President Riek Machar back and recognizing milestones in the political process South Sudan have taken.⁵⁷

Gabon

Gabon has not been involved with the South Sudan crisis. They recognized South Sudan and their independence on the 15th of July, 6 days after they were established, and since then have not established relations with South Sudan. Apart from this, they have abstained from the vote to renew the global arms embargo.

Ghana

As a country relatively close to South Sudan, Ghana has peacekeepers working with the UNMISS to aid the protection of civilians, who have been commended for saving lives by the UN.⁵⁸ However, Ghana voted for the US drafted resolution, renewing the global arms embargo in May 2022. South Sudan has called their decision “disappointing” and this decision has angered South Sudan.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ “First-Ever Albanian Female Peacekeepers Committed to Leaving a Mark in South Sudan.” n.d. United Nations Peacekeeping. Accessed July 17, 2022.

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/first-ever-albanian-female-peacekeepers-committed-to-leaving-mark-south-sudan>.

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<https://www.gov.br/mre/en/subjects/bilateral-relations/all-countries/republic-of-south-sudan>.

⁵⁸ “South Sudan: Timely Action by Ghanaian Peacekeepers Proves ‘Every Second Counts.’” 2021. UN News. January 10, 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1081762>.

⁵⁹ umajulius. 2022. “South Sudan Slams Ghana’s Decision to Back Arms Embargo.” Sudan Tribune. Sudan Tribune. May 30, 2022. <https://sudantribune.com/article259530/>.

India

India has been comparatively more involved in South Sudan. From an economic standpoint, India has been interested in the extensive oil fields, increasing their investments in the sector over the years.⁶⁰ In regards to the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, India has supported the people of South Sudan. One example of this is through their peacekeeping efforts, where their army protects civilians.⁶¹ Other than this, India has provided aid to South Sudan. For example, in 2008, India donated \$100,000 USD for tents and medicine for flood victims, and in December 2020, they donated nutritional aid, and later life-sustaining medical aid.⁶²

Ireland

Ireland's involvement with South Sudan mainly consists of the foreign aid they have donated. They have funded extensively for issues such as emergency aid, environmental changes, hunger, and refugee camps for neighboring countries such as Uganda.⁶³ They have done this through airlifts and have worked extensively to aid the crisis.

Kenya

Firstly, Kenya and South Sudan are geographically neighboring countries, and have cooperated over the past years. Kenya and South Sudan have been trading partners which mainly consists of food, and contributes to the economy.⁶⁴ Kenya and South Sudan have also been involved with infrastructure projects with each other, such as the LAPSSSET (Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor) to increase inter-connectivity between countries. That being said, Kenya has stated that South Sudan has been lacking in their development.⁶⁵

⁶⁰ "India Greets South Sudan." n.d. www.telegraphindia.com. Accessed July 17, 2022. <https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/india-greets-south-sudan/cid/368757>.

⁶¹ "Secretary-General Appoints Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian of India as Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan." 2022. UNMISS. July 5, 2022. <https://unmiss.unmissions.org/secretary-general-appoints-lieutenant-general-mohan-subramanian-india-force-commander-united-nations>.

⁶² "Embassy of India, Juba, South Sudan." 2012. indembjuba.gov.in. 2012. [https://indembjuba.gov.in/india-south-sudan-relation.php#:~:text=Humanitarian%20Assistance%20%26%20Disaster%20Relief%20\(HA%26](https://indembjuba.gov.in/india-south-sudan-relation.php#:~:text=Humanitarian%20Assistance%20%26%20Disaster%20Relief%20(HA%26)

⁶³ "South Sudan - Department of Foreign Affairs." n.d. www.irishaid.ie. Accessed July 17, 2022. <https://www.irishaid.ie/news-publications/tags/southsudan/>.

⁶⁴ "Kenya (KEN) and South Sudan (SSD) Trade | OEC." n.d. OEC - the Observatory of Economic Complexity. Accessed July 17, 2022. <https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateral-country/ken/partner/ssd>.

⁶⁵ "Kenya Urges S. Sudan to Fulfill Its Obligation in Regional Infrastructure Dev't." 2022. Eye Radio. March 4, 2022. <https://www.eyeradio.org/kenya-urges-s-sudan-to-fulfill-its-obligation-in-regional-infrastructure-devt/>.

Mexico

Mexico has not been heavily involved in the ongoing situation in South Sudan. Like Gabon, they have recognized South Sudan after its independence, but have not established relations.

Norway

Norway has had a long term engagement in South Sudan, promoting sustainable development and peace. During the civil war, Norway was one of the first to facilitate peace between the government and SPLM. Many organizations such as the Norwegian Church Aid and Norwegian People's Aid have been working in South Sudan throughout even the Sudanese wars.⁶⁶ Currently, Norway donates around \$64 million USD to South Sudan annually.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

South Sudan and the UAE have had successful relations, since President Kiir vowed to protect UAE investors as a means to urge investment, and therefore economic growth and development in South Sudan.⁶⁷ In July 2020, the UAE also sent humanitarian and medical aid to South Sudan through an aid plane.⁶⁸

Suggested Solutions

One course of action that could be taken is putting South Sudan under trusteeship. This could be under a UN trusteeship.⁶⁹ The UN Trusteeship council was designed to improve the trust within a nation when countries transferred to sovereign nations. Their missions ended in 1994, when the last of the Trust Territories gained their independence. These trust territories were non self-governing territories and primarily under the administrative authority of the UN Trusteeship Council.⁷⁰ This trusteeship would be externally controlled, and a majority of the government in South Sudan would lose power. Evidently, South Sudan has previously rejected being placed under a trusteeship in 2017, with the government claiming an improvement on the existing peace deal would be more beneficial than external control over

⁶⁶ Affairs, Ministry of Foreign. 2019. "South Sudan: Norway Continue Efforts to Promote Political Solution." Government.no. December 2, 2019. https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/foreign-affairs/peace-and-reconciliation-efforts/norways_engagement/southsudan_efforts/id2522247/.

⁶⁷ umajulius. 2022. "South Sudan's Kiir Lures Investors from United Arab Emirates." Sudan Tribune. Sudan Tribune. April 26, 2022. <https://sudantribune.com/article258051/>.

⁶⁸ "UAE Sends Medical Aid to South Sudan in Fight against COVID-19 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb." n.d. Reliefweb.int. Accessed July 17, 2022.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/uae-sends-medical-aid-south-sudan-fight-against-covid-19>.

⁶⁹ "Trusteeship Council." United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/ccoi/trusteeship-council>.

⁷⁰ "Merriam-Webster Dictionary." 2022. Merriam-Webster.com. 2022.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/trust%20territory#:~:text=%3A%20a%20non%2Dself%2Dgoverning>.

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their regime.⁷¹ If the trusteeship were to be imposed, then the UN would be able to govern the country for a specific amount of time, or until certain conditions are met. However, a dilemma that needs to be balanced within this proposed solution would be the rights of the people who fought hard for their independence over the years and their rights through voting in the referendum back in 2011.

Another possible solution to be implemented would be a Hybrid Court by the African Union Commission (AUC). Within a hybrid court, usually there are elements of both national and international laws, and they are often set up within the jurisdiction of where the crime occurs.⁷² A reason why hybrid courts could be useful within South Sudan is due to their aims to end impunity, a large issue especially in corrupt governments. A hybrid court aims to investigate and prosecute suspected criminals and can adjudicate international war crimes. By implementing both national and international aspects, a hybrid court is able to respect both state sovereignty and international, cultural expectations.⁷³ For South Sudan, local crimes are easily ignored within the chaos and violence, and a hybrid court could keep criminals more accountable and create a more robust legal process. However, a major limitation of hybrid courts is that the incorporation of domestic and international law differs between different countries, creating different standards. This could be seen as derogatory towards the international ethical standards that are set, along with devaluing the purpose and meaning of bringing justice towards a case. In addition, the host country must consent to this, which may be difficult within South Sudan.

Working more closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) could improve the situation in South Sudan. During the South Sudanese civil war, IGAD mediated many of the ceasefires held. The IGAD region stretches over 8 countries in Africa, including the Horn of Africa, Nile Valley and Great African Lakes. The mission of the IGAD is to promote economic and development strategies between countries, through methods such as increasing communication, negotiating trade barriers, creating a safe environment for sustainable development, and improving complementary infrastructure that would facilitate these actions.⁷⁴ They have also been involved with peace and security, combatting food shortages, and economic cooperation. However, South Sudan membership within the IGAD has been suspended since December 2021, due to their inability to pay the membership fees.⁷⁵ This

⁷¹ AfricaNews. 2017. "South Sudan Rejects UN Trusteeship." Africanews. 2017. <https://www.africanews.com/2017/02/05/south-sudan-rejects-un-trusteeship/#:~:text=South%20Sudan%20has%20once%20again>.

⁷² <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/HybridCourts.pdf>

⁷³ Reports, Staff. 2018. "The Benefits of Hybrid Tribunals in Prosecuting War Crimes." BORGEM. June 28, 2018. <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/benefits-hybrid-tribunals/>.

⁷⁴ IGAD. 2021. "About - IGAD." May 20, 2021. <https://igad.int/about/?tab=aims-and-objectives>.

⁷⁵ Merkezli, Haber. n.d. "Regional Bloc Suspends South Sudan's Membership over Failure to Pay Fees." [Www.yenisafak.com](http://www.yenisafak.com). Accessed July 15, 2022.

had serious implications for the development of South Sudan, since the IGAD was the trading bloc that spanned most of South Sudan's neighboring countries. This has further contributed to the deterioration of the economy and development in South Sudan.

The need for humanitarian assistance in South Sudan is vital as well. One option for providing this is working closely with third party organizations. The collaboration with various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Human Rights Organizations could be helpful to South Sudan. This would include vigilant tracking of human rights abuses to compile statistics, providing administrative assistance and encouraging economic growth and development within South Sudan.⁷⁶

In addition, acts that take into account the power and scope of the Security Council, should delegates see fit, include imposing further sanctions and improving the peacekeeping process in South Sudan. Since many peacekeeping efforts are currently deterred by the ongoing violence, increasing funding to ensure the security and protection within the country would benefit both the peacekeeping efforts, especially by NGOs, but also for the citizens. This would allow NGOs to continue their missions in South Sudan, lowering the risks of withdrawal that have occurred continuously. On the other hand, the Security Council could consider the expansion of the global arms embargo. There is evidence that many are breaching the embargo, which has led to armed forces and violence within the state.⁷⁷ Many of this is due to illegal acts relating to the black market, arms trafficking and the sponsoring of terrorist groups.⁷⁸ Improvements made to the current system could be increased monitoring on newer arms and ensuring the punishment of crimes when evading these sanctions is sufficient enough to deter criminals.⁷⁹ However, it is necessary to consider the trade-off that will be made with the economy of South Sudan, much of which is supported by the illegal arms trade.

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⁷⁶ Idib.

⁷⁷ "Amnesty International Calls on the UN Security Council to Renew Its Arms Embargo on South Sudan, Citing New Evidence of Violations on the Ground." n.d. www.amnesty.org.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/04/south-sudan-evidence-of-violations-and-illicit-concealment-of-arms-must-spur-un-to-renew-arms-embargo/>.

⁷⁸ "Amnesty International." 2019. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/arms-control/>.

⁷⁹ "Making Arms Embargoes in Africa More Effective - World | ReliefWeb." n.d. reliefweb.int. Accessed July 16, 2022. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/making-arms-embargoes-africa-more-effective>.

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