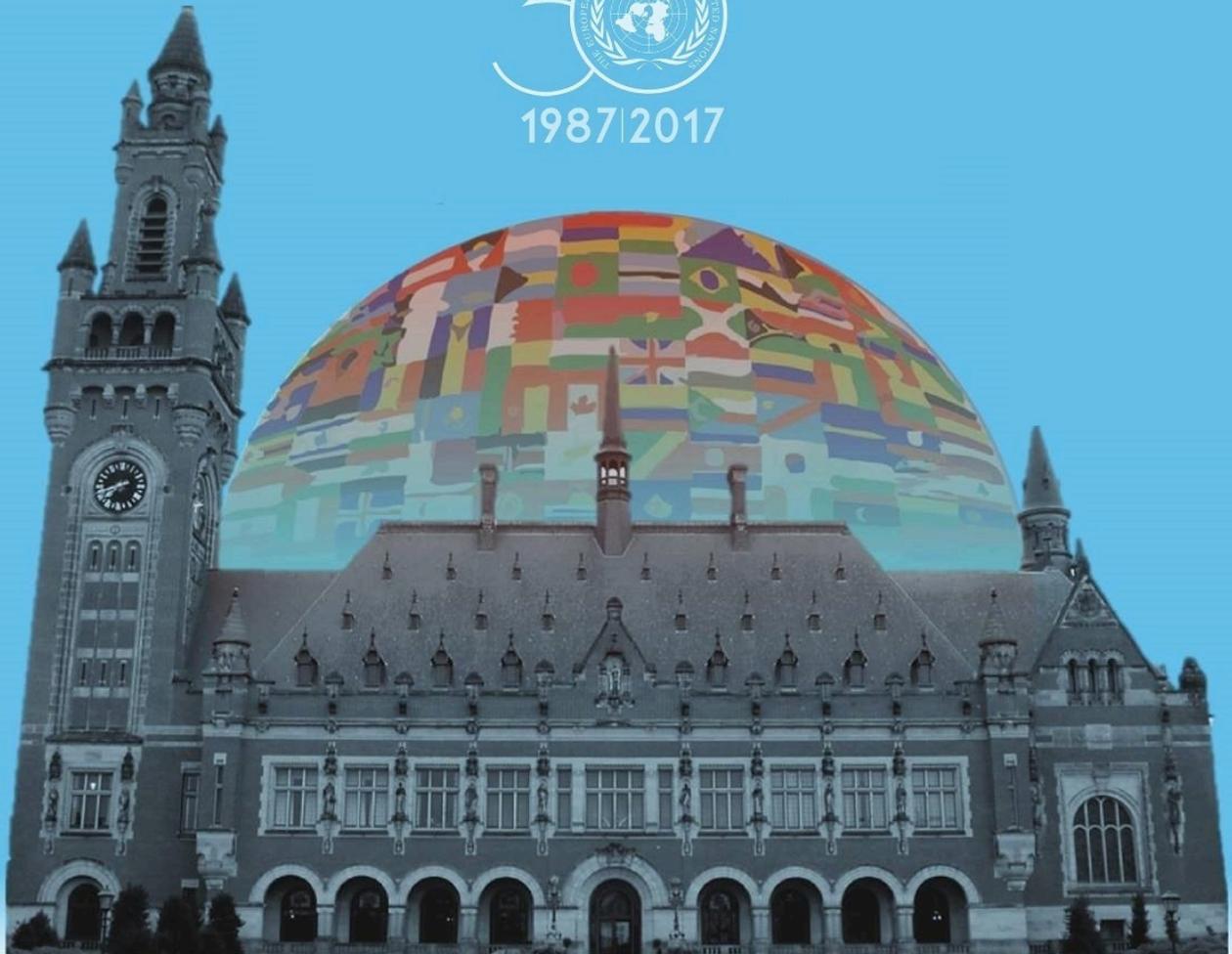


TEIMUN

THE EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL

THE SOUTH SUDANESE CIVIL WAR



Welcome Letter

Welcome, dear delegates!

It is with enormous pleasure and great expectations that we welcome you to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) of this year's edition of TEIMUN, where we will be debating South-Sudan and its power play of blood and oil.

First things first, allow us to introduce ourselves. The UNSC team is composed of two very enthusiastic MUNers, Teun Jansen and Maxime Voorbraak. Teun is from Maastricht, the Netherlands, and currently studies History at the University of Groningen. Maxime is also from the Netherlands and currently studies Law at the University of Utrecht.

The matter at hand is of paramount importance for the stability of the region and the international community. Many attempts to achieve peace have been made, but so far they have all failed. Therefore, as part of the Security Council, it is your job to pursue durable and strong peace agreements. Are you up for the challenge?

We put ourselves at your disposal for anything you might need, so feel free to contact us! We look forward to see you at TEIMUN 2017!

Your Chairs,

Teun Jansen and Maxime Voorbraak
sc@teimun.org

Introduction

The Republic of South Sudan is the world's youngest internationally recognised state, having gained its independence on the 9th of July 2011 after a referendum which passed with 98.83% of the participants voting in favour of secession from the Republic of Sudan.¹ However, the new state has been struck by ethnic and political violence, which threatens not only its existence as a state but has also put it on the brink of ethnic cleansing.² Disputes on national leadership between President Salva Kiir and his former Vice-President Riek Machar have escalated into an ethnic conflict between the men's respective groups, which has ravaged the state's economic infrastructure and its ability to feed its own citizens.³

Foreign relations with neighbouring Sudan have also been uneasy. Unresolved territorial disputes concerning the mineral rich border regions of Abyei, Kafia Kingi and the town of Heglig, all of which are under de-facto Sudanese control, have led to local military confrontations and generally tense relations between the states.⁴ Making the situation even more complex, South-Sudan is accused of supporting secessionist rebels fighting the government of Sudan in South Kordofan and Darfur.⁵ A permanent resolution to these turmoils will have to be included in any comprehensive plan for a stable and peaceful South Sudan.

South Sudan is also home to the third largest oil reserves in Sub-Saharan Africa, which amount to more than 98% of its government budget.⁶ Since there are no other major sources of government revenue due to its underdeveloped economy, this leaves the state at the mercy of global crude oil prices which have dropped significantly over the past years. Oil prices have slightly recovered since November 2016 but have yet to return to pre-2015 levels.⁷ Having the second highest score in the fragile states index, South Sudan requires a swift but sustainable resolution to its perils.⁸ Otherwise, violence threatens to not only destabilise the state itself for decades to come, but also to spill over to already fragile neighbouring states, such as Ethiopia and Uganda. South Sudan and Sudan are both seen as potential strategic partners by Russia, China, as well as several

¹ United Nations. "United Nations mission in the Sudan." un.org.

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unmis/referendum.shtml>

² UNMIS. "UN Human Rights Experts Says International Community Has An Obligation To Prevent Ethnic Cleansing In South Sudan." unmiss.unmissions.org. <https://unmiss.unmissions.org/un-human-rights-experts-says-international-community-has-obligation-prevent-ethnic-cleansing-south>

³ Clooney, John and John Prendergast. "South Sudan's government made famine." March 9, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2017/03/09/south-sudans-government-made-famine/?utm_term=.a977c67277a9

⁴ Global Security. "Abyei Area." globalsecurity.org.

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/abyei.htm>

⁵ Biajo, Nabeel. "Stop Supporting Rebels or else, Sudan Warns South Sudan." Voice of America News. October 24, 2016. <http://www.voanews.com/a/sudan-warns-south-sudan-to-stop-supporting-rebels/3564486.html>

⁶ Vickers, Emma. "Turning The Tide: Building a clean oil sector through South Sudan's peace agreement." globalwitness.org. <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/reports/turning-tide/>

⁷ Rats, Martijn. "Recovering Oil Prices Likely Have More Room to Rise." Morgan Stanley. March 15, 2017. <https://www.morganstanley.com/ideas/oil-recovery-outlook>

⁸ Fund For Peace. "Fragile States Index 2016." fundforpeace.org. <http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/>

Western and African powers.⁹ Therefore, reaching a balanced agreement with unanimity will be a difficult task.

Historical background

The problems which are at the root of the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan reach back centuries. Islam is the majority religion in Sudan, with over 90% of its inhabitants being adherents of this faith. The region which is now known as South Sudan never witnessed such a dramatic Islamic influence. Geographical barriers, like vast swamplands and the White Nile, and British colonial preference to send its missionaries to the Southern regions, caused it to become mainly Christian, with strong elements of traditional 'animist' religion and culture. Muslim raids into southern Sudan were a regular occurrence, forcing large amounts of people into slavery and crippling the local economy and general development. Furthermore, South-Sudanese people are considered to be part of Sub-Saharan ethnicity, while Sudan is predominantly of Arab ethnicity.¹⁰

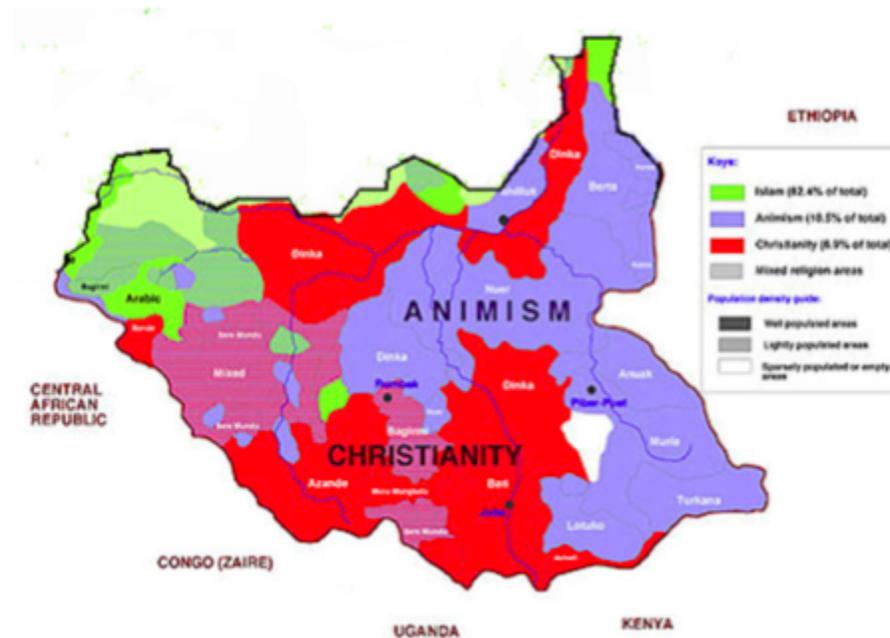


Figure 1: Religion in South Sudan, Global Security.¹¹

These underlying religious and cultural tensions were considered by the British, who initially administered the region in a separate Northern and Southern sector, but this policy was abruptly reversed when the two regions were merged in 1946. Britain held on to Sudan through a series of treaties it had negotiated with

⁹ Korybko, Andrew. "South Sudan's Total Collapse Could Destroy Central And Eastern Africa." katehon.com. <http://katehon.com/article/south-sudans-total-collapse-could-destroy-central-and-eastern-africa>

¹⁰ LeRiche, Matthew and Matthew Arnold. "South Sudan: From Revolution To Independence." . Oxford: Oxford University Press , 2013.

¹¹ Global Security "South Sudan - Maps." Global Security.com. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-maps.htm>

Egypt in the previous century, which also laid claim to the region on grounds of their shared history. After the Egyptian revolution which overthrew its monarchy, the newly elected President Nasser sought to establish an independent Sudan under neither Egyptian nor British control. The Republic of Sudan was proclaimed on the first of January 1956 after Anglo-Egyptian negotiations.¹²

Southern leaders considered the merging of the two regions and the absence of the British administration as a threat to their autonomy and security, since they would be dominated by the larger, Muslim North. After persistent economic neglect of the South by the government in Khartoum, manifested in a lack of education and infrastructure, as well as persistent ethnic violence, mutinies broke out within the army. These eventually culminated in a full scale civil war between the Sudanese government and insurgent groups in 1955. These groups ultimately united in the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement, or SSLM.¹³ The fighting stopped with the *Addis Ababa Agreement* in 1972, which pledged political autonomy to the South.¹⁴ However, violence resumed after President Nimeiry brought an end to this autonomy and implemented Sharia law in all of Sudan in 1983.¹⁵ The period between 1983 and January 2005 is usually referred to as the Second Sudanese Civil War. Millions of people, most of them civilians, died and millions more were displaced and impoverished in what was one of the longest civil wars in modern history.¹⁶

On January 9th 2005, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the main rebel group in the Second Civil War and successor to the SSLM, and the government of Sudan agreed on a peace accord, known as the Naivasha agreement.¹⁷ The most important provision of this Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was a planned referendum on official South Sudanese independence, which was to take place in 2011.¹⁸ The referendum did indeed take place, with 98.57% of South Sudanese participants voting in favour of independence.¹⁹ On the 9th of July 2011, the independent state of South Sudan was officially declared, and the SPLM became the ruling political party.²⁰ However, a lack of political agreement between Sudan and South Sudan persisted over the administration of a number of border regions (Abyei, Kafia Kingi and Heglig) and the distribution of oil revenues (75% of the oil production of the former united state of Sudan lies in South Sudan). This, in turn, led to a continued insurgency in the

¹² Johnson, Douglas H. *The Root Causes Of Sudan's Civil Wars.* The International African Institute, 2003.

¹³ O'Balliance, E. *Sudan, Civil War And Terrorism, 1956-99.* Springer, 23 Aug 2000

¹⁴ Peace Direct. "Sudan: Conflict Profile." Peace Direct: Insight on Conflict. August, 2009.

<https://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/sudan/conflict-profile/>

¹⁵ Idem

¹⁶ O'Balliance, E. *Sudan, Civil War And Terrorism, 1956-99.* Springer, 23 Aug 2000

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082>

¹⁷ UNMIS. "The Background To Sudan's Comprehensive Peace." unmis.unmissions.org.

<https://unmis.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=515>

¹⁸ Idem

¹⁹ BBC News. "South Sudan Referendum: 99% vote for independence." January 30, 2011.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-12317927>

²⁰ Gettleman, Jeffrey. "After Years of Struggle, South Sudan becomes a New Nation." July 9, 2011.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/10/world/africa/10sudan.html>

Sudanese states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile between the Sudanese military and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement - North (SPLM-N). The latter is a splinter group of, and denounced by, the SPLM and consists of former pro-South Sudanese independence rebels still active in Sudan. In addition to this, the SPLM-N cooperates with insurgents in Darfur, another disputed area within Sudan where the majority non-Arab population seeks to gain independence from Sudan. South Sudan denies involvement in supporting the SPLM-N but is known to supply it with weapons.²¹

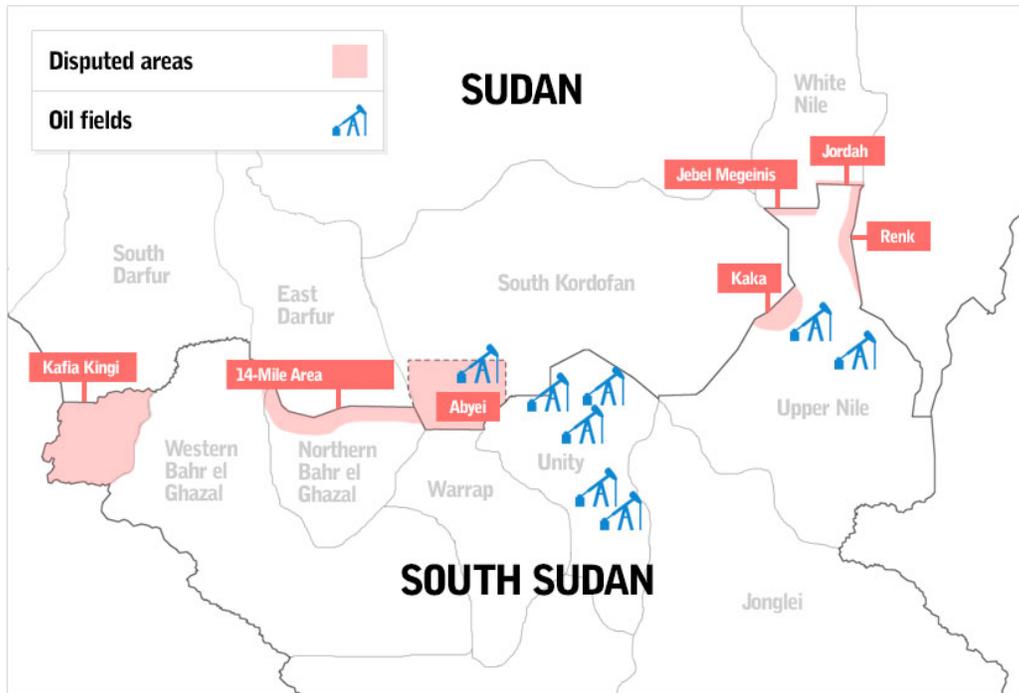


Figure 2: Disputed Border Areas, Médecins Sans Frontier.²²

The aforementioned territorial disputes between Sudan and South Sudan concern areas of great strategic importance, as they hold a large amount of South-Sudan’s oil production facilities. A short war between Sudan and South Sudan over the oil rich region of Heglig took place between the 26th of March and 26th of September 2012. The confrontation ended with Sudan gaining control of the region, a situation which South Sudan still disputes. Sudan and South Sudan have yet to reach consensus on a framework for the distribution, transit and prices of oil production in South Sudan. The situation is complicated by the fact that the only pipeline currently connecting South Sudan with its importers passes through Sudan.²³

²¹ Natsios, Andrew S. ‘‘Sudan, South Sudan and Darfur: What Everyone Needs to Know.’’ Oxford University Press , USA, 23 Mar 2012.

²² Morales, Augus. ‘‘Exodus: #South Sudan.’’ Médecins Sans Frontières. <http://exodus.msf.org/en/southsudan.html>

²³ Laessing, Ulf and Alexander Dziadosz. ‘‘South Sudan Withdraws From Oil Area, Easing Border Crisis.’’ reuters.org. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-sudan-heglig-idUSBRE83J0LO20120420>

The South Sudanese Civil War

After the independence of South Sudan, the government started facing severe difficulties due to political instability. After rumours of a possible planned coup d'état in 2012, president Salva Kiir started a process to reorganize his entire senior cabinet, firing various members. In July 2013, Kiir dismissed his Vice-President, Riek Machar and suspended the Secretary-General of his own party (SPLM), Pagan Amum Okech, forbidding him to either leave the capital or speak to the press. Such acts were perceived as a step towards dictatorship by Machar, who announced his candidacy in the 2015 elections to challenge Kiir's one-man rule.²⁴ It has been argued that an aggravating factor of the dispute between Kiir and Machar is related to the fact that they belong to rival tribes, the former being an ethnic Dinka, and the latter an ethnic Nuer. Nevertheless, others reject ethno-tribal explanations of the conflict, claiming them to be an oversimplification.²⁵

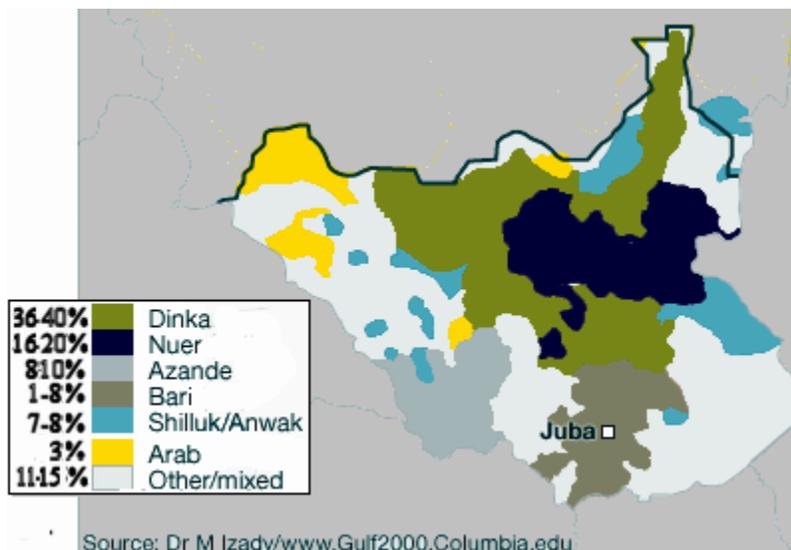


Figure 3: Ethnic Groups in South Sudan, Global Security.²⁶

Tensions started to rise in December 2013, when Machar and his fellow opposition leaders voted to boycott the meetings of the National Liberation Council, the South Sudanese parliament. After this, clashes between members of the presidential guard broke out in South Sudan's capital, Juba.²⁷ On the 16th of December 2013, President Salva Kiir spoke on national television and stated that an

²⁴ Noel, Katherine. "Understanding the Roots of Conflict in South Sudan." Council on Foreign Relations. September 14, 2016. <https://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/south-sudan/conflict-profile/>

²⁵ Natsios, Andrew S. "Lord of the Tribes: The Real Roots of the Conflict in South Sudan." Foreign Affairs. July 9, 2015. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/sudan/2015-07-09/lords-tribes>

²⁶ Global Security "South Sudan - Maps." Global Security.com. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-maps.htm>

²⁷ BBC News. "South Sudan: What is the fighting about? BBC News. May 10, 2014. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-25427965>

attempted coup had been foiled and that it had been orchestrated by a group of soldiers allied with the former Vice President, Riek Machar. Two days later, Machar went public, not only denying his involvement in a coup attempt, but also accusing Kiir of fabricating the allegations in order to target political opponents and to consolidate his power. Hostilities between government and rebel forces started in the same month with rebel factions seizing control of many cities. The main rebel groups in the hostilities are known as the Sudan's People Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) and the Nuer White Army, an ethnically Nuer militia. Before the end of the year, Uganda's government responded to a call for foreign help by President Kiir by deploying troops to Juba. Furthermore, the United States of America began trying to mediate peace talks between both factions, while mobilizing its forces to help during possible evacuation processes.²⁸ In early January 2014, the coordinated efforts of the international community reached a first cease-fire in Ethiopia, but the agreement was broken several times over subsequent weeks. As a consequence, further talks in February failed to end the violence that would displace more than a million people by April and resulted in the former Vice President Machar being charged with treason by the South Sudanese government.²⁹

The escalation of the conflict led South Sudan into a severe food crisis, described by the United Nations Security Council as the worst in the world.³⁰ Not long after this statement, the UNSC started deploying peacekeeping forces in order to maintain security for the now severely endangered civilian population. Meanwhile, another cease-fire agreement was signed by both Kiir and Machar in order to guarantee that farmers would be able to collect their crops and prevent famine. However, only hours after the ceasefire was signed, both sides accused each other of violating it and the hostilities continued.³¹ Throughout the following months, several different peace agreements were negotiated. However, they all failed to guarantee any stability for the region, as all of them were disrespected by both factions and the conflict continued to escalate. In August 2015, under pressure from the international community, Kiir and Machar re-established a union government, by signing the "Compromise Peace Agreement". The agreement reinstated Machar as Vice President and established the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), responsible for monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the agreement.³²

Shortly before Machar's return, the rebel leaders Gathoth Gatkuoth and Peter Gadet announced that they would split from Machar's faction accusing him of seeking power for himself and of not representing the people's will. The split resulted in the formation of new factions that opposed the newly-formed coalition

²⁸ Idem

²⁹ Idem

³⁰ BBC News. "South Sudan's Food Crisis 'Worst in the World'- UN." July 24, 2014.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28502260>

³¹ BBC News. "South Sudan ceasefire violated, rebels and government say." BBC News May 11, 2014.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-27362508>

³² Intergovernmental Authority on Development. "Agreement on the resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan." Intergovernmental Authority on Development August 17, 2015.
https://unmiss.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/final_proposed_compromise_agreement_for_south_sudan_conflict.pdf

government. The new government gave way to negotiations concerning an increase in the number of states that compose South Sudan but transition was not entirely peaceful and was covered with polemic issues, such as President Kiir being accused by many of giving political advantages and strategic positions to the Dinka part of the population.³³ Moreover, Kiir alienated another ethnic group, the Equatorians, by redrawing the country's internal boundaries, increasing the number of states from 10 to 28. This was seen by the Equatorians as another move to favor the Dinkas.³⁴ In July 2016, attacks on a meeting between President Kiir and Vice-President Machar opened way for a new wave of violence, with Machar being removed from his position once more by Kiir, while accusing the later of fabricating the attacks.³⁵ Since then, the military situation has largely remained in a stalemate with neither party able to break the deadlock and casualties continuing to mount.³⁶

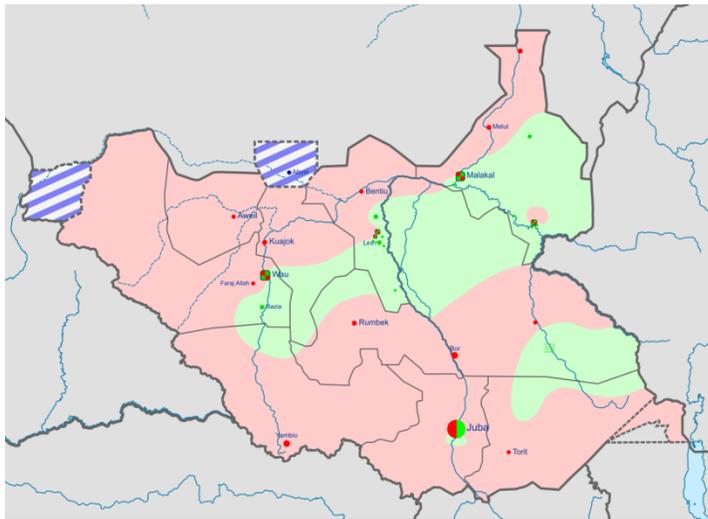


Figure 4: Territories Controlled by the Various Factions, Wikipedia.³⁷
Red: Government of South Sudan; Green: SPLM-IO; Blue: Sudan

Humanitarian Situation and International Response

The main humanitarian issues affecting South Sudan consist of displacement, combat devastation, impeded education, a deteriorating health situation, and above all: food insecurity.³⁸ One in four South Sudanese people have been forced to flee their homes, with 1,3 million having fled abroad and an additional 1.9 million being

³³ Knopf, Almquist Kate. "Ending South Sudan's Civil War." Council on Foreign Relations, Center for Preventive action. (Council special report No. 77.) November, 2016.

³⁴ Idem

³⁵ Idem

³⁶ United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. "South Sudan ... Security Council." UN.org. April 25, 2017. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12802.doc.htm>

³⁷ Wikipedia. "South Sudan Civil War."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudanese_Civil_War#/media/File:Southern_Sudan_Civil_War.svg

³⁸ United Nations office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. "2017 South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview." OCHA. December, 2016.

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/SouthSudan/2017_SouthSudan/South_Sudan_2017_Humanitarian_Needs_Overview.pdf

internally displaced, making it the world's third largest refugee crisis after Syria and Afghanistan. 86% of these refugees are women and children. Those externally displaced are mainly located in Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.³⁹ Uganda has been relatively successful in receiving these refugees, granting them work and travel permits and providing refugees with land to work on. Nonetheless, the general indirect results of displacement in South Sudan include an increasing prevalence of HIV-aids cases, vulnerability to sexual violence mainly against women, and child abuse.⁴⁰ Over 17.000 children in South Sudan have been recruited into armed militias. Even inside Protection of Civilians sites set up by United Nations missions conditions are reported to be critical, with peacekeepers undermanned and often unable to prevent human rights violations.⁴¹

Years of war have also devastated much of South Sudan's crucial infrastructure. 42% of water pumps are non-functional while settlements are routinely raided and buildings burned.⁴² Furthermore, more than half of South Sudan's hospitals have been severely damaged or destroyed. These factors have led to increased health problems with more than 2 million cases of Malaria being reported in 2016. Educational facilities have also been disrupted and 1.17 million children have lost access to education.⁴³

South Sudan has been observed by the UN as continuously developing the conditions necessary for the outbreak of full scale famine since the civil war broke out in 2014.⁴⁴ In early 2017, parts of South Sudan were officially declared as experiencing famine. Approximately half of the South Sudanese population, numbering around 5 million people, have been affected by this famine. Of those 5 million, 100.000 are at immediate risk of death by starvation and 200.000 children are at risk of death by malnutrition.⁴⁵ The regions worst struck by the situation are located in the Northern part of the country and the UN estimates that increasing numbers of people will fall victim to these conditions. Unity state, the main stronghold for Machar's rebel forces and a majority Nuer region, has seen particularly extreme food shortages.⁴⁶ This is due to the region's geographically central location, the high concentration of combatant forces on both sides, and its economically important location (Unity state is home to a number of oil fields), making it an actively contested zone of control with rampant fighting.⁴⁷

The causes of the outbreak of famine in Unity state and South Sudan as a whole can be explained through a number of factors. Firstly, natural conditions which affect the productivity of the agricultural sector in South Sudan have been recently abysmal. Some areas of South Sudan have not experienced rain in two

³⁹ Idem

⁴⁰ Idem

⁴¹ Idem

⁴² Idem

⁴³ Idem

⁴⁴ Idem

⁴⁵ Idem

⁴⁶ BBC News. "South Sudan declares famine in Unity State." BBC News. February 20, 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39025927>

⁴⁷ OCHA. December, 2016.

years, leading to severe droughts and the death of cattle.⁴⁸ Secondly, combatant forces on both sides of the conflict are complicit in the deliberate targeting of livestock, on which many self sufficient villages depend, in order to starve out opposition centers.⁴⁹ Soldiers, mainly employed by the government, are also known to receive irregular salaries in the form of deregulated discipline. Soldiers are often allowed to "live of the land", taking goods and services as they please. Cattle is raided and women are routinely subjected to sexual violence, including rape, as part of this process.⁵⁰ Combat in populated areas has also caused the destruction of infrastructure and production facilities crucial for food throughput. Furthermore, large parts of the population are continuously engaged in combat operations and thereby indirectly prevented from working the fields during harvesting season, further decreasing crucial agricultural output. Lastly, President Salva Kiir has been accused of deliberately delaying and, in some cases, fully preventing the delivery of humanitarian aid to rebel areas.⁵¹

Several UN relief agencies and regional organisations are active in South Sudan. 2016 saw 4 million people supplied with food assistance, including 265.000 tons of goods and 13.8 million US dollars in cash assistance. UNICEF has 620 feeding centres located in South Sudan for malnourished youth. Furthermore, the European Union has pledged \$69 million in humanitarian aid. Despite these efforts, the international community is still falling short of the required financial requirements to provide full relief to South Sudan's population.⁵²

⁴⁸ ABC News. "Famine gripping Somalia and South Sudan." ABC News. February 14, 2017. <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/famine-gripping-somalia-and-south-sudan/8267896>

⁴⁹ OCHA. December, 2016.

⁵⁰ Idem

⁵¹ Idem

⁵² Idem

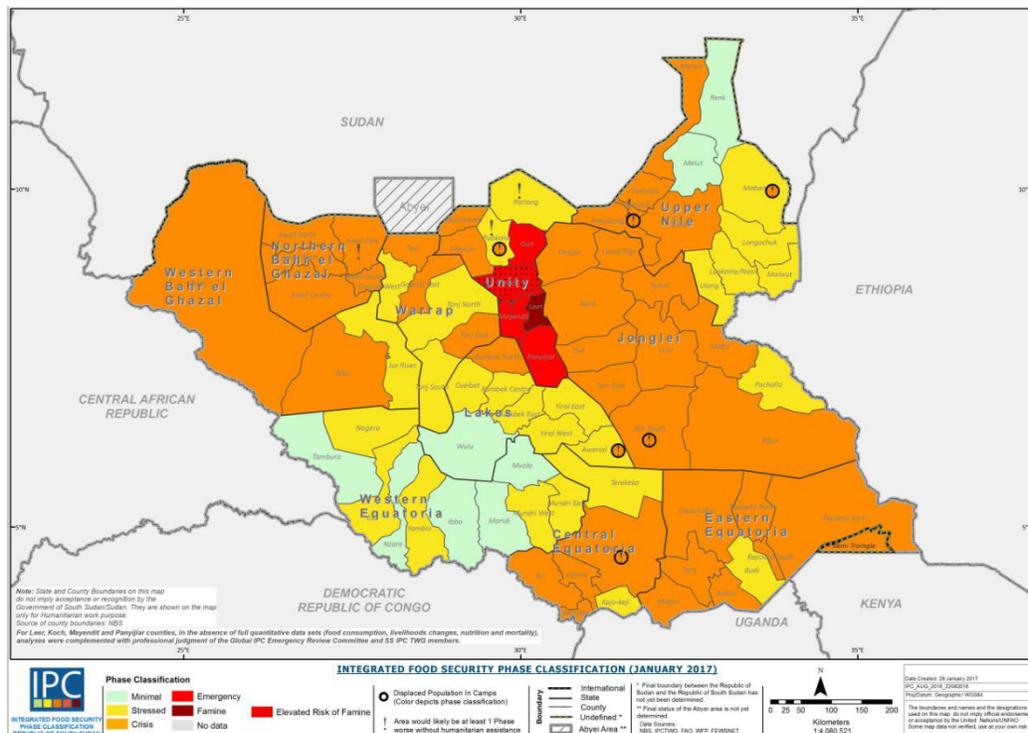


Figure 5: Areas Affected by Famine, Wikipedia.⁵³

In regards to the security situation, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) currently struggles to maintain peace in the region, while UN observers have described a risk of a mass genocide in South Sudan. As a consequence, the US has pushed for an arms embargo and sanctions on Machar and army chief Paul Malong Awan through the Security Council, which failed to garner enough votes.⁵⁴ UNMISS works in coordination with other UN bodies in order to tackle a great variety of issues that affect the country. They are responsible for a peace building process that involves matters from security and the military to the humanitarian.⁵⁵ Furthermore, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) operates in South Sudan with mine clearance activities, among other mine action related topics. UN Police (UNPOL) are vital in helping to promote peace and security by providing trainings and cross-service co-operation in the process of rebuilding the South Sudanese police force. The same can also be said when it comes to the blue helmets operations, responsible for assisting the local army in its restructuring. On the other hand, the UN also address humanitarian issues, such as gender equality, the spread of HIV, child protection and the defense of Human Rights, among others.⁵⁶

⁵³ Wikipedia. "2017 South Sudan Famine." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Sudan_famine

⁵⁴ Al Jazeera. "Outrage after UN blocks south Sudan Arms Embargo." December 23, 2016. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/outrage-blocks-south-sudan-arms-embargo-161223153844996.html>

⁵⁵ United Nations. "United Nations mission in the Sudan." [un.org. http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unmis](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unmis)

⁵⁶ Idem

Additionally, also regional organisations are currently involved in South Sudan. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has been actively involved in mediating efforts in South Sudan, and has recently approved the deployment of a regional protection force, which will serve alongside UNMISS forces.⁵⁷ Moreover, the African Union has recently become involved in the conflict, approving the deployment of a 12.000 man strong peacekeeping force which will act alongside UNMISS forces under a stronger mandate than the former.⁵⁸

The conflict in South Sudan is complicated by the geopolitical aspirations of a number of great powers. South Sudan came into being in part because of the United States, which sponsored and guided the peace agreement and first independent elections.⁵⁹ However, the US has been considering imposing sanctions on the South Sudanese government as reports of war crimes emerge.⁶⁰ China is also heavily embedded in South Sudan, financing a number of infrastructural projects in line with its wider African aspirations.⁶¹

Conclusion

Resolving the crisis in South Sudan will have to include, at minimum, an immediate political reconciliation between Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, as well as their respective supporters. A practical possibility could be to include opposition leaders into a future unity government, while the compromise peace agreement of 2015 can serve as the basis for such a deal. A military solution to the dispute is distant, with both sides virtually in stalemate and such an attempt inevitably leading to an ever worse humanitarian situation. If the Nuer white army or other rebel forces managed to take control over oil fields on the border with Sudan, the latter might feel obliged to militarily intervene, either expediting or decreasing the chances on a political solution to the conflict through military force. Regulating border security between Sudan and South Sudan, in particular in regards to oil production, will thus be crucial in order to achieve long term security and stability in the region.

In any case, a swift short term solution to quell hostilities is critical. If the conflict continues for months or years to come, South Sudan might be plunged into full scale famine and/or ethnic cleansing. This must be prevented at all costs by the international community. Any resolution on the conflict in South Sudan will also need to include long term stabilisation and economic development initiatives. The international community must also act to bring those actors to justice who have

⁵⁷ Radio Tamazuj. "Igad summit condemns targeted killing South Sudan." Radio Tamazuj. February, 2017. <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/igad-summit-condemns-targeted-killings-south-sudan>

⁵⁸ BBC News. "South Sudan conflict: African Union approves regional force." BBC News. July 19, 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-36833875>

⁵⁹ BBC News. "Why does South Sudan matter so much to the US?" BBC News. August 31, 2015. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-34083964>

⁶⁰ Nichols, Michelle. "US proposes UN arms embargo on South Sudan, sanctions." Reuters. November 18, 2016. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-southsudan-security-un-idUSKBN13C2P6>

⁶¹ van Staden, Cobus and Eric Olander. "Why China is so invested in South Sudan's future." Huffington Post. June 23, 2016. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/china-south-sudan-future_us_5769a47fe4b0c0252e778e38

perpetrated crimes against humanity. When negotiating a solution to the crisis, delegates will also have to deliberate on the level of responsibility that states and international organisations should take in resolving the crisis, most crucially South Sudan's direct neighbors, the United States, the IGAD, the African Union and the UN.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMAs)

1. How can the UNSC contribute towards establishing durable, peaceful relations between Sudan and South Sudan. In particular, how can the contentious issues regarding territorial disputes, the production and transit of oil, and the support for respective rebel factions be solved?
2. How can a sustainable peace agreement between South Sudan's rivalling factions be established and what should it entail?
3. In what other ways can the UNSC contribute to creating a long term, stable political and economic environment for South Sudan and to maintaining peace and stability in the region?
4. What can the UNSC do to prevent the outbreak of genocide and of other grave human rights abuses?
5. How can the perpetrators of grave human rights abuses be identified and held accountable? What, if any, role should the UN and the international community play in this regard?
6. In what ways can the international community effectively tackle the outbreak of famine and alleviate the dire humanitarian situation in South Sudan?
7. What should be the role of regional organizations, such as the IGAD and the African Union, in establishing and maintaining peace and security in the region?

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