

Advanced Security Council I



Situation in South Sudan

Background of Committee:

The United Nations Security Council is one of the 6 branches of the United Nations Organization. Under the United Nations Charter, the United Nations Security Council is a 15 country committee with five permanent members being the United States, United Kingdom, China, France, and Russia. The Permanent 5 countries will still have the veto power in which they hold the power to overthrow any of the proposed resolutions. The primary objective of the United Nations Security Council is to act as the mediator and establish international peace and security. Delegates must negotiate and collaborate with each other in order to address the newly developed country.

There will be a 5 minute speaking time for Advanced Security Council with a round robin style debate. We will open debate with a few general debate speeches and move into substantive debate where delegates will have the opportunity to present their solutions for the situation at hand. Delegates may pass on their turn during the round robin if they do not have anything to say. Crises and other curveballs may also be thrown at delegates in which unmoderated caucuses and moderated caucuses will be held so the delegates can show their diplomatic and improvisation skills. The dais highly values diplomacy and any “hardballing tactics” or inappropriate behavior may be subject to the deduction of diplomacy points.

Goals of the Committee:

Besides controlling the general violence that is going on between the rebel groups and government forces, delegates must navigate around the other situations. Delegates must also solve the issues of gender based violence, the utilization of child soldiers, and protection of basic human rights within South Sudan. Seeing as this is a very complex situation, humanitarian aid is also needed for the internally displaced people and those suffering from the famine that was declared.

Background of the Topic:

The situation in South Sudan has been in development since Sudan first gained independence in 1956. The first civil war between the government and the South Sudanese was in 1955, ending with the Addis Ababa agreement in 1972 giving certain privileges and some amount of autonomy to the South Sudanese. Dissent grew against the government until 1983, when the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rose up once again against the government in retaliation for a government action curtailing autonomy privileges. Over the next twenty-two years of guerilla warfare, 1.5 million people lost their lives and over 4 million were displaced. The displaced people fled north and into other neighboring nations as refugees. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 gave the south, once again, some measure of autonomy. The referendum from that agreement pertaining to the independence of South Sudan, led to the consequent vote in 2011, of which the majority of the South Sudanese voted for independence. In January of 2011, South Sudan became the world's newest country after it gained independence from Sudan after a referendum— with almost 98% in favor of secession.

However it was not long until Sudan's third civil war erupted in December of 2013 with serious violations from both militant groups on the violation of the rights of civilians. Government soldiers have murdered, sexually assaulted, and tortured many of the civilians while pillaging their villages. Since the beginning of the conflict, a total of 2.4 million Sudanese people have been displaced, having nowhere to go. When news of Vice President Riek Machar attempting a coup in 2013 leaked, violence erupted between the two main factions of the government and fighting ensues to this day. President Salva Kiir and Former Vice President Riek Machar's supporters clashed and fought multiple battles at the capital. Government forces had fought with rebel groups in Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Yambio, Wau, and Yei where soldiers pinpointed and killed civilians and dislocated hundreds of thousands of villagers with their war of attrition. A ceasefire is signed in January of 2014 but was broken several times and violence ensued.

Besides general violence, there are a myriad of concerning situations going on in South Sudan; these situations include gender based violence, use of child soldiers, and restriction of freedoms. During the original battle between President Kiir and Vice President Machar's supporters fought in the capital, government personnel attacked the main UN base in Juba where members of prominent humanitarian organizations were present and raped/gang raped many of the Nuer women. Since the conflict first erupted, both rebel groups and government militia have utilized child soldiers. According to a UN report, almost 2,500 children were being armed and trained to fight. The use of child soldiers violates multiple international laws and agreements such as the Declaration of the Rights of a Child. A basic human right is also being continuously suppressed in South Sudan which is freedom of the press. Government forces have harassed, intimidated, and detained journalist who are seen as anti-government. Multiple journalists, such as Alfred Taban and Joseph Afandi, were either executed or forced to cease publishing papers against the government.

UN Involvement:

The UN Security Council established the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) for a starting period of one year. Resolution 1996(2011) was passed which authorized UNMISS to strengthen peace and security and to help create the environment for change so the Government of the Republic of South Sudan can govern effectively and democratically. Under Resolution 1996, the United Nation mission is involved in South Sudan. The mission was created in order to protect civilians from disruptions that may occur in a young state. There were also a myriad of agreements that were signed between government and rebel forces such as ceasefires that were never fully implemented or abided. In 2014, the African Union Commission implemented the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan in order to "investigate the human rights violations and other abuses committed during the armed conflict in South Sudan" and to "make recommendations on the best ways and means to ensure accountability, reconciliation and healing among all South Sudan communities."

Questions to Consider:

- What is the cause of the conflict?

- Is this a cultural, political, or economic issue?
- What is its effect on the population?
- What humanitarian problems need to be addressed?
- How should we resolve the current situation?
- What obstacles could prevent the resolution of this conflict?
- What solutions can be implemented to prevent this sort of problem in the future?

Works Cited:

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