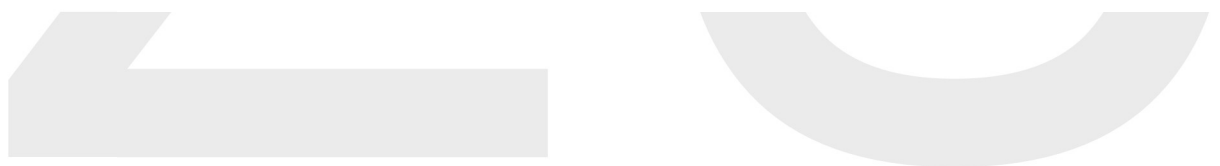




# ISSUE DESCRIPTION



COMMITTEE Security Council

ISSUE Addressing the Crisis in Sudan

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## Introduction

Sudan, a country located in North Africa occupies an important position acting as a bridge between African and the Middle East and having a strategic position with access to the red sea. It possesses a large amount of resources such as gold mines and key trade routes. Despite this, The country has endured a long history of turmoil of constant military coup and armed conflicts. Sudan fell into a civil war in April 2023 after a very difficult and violent struggle for power broke out between its official army, the SAF and a powerful paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This civil war has led to reports severe famine, of sexual violence, child soldier recruitment and even claims of a genocide.

So far, more than 150,000 people have died in the conflict all across Sudan and about 12 million have fled their homes in what the United Nations has called the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Because of attacks on humanitarian aid workers and the insecurity in the region, lifesaving aid deliveries to the vulnerable communities have been difficult, leaving millions without healthcare, food and shelter. Diplomatic results so far resulted in nothing as the warring parties have little incentive since they and their regional backers continue to profit from Sudan's war. Large quantities of gold flow out of the country, while increasingly advanced weapons flow in, manufactured in or originally supplied from countries including China, Russia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Serbia, and Yemen.

While neighboring countries have become increasingly involved, the international community has been unable to stop the violence and protect civilians who increasingly feel abandoned and betrayed by the very international actors meant to prevent one of the gravest humanitarian catastrophes of the twenty-first century.

## Definition of Key Terms

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) - The official national military of Sudan, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. The SAF represents the state army and is one of the two principal parties engaged in the ongoing civil war.

Rapid Support Forces (RSF) - A powerful paramilitary organization led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemeti). Originally formed from Janjaweed militias, the RSF has been accused of severe human rights violations and is a central actor in the Sudanese conflict.

Darfur - A region in western Sudan that has been the site of mass violence, ethnic cleansing, and alleged genocide. During the current conflict, Darfur has experienced large-scale massacres, particularly around the city of El-Fasher.

Janjaweed - An Arab militia group active in Darfur, responsible for mass killings, ethnic cleansing, and other atrocities in the early 2000s; considered the precursor of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Genocide - Acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. Reports from Darfur suggest that certain attacks may meet the criteria for genocide under international law.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) - Civilians who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict or violence but remain within their country's borders. Sudan currently hosts one of the largest IDP populations in the world.

Coup d'état / Coup - an attempt to unseat an incumbent leadership.

Ethnic Groups in Sudan - Sudan is home to a wide range of ethnic groups, mainly divided between Arab populations in the north and center and non-Arab African groups. These ethnic differences have been politically manipulated, particularly in Darfur, where non-Arab groups have been disproportionately targeted.

NISS (National Intelligence and Security Service) - Sudan's former state intelligence and internal security agency, dissolved after 2019, formerly responsible for surveillance, detention, and political repression.

Coup-proofing - The practice by a government of structuring security forces and institutions to prevent military coups, often by creating rival armed units and fragmented command systems.

## General Overview

Sudan has a long history of military coups. Leader after leader has been brought down by military officers. The country's official military, also known as the Sudanese Armed Forces, called SAF for short, has held tremendous power in the country's politics for nearly a century. This influence became particularly strong following Sudan's independence from Anglo-Egyptian rule. Following independence, time and time again, military leaders consolidated power through force.

Omar Al-Bashir came to power in 1989 after overthrowing Sudan's democratically elected government and appointed himself head of state. Being aware that his position was susceptible to being taken in a coup, he used a strategy called "coup proofing." He deliberately fragmented the security forces and empowered parallel militias to prevent the regular army from overthrowing his regime. Using the SAF, he cracked down on civil wars in the south and west, brutalizing civilians. Al-Bashir decided to arm local Arab militias in the region of Darfur known as the Janjaweed. This group focused on wiping out rebels and civilians on Al-Bashir's command. The group gained more power and ended up being called the Rapid Support Forces, becoming one of the most important militias in Sudan. After South Sudan gained independence through civil wars, Bashir's position got weaker. Sudan's economy deteriorated as most oil resources were based in the newly independent south. The living conditions for the population deteriorated even more, with two-thirds of the country's budget being devoted to security and sovereignty, while less than 5% went to health, education, and social services combined. This triggered the population, leading to the largest revolution in Sudan's recent history.

In April 2019, seeing the unfolding of events as their leaders' legitimacy was in decline, they decided to overthrow Al-Bashir from power. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, commonly known as Hemedti, in charge of the RSF and Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, leader of the SAF gained control of Sudan together in the same government. Despite the leadership change, the public dissatisfaction didn't cease and violence and massacres persisted.

The International community were eventually forced to intervene in hopes to put Sudan on a democratic path. The United States, Arab allies, the United Kingdom, the African Union and Ethiopia pressured Sudan's military and protesters to accept a power sharing agreement. The agreement establishes a transitional council in which the representatives of the military and protesters would be a part. Following the agreement the military would have control of the country for 21 months followed by 18 months of civilian leadership.

The two men, Burhan and Hemati assuming the roles of chair and vice chair, acted initially in line with the agreements. They even appointed a Prime Minister, Abdalla Hamdok. However, after repeated military interventions by these leaders, most significantly a staged coup in October 2021, Hamdok resigned in January 2022. His resignation made Burhan, the factory leader and Hemmeti his number two. Horrors for the civilians continued. On December 5, 2022, the United States, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates again pressured Sudan's military leaders and protester groups to sign another deal promising the establishment of a new civilian-led traditional government by April 2023. One key element of the agreement states that RSF needs to be integrated as part of the SAF which Hemmeti strongly opposed as it would limit his power and autonomy. The two men disagreed on the timeline of the integration, Hemmeti proposing a period of up to 10 years and Burhan insisting on a much shorter period causing a big rift between Burhan and Hemmeti leading to the current armed conflict. IMG

The United Nations, as already mentioned, acts as the primary international body that is responsible for regulating activities of different countries in outer space. The Outer Space Treaty was created to face consequences of acts of weaponization in the space domain and to prohibit weapons of mass destruction in orbit to ensure peaceful use of those. While officially introduced, these treaties do not follow a consequent regulation procedure nowadays and do not correspond to the modern counter-space tools such as cyber and electronic interference. In order to implement regulations in connection with these current technological issues, guidelines were developed within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and various measures aimed to reduce potential risks.

The most recent developments have shown the vulnerability and fragility of international security when concerning space related aspects and, consequently, have also unfolded the renewed tensions in outer space between states involved. These triggered a security dilemma: to protect their infrastructure, states are developing counter-space capabilities. However, the consequent use of such weapons - demonstrated by the 2021 Russia's ASAT test - creates massive debris clouds that threaten long-term sustainability in LEO. This results in weakening of the official security operations that cooperate to prevent access to outer space in LEO, where the majority of highly important satellites and space objects are located today.

## CURRENT SITUATION

Hundreds of thousands of armed men are stationed around the country. Burhan controls the Air Force which has been responsible for many of the casualties. Already hundreds of civilians have

been killed and millions had to flee their homes. Ceasefires have routinely been broken and negotiations between the warring parties have gone basically nowhere.

## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

In the UN data it shows that 9.3 million people have been uprooted by this conflict across the country and more than 4.3 million have fled across borders, which places an immense strain on neighbouring countries. According to Doctors Without Borders, in Sudan over 70 percent of children under the age of five were acutely malnourished. Among those who fled El Fasher, 35 percent suffered from “severe acute malnutrition.” Over 21 million are believed to be acutely food insecure across the country. The conflict has forced the civilians to take on dangerous journeys on foot with reports of widespread injury and deaths. There are many reports of unaccompanied and separated children in displacement areas. The destruction of public infrastructure has been catastrophic with more than 70% of hospitals damaged or destroyed contributing to disease outbreaks such as Cholera, causing thousands of cases and significant loss of life. The crisis has also led to a sharp rise of gender based violence with women and children, particularly in Darfur facing extreme vulnerability in the middle of wide spread reports of sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking. Access to protection and support services remains severely limited.

RSF soldiers have carried out child abductions, mass rape, sexual slavery, and village burnings for years, mostly in Darfur. Even as far back as 2001, the predecessor of the RSF, the Janjaweed, repeatedly looted homes and engaged in gang rape in the region. Between 2003 and 2008, the group killed hundreds of thousands of non-Arab civilians.

## GENOCIDE

Serious allegations and official determinations have been made that Genocide has, and is taking place in Sudan, particularly in the Darfur region. On January 7, 2025, the United States department of state officially determined that the RSF and allied militias committed genocide in the Darfur region in the current conflict. The United States determined that ethnically targeted killings and mass atrocities against the civilian population have been acted out.

The United Nations already issued warnings about the scale of the violence in Darfur. Mentioning about ethnically targeted killings, forced displacement, and other grave human

rights violations. UN bodies have called for urgent international action and further investigations into these crimes.

The International Criminal Court remains active concerning Darfur. They focus on investigating and prosecuting alleged genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed in the region. This represents only an ongoing legal process and not a formal verdict declaring genocide in the conflict.

The International Court of Justice recently addressed a case filed by Sudan accusing the United Arab Emirates of breaching the UN Genocide Convention by arming and funding the rebel paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Sudan's deadly civil war. This case was dismissed on procedural and jurisdictional grounds.

## Major Parties Involved

**Sudan:** location of the civil war, with the following major parties involved:

**Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF):** Sudan's official national army, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. The SAF controls key state institutions and claims to defend Sudan's sovereignty but has been involved in heavy urban warfare and human rights abuses.

**Rapid Support Forces (RSF):** A powerful paramilitary force led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), originating from the Janjaweed militias. The RSF is accused of mass atrocities, particularly in Darfur, and relies heavily on gold smuggling and foreign support.

**Armed Groups in Darfur:** Various local militias and rebel movements operate in Darfur, sometimes aligning with or opposing the SAF and RSF, further complicating the conflict.

**USA:** The USA has played a big role in the conflict yet has been ineffective so far. In November 2025, Donald Trump posted on Truth Social that Sudan "has become the most violent place on Earth" Such a statement came after unproductive attempts by Washington to mediate the conflict. It isn't clear how the president would bring a halt to the situation, since both sides in the fighting are supported by US partners. America has imposed sanctions before to the RSF and the SAF to pressure its leader to stop the war. The USA has also co-lead and supported peace talks and sent a significant amount of humanitarian aid.

**Egypt:** Egypt, for historical reasons, has always supported the Sudanese army, which was founded during the British-Egyptian colonial administration more than 100 years ago. At the time, the Sudanese and the Egyptian armies were founded as one body. Now, the Egyptian air force has been accused of intervening in Sudan by the head of the Rapid Support Forces, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo Hemedti, in his latest speech on 10 October following the group's defeat in Jabel Moyia in the province of Sennar. With a vested interest in Sudan's stability, Egypt has provided military and political support to the SAF. Its support stems from concerns over potential spillover effects and the security of the Nile River resources.

**Chad:** Chad shares more than twenty ethnic groups with Sudan, has been accused of allowing weapons to get to the RSF through Chad's eastern airports, for example in Abeche and Um-Djaras. Um-Djaras is the hometown of former president Idriss Déby, who was reported to have close ties with the RSF. Chad has kept on denying these allegations, although the Sudanese military and government officials continue to accuse them publicly.

**Ukraine and Russia:** Russia and Ukraine paradoxically take the same sides in the war in Khartoum. Both support the SAF diplomatically and militarily. Russia continues to support Sudan's regime as it has historically done at the UN Security Council. Ukraine's backing of the SAF came in light of its opposition to the Wagner group, which supported the RSF before and after the war. Seeking to expand its influence in Africa, Wagner group has supplied arms and military advice to the RSF, aiming to secure strategic footholds and counter Western influence.

**Saudi Arabia:** Motivated by regional security dynamics, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gives financial and logistical support to the SAF, viewing Sudan as a crucial ally against Iranian influence in the region.

**The United Arab Emirates:** Media investigations and United Nations reports have confirmed that weapons have been supplied from the United Arab Emirates to Sudan's RSF, despite official denials. The UAE has also built a hospital in Abeche, eastern Chad, providing free medical care to Sudanese refugees and local communities. While some reports claim medical facilities in the region have been used for military or smuggling activities, doctors working there say they are unaware of any such operations. The UAE provides substantial financial assistance and military supplies to the RSF due to Dagalo's alignment with the UAE's regional ambitions and economic interests.

The top United Nations court has dismissed a case brought by Sudan accusing the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of breaching the UN Genocide Convention by arming and funding the rebel paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Sudan's deadly civil war.

## Timeline of Events

**1956** - Sudan gains independence from Britain and Egypt.

**1958–1989** - Repeated military coups and political instability dominate Sudanese politics.

**1989** - Omar al-Bashir seizes power in a military coup, establishing an authoritarian regime.

**2003** - Conflict erupts in Darfur, marked by mass atrocities committed by the Janjaweed militias.

**2011** - South Sudan becomes independent following decades of civil war.

**2019** - Nationwide protests lead to the overthrow of Omar al-Bashir; a civilian–military transitional government is formed.

**2021** - Military coup halts the democratic transition.

**April 2023** - Fighting breaks out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), plunging the country into civil war.

**2023–Present** - Widespread violence, famine, mass displacement, and alleged genocide in Darfur; Sudan becomes the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

The diplomatic attempt for peace and a ceasefire began in 2003 with talks mediated by the government of Chad which led to ceasefire agreements. They unfortunately were often ineffective and not well implemented. The African Union Mission has been deployed in Sudan (AMIS) for the reason of monitoring ceasefires and protecting civilians. AMIS struggled to fight against the violence and was later replaced by a joint AU-UN force.

The first major accord was signed in 2006 by the Sudanese government and rebel groups and called the « Darfur peace agreement ». Many army factions didn't sign which limited its impact severely.

It was followed in July 2011 by the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, in short DDPD. This was a framework created to address the political and humanitarian situation in Darfur.

In 2007, the United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) was established under UN Security Council Resolution 1769 to protect civilians and support the peace process. This often had to face difficult logistical challenges which is why its operation finished in 2020.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005 ended Sudan's north-south civil war and made the way for the independence of South Sudan.

Following the overthrow of Omar al-Bashir in 2019, the International community intervened to put Sudan on a democratic path. The United States, Arab allies, the United Kingdom, the African Union and Ethiopia pressured Sudan's military and protesters to accept a power sharing agreement.

During the ongoing conflict in April 2023, the international community, the United Nations and neighbouring states, have restarted peace talks and pushed for humanitarian ceasefires.

## Possible Solutions and Approaches

First of all, the priority is to save lives and protect the communities. The access for humanitarian aid needs to be facilitated since as of now it is very difficult to deliver aid. There might need to be a separated humanitarian delivery agreement regardless of ceasefires. We cannot fully control the political situation but we as the international community have the moral responsibility to ensure that the necessary aid gets to the vulnerable people. Refugee camps, water points, hospitals need to be secured to avoid civilian casualties and give safety to the people.

The topic of funding and donations for local NGO's will play an important role. As well as solving the displacements and food insecurity issues with in particularly the help of neighboring countries.

The sudanese gold constitutes a key financial lifeline of sudan and fuel for the war. Enhancing requirements of imports and exports, as well as blacklisting entities linked to trade of war gold would be interesting to research.

Weapon trade is also important in this conflict, so a better enforcement of the arms embargo as well as inspections could constitute an interesting approach. Sanctions on illegal

drone/munition purchases. Make sure to consider that certain sanctions can affect the population negatively rather than touching the responsible.

Finally, it is essential to change the political incentives that sustain the conflict through sustained negotiations, coordinated diplomacy, and credible confidence-building measures, while ensuring that all parties are held accountable for atrocities committed, through strengthened investigative mechanisms, digital evidence collection, and robust witness protection framework.

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