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Security Council (SC)
Topic 1: Sudan Civil War
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In April 2023, the ongoing Sudanese Civil War broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). What began as a power struggle between two rival generals and their forces has quickly devolved into the world's largest humanitarian crisis, dragging neighboring states and global powers into a devastating conflict.[1] With millions of civilians displaced, widespread hunger and disease, and allegations of violations of international law on both sides, the war in Sudan presents a significant and urgent challenge to the Security Council.[2]

Sudan has a long history of internal conflict. In 1955, just before gaining independence from the Anglo-Egyptian condominium, Sudan entered its first civil war when southern rebels demanded representation and greater autonomy from the northern-dominated government. Although a peace agreement was tentatively reached in 1972, unresolved tensions and disputes from the first civil war reignited the conflict and led to a second civil war.[3] In 1989, during the second civil war, Brigadier Omar al-Bashir overthrew the democratically elected government in a military coup and began a thirty-year long authoritarian reign. His government is best known for its actions in Darfur, where, beginning in 2003, rebel groups composed largely of non-Arab communities took up arms against the government. Al-Bashir responded by arming Arab militias known as the Janjaweed, who carried out widespread attacks against non-Arab communities, including mass killings, displacement, and sexual violence, leading the International Criminal Court to charge al-Bashir with genocide.[4] In 2013, al-Bashir incorporated the Janjaweed into the new RSF, placing General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, in charge. The RSF developed into a business empire through illicit gold mining, mercenary contracts, and

[1]https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/power-struggle-sudan
[2]https://www.amnesty.org/en/projects/sudan-conflict/
[3]https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/sudan/a-country-divided
[4]https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc6177-sudan-hallmarks-genocide-el-fasher-report-independent

smuggling, enriching al-Bashir and Hemedti while Sudan's economy deteriorated following South Sudan's secession in 2011.[5]

In 2019, the Sudanese people staged mass protests against al-Bashir's rule, and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, joined forces with the RSF to overthrow him.[6] In the transitional government, al-Burhan served as leader and Hemedti as his deputy, with both promising an eventual transition to civilian democracy. Instead, they stalled the transition and used their security forces to violently suppress protesters. In October 2021, the two generals overthrew the transitional government and seized full control. However, tensions between them soon escalated over plans to integrate the RSF into the regular military, and on April 15, 2023, fighting erupted between the SAF and RSF in Khartoum and quickly spread across the country, marking the beginning of the current Sudanese Civil War.[7]

After more than three years of fighting, several issues remain. Most urgently, the war has resulted in heavy casualties, with confirmed deaths in the tens of thousands, though many researchers estimate that the true toll is higher.[8] Roughly eleven to twelve million people have been displaced, and more than twenty-five million face starvation and famine.[9] There have been widespread outbreaks of cholera, malaria, and measles in a devastated healthcare system with very little access to vaccines or clean water.[10]

Furthermore, the war in Sudan has drawn intense international interest. Sudan occupies a strategically important location in northeastern Africa: it borders the Red Sea near the Horn of Africa and lies along the Nile River, areas critical to international shipping and regional military interests. Sudan also possesses valuable natural resources, including oil, gold, and other minerals.[11] Foreign involvement, including external foreign support for both parties and illegal

[5]https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/conflict-resources/exposing-rsfs-secret-financial-network/
[6]https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47852496
[7]https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-65297714
[8]https://apnews.com/article/sudan-war-rsf-army-famine-children-killings-213e8d787c40ddcb5a62679c0377ede2
[9]https://www.csis.org/analysis/sudan-war-10-charts
[10]https://www.who.int/news/item/14-04-2026-after-three-years-of-conflict--sudan-faces-a-deeper-health-crisis
[11]https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/geography-and-cartography/sudan/

trade in natural resources, has further complicated the conflict, and continues to undermine prospects for peace and lasting regional stability.[12]

Questions to consider while researching your country's position:

1. What steps should be taken to negotiate a ceasefire between the SAF and the RSF, and how should it be enforced?
2. What role should international organizations, countries, and the parties involved play in ensuring access to humanitarian aid?
    a. What steps should be taken to address famine and disease outbreaks?
    b. What steps should be taken to support displaced Sudanese people and refugees?
3. What is your country's relationship with the SAF and the RSF, and how does it affect your country's position on the conflict?
    a. What economic or strategic interests does your country have in Sudan's natural resources or access to the Red Sea?
    b. What is your country's relationship with neighboring countries and other regional powers?
4. Who should be involved in negotiations over Sudan's future government, and should any groups be excluded? Why or why not?
    a. How should the international community help Sudan rebuild after the war?
    b. How can Sudan establish a stable government and prevent future conflict?
5. How should alleged war crimes and other serious violations be investigated, and how should those responsible be held accountable?

As you prepare this topic for the conference, remember that you are representing the official positions of your assigned countries, not your personal views. Please note that YUNMUN follows Yeshiva University's Level 1 AI policy, which permits the use of AI to check and correct the grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics of text you have already written. AI may not generate, rewrite, or restructure your content. All position papers will be submitted through Turnitin, and any use beyond what is allowed will affect your eligibility for awards.

[12]https://gssr.georgetown.edu/the-forum/regions/africa/a-war-not-so-forgotten-how-external-powers-continue-to-prolong-sudans-civil-war/

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This is a difficult topic, but I am confident in your ability to navigate it and work together to come to a resolution. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at tstrulow@mail.yu.edu.

Sincerely,

Tiferet Strulowitz

Chair, Security Council

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