



Security Council

Topic 2: *peacekeeping in South Sudan*

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1. Definition of key terms

Peacekeeping: the maintenance of international peace and security by the deployment of military forces in a particular area.

South Sudan: South Sudan, officially known as the Republic of South Sudan, is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa. The country gained its independence from the Republic of the Sudan in 2011, making it the newest country with widespread recognition. Its capital and largest city is Juba.

Civil War: a war between citizens of the same country.

United Nations Mission In South Sudan (UNMISS): aim to consolidate security and peace by helping to establish appropriate conditions for the development of the Republic of South Sudan, also ensuring a proper capability of the Government of South Sudan to govern effectively and democratically.

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD): aim to assist and complement the efforts of the Member States through increased cooperation to achieve: food security and environmental protection; the promotion and maintenance of peace and security and humanitarian affairs; and economic cooperation and integration.

2. Background information

Introduction of the topic

During the long civil war between the north and south parts of Sudan, which took place from 1955 to 1972, stopped for a decade and broke out again in 1985, more than 1.5 million people died and this led to a peace agreement between the two sides in 2005.

In 2011 a referendum was held and the south part separated from the north one and South Sudan was declared an independent country from Sudan.

Peacekeeping in South Sudan is a UN mission aimed to help the development of this new country, prevent conflict and consolidate the peace.

History of the topic

South Sudan became an independent country, separate from Sudan, after a referendum held in January 2011. Formally, the independence was declared on 9 July 2011; soon after South Sudan became member of the United Nations.

The South Sudanese Civil War is a conflict started in 2013 and still present nowadays. It was initially caused by a political fight between President Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar, but as they represented rival ethnic groups with longstanding tensions and a history of violence, this fight quickly turned into an ethnic conflict with loyal people taking up arms and waging war on each other.

In January 2014 the first ceasefire agreement was reached, but it collapsed in a resumption of hostilities.

In August 2015 was signed the “Compromise Peace Agreement” and in August 2018 another agreement came into effect stating a permanent ceasefire for all forces, power-sharing and requiring a deployment of Intergovernmental Authority on Development and African Union forces to encourage the cessation of hostilities.

This conflict is considered critical also because it concerns civilians and it threatened their well-being.

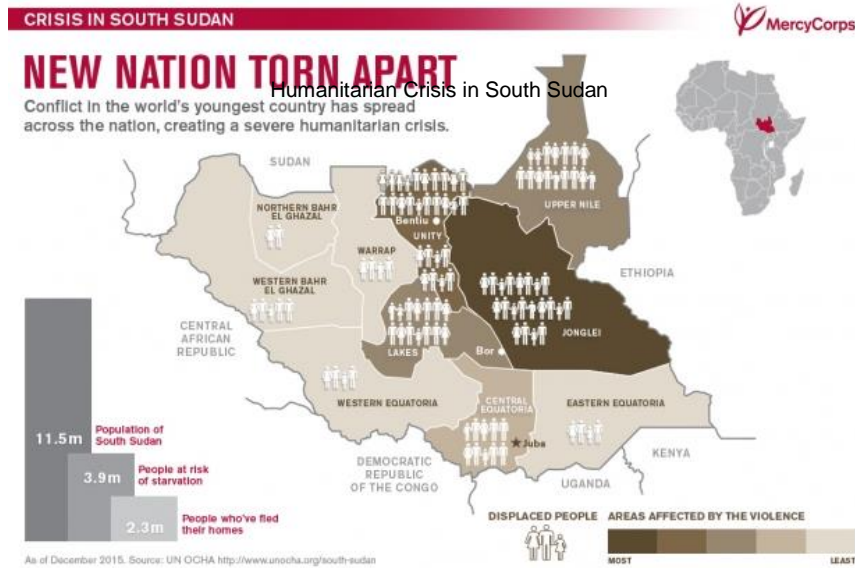
For example, this violence caused food shortages because the farmers could not plant or



Figure 1: Geographical position of the Republic of South Sudan



harvest crops. South Sudan's food crisis was considered the "worst in the world" by the UN Security Council.



About 400,000 people have been killed in this civil war, more than 4 million are displaced and famine is declared in some areas of the country and nearly 5 million people are at risk from food insecurity.



Current situation

In 2018, South Sudan had to face another critical food shortage, several aid agencies were concerned because during summer nearly seven million people could have been at risk of starvation.

Now 5.3 million people, representing half of the South Sudanese population, are in need of food and this numbers are expected to increase to 7.1 million.

About 1.3 million children under five are malnourished and this number will increase due to the outbreak of diseases such as malaria and also because of poor infant practices.

Since millions of people are currently displaced, one of the main priorities is to protect them from the potential physical and sexual violence, but also ensuring children and women safe spaces.

4. Major countries involved

A huge role in this civil war is played by Uganda, a neighbouring region of South Sudan. Ugandan troops took every city held by the rebels in order to ensure a stronger position during the negotiation, in fact Ugandan troops assisted the Government troops. By doing so, they went against the wishes of IGAD, who feared this civil war could have turned into a wider regional conflict. Soon after Uganda announced they would have joined the fight after previously denying it.

Ethiopia mediated the resolution of the conflict as it served as a neutral zone to sign an agreement. It suggests Ethiopia is more assertive which could shift the balance of power in the region.

African Union has been involved in several negotiations between the two main parties involved in this conflict. It also threatened South Sudanese leaders of sanctions if the agreement had not been respected.

5. UN involvement

The United Nation Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was established in July 2011 by the Security Council Resolution 1996.

The UNMISS' mandate includes support for peace consolidation and thereby fostering longer-term state building and economic development; support the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution and protect civilians; support the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors.

In May 2014, the UN Security Council decided to change the UNMISS' mandate from nation-building to civilian protection, in fact the estimated number of protected civilians is more than 70,000.





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The United Nations has peacekeepers in the country as part of the UNMISS. Numerous ceasefires were mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

In August 2015, a peace agreement was therefore signed in Ethiopia under threat of United Nations sanctions.



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6. Useful links

Background of the UNMISS:

<https://unmiss.unmissions.org/background>

South Sudanese Civil War:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudanese_Civil_War#Course_of_the_conflict

South Sudan Chronology of Events:

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/south-sudan.php>

Security Council resolution regarding South Sudan:

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/wp-content/uploads/s_prst_2017_4.pdf

Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan:

<https://www.care.org/emergencies/south-sudan-humanitarian-crisis/>