

FORUM:	Advisory Panel
ISSUE:	Measures to Enhance Peacebuilding and Resolve Ongoing Conflicts in Sudan
STUDENT OFFICER:	Junseo Kim
POSITION:	Head Chair of Advisory Panel

Introduction

The civil war in Sudan is in its second year, with both sides engaged in a deadly confrontation. More than 8 million people have been displaced, and nearly 15,000 people have been killed since the start of the conflict on 15th April 2023. 3.2 million are concerned, and this has created the worst displacement crisis in the whole world. Some 1.9 million people have moved from one unstable place to another in Chad, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, overwhelming refugee camps and raising the prospect of a new wave of Sudanese refugees attempting to migrate to the EU. The UN is still begging for more support as more than 25 million people need humanitarian aid, and poor food security risks have led to what could become the largest famines in the world. On the political side, no solutions have been reached as both leaders of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have refused to cease hostilities, and regional and international actors have taken sides in this war.



Civil war in Sudan

Background

In April 2023, Sudan suffered from a civil war of a consequent power struggle between the SAF led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the RSF led by Mohamed Hamdan “Hemedti” Dagalo. This conflict, having the roots in the years of unrest and a relatively recent coup in 2019, has caused about 14,976 deaths and made over 8 million people flee. Two million people rank as the worst displacement crisis in the world. Two percent of raised Sudanese have been displaced and taken refuge within vulnerable neighboring countries, Chadian, Ethiopians, and South Sudan. According to the UN, more than 25 million people require humanitarian aid due to the erosion of the food supply, making it the

largest humanitarian crisis in the world. At the present, there is no peace as the international mediator tries to make the SAF and RSF agree to the settlement of conflict, and the violence continues to escalate.

Key Issues

Ethnic and tribal tensions

There are various ethnic groups in the context of Sudan that differ in terms of cultural as well as language aspects. This is the country's history of conflict with ethnic and tribal dimensions, which emerged and intensified both because of political manipulation and competition for resources. In Darfur, for example, or Nuba, or Blue Nile, ethnic strife has been endemic, with peoples divided by ethnicity. The above relations due to marginalization and competition for limited resources have produced long-standing grievances and violence. These tensions can be said to be a major factor hindering the process of peacebuilding since they lead to the formation of rivalry and animosity among the people.



RSF in Sudan

Political instability and fragmentation

Political instability has been a characteristic of Sudanese politics ever since the pre-independence era and coups and changes of guards and an unsettled and weak political coalition. The crises of authority between the military and the civilian institutions have delayed the formation of a central authority and stability. If there is no political unity, then there has been no systematic undertaking of the comprehensiveness of peace agreements, thus leading to the collapse of ceasefires and violence. Lack of political



Government in Sudan



TIANMUN

leadership has also led to a lack of a coherent system of governance, which can foster resolution of conflict and nurture peace.

Major parties involved

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR has been instrumental in addressing the humanitarian needs of the people in the affected countries, namely Sudan, where there are internally displaced persons and refugees. Shelter, food, and the most significant medical needs of the affected people have been provided through the agency's assistance. Also, UNHCR has actively participated in the organization of a common protection system for refugees and IDP worldwide and to demand their rightful return and social integration. It also collaborates with the Sudanese government as well as other organizations that channel efforts towards developing and maintaining the environment that facilitates and fosters peace and stability, such as the ones that focus on pulling out the causes of displacement.

African Union (AU)

The African Union has been involved in negotiations of a ceasefire and negotiations between warring factions in Sudan. The AU has sent peacekeepers, for instance, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), to support efforts that enhance security so as to protect the people. The organization has also engaged in negotiation processes in the signing of cease-fire and copy and assistance in political transformation agendas. The AU has an important role in Sudan since it mobilizes actors in the region and uses its authority in a bid to ensure peace and security on the continent. Nevertheless, the AU's ability to intervene and halt the fighting has been weakened constantly by logistics issues, inadequate funding, and, not least, the multi-faceted nature of the Sudan's conflicts.



African Union



TIANMUN

International Actions

United Nations Peacekeeping Missions

There is an account of the UN missions in Sudan, which include the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur () and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). These operations are designed to save the lives of civilians, deliver much-needed aid, and support the process of ceasefire agreements. Even where they face problems, in areas they may be attacked or have logistics problems, such as the case in Somalia, these missions have been important in restoring peace and order and offer space for negotiation. The UN would like to commend the support of the international community in supporting and funding the rebuilding of Sudan; however, the participation shows that more needs to be done to look for better solutions for the society as the root causes of strife are still evident.



Picture of UNAMID

Economic Sanctions and Diplomatic Pressure

The global society has used the methods of applying pressure through freezing of funds and enactment of diplomacy to force the Sudanese authorities and belligerent factions to sit for the peace talks and put an end to the fighting. These sanctions have affected major persons or bodies related to human rights violations, corruption, and continued use of force. For example, the USA and the European Union have placed their freeze and blacklist on some of the Sudanese officials and have put measures against the cash flow to prevent funding of armed agendas. Besides, political pressure from the international community and individual states has been paramount in the call for political changes and the implementation of the international humanitarian laws. This pressure normally takes the form of decisions by the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, and bilateral talks with the Sudanese authorities. Though some of these measures have been more effective than others, they are still a vital, comprehensive part of the international attempts towards the process of coercion and bargaining that will ensure that the two warring factions sit down to deliberate on peace. Yet there is a well-publicized debate over the aptness of sanctions in light of the fact that there are situations where sanctions make things

worse if not well designed coupled with diplomatic negotiations and commitments supporting peacebuilding.

Possible Solutions

Building institutional capacity for subnational democracy and informal peacebuilding

As much as civil society is actively involved in the peacebuilding process in the country, it's important to strengthen local institutions of governance for these to support the bottom-up efforts. Organizing leaders, civil society organizations, and the people of the concerned region in the peace-making process enable eradication of the main sources of the conflict in the region. It empowers the local people to play leading roles in rebuilding their nation; it reforms interethnic as well as intertribe relations; and it strengthens the bond of togetherness. Other aspects of local governance include increasing access to basic needs as well as facilities like education, health, and economic facilities, which has potential for decreasing tensions and fostering sustainable development.

General DDR Program

DDR programs therefore need to be effectively put in place as a way of putting an end more so in Sudan so that people do not keep on engaging in violence as a way of finding employment. These programs seek to demobilize combatants, demobilize armed groups, and provide reintegration of the former combatants into society. From the case of DDR programs, it is evident that programs developed need to have identified strategies of trying to put the former combatants back into society through vocational training, education, and social support. Also, only after DDR has involved the local community and been designed to ensure that armed groups will not be able to re-emerge can a true peace be built. This reveals the fact that the success of these programs depends on the effort made by the Sudanese government, international organizations, and local communities



DDR program in Sudan

Glossary

Coup

a sudden, violent, and unlawful seizure of power from a government.

Humanitarian assistance

Assistance to save lives and alleviate suffering by ensuring that vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals receive assistance and protection.

Power struggle

a situation in which two or more people or groups compete for control in a particular sphere.

Food security

the state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

Mediation effort

the intervention of a third person, or mediator, into a dispute to assist the parties in negotiating jointly acceptable resolution of issues in conflict.

Work Cited

- “Sudan: Eight months of conflict - Key Facts and Figures (15 December 2023) - Sudan.” *ReliefWeb*, 19 Dec. 2023, reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-eight-months-conflict-key-facts-and-figures-15-december-2023.
- “Crisis in Sudan: What is happening and how to help.” *The IRC*, 2 Aug. 2024, www.rescue.org/article/crisis-sudan-what-happening-and-how-help.
- Ali, Ali Mahmoud, and Nohad Eltayeb. “April 2024 | One Year of War in Sudan.” *ACLEd*, 26 June 2024, acleddata.com/2024/04/14/sudan-situation-update-april-2024-one-year-of-war-in-sudan.
- Lodhi, Areesha. “After a year of war in Sudan, what is the situation now?” *Al Jazeera*, 2 May 2024, www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/11/why-did-war-break-out-in-sudan-a-year-ago-where-does-it-currently-stand.
- “Sudan situation.” *Global Focus*, reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/sudan-situation.
- Reporter, Guardian Staff. “What caused the civil war in Sudan and how has it become one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises?” *The Guardian*, 15 Apr. 2024, www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/mar/22/what-caused-the-civil-war-in-sudan-and-how-has-it-become-one-of-the-worlds-worst-humanitarian-crises.
- Schaer, Cathrin. “Sudan crisis: Mass displacement and death.” *dw.com*, 5 Dec. 2023, www.dw.com/en/sudan-crisis-mass-displacement-and-death/a-67630479.
- “Sudan Six months of conflict - Key Facts and Figures (19 October 2023) - Sudan.” *ReliefWeb*, 19 Oct. 2023, reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-six-months-conflict-key-facts-and-figures-19-october-2023.
- Sudan’s Calamitous Civil War: A Chance to Draw Back from the Abyss* | *Crisis Group*. 18 Jan. 2024, www.crisisgroup.org/africa/horn-africa/sudan/sudans-calamitous-civil-war-chance-draw-back-abyss.
- Human Rights Watch*, 11 Jan. 2024, www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/sudan.



Sudan Crisis Response Plan 2023 | Global Crisis Response Platform.

crisisresponse.iom.int/response/sudan-crisis-response-plan-2023.

