

IMUN 2025 Research Report

Security council Issue #1: The question of conflict in Sudan

The conflict within Sudan has been a prevalent case in today's global political stability. Displacement rates have climbed to over 12 million civilians, and over 150,000 civilians have lost their lives since 2023 because of the persistent disagreement between the Sudanese Armed forces (SAF) and the rapid support forces (RSF) (Booty and Chothia, 2021). The United Nations reports that alongside the civilian casualties, that there is a gradual rise in severe droughts, famine, and lack of medical aid (United Nations, 2024). Moreover, the conflict has resulted in children being victims of sexual violence with 221 reported cases as of 2024 (UNICEF, 2025). With no ceasefire being reached, the Sudanese people suffer from these struggles eliminating the opportunity to achieve peace. Thus, this underscores the importance of an UNSC-led framework to ensure peace and security in Sudan.

The intricate historical and political tension between the Sudanese Armed forces (SAF) led by Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the Rapid Support Force (RSF) led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), lay the foundation of the current conflict. The civil war stems from longterm racial prejudices in Sudan (Centre for Preventive Action, 2025). The population of Sudan is approximately 52.9 million and consists of over 500 ethnicities, mainly divided into individuals identifying as Arab or Sub Saharan African. This division roots back to the time when Sudan was under the control of the authoritarian president Omar-al-Bashir, who, coming from an Arab Sudanese tribe, was accused of corruption and fostering unequal treatment between ethnic communities. In the late 1980s, Al-Bashir was accused of favouring Arab Sudanese and suppressing Sub-Saharan African communities, which ultimately led to the rise of non-Arab regimes in Darfur. Subsequently, Al-Bashir formed the Janjaweed, Arab militants,

who attacked villages and civilians in non-Arab communities in Darfur resulting in over 300,000 civilian casualties (Erhardt-Ohren *et al.*, 2024). Al-Bashir then stepped down and transferred power to Hemedti, ultimately forming the RSF, which remains separate from the army, SAF. Al-Bashir was soon overthrown by both parties in 2019, building up to the Sudanese coup d'état in 2021, where the SAF officially seized power from the Sudanese Government. This division is ultimately fuelling today's crisis.

As of now, there remains restless conflict in Sudan. Territorially, the SAF remains in control of Khartoum, the capital of Sudan and the northeast part of Sudan, whereas the RSF still remains in control of Darfur and the southern regions of Sudan. This division still plays a central role in contributing to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. The RSF captured the city of El Fasher in late 2025, resulting in mass killings which, according to the UN, qualify as a genocide (Editorial, 2026). In addition, the Sudanese court has sentenced Hemedti to death for war crimes *in absentia*, although this cannot proceed as he is not in custody (Akisa Wandera, 2026). Medically, the outbreak of a new cholera (disease), with over 1,000 confirmed cases has been extremely difficult to tolerate as humanitarian needs are not being met by international organizations. Thus, the Sudanese people consistently suffer from the political tension that is present and, resolution of any form is essential.

Delegates should aim at strengthening adherence to international humanitarian law (IHL), especially with regard to the protection of civilians in high-risk conflict areas such as Darfur. Debate should also focus on how the UNSC can facilitate international accountability procedures, assist or fortify the local legal system, and effectively address violations by both state and non-state actors. To balance sovereignty and the need to safeguard civilian life,

delegates should consider the political and practical difficulties associated with addressing national tension and civilian life.

Firstly, it is important that delegates familiarise themselves with their assigned country's stance, alliances, and policies concerning the protection of civilians during times of conflict, in specific the conflict in Sudan. This involves assessing participation in previous or current peacekeeping missions, humanitarian aid initiatives, or efforts to mediate conflicts. It is equally vital that delegates examine the legal foundation for effective policy writing and negotiation coming from international legal frameworks, including the Geneva conventions, the Hague conventions, and important UNSC decisions.

In addition, research on accountability mechanisms, such as the international criminal court (ICC), ad hoc tribunals, and national court systems, and their roles in addressing war crimes and civilian casualties. The role of non-state armed organizations and obstacles to humanitarian access, including political constraints, security threats, and blockades, should also be considered. Understanding these operational and legal issues will be aided by understanding reports from reliable organizations such as Human Rights Watch, OCHA, and the ICRC.

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