

**United Nations Security Council
The Sudanese Civil War**



JACKRABBIT MUN VII

L.B. POLY - MAY 24th, 2025

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CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Hi Delegates!

My name is Gabby and I'm thrilled to be your co-chair for UNSC. I'm currently a Sophomore in the PACE program and this is my second year in MUN, my first time running a Security Council room, and my second time chairing. I play for the varsity girl's golf team and write for the school newspaper. I enjoy doing volunteer work, coaching, playing SCPGA tournaments, and picking up new hobbies like crochet and surfing.

Through MUN I've met so many awesome people and I'm really looking forward to seeing delegates from previous conferences I've attended. My public speaking, social skills, and overall confidence has truly benefited from the program and I'm excited to see how the committee goes! If you or a fellow delegate have any questions about the conference, background guide, or position papers, please feel free to email me or anyone else on the dais. See you at Jackrabbit MUN VII!

Sincerely,

Gabby Gales

United Nations Security Council | Co-Head Chair

gabrielle.gales@gmail.com



CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Hello delegates!

My name is Matthew Inui, and I'm so excited to be one of your co-head chairs for the UNSC committee! I'm currently a freshman at UCLA, double majoring in political science and economics.

At UCLA, I'm mainly involved in campus publications, including two undergraduate law journals, the Bruin Political Review, and the Generation foreign affairs magazine. I'm also a volunteer tax preparer with VITA at UCLA. If you have any questions about UCLA, college apps, or college life in general, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'd be more than happy to answer any questions you may have!

I was involved in MUN for all four years of high school at Poly, and I'm excited to be able to come back for another year. A UNSC on the Sudanese Civil War was the first committee I attended during my freshman year, so I'm excited to see how you all approach this important topic. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Sincerely,

Matthew Inui

UN Security Council | Co-Head Chair

matthewinui1@gmail.com



POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Sunday, May 18th**.
- Delegates **must** submit position papers to be eligible for **research AND committee awards**.
- Position Papers will be submitted through a google form:
 - <https://forms.gle/jkenWafGEAL6hJay9>
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.
 - United States
 - First Last
 - School Name
 - UNSC
- Papers should be submitted as a PDF file
 - Please name the file [Committee_Country]
 - Ex. **UNSC_United States**
- Papers should be minimum 1-2 pages in length with an additional Works Cited page in MLA format
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
 - Background & UN Involvement
 - Position of your Country
 - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email one of your chairs.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the primary body responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It addresses global conflicts, imposes sanctions, authorizes peacekeeping missions, and adopts binding resolutions under international law to ensure collective action in times of crisis. In the past 20 years, the number of developing nations involved in civil conflict has only risen and the Sudanese Civil War represents a critical challenge to human rights in Africa. Emerging from long-standing ethnic, political, and economic tensions, the conflict has left a devastating humanitarian crisis in its wake. Sudan, located in Northeastern Africa, has faced recurring instability due to disputes over resources, governance, and cultural identity since gaining independence in 1956. The most recent conflict reignited in April 2023, involving the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF): a powerful paramilitary group. This power struggle has paralyzed the country, leading to massive civilian casualties, widespread displacement, and a collapse of essential services.

Key issues in the conflict include disputes over the transition to civilian-led governance after the fall of longtime dictator Omar al-Bashir in 2019 and unresolved border and resource issues with South Sudan. The crisis has drawn in neighboring states such as Egypt and Eritrea, with concerns about regional destabilization, and refugee flows. This committee faces a multifaceted challenge: how to address the immediate humanitarian crisis, facilitate peace, and ensure accountability for violations of international law.



COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, established in 1945 under the UN Charter to maintain international peace and security. It consists of 15 members: five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) with veto power, and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. The UNSC is the only UN body whose decisions are legally binding on all member states, giving it significant authority in addressing global threats.

The primary functions of the UNSC include authorizing peacekeeping missions, imposing sanctions, and authorizing military interventions when necessary to restore or maintain peace. It also has the power to condemn violations of international law and can take action against states or entities that threaten global security. While decisions typically require a majority vote, any substantive resolution must have the consent of all five permanent members, who hold veto power. This dynamic makes the UNSC a critical body in shaping global security, as its actions directly impact the conduct of member states and the resolution of conflicts. The UNSC's agenda encompasses issues such as ongoing armed conflicts, counterterrorism efforts, nuclear proliferation, and humanitarian crises. It regularly addresses complex geopolitical situations and works with various stakeholders, including regional organizations and humanitarian agencies, to find peaceful solutions.

Please note that this is a **dual-delegation committee**. That means that two delegates from the same school will be working together as one delegation representing a particular nation.



BACKGROUND

Since the conflict began in April 2023, the Sudanese Civil War has quickly devolved into one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. Almost 15,000 people have been killed, and more than 8.2 million have been displaced, constituting the world's largest displacement crisis. Famines also ravage the war torn country, creating the world's largest hunger crisis. As World Food Programme Deputy Executive Officer Carl Skau warned, "We are running out of time." However, the civil war was not a spontaneous occurrence. Rather, it was the culmination of decades of tensions beginning before Sudan even gained its independence.

SUDANESE COLONIAL HISTORY

For the first half of the 20th century, Sudan was a joint protectorate of Egypt and the United Kingdom. Known as the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium, the UK was granted near total control of the protectorate's political and military affairs.

In 1956, Egypt and the UK signed a treaty formally recognizing an independent Republic of Sudan. However, from the beginning, the country faced hardships. Spanning nearly one million square miles and situated in one of the most violent regions of Africa, Sudan faced significant security concerns. The country also saw social and political divides between the wealthier, majority Arab and Muslim northern region, and the poorer, majority Christian and animist southern region. This divide between North and South prompted two civil wars, the second of which saw Sudan's southern territory seceding and forming a new state: the Republic of South Sudan.



Sudan's post-colonial period was also marked by the ruthless dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir. After seizing power in a 1989 coup, Bashir oversaw one of the country's most repressive regimes: he imposed restrictive Sharia law, employed private militias and military police to suppress dissidents, and persecuted minority religions. Bashir's regime lasted for thirty years, but by the last decade of his rule, he began facing increased popular protests for a democratically elected leader. In April 2019, the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) staged a coup, removing Bashir from power and establishing a civilian government.

THE RSF'S RISE TO POWER

The RSF formed from the Janjaweed militia, an Arab armed group that Bashir used to repress southern Sudanese rebels. In 2013, the militia officially organized into the RSF and served as a mercenary security force for several years. However, after participating in the coup against Bashir in 2019, the RSF emerged as one of the most powerful forces in Sudan. Particularly, RSF leader Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo served as the deputy to Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the army general who took control of the transitional government after Bashir's deposal.

The transitional government chose Abdalla Hamdok, a respected economist and development expert, to be prime minister. However, in 2021, the SAF and RSF staged another coup, arresting Hamdok and suspending the constitution. In response, international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund paused critical aid to Sudan, plunging the country into an economic crisis.

Hamdok was momentarily reinstated as prime minister in November 2021. However, protestors filled the streets, demonstrating against Hamdok's lack of action



against the SAF and RSF's violent, suppressive tactics. In January 2022, after just a couple of months in office, Hamdok resigned.

Since Hamdok's resignation, Sudan has had no effective civilian leaders. Instead, Burhan has operated as the de facto head of state. Negotiations throughout 2022 culminated in a tentative groundwork for a two-year transition to civilian leadership, but mass protests eventually killed the deal.

In the coming months, the transitional government came to a second deal. Among other things, the deal placed Hemedti as a political equal to Burhan and provided for the eventual integration of the RSF into Sudan's official military forces. However, the deal did not provide a deadline for the RSF's integration into the SAF, creating disagreements between the two sides (Burhan insisted on a two-year integration, while Hemdti proposed a ten-year integration). After the two leaders missed a critical 2023 deadline, tensions between the RSF and SAF reached a height.

By April 2023, fighting broke out between the two sides, raising concerns of a return to a full-out civil war. Within days, troops lined the streets of the capital city of Khartoum. Over the coming months, the power struggle between the RSF and SAF stalled the country's transition efforts. Involvement from the Russian Wagner Group and foreign militaries, most notably the United Arab Emirates, has only entrenched the crisis.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The human rights crisis in Sudan is deeply rooted in decades of conflict, government repression, and ethnic discrimination. Since the Darfur conflict began in 2003, Sudanese civilians have faced widespread violence, displacement, and



persecution, particularly in regions like Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, where government-backed militias and military forces have committed atrocities. Despite the ousting of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019, the military continued to wield significant power, leading to violent crackdowns on pro-democracy protests, widespread repression, and restrictions on freedom of expression. Ethnic and religious minorities, especially non-Arab Muslims, have faced systemic discrimination, while sexual and gender-based violence remains rampant in conflict zones. The country has also experienced a severe humanitarian crisis, with millions in need of basic necessities due to ongoing conflict and economic collapse. While the 2019 civilian-led government brought hopes of a peaceful transition, a military coup in 2021 undermined these efforts, leaving the country's future uncertain. The international community has condemned the abuses but has struggled to effectively intervene, leaving Sudan's people to continue fighting for stability, and amidst ongoing suffering.

Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa, with over 1 million refugees, primarily from South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and the Central African Republic, fleeing violent conflict, political repression, and persecution. Refugee camps in Sudan, particularly in border areas like White Nile and Kassala, are often overcrowded and lack adequate sanitation, healthcare, food, and educational resources, exacerbating the vulnerability of displaced people. Refugees, especially women and children, are at heightened risk of exploitation, including trafficking, forced labor, and sexual violence, while security in and around camps is often unstable due to armed groups and internal conflict. Sudan's own internal wars, including in Darfur and South Kordofan, have further strained humanitarian aid efforts. Despite Sudan being a signatory to international refugee agreements, legal protections are



weak, leaving refugees without the ability to work legally, access services, or integrate into Sudanese society.

CURRENT SITUATION

The war is between two main factions: the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the de-facto military force of the Sudanese government, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). In the early 2000s, in order to crush military uprisings in the Nuba Mountains, the government relied on the Janjaweed—Arab militias largely hailing from the Darfur region. They were reorganized into the RSF in 2013 and perpetuated various war crimes with the support of the Sudanese government. Many of their leaders were indicted by the ICC but never brought to trial. In 2017 they were classified as an “independent security force” and their wealth and prestige grew. They additionally began developing international relationships, allegedly with the United Arab Emirates and openly with the Russian Wagner Group. After the Sudanese Revolution and the 2021 military coup, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan took power (with the help of RSF leader Hemedti). He began appointing more Islamic officials in the regime, mostly from Khartoum which led to a rift with the RSF, as the perpetuation of more traditional elites was seen by Hemedti as a threat to his newfound stature. Coupled with economic instability, tensions continued to rise and eventually on the 15th of April, 2023 Hemdeti attacked the SAF all over the country, particularly in Khartoum and the war began. The war has thus far killed over 150,000 civilians and both sides are vowing total war. Foreign weapons supply both sides, famine is rampant and the refugee crisis is only worsening.



UN INVOLVEMENT

One of the humanitarian bodies involved in the Sudanese Civil War is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). They have provided relief for those displaced, with food, shelter, and protection. The UNHCR has also taken to helping the education of the children who were displaced as a result of the conflict. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also joined in on the humanitarian efforts. The WHO called on neighboring countries to host those who have been displaced. They are also working relentlessly to distribute health supplies to not only those in Sudan but to those who were displaced. The help from WHO is desperately needed due to the resurgence in cholera due to polluted water. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has been responding to the crisis since it started and as of October 2024 has helped about 3 million people. IOM has also given life-saving support to the displaced Sudanese, including cash intervention, hygiene kits, transport to neighboring countries, and basic healthcare.

The UN Security Council has set three resolutions for the Civil War, including a ceasefire meant to apply international pressure on both sides to achieve peace. The UNSC has called for an arms embargo and called for a ceasefire in Resolution 2725 (2024) on March 8th, 2024 due to the thousands killed and millions displaced. Both SAF and RSF, however, rejected the arms embargo, calling the UN Human Rights Council a “political and illegal body.” All of the UN’s efforts have been severely underfunded by the international community; the UN Humanitarian appeal was only 52% funded, the IOM only 20%. The combination of the UN’s inadequate funding and the



non-cooperation of the warring parties creates a challenging environment for humanitarian agencies.



BLOC POSITIONS

AFRICAN BLOC

Algeria, Sierra Leone, and Somalia unify to represent the African Bloc. Together we stand to directly combat the extreme and widespread human rights abuses against our civilians. In neighboring Sudan, we've seen the armed conflict, insecurity, and the breeding of rebels and terrorists. Although the African Union could not effectively contain the violence in the region due to a lack of funds, inadequate communication tools, and logistical support, we encourage and ask for assistance from other countries. The African Union Peace and Security Council has held an emergency session and called for an end to the fighting.

ASIA-PACIFIC BLOC

The governments of China, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and Pakistan, as representatives of the Asia-Pacific Bloc, stand with the people of Sudan and urge an immediate end to hostilities. As key stakeholders in global peace and development, the Asia-Pacific Bloc reaffirms their commitment to upholding Sudan's sovereignty, supporting peaceful conflict resolution, and providing critical humanitarian aid. They stand ready to work with international and regional actors, including the United Nations (UN), African Union (AU), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the League of Arab States, to facilitate a lasting resolution to the Sudanese civil war. They strongly urge all parties in Sudan to commit to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire to prevent further loss of innocent lives and destruction of vital infrastructure; ensure the protection of civilians humanitarian workers and



critical institutions; engage in comprehensive, Sudanese-led peace processes that are inclusive, representative, and committed to sustainable governance, and respect Sudan's territorial integrity and sovereignty– ensuring that any external involvement is solely for peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance.

WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS BLOC

The Western Europe and Others Bloc has called for an end to hostilities, and efforts to secure a cease-fire are ongoing. There is still a chance to prevent the situation from escalating further. They ask for the protection of civilians and the prevention of atrocities, a pause in the fight, and sober plans for options once the fighting stops. They are supporting Sudanese communities, both within the country and across national borders by delivering an integrated water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) program; child protection services and support for women and girls, including services for survivors of gender-based violence, health and nutrition through static health facilities, livelihood assistance through multi-purpose cash aid to internally displaced persons and members of the communities that host them.

EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC

Amid this political turmoil, the governments of Russia, Greece, and Slovenia recognize the urgency of the Sudanese civil war and its far-reaching humanitarian, economic, and security implications. As a unified bloc, they commit to a balanced, pragmatic, and cooperative approach to fostering stability, protecting civilian populations, and supporting diplomatic peace efforts in Sudan. While the bloc's nations have diverse geopolitical priorities, they acknowledge that a collaborative framework combining



our strengths will yield the most effective outcomes in resolving the crisis. Russia, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, will facilitate negotiations between Sudanese factions and advocate for ceasefire agreements. Greece and Slovenia will utilize their influence within the European Union and African Union partnership to support mediation processes and humanitarian assistance. As a bloc, they support Sudanese-led peace processes, backed by multilateral diplomacy under the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Given its geographic proximity to Africa, Greece will take a leadership role in managing refugee flows, ensuring that displaced Sudanese populations receive safe passage and asylum when necessary.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN BLOC

The governments of Panama and Guyana, representing the Latin American and Caribbean region, stand in unwavering solidarity with the people of Sudan in their pursuit of peace, stability, and security. As nations committed to international cooperation, human rights, and the rule of law, they strongly condemn the ongoing violence in Sudan and call for an immediate ceasefire to prevent further suffering and destabilization. They recognize that while Sudan's conflict is geographically distant from our region, its humanitarian, security, and economic implications resonate globally. As members of the Global South, the Latin American and Caribbean Bloc reaffirms their commitment to multilateralism and stands united with international efforts to resolve this crisis through diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and long-term peacebuilding. The bloc is committed to supporting Sudanese civilians affected by the war and ensuring that humanitarian aid reaches those most in need. They will work



through regional and international organizations to deliver emergency humanitarian aid (food, clean water, medical supplies, and shelter) to those displaced Sudanese populations. They will support the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in their relief efforts for Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries. And lastly, the bloc will expand and leverage the expertise of Latin American and Caribbean humanitarian networks to contribute to relief programs. Recognizing that the bloc's own nations have faced humanitarian crises in the past, we stand in solidarity with the Sudanese people and commit to offering assistance through international relief mechanisms.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What actions has your country taken to address the conflict within Sudan?
2. How is your country impacted by the division of Sudan into north and south?
3. Does your country consider the humanitarian crisis or the mitigation of the conflict itself more important?
4. How should Sudan resolve the conflict with cultural history in mind?
5. Is your country in support of the SAF or RSF?
6. How did your country respond to the 2019 military coup?



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