

A Brief Foreword

South Sudan was one of the most recent additions in the list of autonomous states in the world. The small East African nation declared itself independent on 9 July 2011 as it seceded from the larger Sudan, its namesake. Whatever hopes of peace in the region were quickly dashed when only two years later, civil war broke out in the oil-rich region of Abyei. With years of violence, thousands of deaths, one of the worst refugee crises in the world, famine, drought, economic collapse, ethnic genocide and religious strife, the current situation in Sudan is the literal embodiment of a failed state.

UN agencies like United Nations Advance Mission in Sudan (UNMISS) and the efforts of regional powers through multilateral agreements, notably the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have had success in brokering ceasefires, overseeing elections, and providing humanitarian aid for the nation. However, stabilizing a nation is a daunting task with no easy answer. What can the international community do to address the grievances of the Sudanese?

Background on the Conflict in Sudan and South Sudan

First Civil War

War erupted the day after Sudan and South Sudan were declared a single nation in 1956. Southern troops rebelled against Northern rule by refusing to be stripped of arms. The Sudanese in turn declared a state of emergency in order to crack down on southern “insurgents”. This confrontation eventually spiraled downwards into the First Sudanese Civil War, a conflict that

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spread to all parts of the country, claimed the lives of thousands and displaced thousands more.

By the time the Addis Ababa Agreement declared peace between the two belligerents in 1974,

500,000 people were dead and another half a million displaced with no homes to go to.

Second Civil War

As part of the Addis Ababa Agreement, Sudan promised South Sudan political autonomy, but failed to deliver. In 1983, fundamentalists pressured newly elected President Gaafar Nimeiry to impose Sharia Law on the entire country and divide South Sudan into three districts, essentially ending its governmental autonomy. The South Sudanese outrage at their lack of representation coupled with northern Islamic fundamentalists' discontent with the Addis Ababa Agreement meant violent confrontation was inevitable. Civil war broke out later that year. The subsequent chaos led to the deaths of 2 million people and the displacement of 4 million as one of the deadliest civil wars of the 20th century and one of the worst humanitarian crises since World War 2. Both the Sudanese government and the main opposition, the South Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SSPLA), committed unspeakable atrocities and war crimes. The most notable of which happened in the city of Bor, where SPLA Nasir- a splinter group from the SPLA, slaughtered 2,000 Dinka men, women, and children.

This national nightmare would end in 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), a peace treaty brokered by the African-led Intergovernmental Development Authority (IGAD) along with backing from the United Nations. The CPA, among other things, promised referendum for South Sudan's secession and a peace that lasted 6 years.

Past and Current Action

Intergovernmental Authority on Development

Recently, the most major successes in keeping peace in Sudan was due largely to the efforts of regional powers and neighboring countries through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Founded by six East African countries including Sudan 1986 to deal with economic hardship, IGAD is a trade bloc that ensured that these countries will support each other in times of hardship. Countries of IGAD, along with backing from the international community through the UNMIS (United Nations Mission in Sudan), brokered the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which led to implementation of some founding principles in South Sudanese self government, collaboration in handling other armed groups, and most importantly, establishing a process to conduct referendums for peaceful secession of South Sudan.

United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and the Current Civil War

None of these agreements would have taken up any meaning without some means of enforcement. In 2004, the United Nations launched the United Nations Mission in Sudan, or UNMIS, in order to enforce the terms of the CPA. UNMIS sent peacekeepers to the region to ensure its stability. UNMIS was also responsible for governing, overseeing national elections, and organizing referendums through the United Nations Integrated Referendum and Electoral Division (UNIRED) to ensure impartiality in the electoral process. These elections and referendums in South Sudan gave the South Sudanese people a voice. And through that voice South Sudan voted to secede from Sudan in a referendum in 2011. Seeing through the success of its mission, UNMIS was terminated later that year. However, violence broke out once again in the oil rich Abyei and Blue Nile regions. Two years later, these violent clashes spiralled into yet another civil war, this time perpetrated by current President Salva Kiir, who accused his vice

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president Riek Macher of plotting a coup. The current civil war has led to countless human rights violations and widespread international condemnation and the delegation of Ireland hopes to bring this wretched conflict to end soon.

Country Position

Dedicated to peace with a policy of neutrality and objectivity, Ireland sees it best fit for the United Nations to play a more active role in negotiating peace terms, handing out humanitarian aid, and protecting innocent civilians from the horrors of armed conflict. As seen numerous times in the past, when the United Nations takes a passive sidelined role and watches as crises unfold, it does more harm than good. As a nation that went through political turmoil of its own immediately after its conception and again during the Troubles, Ireland believes the best possible way to handle pressing matters is for the UN to take Sudan's fate into its own hands. It is imperative that the United Nations work in concert with regional powers to pass multilateral agreements ending civil conflict. Ireland strongly recommends this knowing full well that ethnic strife and religious hatred runs deep on both sides. However, countries must come together to pressure governments and rebels to come together in the name of peace.

Proposed Solutions

Proposed Solution on Arms Embargo

To solve the crisis in South Sudan, it is necessary that the forces at conflict are not given equipment to combat each other. Peacekeeper forces have intervened in South Sudan with

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disastrous results and as a result, it is necessary to seek other solutions to complement the usage of peacekeepers. Rather surprisingly, an arms embargo has not been imposed on South Sudan, and the delegation of Ireland sees that as the most effective way to lower the amount of conflict there is at present. If both sides of the conflict have insufficient weapons, there won't be any real conflict that can occur. Conflict only occurs when humans have weapons, so stop the constant flow of weapons to them and the conflict will be lessened, at the very least.

Furthermore, the delegation of Ireland recognizes the fact that a large portion of weapons supplied to insurgents are delivered to them through the black market. As a result, it is necessary to prevent either side from obtaining weapons through any form. Many South Sudanese leaders are already under scrutiny for grave human rights violations, so freezing their monetary assets would serve as a punishment for their actions. That action would also render them unable to purchase weapons as without money, they would have nothing to purchase weapons with. The delegation of Ireland urges the members of the UN to support an arms embargo and the freezing of the assets of major political leaders for the sake of our brothers and sisters who are suffering in South Sudan.

Proposed Solution (Last Resort) on ending the conflict

In the past year or so, the South Sudanese government has rejected numerous offers from the UN to allow more peacekeepers to help alleviate the conflict. Yet, it is obvious to outside observers that the situation within the country is far from ideal. Everyday, cases of rape, homicide and other human right violations are being documented. Furthermore, these atrocities

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have been occurring on what is essentially a daily basis since the conflict began in late 2013.

Given that it's been three years and the South Sudanese government clearly cannot take control of the situation, it is time for outside forces to come and put an end to the conflict.

The delegation of Ireland suggests that SPECPOL propose to the Security Council that a coalition of nations be formed to stop the constant human right abuses in South Sudan. An invasion may be costly, but based on the current situation, it seems as if there may never be a solution. The UN idly stood by during the Rwandan genocide of 1994, and it resulted in the deaths of nearly a million innocent Tutsi. Will the United Nations and its members allow human right violations to occur before their eyes and choose to do nothing about it, or will they put an end to the suffering that the people of South Sudan face everyday?

Questions to Consider

The predominant religion in the Republic of Ireland is Christianity and the largest church is the Roman Catholic Church. However, there are all just statistics, and the Irish constitution states that it does not endorse any particular religion and that it guarantees freedom of religion to everyone. The delegation of Ireland recognizes that there is a long of religious tension in Sudan as the people from the North want to impose the Islamic faith on the South Sudanese. However, the majority of the population of South Sudan do not want to convert to the Islamic faith, which is one source of conflict. A country who despises a certain religion will almost certainly tend to have disagreeable relations with a country whose predominant faith is that certain religion.

The delegation of Ireland believes that the current conflict should not be referred to as Sudan's third civil war seeing as South Sudan is it's own independent country and is no longer a

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part of Sudan. However, there are many lessons that can be learned from the first and second civil war as both occurred within the same area and also had similar religious conflict. From the conflict caused by the first and second civil war, it is obvious that there is a lot of religious schism and as a result, the topic of Islam should be left alone during negotiations. Also, peacekeepers need to have adequate numbers in order to conduct their mission and protect the citizens of South Sudan. Given that the peacekeepers are not doing a very good job right now due to a lack of numbers, it seems necessary to expand the peacekeeping force in South Sudan at all costs.

Ireland's first step towards preventing genocide is to always to try and seek a negotiation between the two conflict parties involved. The delegation of Ireland believes that there every conflict can be solved through consultation and there is never a need for force. However, should peace talks fail and the conflict parties refuse to cooperate with each other, Ireland's would impose sanctions. The sanctions on that country would affect the leaders of the country, rather than the common everyday people. Ireland has also seen ethnic tension and how detrimental it could be. Notably during the Troubles in the 1980s, where Catholics and Protestants turned against each other, committing acts of terrorism and violence. Resolving ethnic tension and closure may be a daunting task, but it is absolutely necessary in order to prevent atrocities from happening in the long term. Ireland has given large amounts of humanitarian aid in response to the crisis in South Sudan. The majority of Ireland's aid has gone towards aiding refugees in fleeing South Sudan. However, it must also be emphasized that as the conflict escalates, Ireland first priority is to protect the lives of Irish citizens helping the refugees there. If the situation in

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South Sudan reaches a point where the brave Irish men and women working there cannot help the South Sudanese refugees safely, they will be called back home.

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