

UNSC STUDY GUIDE



AGENDA

Deliberation on the military crisis in Sudan with emphasis on the human rights violations and the use of weapons of mass destruction.

About The Literary Circle

Literary Circle is the club in NIT Durgapur, which gives the college an extra dimension of creative expression in the midst of technical unilateralism and gives the students of the college an opportunity to transcend the ordinary and mundane. The Literary Circle conducts various events throughout the year: Verve, Literary cum Youth Festival of the college and the biggest of its kind in Eastern India.

The Literary Circle successfully pulled off the 18th edition of Verve in 2023. Flagship events in the fest, like the Treasure Hunt, have become a matter of college folklore. The club maintains a blog, The Darkest White, as the culmination of myriad pen strokes from the collective literary expression of the college. The club publishes the yearbook, so each student graduating out of college can reminisce about their days in the college, their hostel life and take with them a part of it.

Humans of NIT Durgapur, by The Literary Circle, captures the untold stories, legends, and experiences of individuals, showing our readers how ordinary people can be unique, inspirational and relatable. The TEDx is an initiative where influential speakers are invited in order to realise TED's overall mission to research and discover "ideas worth spreading." TEDxNITDurgapur was co-organised by The Literary Circle and was a confluence of ideas and innovation.

The club is known to be highly selective in its admission of new members, with only about 10-15 students inducted out of the entire batch of 900 each year. Great believers of the phrase 'quality over quantity', the members selected every year are the best of the best in the field of expression and creativity. Come, step into the Circle!

About NITMUN

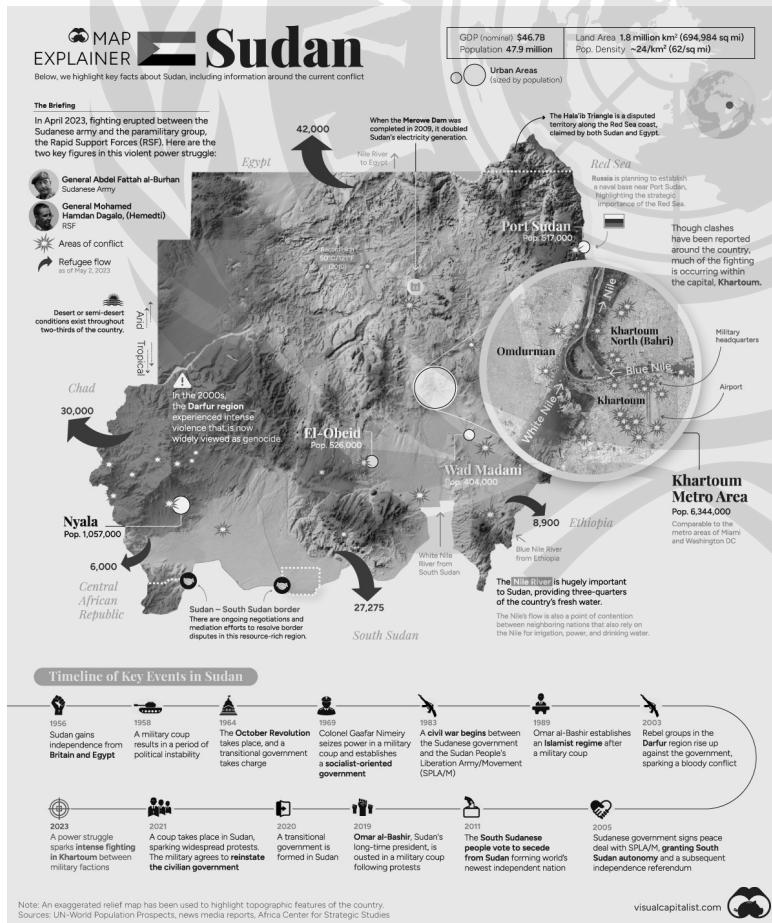
NITMUN is a forum convened by the members of the Literary Circle for discussion and analysis of global issues. It seeks to bring out motivated delegates from all over the country for a meaningful debate on significant international issues. Currently, in its 11th edition, NITMUN has been extremely successful in providing the perfect experience to each delegate. Over the years, we have entertained more than 2000 delegates totalling all the editions. Delegates arrive from all corners of India for an experience they will never forget



About the committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is a pivotal organ of the United Nations (UN), established under the UN Charter. With 15 member states, including five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), which hold veto powers, the UNSC is responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

The UNSC holds a critical role in addressing global conflicts and crises. Its primary functions include the authorization of military action, imposition of sanctions, and the establishment of peacekeeping missions. The UNSC's agenda covers a wide range of topics, including regional conflicts, disarmament, and humanitarian crises. Debates within the UNSC can be intense, requiring diplomacy, negotiation, and compromise among member states.



Sudan's post-independence history, beginning in 1956 after breaking free from Anglo-Egyptian rule, unfolds through a series of rapid military coups. In 1958, the prime minister, a retired military officer, orchestrated a self-coup, marking the initiation of military rule. The democratic government led by Ismail Al-Azhari faced a short-lived tenure as Colonel Gaafar Nimrey seized power in 1969. However, a significant shift occurred in 1985 when Abdel al Dahab overthrew Nimrey's regime, opting for the establishment of a democratic government instead of perpetuating military rule.

The pivotal moment in Sudan's narrative emerged in 1989, often seen as the initial event that set off a chain of actions culminating in the current Sudanese crisis. Colonel Omar al Bashir assumed power, implementing a strategic approach known as coup-proofing. Bashir surrounded himself with loyal forces, notably the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) which played a crucial role in suppressing rebellion in South Sudan.

Ethnic and religious disparities fueled tensions between the predominantly Arab-speaking Muslim population in the north and the Christian-majority communities in the south. The people of South Sudan had limited representation in the government, and their ethnic and linguistic differences often left them marginalized and underdeveloped. These tensions ultimately ignited significant civil conflicts between the southern and northern parts of Sudan, culminating in the formal separation of South Sudan in 2011, making it the world's newest country.

Similarly, tensions extended to the western region of Darfur, where historically neglected communities, particularly non-Arab groups, felt alienated with minimal representation in the government. In 2003, rebel groups launched an attack on the city of Al Fashir within the Darfur region, prompting Bashir, who still held military dictatorship, to act. With most of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) engaged in addressing the rebellion in South Sudan, Bashir turned to a local Arab rebel militia known as the Janjaweed (JW). The primary role of the Janjaweed was to create disturbances along the borders of Chad, that was led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, generally referred to as Hemeti/Hemedti.

Subsequently, satellite images revealed that the Janjaweed had been responsible for the destruction of approximately 3,000 villages in the Darfur region. SAF troops eventually joined the conflict, and together, SAF and the Janjaweed brutally suppressed the protesters. Both groups faced accusations of mass killings, sexual violence, and the deliberate displacement of civilians.

Post the separation of South Sudan, Sudan faced economic challenges as a substantial portion of its oil reserves, around 75%, lay within South Sudan's borders. The departure of South Sudan led to severe inflation, escalating the prices of goods and diminishing the quality of life for Sudanese citizens. Bashir's control over military officials waned as he could no longer use wealth derived from oil reserves to maintain dominance.

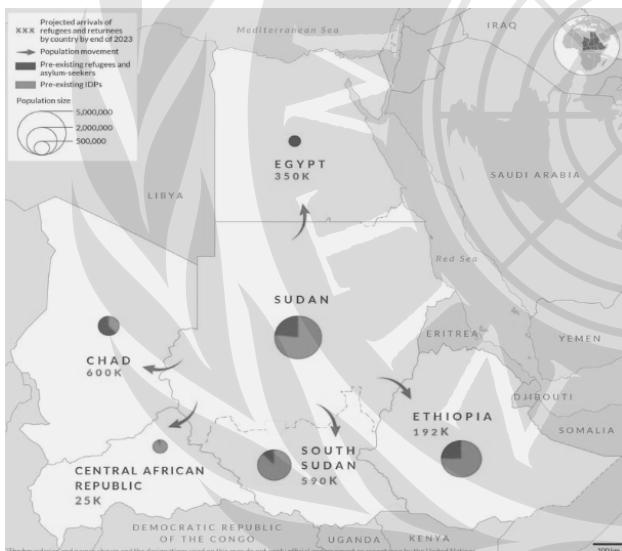
To consolidate power, Bashir granted official status to the RSF in 2013, providing them with financial autonomy and control over vital gold mines in Darfur. The RSF engaged in illicit activities, including smuggling weapons and minerals to neighboring countries such as Chad and Libya. Furthermore, they deployed troops to conflict zones in exchange for financial gains, with allegations suggesting their involvement in the Yemen conflict, purportedly supported by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Initially under the command of the Sudanese intelligence agency (NISS), the RSF came directly under Bashir's control following the passage of a bill in 2017. Bashir also bolstered the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) with significant influence in weapon manufacturing and telecommunications, intending to establish a balance between the two armed forces.

A crucial trigger for widespread protests occurred with the 2018 budget allocation, where an overwhelming 60-70% of the national budget was assigned to the security sector. This skewed allocation hindered economic development, leading to a severe economic downturn, surging commodity prices, and growing discontent among the populace. SAF and RSF, seeing no more benefits in Bashir's leadership, collaborated on April 11, 2019, to remove and detain him. Abdel Fattah al Burhan and RSF's Hemeti assumed control a day later, prompting a short lived joy. The situation took a different turn just a day later when Abdel Fattah al Burhan, the former commander in Darfur, assumed leadership of the SAF, who worked in the past with Hemeti to suppress discontent in the Darfur region, causing many to be skeptical of their authority, given their history of brutal suppression of protesters.

The protestors remained undeterred, persisting with pro-democratic demonstrations in the capital region of Khartoum. Despite pro-democracy demonstrations, RSF troops on June 3, 2019, violently dispersed a sit-in protest in Khartoum, resulting in 100 deaths, escalating tensions..

The international community reacted strongly to the continuous human rights violations in Sudan. The US, UK, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, and the African Union intervened, exerting pressure on Sudan to agree to a power-sharing arrangement. This agreement established a transitional committee aimed at facilitating the transition to a democratic government. The committee included members from both the military and the protesting civilian groups. Initially, control resided with the military for 21 months, followed by an 18-month period where civilians would take charge. The committee was tasked with collectively overseeing decisions made by those in power.

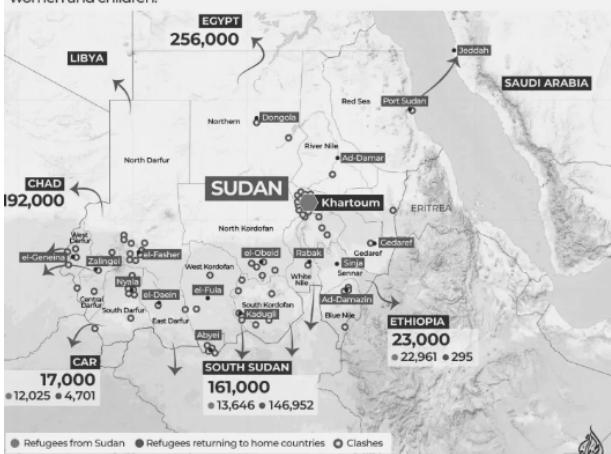


After protests and international pressure, a deal on December 5, 2022, outlined Sudan's transition to a civilian-led government by April 2023 and the merger of RSF and SAF. Disagreements arose regarding the timeline, with Burhan favoring a two-year merger plan and Hemeti advocating for a ten-year timeline, leading to a power struggle between these two forces.

Burhan was appointed as the council's chair, with Hemeti as the vice-chair. Initially, Burhan adhered to the agreement and appointed Abdullah Hamdok as the prime minister. However, multiple military interventions and a staged coup in October 2021 led to Hamdok's resignation in January 2022. However, multiple interventions and a coup in October 2021 led to Hamdok's resignation, elevating Burhan as the de facto leader.

Where has fighting broken out?

Since fighting began on April 15, more than three million people have been displaced within Sudan and across its borders. According to the United Nations, more than 732,823 refugees have fled to neighbouring countries. Half of the refugees are women and children.



The situation reached a breaking point on April 15, 2023, when Hemeti dispatched 2,000 troops to Burhan's military compound. A shootout ensued, resulting in the deaths of 35 guards. Discord spread throughout the capital city of Khartoum. Talks and negotiations continued but yielded no resolution. Countries evacuated their citizens, while SAF and RSF forces were deployed across Sudan, intensifying the conflict and displacing millions of people. The refugee crisis strained neighboring countries, and Sudan's economy plunged into turmoil. In the end, the people of Sudan felt abandoned, betrayed by their own de facto leaders and the international community that had initially pledged support for their democratic aspirations.



Key words

Coup-proofing : A tactic adopted by administrations to deter armed factions from staging coups.

SAF : The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), which include Land Forces, a Navy, an Air Force, and the Popular Defense Force, are the armed forces of the Republic of Sudan.

Darfur region : In the western part of Sudan, close to the borders with Libya, Chad, and the Central African Republic, is an area called Darfur. Approximately six million people are thought to reside there, with the majority of them being rural.

Janjaweed : An Arab militia from Sudan called the Janjaweed primarily operates in Darfur and eastern Chad. It has been suggested that they operate in Yemen.

RSF : The paramilitary forces formerly operated by the Government of Sudan, and are mostly Janjaweed militias that fought on behalf of the Sudanese government during the Darfur War, and were responsible for atrocities against civilians.

Transitional committee : A transition committee composed of a few well-connected board members and, maybe, a limited number of senior staff members should be tasked with establishing a transition strategy and assisting with its execution.

African union : The African organization (AU) is a continental organization of 55 member nations located on the African continent.

Ceasefire : A ceasefire is a brief halt in a war in which both sides agree to halt offensive operations.

Intergovernmental Authority On Development (IGAD) : The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is an African trading group of eight countries. Governments from the Horn of Africa, the Nile Valley, and the African Great Lakes are represented.

Persona non grata : A foreign diplomat who is summoned to their home nation by the host country. If the individual is not recalled as asked, the host state may refuse to recognize the person as a member of the diplomatic mission (including the withdrawal of diplomatic immunity).

International criminal court (ICC) : It's a permanent international tribunal based in The Hague, Netherlands. It is the first and only permanent court with the authority to try individuals for international crimes such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.



TIMELINES

On April 15: a power struggle between Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head of the army, and Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo, the commander of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), fell into all-out war, killing thousands of people, uprooting millions of people, and escalating an already dangerous humanitarian situation.

April 15: On April 15, Khartoum's capital was rocked by intense gunfire and explosions, which caused terror both within the city and outside. Additionally, fighting breaks out in Darfur, which is still recovering from a horrific conflict that began there in 2003 under the authority of longstanding leader Omar al-Bashir.

April 22: The evacuation begins, thousands of people evacuate, and numerous embassies are looted . Numerous Sudanese people are still confined to their houses, and supplies of basic goods like food, medication, and water are running low.

April 25: A 72-hour cease-fire is agreed upon by the US and Saudi Arabia, but it is swiftly broken. Then, a series of more truce agreements fall through.

April 26: As humanitarian activities are disrupted across the nation, aid organizations raise the alarm. Businesses struggle to go back to work while maintaining employee safety.

April 27: Despite ongoing bloodshed in Khartoum and the western Darfur region, the Sudanese army and the RSF agree to prolong the unstable ceasefire for "an additional 72 hours."

May 6: In the Saudi city of Jeddah, talks between the army and RSF representatives are supported by the US and Saudi Arabia.

May 11: Both parties pledge "to ensure the protection of civilians" and agree to allow critically needed humanitarian relief to reach impacted areas, yet the fighting keeps going on.

May 31: The army said on May 31 that it had ceased its involvement in the ceasefire negotiations and accused the RSF of breaking its pledges.

June 1: The United States applies the first sanctions relating to the conflict, focusing on two firms connected to the army and two others to the RSF. It claims it will implement visa restrictions "against actors who are perpetuating the violence" and threatens to "hold accountable" anyone found to be damaging national peace.

June 3: Residents of Khartoum are alarmed by the Sudanese army's demand for reinforcements because they believe the violence will get worse.

June 9: Two weeks after the army chief accused Volker Perthes of inciting the unrest, Sudanese authorities designate Perthes to be "persona non grata."

June 10: The warring parties consent to a 24-hour ceasefire and to allow unrestricted movement and distribution of humanitarian aid across the nation.

June 11: Fighting begins with increased vigor 30 minutes after the ceasefire expires. Seven civilians were killed as a result of air attacks, artillery shelling, and machine gun fire that could be heard throughout the nation.

June 14: According to the UN, more than two million people in Sudan have been compelled to evacuate their homes, with more than 1.6 million going to safer locations within the nation and about 530,000 going to neighboring nations.

June 15: Khamis Abakar, the governor of West Darfur state, is kidnapped and assassinated after accusing the RSF in front of the people of killing civilians. The incident signals a new phase of the conflict's escalation.

June 17: Rival parties consent to a 72-hour ceasefire and to allow unhindered movement and distribution of humanitarian aid.

June 19: The UN reports that after urging nations to boost relief efforts, international donors have pledged roughly \$1.5 billion for the humanitarian response to Sudan and the region.

June 20: Darfur Governor Mini Arko Minawi encourages the UN Security Council to permit the ICC to investigate "crimes and assassinations" and demands a global investigation into acts of violence against residents.

June 21: After a 72-hour ceasefire expires, heavy combat is reportedly taking place in various locations of the capital, particularly close to the headquarters of the intelligence service and the Khartoum International Airport.

June 27: On the first day of the Muslim festival known as Eid al-Adha, Al-Burhan declares a "unilateral" ceasefire. Hemedti announced a "unilateral" two-day truce before his statement.

June 28: Residents claim that as violence between the opposing parties gets worse, air raids and anti-aircraft fire are being launched towards Khartoum.

July 5: To hold those responsible for suspected violations and abuses accountable, the UN expresses surprise at the rise in sexual violence against women and girls in Sudan.

July 10: Eight countries from the Horn of Africa, collectively known as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), gather in Addis Ababa to launch a peace process.

July 11: To safeguard people, a regional meeting that was suggested by the army was rejected by Sudan.

July 12: The United Kingdom imposes penalties on three companies connected to the army and three to the RSF.

July 13: In response to an uptick in violence in the nation's Darfur region, the ICC opens an inquiry. These include reported murders, rapes, arson, home invasions, and crimes involving minors.

July 15: Reports state that army personnel will have a meeting with the RSF in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

GEOPOLITICAL PLAYERS

Sudan has extreme geopolitical importance majorly because of its geographical location across the river nile, and the ports of sudan and sukain along the suez canal and horn of africa act as vital chokepoints. Apart from that, Sudan has a mineral rich geography, which naturally attracts the interests of other countries to have a military base across the suez canal to protect their own interests of trade and economy.

UAE: Reports suggest that UAE is involved in refining most of the gold coming out of Sudan(mostly from Hemeti's controlled gold mines).UAE is also investing in a lot of farmland to ensure to meet its own demand for food in case of shortages, to make itself self-sufficient. UAE also allegedly paid hemeti's RSF to have their troops fight on their side in the Yemen conflict. Despite that, the UAE has also signed some important deals on ports and minerals with the SAF's government, so it currently maintains a neutral stance.

Russia: There are speculations of the presence of the Wagner group in the regions of Africa including Sudan, which is a proxy army for russia. The Wagner group is said to be involved in the training of RSF's troops in exchange to get into the lucrative gold trade in sudan. The primary interest of Russia is to have a naval base in the Red sea, which is one of the key long term geopolitical goals of Russia to ensure free trade and protect its economic interests in the adversity of western sanctions.

Libya: The military official/ politician Khalifa Haftar has strong ties to Hemeti as he lent his soldiers to fight on Haftar's side in the past. So Haftar is repaying him by backing Hemeti with supplying fuel resources. Haftar is an important figure in this geopolitical struggle because other countries can use him as a middleman,an indirect means to back RSF against SAF.

Egypt: Egypt naturally aligns with the SAF's government as a democracy, but Egypt is currently under economic trouble with its currency losing over half its value, so Egypt asked for economic aid from the UAE. The UAE has sent around 100billion dollars to Egypt since 2013. So to protect its won economy, Egypt cannot go against the UAE and hence maintains a neutral stance.

Ethiopia: Ethiopia has been dealing with the border refugee crisis with Sudan, and it has also invited Burhan in recent months to Ethiopia. Apart from that, the both countries have had a dispute over the waters of nile since ethiopia is planning to build a mega dam across nile.

Eritrea: It has a similar condition of refugee crisis, and had previously invited RSF's Hemeti to eritrea

Saudi arabia: It wants to play the role of peacekeeper, to promote itself as the key player across the Arab league in the Middle east.



CONCLUSION

Since the southern Sudanese civil war first broke out in the early 1990s, the UN has been concerned about the Sudan situation. The UN Security Council first addressed the Sudan crisis with a resolution in 1992, and it has since continued to track the situation and issue decisions.

The United Nations has frequently urged the warring parties to put an end to hostilities and urged the Sudanese government to observe international humanitarian law and take action to safeguard people.

The Sudan conflict has caused a humanitarian crisis, displacing millions and causing food insecurity and malnutrition. The UN Security Council is concerned about the potential destabilization of the region and the potential for a wider regional war. The conflict poses a threat to international peace and security, with the UN condemning violence and calling for dialogue. The UN is also concerned about specific aspects of the conflict, such as sexual violence against women and girls, recruitment of child soldiers, and attacks on civilians.

The UN is working to address the conflict through mediation, humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, and raising awareness and mobilizing the international community. There is no easy solution to the Sudan conflict. However, it is important to understand the root causes of the conflict in order to find lasting peace.

Despite the fact that many people have given up hope of finding a solution, it is obvious that the situation in the region is unstable and that something will eventually upset the present state of affairs. As a result, it is now up to this committee to suggest practical and useful measures to settle disputes in the area.

Questionnaire

- 1. How can the United Nations Security Council best prioritize the Sudan crisis on its agenda, recognizing its gravity and potential regional ramifications?**
- 2.What diplomatic and conflict resolution strategies should the Security Council endorse to facilitate lasting peace and stability in Sudan, while considering the diverse interests within the nation?**
- 3.How can the Security Council assist in establishing transparent and accountable mechanisms for Sudan's resource management, particularly its oil reserves, to reduce the risk of conflict over these valuable assets?**
- 4.What measures can the Security Council recommend to bolster regional mediation initiatives, with a focus on African Union-led efforts, to help Sudan navigate its transition to democratic governance?**
- 5.How should the Security Council coordinate with UN agencies and affected neighboring countries to provide humanitarian assistance and address the Sudanese refugee crisis, ensuring that it doesn't destabilize the region?**
- 6.What steps should the Security Council take to monitor and protect human rights in Sudan, especially in areas marked by reports of human rights violations and civilian harm?**
- 7.Should the Security Council consider deploying a UN peacekeeping mission to Sudan, and if so, what should be the mission's mandate, composition, and strategic objectives?**
- 8.How can the Security Council employ targeted sanctions and incentives as diplomatic tools to encourage constructive behavior from various actors within Sudan?**

9.How should the Security Council foster cooperation among member states to counter potential transnational security threats originating from Sudan's instability, such as terrorism and arms trafficking?

10.What role should the Security Council play in facilitating diplomatic negotiations among Sudan, Egypt, and other Nile River basin countries to address potential conflicts over water resources in a cooperative manner?

REFERENCES

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDfhxMwoyWo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-sFVAAKXhs&t=695s>
- <https://www.vox.com/world-politics/23712710/sudan-war-khartoum-burhan-hemedt-rsf>
- <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/sudan-crisis-explained/#:~:text=In%20the%20first%20two%20weeks,to%20%2467%20USD%20per%20gallon>
- <https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/the-sudan-crisis-how-regional-actors-competing-interests-fuel-the-conflict/>