The question of Sudan; the civil war between the RSF and the SAF

SECURITY COUNCIL 1

Issue Description:

Sudan has been engulfed in civil war since fighting started on April 15, 2023, between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and a paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Since the violence broke out, civilians have faced bombings, attacks, and much violence, while millions of families have had to flee, in search of protection and assistance.

Infrastructure in parts of the country has collapsed. Access to basic services such as safe water, health care and shelter is very limited. Millions of children are facing concerning levels of food insecurity, and more than a dozen regions are on the brink of famine. In some areas where aid agencies have struggled to secure access, famine conditions have already been confirmed.

The two warring parties were previously allies, having joined forces in 2019 to overthrow dictator Omar al-Bashir, who ruled for three decades before his ouster. The SAF's leader, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, replaced him as de facto head of state. Burhan was backed by RSF General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti, in orchestrating a second coup in 2021 that toppled Sudan's interim government. But amid international pressure to transition to a civilian government, Burhan's push to integrate the RSF into the national army triggered a violent revolt by Hemedti in mid-April 2023.

Why has this issue not been resolved?

While there have been many temporary truces and humanitarian pauses throughout the conflict, international efforts to broker a permanent peace deal or establish a caretaker government have not been successful. These have included negotiations led by the United States and Saudi Arabia that resulted in more than a dozen failed ceasefires.

Important stances on the issue

The US has strongly pushed for a ceasefire, humanitarian access, and negotiations between the SAF and RSF. It has also argued that external countries should stop providing military support to the warring parties.

The UK has taken a strong position in favour of civilian protection, humanitarian access and an immediate ceasefire.

France has emphasized that both sides of the conflict must stop fighting and that civilians must be protected.

What organizations are currently involved (or have been involved) and what have they achieved?

The UN:
The UN and its humanitarian partners provided $1.8 billion in assistance to almost 16 million people in Sudan during 2024, although continuing fighting has made humanitarian operations difficult.

The African Union:
The AU has attempted to coordinate African diplomatic efforts and promote a political solution.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development:
Has participated in diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the war.

Sources

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Good luck with your research reports delegates!

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