

Forum: 1<sup>st</sup> Committee of the General Assembly  
Issue: The question of South Sudan  
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**Description of the issue/problem:**

On July 9th, 2011 the Republic of South Sudan declared independence, resulting in the most significant redrawing of the map of Africa since decolonization. Both new Sudans face a series of internal and external challenges to peace. That means that the two Sudans try to convince each of their neighboring countries to fight against the friends of the other country. Moreover, the two nations' trajectories are inherently intertwined given their collective history, current political and economic situations, and mutual dependence. (<http://www.usip.org/two-sudans-current-situation>)

Today, tragically, the world's youngest country and undoubtedly one of its most fragile democracies is in danger of shattering. The military is one of the strongest political influences in the country and a lot of people think that the military party in the government could help them, but the goals of the military is totally different to those of other parties and ethnic groups. The United Nations have reported that more than a thousand people have died and over 240,000 have fled their homes, many trying to find shelter in neighboring countries. Political rivalries have taken on ethnic dimensions, atrocities are being committed, and men, women, and children are caught in the crossfire. This is not the future for which the people of South Sudan had voted.

First of all there are just too many weapons still in the country. Many families still have their weapons from the struggle of independence against the northern part of Sudan and too many people are killed by them.

Second of all there was already and still is too much violence against the civilians as a whole. That is also one of the most crucial problems of this conflict.

And thirdly this conflict will not be solved on the battlefield at all. It has to be solved through a dialogue between the two opposing groups (which are the leading parties of the governments with a special focus on ethnic differences and access to important resources) and including reconciliation. The two opposing groups are actually fighting, because of ethnic differences and natural resources, especially oil.

The two conflicting ethnic groups are the Nuer, based in South Sudan and Ethiopia and the Dinca, based in South Sudan. The Dinca are actually the stronger ethnic power in Sudan and South Sudan, but for fear of being oppressed the Nuer do not want give the Dinca more access to power than they already have.

Momentarily the President of South Sudan is a Dinca and the Vice-President is a Nuer, thus the ethnic fight also reaches the higher political ranks.

Concerning the access of weapons:

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There are still several border disputes with Sudan. The conflict especially focuses on the border region of Abyei. Here a referendum on whether the residents want to join Sudan or South Sudan had to be delayed due to voter eligibility. The conflict is based on a fight over land between farmers of the pro-South Sudan Dinka Ngok people and cattle-herding Misseriya Arab tribesmen.

Another border conflict zone is the Nuba Mountains region of Sudan's South Kordofan state, where violence continues between the largely Christian and pro-SPLA Nuba people and northern government forces.

Inside South Sudan, a cattle-raiding feud between rival ethnic groups in Jonglei state has left hundreds of people dead and some 100,000 displaced since independence.

Several rebel forces opposed to the SPLM-dominated government have emerged, including the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA) of Peter Gadet and a force originally formed by a former SPLA general, the late George Athor. Juba says these forces are funded by Sudan, which denies the accusation.

(<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082>)



### **Background information:**

General and locations:

Both parts of Sudan are located in the eastern region of Africa.

The neighbor countries are Eritrea, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Central African Rep., Chad and Libya.

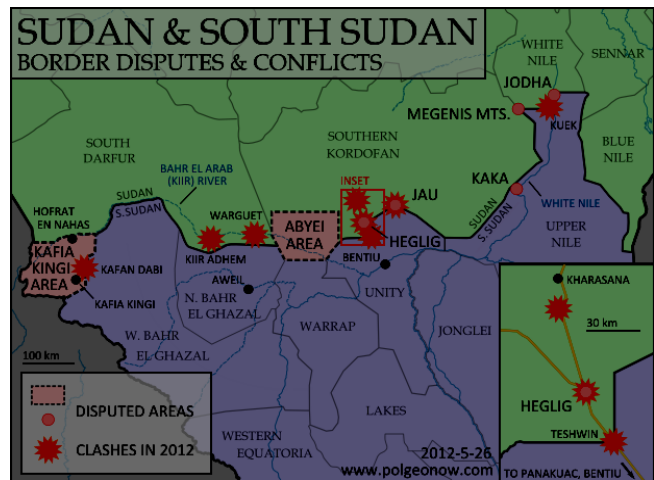
([http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2F1.bp.blogspot.com%2F\\_Sz83qFFwJP4%2FTVG0EftU2EI%2FAAAAAAAAAAEtE%2F64Oq](http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2F1.bp.blogspot.com%2F_Sz83qFFwJP4%2FTVG0EftU2EI%2FAAAAAAAAAAEtE%2F64Oq)



8x2NHD8%2Fs1600%2FSouthern\_Sudan\_location\_map.png&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fjayallbritton.blogspot.com%2F2011%2F02%2Fus-to-recognize-southern-sudan-in-july.html&h=378&w=410&tbnid=9JZpT2ykWmOqHM%3A&zoom=1&docid=b\_\_1-x6txdZafM&hl=de&ei=j0y5U5jiOaaGywOjkIC4Aw&tbm=isch&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=3168&page=1&start=0&ndsp=26&ved=0CEYQrQMwDA)

The main conflict areas are the towns:

Jau, Jodha, Heglig, Warguet, Karfan Dabi and Kiir Adhem.



([http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-TCRN798SlwY/T7\\_4ofUFTnI/AAAAAAAAAajg/o6nFOFj-\\_rU/s1600/sudan\\_border\\_disputes\\_map\\_3.png](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-TCRN798SlwY/T7_4ofUFTnI/AAAAAAAAAajg/o6nFOFj-_rU/s1600/sudan_border_disputes_map_3.png))

These Towns were the last to be affected by the war between South Sudan and Sudan in 2012.

The land surface of South Sudan amounts to between 619.000 and 644.000 km<sup>2</sup>.  
South Sudan's population counts 8,26 million people.

On the other hand the land surface of Sudan amounts to 1.886.068 km<sup>2</sup> and the population reaches approximately 38,3 million people. Therefore not only Sudan's land surface dominates the one of South Sudan, but also the Sudan's population is much larger than South Sudan's.

Furthermore the oil resources play a very important role in this conflict too. While an estimated 75% of all the former Sudan's oil reserves are in South Sudan, the refineries and the pipeline to the Red Sea are in Sudan. Under the 2005 accord, South Sudan received 50% of the former united Sudan's oil proceeds, which provide the vast bulk of the country's budget. But that arrangement was set to expire with independence. In January 2012, the breakdown of talks on the sharing of oil revenues led South Sudan to halt oil production and halve public spending on all but salaries. A deal in March 2013 provided for Sudan to resume pumping South Sudanese oil in May, and created a demilitarised border zone. (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082>)

Historical background:

The first civil war, from 1955 to 1972, was between the Sudanese government and southern rebels who demanded greater autonomy for southern Sudan. The war ended with the 1972 Addis Ababa Agreement, which granted significant regional autonomy to southern Sudan on internal issues.



The second civil war erupted in 1983 due to long-standing issues heightened by then President

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Jaafar Nimeiri's decision to introduce Sharia law. Negotiations between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, or SPLM/A of southern Sudan took place in 1988 and 1989, but were abandoned when General Omar al-Bashir took power in the 1989 military coup. Bashir remains president of Sudan today.

The fight of gaining resources, southern self-determination, and the role of different religions in the state raged between the Sudanese government and the SPLM/A for over two decades. Two and a half million people died and four million people got displaced by this war.

The reason of disengagement in the Sudan was the not ending conflict of the ethnical groups and the fight of them for the resources. Since the two presidents were not from the same ethnical group there were all the time conflicts. Thus the conflict between Nuer and Dinca got bigger and bigger and the national disaster started rolling.

**Important armies, rebellious groups or parties which can be studied by the delegates:**

**SPLM/A :** Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army

**SCP:** Sudanese Communist Party

**DUP:** Democratic Unionist Party

**NCP:** National Congress Party

**USNP:** United Sudan National Party



Left picture:

The picture shows a secretary bird which is holding a shield. There are also two banners in the picture. The one above says "Victory is ours" and the one below states " Republic of Sudan". Both banners are written in Arabian.

Right picture:

The picture shows a fishing eagle which holds a banner with the words "Republic of South Sudan". There are three more smaller banners. The first says "Justice", the second "Liberty" and the third "Prosperity". These three words are the main belief of South Sudan.

**Actions taken by the United Nations, so far:**

-1996: Resolution by Security Council in order to treat the international and national peace of especially South Sudan (2011)

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- 2014: Resolution by Security Council, facing the crisis which broke out in December 2013 (2155)
- 2014: The Secretary General visits South Sudan in order to evaluate the situation in South Sudan and Sudan

There were also some discussions about the humanitarian problems in South Sudan and Sudan, but there was unfortunately no date or at least a year given on the UN website.

**While preparing as a delegate ask yourself the following questions:**

- What does your country think about the whole issue?
- Which actions could be taken by your own country?
- If your country is one of the neighboring countries (named above), on which side does your country stand, e.g. due to similar ethnic groups?
- Is your country already helping to fix the problem between South Sudan and Sudan?
- Which countries could be your partners or your opponents?
- Think about the actions which have already taken place, so what good ideas could you use for your own resolution?

**Useful links and sources:**

- <http://www.usip.org/two-sudans-current-situation>
- <http://www.state.gov/p/af/rls/rm/2014/219511.htm>
- [http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2F1.bp.blogspot.com%2F-TCRN798SlwY%2FT7\\_4ofUFTnI%2FAAAAAAAAAAajg%2Fo6nFOj-\\_rU%2Fs1600%2Fsudan\\_border\\_disputes\\_map\\_3.png&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.polgeonow.com%2F2012%2F05%2Ffeature-sudan-south-sudan-border\\_26.html&h=241&w=320&tbnid=2y6NcHczAZUh-M%3A&zoom=1&docid=onGc4vNbnLIGM&hl=de&ei=jouVU8qTOMaWO8abgJAL&tbm=isch&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=2297&page=2&start=20&ndsp=23&ved=0CIMBEK0DMBo](http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2F1.bp.blogspot.com%2F-TCRN798SlwY%2FT7_4ofUFTnI%2FAAAAAAAAAAajg%2Fo6nFOj-_rU%2Fs1600%2Fsudan_border_disputes_map_3.png&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.polgeonow.com%2F2012%2F05%2Ffeature-sudan-south-sudan-border_26.html&h=241&w=320&tbnid=2y6NcHczAZUh-M%3A&zoom=1&docid=onGc4vNbnLIGM&hl=de&ei=jouVU8qTOMaWO8abgJAL&tbm=isch&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=2297&page=2&start=20&ndsp=23&ved=0CIMBEK0DMBo)
- <http://www.enoughproject.org/conflicts/sudans>
- <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmiss/>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Sudanese\\_Civil\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudanese_Civil_War)
- <http://www.enoughproject.org/conflicts/sudans/conflicts-south-sudan>
- <http://www.globalwitness.org/campaigns/corruption/oil-gas-and-mining/sudan-and-south-sudan>
- <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/mar/24/humanitarian-crisis-refugees-south-sudan-ethopia>

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**If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to write me an Email!**

Yours sincerely,

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