



GALMUN 2025

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Security Council Research Report GALILEE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025 United Nations Security Council Research Report Addressing the Current Situation of the Sudanese Civil War.

DEFINITIONS

SAF: The Sudanese armed forces, led by AbedEl Fattah Alburhan.

RSF: The Rapid Support Forces formerly known as "Aljanjawed", an armed group created by Omar Al Bhasir in 2003 to combat rebellion in the Darfur region. It is led by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo also known as Hemiti.¹

Militia: An armed group of civilians that recruit themselves for military or paramilitary service, to defend a certain region, ideology or assist in emergency situations.²

South Sudan: A country in Africa, was a part of Sudan until it gained its independence in 2011 after a conflict between the North and South regions of Sudan.³

Darfur: A region in Western Sudan that initiated several protests in 2003 against the government which escalated into a conflict, due to the disregard of its people and the inhumane treatment they were getting as a result of being non Arab.⁴

Genocide: An act of violence intended to bring about the destruction, in part or in whole, of a a specific ethnic, racial, cultural or religious group.⁵

Sudanese Revolution: Enormous protests were held in the streets of Sudan against Omar Al Bashir's government in 2018 after facing poor living conditions, and a severe economic crisis. This revolution marked the beginning of the end to Omar Al Bashir's 30-year-long regime.⁶

^{1 &}quot;Civil War in Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <u>www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/power-struggle-sudan#Background-0</u>. Accessed 23 Nov. 2024.

^{2 &}quot;Militia." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 10 Nov. 2024, <u>en.wikipedia.org/wiki/</u> <u>Militia</u>.

³ *Central Intelligence Agency*, Central Intelligence Agency, <u>www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/south-sudan/</u>. Accessed 23 Nov. 2024.

⁴ *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., 22 Nov. 2024, <u>www.</u> <u>britannica.com/place/Sudan/Conflict-in-Darfur</u>.

⁵ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/learn-about-genocide-and-other-massatrocities/what-is-genocide. Accessed 23 Nov. 2024.

⁶ Samah Khalaf Allah and Afaf Doleeb, "Sudan's Turmoil: Revolution, Power Struggles, and the Quest for Stability." *CMI*, 2023, <u>www.cmi.no/publications/8772-sudans-turmoil-revolution-power-struggles-and-the-quest-for-stability</u>. Accessed 24 Nov. 2024.

Transitional government: Established in 2019 following the ousting of Omar Al Bashir. It was an agreement between military and civilian groups in Sudan aimed at putting Sudan into a democratic path.⁷

BACKGROUND

Sudan has had a long devastating history full of conflicts, civil wars and coups. The ongoing war between the RSF and the SAF traces back to 1955 when the first Sudanese civil war erupted. Just before declaring independence from the British Empire, which had governed the area as a colony, a war broke out between northern Sudan (Sudan today), and southern Sudan (south Sudan today). This conflict lasted for about 17 years (1955-1972) and resulted in more than half a million Sudanese dead and millions displaced. This civil war was the first but it wasn't the last, the fight between the North and the South lasted for decades driven by the different ethnic and religious beliefs; the dominant population in the North was Arab Muslims while in the South most of the population consisted of animists and Christians.⁸

In 1989, a coup occurred and Sadiq Al-Mahdi's (the president of Sudan at the time) government was brought down. This led to Omar al Bashir declaring himself the new president of the country. In order to avoid the fate of previous leaders who had been overthrown by military coups, he recruited several militias and maintained a strong and close relationship with them. This approach has brought about the trend of militarized militias being involved in the governance of the country, and it has allowed Omar al Bashir to cling to power successfully for 30 years (1989-2019).⁹

In 2003, the war between the North and the South erupted again coinciding with rebellion from the region of Darfur that wanted to declare independence as a result of the inhuman conditions that they were living in due them to discriminatory policies put into place by the Arab dominated Sudanese government. The SAF were busy dealing with the war between the north and the south and had no time or resources to fight the rebellion

⁷ Ali, Ali Mahmoud. "Sudan Situation Update: April 2023: Political Process to Form a Transitional Civilian Government and Shifting Disorder Trends." *ACLED*, 14 Apr. 2023, acleddata.com/2023/04/14/sudan-situation-update-april-2023-political-process-to-form-a-transitional-civilian-government-and-the-shift-in-disorder-trends/.

⁸ Momodu, Samuel. "First Sudanese Civil War (1955-1972) •." •, 16 Aug. 2024, <u>www.</u> <u>blackpast.org/global-african-history/events-global-african-history/first-sudanese-civil-war-1955-1972/</u>.

^{9 &}quot;Remembering the 1989 Coup in Sudan." *Middle East Monitor*, Middle East Monitor, 30 June 2023, <u>www.middleeastmonitor.com/20230630-remembering-the-1989-coup-in-sudan/</u>.

in Darfur so, Omar Al Bashir created an armed group named "Janjaweed", an Arab militia, to fight the rebellion in Darfur. It is this armed group that allegedly committed genocide in Darfur by the order of the president Omar Al Bashir.

In 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed which ended the second civil war between the North and the South. As a result, the SAF became available to join the Janjaweed militias in the fight against the rebels in Darfur. The conflict ended after the Janjaweed took Darfur in 2007, resulting in a massive humanitarian crisis.¹⁰

The long-fought conflict between northern and southern Sudan ended in 2011 with the declaration of independence by South Sudan. This separation resulted in Sudan losing a significant portion of its natural resources located in the South. Consequently, Sudan faced financial instability and a surge in rebellion across the country. Resistance in Darfur and other regions in Sudan grew bigger over the course of years. This led to many Janjaweed militias being reformed and restructured into the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group that acted in support of the SAF who then returned to operate in Darfur as the rebellious elements grew more common. The conflict between the armed rebel groups with RPF and the SAF caused the death of thousands and the displacements of millions that escaped from the ongoing conflict and fled to neighbouring countries such as Chad and Ethiopia to seek refuge.

The Sudanese people were not satisfied with Omar al Bashir's rule, in December 2018 they posed a real threat to Omar al Bashir's 30-year-long reign when they protested in the streets against his rule in the demand of putting him down in what became known as the Sudanese Revolution. The enormous protests began due to poor living conditions in Sudan, but rapidly evolved into protests against the government. In April 2019, Omar Al Bashir's decades-long reign finally elapsed after a military coup by the RSF and the SAF that colluded with each other to take Omar down. The military coup led to the deposition of Omar Al Bashir from his position as president of Sudan, after which he was subsequently imprisoned.

Thus, the power fell into the hands of two individuals; The commander of the SAFAbdel FattahAl-Burhan, and the commander of the RSF Mohammad Hamdan Hemedti. Protests erupted again demanding democracy, but the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces represented these demands with hundreds of Sudanese being killed during peaceful protests.¹¹

¹⁰ Marina Ottaway and Amr Hamzawy, "The Comprehensive Peace Agreement." *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 2011, <u>carnegieendowment.org/</u> <u>research/2011/01/the-comprehensive-peace-agreement?lang=en</u>. Accessed 23 Nov. 2024.

¹¹ *History of Sudan*, Encyclopædia Britannica, <u>www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Sudan</u>. Accessed 23 Nov. 2024.

The United States along with its Arab allies the UAE and Saudi Arabia, the UK, the African Union, and Ethiopia stepped in to try and put Sudan into the path of democracy. They wanted to create a transitional council that included members from the military and the civilian protesters; they would divide the rule between them. The military would have ruled for 21 months and the civilians for 18 months. Burhan and Hemedti were put in charge of the council as chair and vice chair despite several warnings from protestors. The Juba agreement (2020) was implemented, which is an agreement aimed at resolving the conflicts in Sudan. It was signed by the council (representing SAF and RSF), the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) – A coalition of armed opposition groups – and by other armed groups that had been involved in conflicts across Sudan.

At first, Burhan and Hemedti acted in line with the agreement and installed Abdallah Hamok, a public administrator, as the prime minister of Sudan. After several instances of coup plotting or attempted coups during this period as well as a military coup staged by Bashir loyalists. Hamok resigned from his position as prime minister, thus Sudan went back to military rule with Burhan as the leader and Hemedti as his number two. They signed another agreement with the protestors after efforts from the USA, UK, UAE, and Saudi Arabia promising democracy in Sudan by April 2023. However, Hemedti and Burhan disagreed on a key part of the deal regarding the integration of the RSF in the SAF; Hemedti disagreed because his power would thus be limited.¹²

This all boiled up to the events of 15th of April, 2023 when Hemedti sent 2,000 Rapid Support Forces fighters to Burhan's residence to arrest him. They failed to do so, however; instead, they clashed with Burhan's guards, and 35 people from both sides were killed that day. The conflict between Hemedti and Burhan turned into a civil war in Sudan that same day.¹³

¹² Ali, Ali Mahmoud. "Sudan Situation Update: April 2023: Political Process to Form a Transitional Civilian Government and Shifting Disorder Trends." *ACLED*, 14 Apr. 2023, acleddata.com/2023/04/14/sudan-situation-update-april-2023-political-process-to-form-a-transitional-civilian-government-and-the-shift-in-disorder-trends/.

¹³ Civil War in Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker, Council on Foreign Relations, 2024, <u>www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/power-struggle-sudan#Background-0</u>. Accessed 23 Nov. 2024.

TIMELINE & CRITICAL EVENTS

1955: The first civil war in Sudan, between the north and the south.

1955: Sudan declares its independence from Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, a condominium of the United Kingdom and Egypt.

1989: Omar al Bashir declared himself as the president of Sudan after the former president was brought down following a coup.

2003: A war broke out in the region of Darfur west Sudan due to the harsh and inhumane living conditions and the deprivation of their most basic rights.

2003: Omar al Bashir created a militia called "Janjaweed" to fight on his behalf in the region of Darfur, along with providing protection for him.

2005: The Janjaweed militia and the SAF worked together to combat rebellion in Darfur, where they used the most heinous methods of killing and torture towards innocent civilians.

2011: South Sudan inherited its boundaries from Sudan, and rebellion against the government of Omar al Bashir escalated all over the country.

2013: The Rapid Support Forces was established by reforming Janjaweed groups into one single organised paramilitary entity.

2019: Omar al Bashir was brought down after several protests from the people and a military coup by the RSF and the SAF.

2019: The establishment of a transitional government after efforts by the USA, UK, Chad, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

2020: The Juba peace agreement was signed by the members of the transitional council.¹⁴

2021: A staged coup was carried by Al Burhan loyalists in efforts to bring back military rule.

2021: The prime minister of the transitional council resigned, and Sudan went back to military rule, with Al Burhan (the SAF commander) as leader and Hemedti (the RSF commander) as a second leader.

2023: Efforts from other countries in order to restore civilian-led government and democracy in Sudan.

¹⁴ Zaid Al-Ali, "The Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan," *International IDEA*, 2011, <u>www.</u> <u>idea.int/publications/catalogue/juba-agreement-peace-sudan</u>. Accessed 23 Nov. 2024.

April 15th, 2023: After disagreements between Hemedti (Rapid support forces commander), and Al Burhan (Sudanese Armed Forces commander), Hemedti attempted to capture Al Burhan in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. The attempt was unsuccessful and the disagreements between those two individuals turned into a civil war in Sudan.

May 2023: RSF and allied militias attacked civilians in Khartoum the capital of Sudan, which later spread to every region they had control of.

May 2023-now: Ongoing fights between the RSF and the SAF and other militias to control territories in Sudan have led to devastation. Both RSF and SAF have been accused of war crimes resulting in the displacement of millions of civilians to neighbouring countries such as Chad and Ethiopia, thereby triggering a severe refugee crisis. These forces, especially the RSF have engaged in widespread acts of violence including killing, torturing and assaulting hundreds of thousands of innocents.¹⁵

15 Sudan Country Profile, BBC, 13 Sept. 2023, <u>www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14094995</u>.

CURRENT SITUATION IN SUDAN

The current situation in Sudan, according to the latest reports of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid, is as follows¹⁶:

Humanitarian conditions throughout Sudan are dire. For example, Access restrictions increase starvation conditions in the Zamzam internally displaced persons (IDP) camp. The siege and ongoing warfare in Al Fasher, North Darfur State, have slowed or halted the delivery of commercial and humanitarian commodities to regions in desperate need. According to the most recent data obtained by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), acute malnutrition rates remain above the Famine (IPC Phase 5) threshold in the Zamzam IDP camp. Famine conditions were confirmed at the Zamzam camp in August. While data for the surrounding Abu Shouk and Al Salam IDP camps near Al Fasher is scarce, field reports indicate significant civilian movement away from these camps and toward Zamzam, motivated by heavy combat and a desire for safety and access to camp amenities.

The Healthcare system has declined much which has allowed for the rise of cholera and dengue fever outbreaks. Cholera cases have continued to rise weeks after the end of an above-average rainy season and historic flooding that wrecked and poisoned water sources. Between 22 July and 28 October, 74 locales in 11 states reported 28,376 cases and 836 linked deaths.

The battles amongst the SAF and RSF have raged across the country, with the RSF gaining foothold in the West of the country and taking over many positions in the capital of Sudan, Khartom. The SAF began a counter-offensive in September 2024, with neither side being able to decisively dominate the country. This has also led to numerous civilian casualties. For example, Senior UN officials have expressed concern about the escalation of hostilities and the brutal violent attacks that have killed at least 124 people, including at least ten children, injured scores more, and displaced tens of thousands of people from eastern parts of Al Jazirah State. During a large attack on 30 villages and towns in eastern Al Jazirah between October 20 and 25, RSF reportedly fired at residents indiscriminately, committed sexual assaults against women and girls, torched crops, and looted homes and markets. This can also be seen elsewhere in the country, with several rounds of negotiation efforts having so far failed to end the fighting.¹⁷

¹⁶ Sudan Situation Update, Reliefweb, <u>https://reliefweb.int/updates?advanced-search=%28PC220%29_%28S1503%29</u>.

¹⁷ Rachel Savage, "Sudan's civil war: how did it begin, what is the human cost, and what is happening now?", *The Guardian*, 2024, <u>https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/mar/22/what-caused-the-civil-war-in-sudan-and-how-has-it-become-one-of-the-worlds-worst-humanitarian-crises</u>.

Sudan Civil War and Human Rights Violations

- The current civil war has been accompanied by horrific atrocities and grave violations of human rights.¹⁸ These include:
- 12.3 million displaced persons, both internally and externally. Several experts and Sudanese aid workers claim that the true total displacement is much higher than the last official toll.
- The RSF inhumane treatment of civilians in areas they conquer, such as the situation after the seizure of the city of Wad Madani (a critical supply hub) has suffocated the very little external aid civilians were receiving.
- Reports of civilians being enslaved in the Darfur region.
- Civilians are being forced out of their homes because of violence, persecution, and famine.
- Healthcare facilities were subject to numerous attacks, rendering at least 80% of health facilities unstable. Thousands of Sudanese patients with life threatening conditions are not getting the treatment they need.
- Governments and human rights observers have accused both sides of war crimes for deliberate strikes on civilian infrastructure and other forms of malicious violence.
- The UN documented an alarming rise in sexual assault and rape on the part of the male combatants. 6.7 million women facing gender-based violence.
- The total death toll so far has reached an estimated 150,000 fatalities.¹⁹

The Role of The UN And Other International Bodies

Numerous International organizations are involved in the Sudanese Civil War due to the high number of casualties, the population affected, the use of condemned war tactics, reported genocidal acts, and the use of resources as weapons.

¹⁸ Mariel Ferragamo, "Crisis in Sudan: War, Famine, and a Failing Global Response", *Council on Foreign Relations*, 2024, <u>https://www.cfr.org/article/crisis-sudan-war-famine-and-failing-global-response</u>.

¹⁹ Rachel Savage, "Sudan's civil war: how did it begin, what is the human cost, and what is happening now?", *The Guardian*, 2024, <u>https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/mar/22/what-caused-the-civil-war-in-sudan-and-how-has-it-become-one-of-the-worlds-worst-humanitarian-crises</u>.

In its humanitarian role, the UN and other NGOs provided aid on a massive scale throughout the nearly two decades of the second civil war (1983 - 2005). The UN's Operation Lifeline Sudan, established in April 1989, would grow to be the largest and most complex ever undertaken by the United Nations. The mission lasted until the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed. It was a consortium of UN agencies and approximately 35 NGOs operating in southern Sudan to provide humanitarian assistance throughout war-torn and drought-affected regions in the South. To secure its success, the UN negotiated with the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) to deliver humanitarian assistance to all civilians in need in all affected areas.²⁰

Moreover, peacebuilding initiatives by the UN and other actors played a role during the peace process, as did the international special envoys seeking to broker peace during the war's most significant onslaught. The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was established in 2005 according to the Security Council Resolution 1590 (2005) to support the implementation of the CPA, deploying peacekeeping military and police to support the implementation of the CPA, to facilitate and coordinate, within its capabilities and in its areas of deployment, the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons and humanitarian assistance; to assist the parties in the mine action sector; to contribute towards international efforts to protect and promote human rights in Sudan.²¹

The international community became more involved once the Comprehensive Peace Agreement seemed difficult to implement due to numerous challenges on the ground. This was reflected in the involvement of the Security Council. By 2020, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan was responsible not only for helping the warring parties to implement the peace agreement but also for taking a broad approach encompassing the prevention of intercommunal conflicts, monitoring and addressing human rights abuses, and supporting the investigations of the Hybrid Court to try serious crimes that threatened peace and stability.

Since the 2023 Civil War eruption, the UN has been fully engaged in Sudan. On 21 November 2023, the Secretary-General appointed a personal envoy for Sudan—Ramtane Lamamra of Algeria. This envoy plays an important role in international efforts to mediate and resolve the conflict and is tasked with facilitating dialogue and supporting peace initiatives on the ground. In addition, various UN offices and agencies are

²⁰ Taylor-Robinson, S D. "Operation Lifeline Sudan." *J Med Ethics*, vol. 28, no. 1, Feb. 2002, pp. 49–51, <u>https://doi.org/10.1136/jme/jme28.1.49</u>.

²¹ UNMIS closes as South Sudan becomes world's newest country, PeaceKeeping, <u>https://peacekeeping.un.org/es/mission/past/unmis</u>.

actively involved in humanitarian relief and development efforts and serve a crucial role in addressing the immediate needs of affected populations and supporting long-term recovery and stability. This includes providing humanitarian relief and essential aid (food, water, medical supplies, and shelter), emergency health services, monitoring human rights situation, development support and economic recovery, coordination and planning, collaborating with partners to ensure a cohesive response, avoiding duplication, and maximizing impact.²²

Another organization involved in the crisis is the African Union, which even partnered with the UN mission in Sudan to help overcome some of the obstacles relating to mediating between the different parties of the conflict, creating access to regions and populations, and joining the peacemaking efforts in Darfur. Other international players are aid NGOs and states, including the USA, the UK, and Saudi Arabia.



RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS AND TREATIES

The United Nations Security Council has adopted several resolutions addressing the ongoing civil war in Sudan, focusing on ceasefires, humanitarian access, and sanctions.

Key resolutions include:

- Resolution 2724 (March 8, 2024).²³
- Resolution 2736 (June 13, 2024).²⁴
- Resolution 2750 (September 11, 2024).²⁵

Additionally, on November 18, 2024, Russia vetoed a UNSC resolution that called for an immediate ceasefire in Sudan and the delivery of humanitarian aid. This proposed resolution had the support of the other 14 council members, including China, the United Kingdom, and Sierra Leone. Russia's veto underscored divisions within the Security Council regarding the conflict in Sudan.²⁶

Beyond Security Council resolutions, Sudan is bound by its commitments under international treaties. Sudan is a party to several human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. These treaties obligate Sudan to uphold human rights standards, even during armed conflicts. Violations of these treaties have been documented throughout the conflict, highlighting the urgent need for international oversight and accountability.²⁷

²³ Security Council Adopts Resolution 2724, Urges Ceasefire in Sudan During Ramadan, United Nations Press, 8 Mar. 2024, press.un.org/en/2024/sc15615.doc.htm.

²⁴ Security Council Adopts Resolution 2736, Demands Halt to Fighting in El Fasher, United Nations Press, 13 June 2024, press.un.org/en/2024/sc15728.doc.htm.

²⁵ Security Council Report: Sudan, Security Council Report, 11 Sept. 2024, <u>www.</u> securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/sudan/.

²⁶ Nichols, Michelle. "Russia Vetoes UN Security Council Action on Sudan War." Reuters, 18 Nov. 2024, <u>www.reuters.com/world/russia-vetoes-un-security-council-action-sudan-war-2024-11-18/</u>.

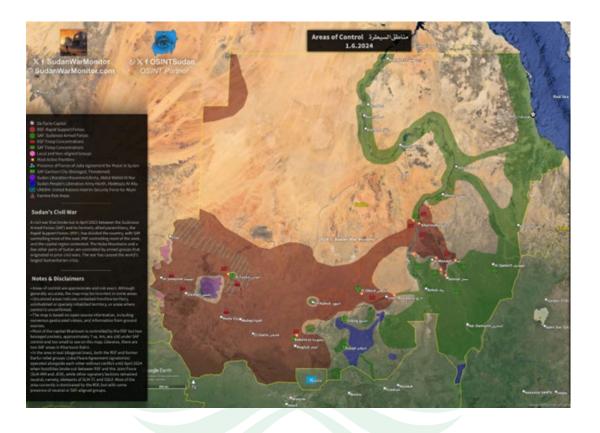
²⁷ Sudan and the Laws of War: Questions and Answers, Relief Web, <u>reliefweb.int/report/</u> <u>sudan/questions-and-answers-sudan-and-laws-war</u>.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What were the factors that led the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement) to failure?
- What are the interests driving the fighting parties' positions? Was the war inevitable?
- What are the interests of the major powers in Sudan and the region? How did these come into play in the efforts to mediate between the RSF and SAF?
- What is the potential role of neighbouring countries and regional organizations? Have all possible efforts been exhausted?
- What is your country's position regarding the situation? Did it talk about it publicly in an official statement?
- How can the country's transition to democracy be guaranteed in the midst of this civil conflict?
- How can the people of Sudan be protected in this conflict?

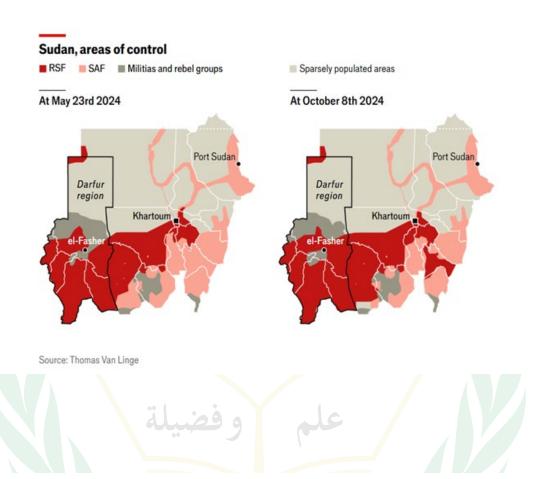
RELEVANT MEDIA

May 31st,2024 Red- Areas controlled by the RSF Green- Areas controlled by the SAF

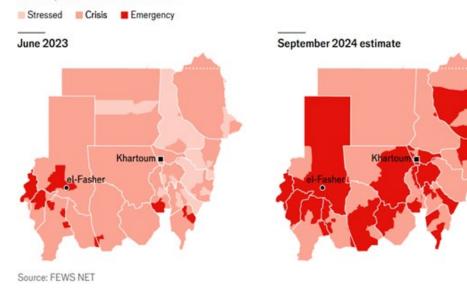


Galilee Model United Nations 2025

United Nations Security Council Research Report



Sudan, food-insecure areas



HELPFUL RESOURCES

- <u>https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Sudan</u>
- <u>https://youtu.be/LtLszFIFPUo?si=3Wl9BTZWf5z8dHpY</u>
- <u>https://youtu.be/lDfhxMwoyWo?si=yAT8_dMchCtXh_RP</u>
- <u>https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/mar/22/</u> what-caused-the-civil-war-in-sudan-and-how-has-it-become-oneof-the-worlds-worst-humanitarian-crises
- <u>https://www.cfr.org/article/crisis-sudan-war-famine-and-failing-global-response</u>
- <u>https://operationbrokensilence.org/blog/sudan-crisis-2024-what-you-need-to-know</u>
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