

## Security Council, Topic 2: **Measures to End the Conflict of the Civil War in South Sudan**

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### 1. Introduction:

Since the beginning of the war in December 2013 over 50,000 people have been killed and more than 1,2 mio people have suffered bad injuries. Ignited by a political struggle between Salva Kiir (rebel groups leader and president of South Sudan) and Riek Macha, in which Salva Kiir was responsible for the dismissal of Riek Machar as the Vice President, violence erupted between presidential guard soldiers in December 2013. Very soon the conflict involved the two main ethnic groups of South Sudan: Machar is supported by Nuer and Kiir is supported by Dinka.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, armed groups have targeted civilians along ethnic lines, committed rape and sexual violence, destroyed property, looted villages and recruited children into their ranks.

### 2. Definition of Key-Terms

South Sudan: In 2011, South Sudan voted to break away from Sudan and become an independent country. It's located in the centre of Africa. It's known for its big amounts of oil. It's one of the least developed areas on earth.

Juba: Capital City of South Sudan

### 3. Historical Background

In December 2013, Kiir accused Riek Machar and ten others of attempting a coup d'état.

Farmers had to experience different acts of violence, which prevented them from planting or harvesting crops. That led to a nationwide food shortage in South Sudan. It was declared as the worst global food crisis by the UN Security Council. Around a third of South Sudan's population has been affected by a big famine and up to fifty thousand children could die of hunger. Due to the scale, urgency and complexity of needs, it was categorized as a level 3 humanitarian emergency by the UN. The UN Security Council deployed around 6,000 security forces, in addition to the 7,600 peacekeepers in December 2013. At first, their task was to aid nation-building efforts, but in May 2014 the UN decided to change their function and to protect civilians. The UN troops were even authorized to use force.

Since this new priority of protection, the UN Mission in South Sudan has faced extreme challenges due to the deterioration of the security situation and its complex relationship with the government of the Republic of South Sudan, which is belligerent with regard to the conflict.

August 26, 2015: Salva Kiir signed a peace agreement with Riek Machar. This mainly happened because of the threat of international sanctions and several rounds of negotiations supported by the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), Kiir had to face.

April 26, 2016: Machar became the Vice President of South Sudan.

July 2016: Kiir replaced Machar who fled the country because of another outbreak of violence between governmental forces and opposition factions. The new Vice President was General Taban Deng Gai.

Peace talks began in January 2014 and resulted in several agreements, but both parties of the conflict and other splintering factions repeatedly violated the cease-fires.

#### 4. South Sudan's relations to other countries

Since South Sudan gained independence, it has orientated itself more and more towards East Africa. It stresses its non-existing reliance to Sudan. In the UN Mission (UNMISS) South Korea provides military forces.

Since South Sudan's independence, relations with Sudan have been under negotiation. In February 2012, an agreement was reached in which citizens of both countries - Sudan and South Sudan - could live, work, and own property in both countries, and travel freely between the two.

#### 5. Parties involved

The main groups fighting are the Nuer and Dinka. However, there are armed groups, including the government's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), that has committed widespread violence against civilians, especially women and children, humanitarian workers, and peacekeepers.

#### 6. Possible solutions

In January 2014 the first ceasefire agreement was reached. Fighting continued and has been followed by several more ceasefire agreements. There has not yet been found an agreement that would stop the civil war forever, which is exactly what is needed.

In June 2018, Kiir and Machar signed another ceasefire, where they agreed to form a transitional government for 36 months leading to national elections and to deploy African Union and IGAD peacekeepers in South Sudan; this ceasefire was violated just a few hours after coming into effect.

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