



**United Nations
Beginner Security Council**

December 7, 2013

1. Crisis in the Central African Republic
2. Situation In South Sudan

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Background of the Security Council

The original *Charter of the United Nations* states the main purpose of the UN to “maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats,” and the Security Council is tasked with the fulfillment of this responsibility. The SC’s main function is to maintain international peace and security, as well as to promote human rights around the world. The SC has the capacity to enforce trade embargoes and economic sanctions, as well as apply collective military force in certain scenarios. This force usually consists of UN Peacekeeping Officers (PKOs). The SC consists of 15 countries: 10 non-permanent that are selected every 2 years for 4-year terms, and 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom).

Topic 1: Crisis in the Central African Republic

Post-Independence History

The Central African Republic (CAR) has suffered a long history of violence, starting from the first days of European influence. During the scramble for Africa by the European colonizing nations, the region was given to France. On August 13, 1960, the CAR gained its independence from their rulers in a slew of independences in the same month by colonies from France. A stable government has never truly formed, and corruption, coups, and notoriously poor leaders have ravaged the country ever since its independence.

The CAR’s first leader, Prime Minister Barthélemy Boganda, was a Catholic priest who played an important role in African independence in the region. Unfortunately, in 1959, Boganda died in a plane crash and was succeeded by the CAR’s first president of their independent era, David Dacko. On December 31, 1965, Dacko was overthrown by Jean-Bedel Bokassa in a military coup that put Bokassa into the presidency.

Bokassa was born into a life of violence. His father was beaten to death at a French prefect’s office when he was six years old, and his distraught mother committed suicide just a week later, leaving Bokassa and his eleven siblings orphans. After a rough time in secondary school, he enlisted in the French military, receiving twelve citations for

bravery in World War II and in Indo-China. During the drive for independence, Bokassa rapidly gained rank until he eventually became chief of staff of the still young CAR's 500-man army.

Bokassa described himself as an "absolute monarch," and suppressed all forms of democracy or election; he even forbade the speaking of these words. Bokassa's extravagant spending – with government funds – on everything from a string of valuable chateaux in France to wives and mistresses in separate residences in the city to supporting his own arbitrary whims – such as Air Centrafrique, which failed after just a few flights – put the CAR's budget into complete disarray. On December 4, 1977, after 12 years of rule as president-for-life, Bokassa declared himself Emperor of the Central African Empire. The lavish coronation cost over \$22 million, and was funded mostly by the French, who supported Bokassa because of his close relations with the then-President of France Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. A wildlife refuge was created in CAR, laid aside specifically for Giscard's hunting follies; Bokassa also granted Giscard with gifts of diamonds. The total cost of Bokassa's coronation ceremony – which was modeled after that of Napoleon – was more than CAR's entire annual budget and required 100% of France's annual foreign aid salary and 1/3 of France's national budget in that year.

"I find it quite extraordinary to criticize what is to take place in Bangui while finding the Queen of England's Jubilee ceremony quite all right," said the French Cooperation Minister, Robert Galley. "It smacks of racism." Sadly, the French were blind in their support and even defended some of Bokassa's acts.

As Emperor, Bokassa's rule became even worse. He was guilty of ordering prisoners beaten to death at Ngaragba prison, and even killed a few of them personally. He called the United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim "a pimp" and "dumb as a corpse" after he criticized some of Bokassa's violent acts. Evidence of cannibalism was found, as well as of his habit to feed victims to lions and crocodiles at his palace.



Bokassa's regime finally ended on September 20, 1979, just a few months after a massacre of about 100 school children gave global hatred towards the Bokassa rule. The French, finally embarrassed by Bokassa's atrocities, led yet another coup – with their elite paratroopers – and reinstated David Dacko as president, changing the nation back to a republic.

Dacko's efforts to promote peace and politically reform the country eventually failed, and on September 1, 1981, General Andre Kolingba overthrew him in a bloodless coup. Kolingba led the nation as the head of the Military Committee for National Recovery, which was dissolved in 1985. Kolingba continued to lead the nation, and under his term many more democratic ideals and parties were born in the CAR. He was sworn in as constitutional President on November 29, 1986. During Kolingba's time as President, he helped promote democracy and a fairer method of government rule. In 1991, due to mounting political pressure, Kolingba created a national commission to write a new constitution allowing for multiple parties. Elections were then planned for the next year, but were cancelled due to serious irregularities and logistical issues. In the rescheduled elections in October 1993, Ange Felix Patasse was elected for a six-year term, which he later won again in 1999.

Patasse's government was rife with issues. Three separate attempted mutinies were attempted in 1996 and 1997, due to labor unrest, salary arrears, and unequal treatment of military officials of different races. The French helped quell these mutinies, and in 1998 a United Nations peacekeeping operation (MINURCA) stepped in. MINURCA's main responsibility was to ensure stability in and around Bangui, the capital, among other important duties, such as aiding in disarmament exercises. MINURCA forces left the country in March of 2000. In May 2001, rebel forces led by former President and current Army General Kolingba attempted a military coup to regain power, but forces loyal to the government put down the coup, with help from a small number of Libyan troops and a Congolese rebel movement, who were based in the Congo just across the border from Bangui.

In October 2002, former Chief of Staff Francois Bozize – who served in President Bokassa's Presidential Guard – led yet another coup against the government, which eventually succeeded, displacing Patasse and putting Bozize into the Presidency on March 15, 2003. Though he dissolved the National Assembly and suspended the constitution, Bozize managed to make significant progress restoring order to Bangui and regions

around the country, but not without accusations of serious bloodshed and killing of the Yakoma ethnic group as he switched favor back towards the Gbaya, his own people. A new constitution was drafted in late 2004, and in 2005 Bozize won the Presidency in the first elections since the 2003 coup.

Recent Conflict

The current conflict began in 2006 in the northern regions of the country when fighting between government officers and rebel groups displaced a large number of civilians. In January 2007, the Libyan government helped create a peace treaty between FPDC (see Who Are Seleka? for acronyms) and the CAR government, the first of many rebel treaties to come. In 2008, the government signed the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement with APRD and UFDR, and then signed a cease-fire agreement with CPJP in June 2011. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement helped create an Inclusive Political Dialogue (IPD), involving a wide variety of parties, intended to promote stability in the CAR. The IPD met in December 2008 and proposed its recommendations, which included establishment of a unified national government and the implementation of an independent electoral commission for the planned 2010 December elections. Unfortunately, these goals were never fully met. The first round of elections were held in January 2011 after being delayed several times by President Bozize due to issues involving the electoral commission and the various political parties in the country. The elections proceeded peacefully, though flawed, and Bozize was declared President once again.

In late 2012, conflict arose yet again when Seleka rebels – displeased with the President’s failure to address the agreements spelled out in the different treaties – began



to move from the northern regions further south, towards Bangui. The rebels demanded the President step down and voiced concerns over his promised concessions. President Bozize called out to other African nations and to France for aid against the advancing rebels, however France’s concern with Mali and the

Free Syrian Army proved a more important issue and they offered no support. Francois Hollande stated that “If we have a presence, it’s not to protect a regime, it’s to protect our nationals and our interests and in no way to intervene in the internal business of a country, in this case the Central African Republic...Those days are over.”

Seleka gradually moved southwards until on March 24, 2013, after failed attempts at making a peace treaty with President Bozize, Seleka moved into the capital of Bangui and captured it by force. Around 5,000 rebel fighters entered the capital, forcing Bozize to leave the country. Power turned over to Michel Djotodia, the leader of Seleka, who then declared himself President announced the CAR would once again go through a period of political transition until “credible and transparent” national elections would eventually be held. During the first day of fighting, 13 South African soldiers were killed trying to support and guide the government troops, initiating many new tensions between the South Africa and the CAR.

Who are Seleka?

Seleka is an alliance of rebel militias in the CAR. The coalition is mostly made up of the following groups: The Patriots’ Convention for Justice and Peace (CPJP), The Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR), The Democratic Front of Central African People (FDPC), and The Patriotic Convention for the Salvation of Kodro (PCSK), and many other smaller rebel factions. However, some believe that there are also outside influences inside Seleka, such as nationalists from Chad, Nigeria, and Sudan. It is also noted that some of the funding towards Seleka’s soldiers may come from the same groups who funded the revolts in Mali, Libya, and Tunisia; namely, al-Qaeda, among others. Seleka originated in September 2012, and their common cause was the supposed failure by President Bozize to hold true the promises in the Libreville Agreement, a major factor in Seleka’s creation.

Whether or not Seleka has a clear political agenda is not certain. Today, there is some order inside the capital city, but outside of this region chaos reigns. Seleka has no governmental influence outside of the city and does not have many plans to repress the current atrocities in the country or act upon any aspects of human rights violations in the CAR. Illegal weapons proliferate the country. Djotodia is not in control of the country.

Much of Seleka’s funding comes from looting and pillaging villages, larger towns and then urban cities like Bangui where Seleka troops have no restrictions to their violent conduct. There was little real challenge from the national army against Seleka as they

moved to and eventually captured Bangui. Some reasons for this are that the army was outnumbered by the rebels and that because of the history of military coups in the country, Presidents have been wary of too large a national army.

Social Conflicts

Chaos reigns in the CAR. Fighting between Seleka and government forces, as well as many other factors, have caused massive numbers of displaced persons. 600,000 civilians have been internally displaced or have fled to neighboring countries, such as Chad and Cameroon. There is a total lack of government outside Bangui. Seleka rebels have been robbing, looting, and burning villages, causing widespread panic and terror among innocent victims. Deserted and destroyed villages litter the land, and some 65,000 citizens have been internally displaced due to a lack of security. Many of these IDPs have fled into the large tracts of forest in the CAR to avoid further confrontation with Seleka. These civilians live off the land, and many die of disease, starvation, and other hardships. Other IDPs gather in refugee camps around Catholic churches, Seleka have forced a regime of terror, raping and pillaging the entire lawless country.

One social aspect of this conflict that has evolved since Seleka first formed is that of religion. Seleka is 90% Muslim and 10% Christian. Because of this, sectarian violence has evolved from the original conflict. When Seleka groups enter a town, they most often go to the Muslim community first because some Seleka chiefs only speak Arabic, and no French or Songo, the national languages. Seleka are also more likely to attack Christian communities. A Christian community might then create a small militia to try to fight Seleka and fight against sectarian violence, but they instead inflict the same measures against the opposite religion. John Ging, director of the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said that, “We are very worried that the conflict is inciting more division between Muslim and Christian communities... We are very, very concerned that the seeds of a genocide are being sown.”

Due to the lack of any governmental control or influence, serious health problems are now even more prevalent in the CAR. Malnutrition and preventable diseases are rife in the CAR and malaria cases have reached frightening numbers. “We are facing one of the worst years in terms of the impact of disease,” said Ellen van der Velden, the head of Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) in the CAR. Hospitals and health centers were looted for their valuable equipment and medical staff fled into hiding, leaving no resources for any ill

or injured civilians. It is also estimated that 11,000 people with HIV have had their treatment interrupted due to the current crisis. Routine vaccinations have also been suspended and any healthcare system is virtually nonexistent. Malnutrition has increased due to this lack of medical aid and also because of a poor food supply and volatile food prices.

United Nations Action

The UN Security Council has been involved in the CAR since MINURCA in the late 1990's. The main effort on the ground in recent years has been led by the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA). Most recently, on October 10, 2013, the Security Council passed a unanimous resolution increasing BINUCA's influence in five important ways: further support for the implementation of the transition process; support for conflict prevention and humanitarian aid; support to help stabilize the security situations; protection and advancement of human rights; and the coordination of international actors. The resolution also looked favorably upon the establishment of an "African-led International Support Mission in the CAR," by the African Union, to be referred to as "MISCA." This is a major contribution to the resistance against the humanitarian and other crimes in the CAR.

The brutal and sectarian conflicts in the CAR today have caused United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to release a statement on November 18, 2013, stating that, "This cycle, if not addressed now, threatens to degenerate into a countrywide religious and ethnic divide, with the potential to spiral into an uncontrollable situation, including atrocity crimes, with serious national and regional implications." He also supports the establishment of a peacekeeping force to enter the CAR before the situation degenerates into genocide.

Key Viewpoints

The United States of America just recently proposed \$40 million towards Central African peacekeepers "in order to restore security to the country," as Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement on November 20, 2013. "The United States sees no evidence that the CAR transitional government has the capacity or political will to end the violence, especially the abuses committed by elements of the Seleka rebel alliance that are affiliated with the government," he further explained.

French President Francois Hollande urged the international community to move quickly to address the situation in the CAR. France has already contributed 410 troops to the peacekeeping force, however there were no further specifications discussing France's contributions.

The African Union has already taken steps towards an armed force in the CAR with MISCA, but concerns remain about their ability to be ready to act in the near future. In addition, the Economic Community of Central African States has currently deployed a 2,500 man regional peacekeeping force in the CAR, which the African Union will take charge of in December of 2013, if they are ready.

Further Questions

- Does your country support UN peacekeeper intervention in order to prevent potential genocide?
- Would it look favorably upon African Union involvement?
- Does your country find social issues in such conflicts like religion, disease, or malnutrition a priority?
- What solutions might your country propose?

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Topic 2: The Situation In South Sudan

History of issue

In 1823, Egyptians founded Khartoum as their headquarters and developed Sudan's trade, while in the 1890s the British decided to take control of Sudan. Following a series of campaigns between 1896 and 1898, an Anglo-Egyptian force under Herbert Kitchener destroyed the power of the Mahdists. Subsequently, agreements in 1899 established the condominium government of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. In 1930, the British Civil Secretary in Khartoum declared the "Southern Policy," officially stating that the north and south, because of their many cultural and religious differences, were to

be governed as two separate regions under a federalist style of government. In the 1950's, Sudan was prepared to gain Independence from the British and Egyptian rule. However,



Governmental authorities in Khartoum were failing to live up to promises of creating a federal system, and instead, were seen as trying to impose a nationwide Islamic and Arabic identity. The leaders from the North wanted to make Arabic the country's official language and implement several other Islamic laws on the country. At this time, northern Sudan was primarily Islamic, and Southern Sudan was primarily Christian. These political

and regional differences would lead to the First Sudanese War. The first war ended seventeen years later when the Addis Ababa peace agreement of 1972 was signed, which granted the south independence.

Soon after the peace agreement was signed, the country was in a state of war again in 1983. The Sudan People's Liberation Army (Pictured) and the



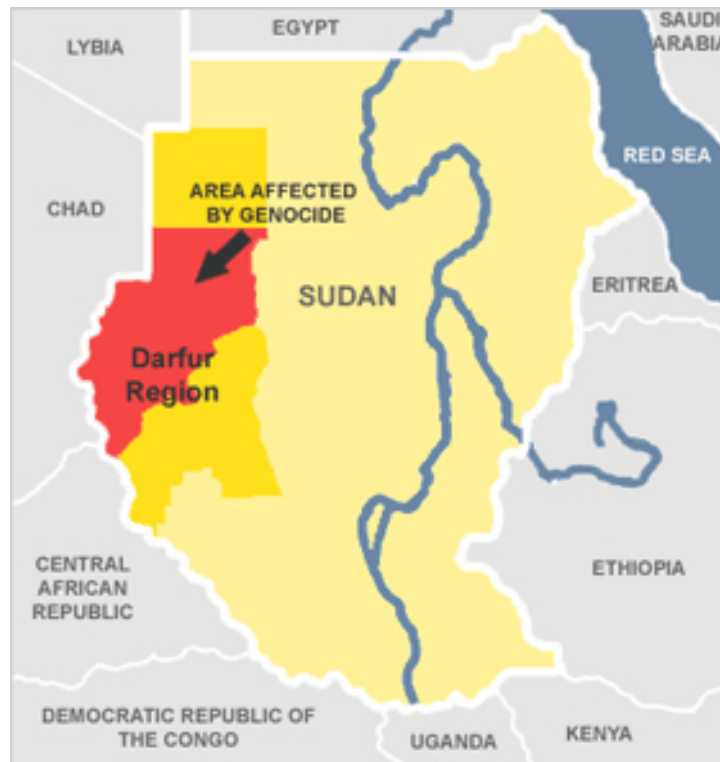
Sudan's People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) rebelled when the Sudanese government cancelled the Independence arrangements. Over 1.5 Million people have died and more than 4 million fled to other neighboring countries. The War supposedly ended in 2005 with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, in which the south was granted regional Independence along with guaranteed representation in a national power-sharing government.

However, the underlying current of rebellion persisted in Darfur for the past few decades. Darfur is the geographical region in western Sudan. The situation became critical in 2003. Several new rebel groups had formed, claiming that the government neglected those of non-Arab descent. There were two major rebel groups involved, the Sudan liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement. These two groups cooperated and began fighting the Sudanese military in 2003. There was widespread destruction of

Sudanese property during this rebellion.

A Sudanese controlled militia group known as the Janjaweed had been in the Darfur area for several years. They had been used intermittently in Darfur during the 1980's by the Sudanese government but were not a particularly powerful group .The Sudanese government decided to recruit these men and use them to crush the rebellion. It is believed by many that the government did this, rather than send in their own troops, in order to deny culpability for the atrocities that were to follow. The Janjaweed became a plague in Darfur.

They attacked many villages they believed had relations with the rebels. These villages were often destroyed; their people were killed, raped, and left homeless. Sometimes, allegedly, The Janjaweed attacked under cover of Sudanese air power. While some groups are reluctant to call the tragedies in Darfur genocide, others see it as



These acts genocide in 2004. Any group or village in Darfur suspected of having any ties with the rebels were targeted, including civilians of all ages (women and children). Some large sections of the countryside were completely obliterated because of the conflict. Prolonged violence pervaded the region under the influence of the Janjaweed. While the Intention of the Janjaweed may not be to wipe out these groups entirely; the effect is

essentially the same. According to Shelly Barclay,” Genocide on a large scale has blackened the name of Darfur, and reminds the world of how uncontrolled violence and hate threaten civilization everywhere.” President Al-Bashir denies any illegal activities. According to BBC, “The failure by the government of South Sudan to stem the cycles of violence and to eradicate corruption and tribalism has effectively stalled economic development.”

Current

In January 2011, South Sudan had a preliminary vote to secede from the North. An overwhelming 98.6% voted for secession, meanwhile the 1.4% voted for unity. In the North, 58% voted for secession and 42% voted for unity. When the final vote came, 98.83% of the south voted for separation, while 1.17% of the south voted for unity. A total of 3,851,994 votes were cast. South Sudan officially became an independent state on July 9th, 2011. Currently, South Sudan is now a member state of The United Nations and is a member of the African Union. Even though peace was achieved in 2011, occasional unauthorized fighting continues. Armed conflict took place in the Kordofan and Blue Nile



States.

The Abyei Area, which lies between Sudan and South Sudan, has a total of 4,000 square miles that contains farmland and oil fields. Both countries desire to be in control of this region because of its valuable oil reserves. Armed conflict has been taken place in this region regarding who rightfully owns the land. President Omar Al Bashir has threatened South Sudan on numerous occasions, stating that he will shut down the oil pipelines which transport oil from South Sudan through Sudan to the sea, in retaliation for what he says is South Sudan's support for rebels fighting Khartoum's rule in the border states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. South Sudan denies all the claims by President Al Bashir, but oil accounts for at least 95% of the South Sudan government's revenue. "Observers in the Southern capital, Juba, say a renewed cutoff could bring the Southern state to its knees, triggering a broader governmental collapse-an eventuality Bashir would eagerly support. Recently, the leaders of Sudan and South Sudan met to negotiate the disputed Abyei region and other issues left unresolved since South Sudan won Independence. Bashir claims that the controversy will be resolved. While the two longtime foes superficially are seen as beginning cooperation, much underlying hostility and mistrust persist."

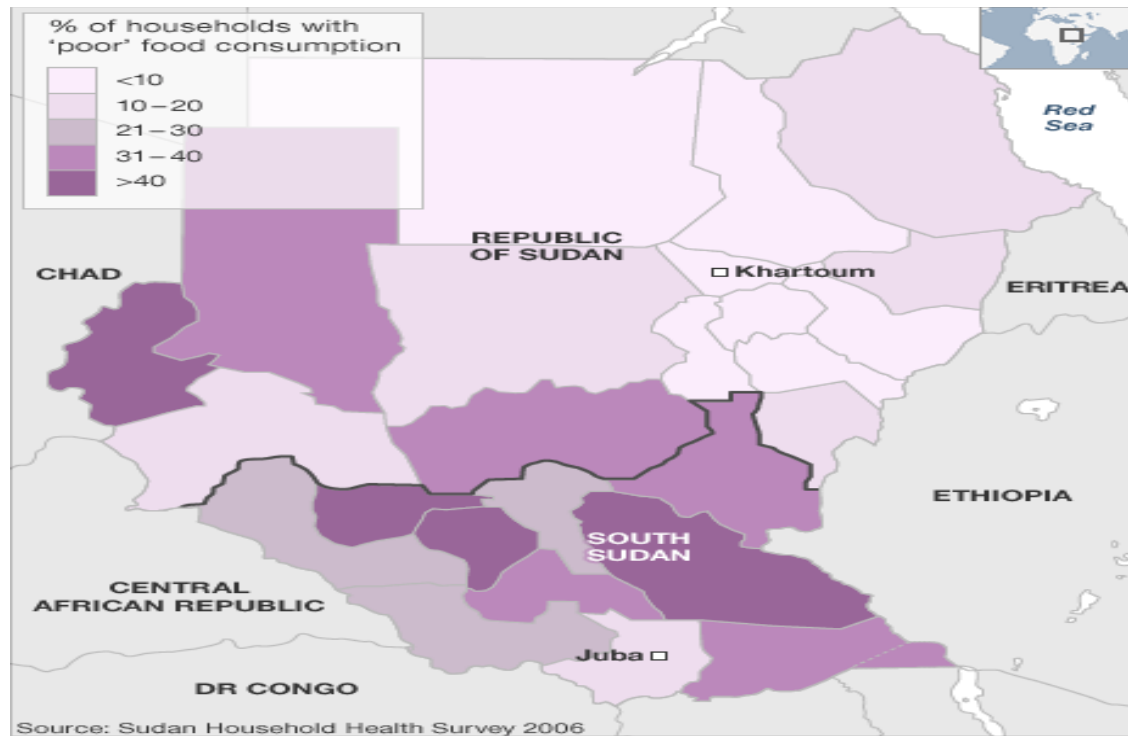
In July 2013, The Sudanese northern armed forces fired artillery on villages near the Abyei Area and caused thousands of innocent civilians to flee their homes. The Armed forces are said to have burned homes as they entered the obliterated villages. 117,000 people fled to camps where they relied on international aid to keep them alive. Thousands of civilians who were attacked fled to the neighboring country, Ethiopia, where they would stay at refugee camps.

On October 31, 2013, the residents of the Abyei area made an unofficial vote regarding what country they wanted to be ruled under. An overwhelming majority voted to go with South Sudan. Sudan has already dismissed this vote claiming that it would not

“carry any weight.”

Hundreds of thousands of people have relied on UN assistance throughout South Sudan. The UN assistance for these people is extremely expensive and the high cost has been an ongoing issue. The international community has ignored this prolonged conflict even though most of the South Sudan states have been victims to some form of ongoing violence. “President Al-Bashir and other Sudanese officials have been indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes in Darfur, but to date no serious attempt has been made to bring them to justice. “ –The Guardian

The United Nations and the African Union have warned that any disruption or shutoff of the pipelines would inflame tensions in the oil-producing zone and risk destabilizing the uneasy peace between the longtime foes. Reminding the council that South Sudan’s GDP is optimistically 13.2 billion and the GDP per capita is only 300 dollars, this ingrained poverty cripples the ability of Sudanese to feed and support them. Beyond their renewed conflicts with Sudan, South Sudan has its own share of internal problems as well. A majority of South Sudan’s food is imported from Uganda and hunger and malnutrition are persistent problems. The UN and partners say “2.3 million will need food assistance this year, and nutritional Services will be provided to 3.2 million people. Over 25% of the country’s budget is presently used on military and security services. 50% is used on the government on itself, mostly on salaries and prestige items such as ministers’ high end vehicles.” Underlying governmental instability in both neighboring states, combined with unresolved territorial issues continues to threaten peace.



Questions to Consider:

- *How will stability be strengthened in both Sudan and South Sudan?
- *How will further wars be prevented from happening?
- *What to do with hundreds of thousands of people who are displaced and need assistance from the UN and/or other helpful organizations?
- *How will the oil disputes be solved?
- *What to do with corrupt officials, such as Al-Bashir, who is wanted under the International Court Of Justice?
- * Funding of Humanitarian aid to the region (Expenses)
- *Border disputes
- *What to do with the Abyei area?

Position Paper

A position paper is needed for this council. You can find the template on www.coloradomun.org. Please have both your topics positions on one sheet of paper. Bring a copy to hand in on the day of the meet.

Further Reading:

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