

RENMUN VII

Peace in Permanence



March 5-6, 2022

Chair Report

Chair Introduction

Dear Delegates,

We cannot wait to chair the Arab League this year at RENMUN VII. We are Daniel Cheung from Renaissance College and Noor Rizvi from Li Po Chun United World College. We're looking forward to seeing some fruitful debate during the conference.

The Arab League focuses on and discusses matters of the Arab speaking world, convening to discuss some of the most pressing issues plaguing these nations. As delegates sitting on the Arab League, your responsibility is to comprehensively understand and debate the topics we've proposed.

We understand that there will be varying range of experience amongst delegates so please do not hesitate to ask us any questions or raise any concerns regarding procedures. In the case that you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to email us!

Good luck!

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Sudanese coup d'état

On the 25th of October 2021, the Sudanese military grasped power through arresting key civilian leaders such as Abdalla Hamdok - Sudan's prime minister. The military declared a state of emergency almost immediately to force back the steady stream of protests in the capital, Khartoum. The coup came one month after another failed coup attempt and was the result of increasing tensions between the military and civilian groups which have been sharing power since the removal of Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

The military justifies the seizure of power by citing violence between the military and the civilian government endangering political stability. The military was supposed to completely pass over power to a civilian figure a few months after the coup. The internet and data networks have been cut off during the aftermath, preventing internal communication amongst protesters and media coverage of the coup itself. The US also announced the repeal of \$700 million in aid which was meant to assist Sudan's democratic transition. On 3rd January, Prime Minister Hamdok resigned from his seat after the coup, stating that he failed to establish a civilian government, but urged that Sudan move forward with the transition due to pressure from neighbouring nations which Sudan relies on economically.

Key Terms

Term	Definition
Coup d'état	The sudden and violent overthrow of a state government by a small group. The main criteria for political instability to be defined as a 'coup d'état' is full or partial control of the state's military, armed forces or police by the instigators.
Sudanese Revolution	11th April 2019, Sudan's autocratic president, Omar al-Bashir is overthrown after nearly thirty years in power. Thousands of protestors storm Sudanese military headquarters in Khartoum and ten generals step down to remove the President and form the Transitional Military Council to move to a civilian government. The most recent revolution after those of 1964 and 1985.

<p>Transitional Military Council</p>	<p>After dissolving the government in 2021, al-Burhan named a new transitional council which excludes members of the civilian government demanding a transfer to civilian rule. The council is composed of fourteen officials. Some civilian members have retained their positions</p>
<p>Khartoum Massacre</p>	<p>On June 3rd, state security forces carried out an attack on a sit-in site in the al-Qiyada district of Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. It was occupied by pro-democracy protesters and has been key to protest movements since December 2018.</p> <p>The attack has been symbolic of just one of many human rights violations and police brutality carried out by the Sudanese government against pro-democracy posters.</p>
<p>Transitional Government (Civilian Government)</p>	<p>A 39 month plan for the transition of the government from military to civilian. The result of dealings between the TMC and FFC.</p>
<p>Sovereignty Council</p>	<p>Composed of five military members and six civilian members, it replaced the military council and was the executive authority to the civilian cabinet of ministers. All the ministries aside from defense and interior were headed by civilians. This was headed by al-Burhan.</p>
<p>Juba Agreement (AKA Sudan Peace Agreement)</p>	<p>The Juba agreement signed in October of 2020 was signed by the transitional government, sovereignty council (including Al-Burhan) and transitional legislative council. The agreement explores possible solutions for the conflict as well as their causes. It was also signed by parties such as the Sudan Liberation Movement and Sudanese Revolutionary Front.</p>

Background Information

Sudan as a nation has always struggled with political instability, born of British colonial meddling in North Africa, split by ethnic and cultural tensions, the colonial period in Sudan exacerbated religious divides between the Muslims of the North and Christians of the South, with Christian missionaries playing a role in this division.

The north, composed of Muslim political elites who identify as Arab has a tense relationship with the south, composed of Christians who primarily identify as Africans. Throughout Sudanese history, the north (specifically the north of Khartoum - the Sudanese capital city) has dominated politics and most governments have positioned the state as Arab Muslim. This was the status quo until 2011 when South Sudan became independent of Sudan, where 75% of Sudanese oil reserves were located.

Sudan has had two civil wars, the first lasting from 1955-1972 and another from 1985-2005, with Omar al-Bashir, former President of Sudan rising to power in 1989. The second civil war was between the central government in Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. It's estimated that over 2 million people died in the second civil war, however the south voted to split in 2011. The secession from the north led to more border conflicts amongst ethnic groups in both nations.

The Darfur conflict in 2003 was sparked by protests against the government's treatment of non-Arabs, especially in Western Sudan. Although a ceasefire between rebel groups and the government was called in 2004, the conflict resulted in hundreds of thousands of casualties and 2 million people displaced. UN Peacekeeping forces were also deployed in the region in 2007. From 1999 onwards, Bashir promoted a rhetoric which enforced a singular national identity for Sudan as a Muslim Arab state, thereby increasing religious and ethnic tensions.

Before the most recent coup d'état, Sudan also had one in December of 2018, with former president Omar al-Bashir being removed from power in 2019. His rule was pockmarked by violent atrocities and guerilla warfare, with multiple warrants for his arrest previously being issued by the ICC. Two significant militia groups are

The 2018 coup d'état had many consequences for the Sudanese people, prices of bread tripled and inflation reached 70%, burdening the already weakened economy. With the South Sudanese secession, Sudan lost three quarters of its oil reserves and production. Sudan is currently unable to gain aid from either the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank due to it's 50 billion dollars of debt. Bashir's government was replaced with the Transitional Military Council which was supposed to fully transition to a civilian government over the course of 21 months by military personnel and 18 months by civilian personnel. The recent coup took place shortly

before the transition to civilian personnel was to take place, preventing the transition of power.

Culturally, Sudan has always been a very democratic society, electing tribal and local leaders and society often functions through verbal communication on all levels, regardless of social hierarchy. Sudan has great economic value with fertile land, despite the current conditions of its economy. However, it is plagued by racial, religious and territorial tensions which prevent recuperation from political issues and it has long been faced by a cycle of uprisings and military rule.

Potential Clashes

Regional, religious and ethnic relations in a post-colonial society

Ethnic tensions were only deepened during colonial rule, with the British favouring the northern elites and building schools and developing the region, the south however was impoverished with most of the economy being based on agriculture. These ethnic tensions have translated to modern times, dividing the nation. In 2011, South Sudan officially separated from Sudan, taking 75% of Sudanese oil reserves with them. While the country is independent, this was a blow to the Sudanese economy which not only lost most of its oil which was its main source of income, but also agricultural prowess. As a nation that has already faced famine, recuperating and maintaining a constant food source is crucial, especially since the economy has only deteriorated further during the pandemic. These border tensions have resulted in ethnic and religious tensions between Muslims and Christians, Arabs and Africans and more.

Human rights violations during pro-democracy protests

Throughout the coup, many people have taken to the streets to express their dissatisfaction with the changes in the government, resulting in high numbers of civilian casualties. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights called the coup “deeply disturbing” and stated that it “betrays the courageous and inspiring revolution of 2019, and contravenes both international human rights laws, as well as the country's own Constitutional Document and other foundational documents of the transition”. Government ministers and officials, lawyers, journalists, activists and others were arrested, preventing communication and any possible dialogue to mediate the conflict. Furthermore, internet shutdowns resulted in prevention of communication to the outside world and publicity on the events inside of Sudan. The firing of live bullets by the military and the increasing number of casualties is also a great cause for concern.

Economic instability and external intervention

Before the coup, Sudan was already in a dire situation economically with the GDP estimated to have shrunk by 8.4% in 2020. The pandemic affected commodity prices causing inflation. Lack of consumption, investment and interruptions in the supply chain affected growth. Lockdowns impacted the service sector and industrial sector, reducing the GDP by 58% and 22% respectively. Currently, the fiscal deficit stands at 12.4% and is accounted for by the central bank, however aid is being held back by the IMF, World Bank and the US, preventing any chance of growth. The actions taken by the international community to pressure Sudan will have a devastating impact on the population itself which is already struggling to keep itself afloat despite the chaos occurring at a state level.

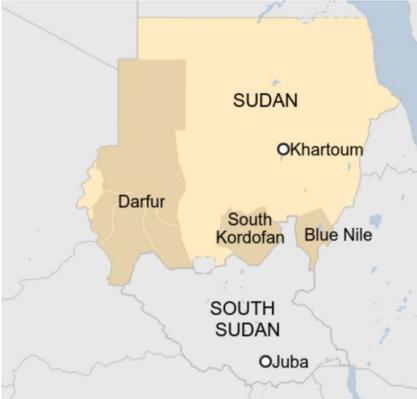
Territorial value

Sudan, being in the Horn of Africa, has great value territorially. Considering the economic instability, this is a prime opportunity for many states to intervene economically in exchange for stronger ties and economic intervention. Many states are involved in such exchanges, notably the US, China, Turkey and Russia.

Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Involvement with the Issue
International Monetary Fund and the World Bank	<p>Both parties previously decided that Sudan can begin receiving debt relief - this would have freed up resources, relieving pressure on the nation. It is estimated that the initiative would have freed up over 90% of Sudan's total external debt within three years, however this decision was taken when Hamdok was still Prime Minister and the transitional government was still in power.</p> <p>A statement by the World Bank on 27th October stated that it would "stop processing any new operations". This could derail any progress that Sudan has painstakingly made and the ramifications would be devastating. The funding provided by the IMF and World Bank were crucial for maintaining stability and a chance at regaining democracy.</p>
US	<p>The US has withdrawn over 700 million in aid as a condition for reinstalling the Hamdok cabinet, this withdrawal of aid will have a staggering impact upon the already faltering Sudanese economy. The pandemic has had a devastating blow on Sudan's largely agriculturally</p>

	<p>based economy resulting in massive inflation and a general feeling of unrest amongst its citizens.</p> <p>Furthemore, as a key provider of aid in Sudan, the US feels that the loss of democracy in nations where the US is involved is a big blow to its international reputation. Currently, aid from the US is being used as leverage to enforce a democratic system, however only time will tell if this will be successful.</p>
Russia	<p>Russia has territorial interests in Sudan, particularly along the Red Sea coast. During 2020, it made deals with the Sovereignty Council that four navy ships could remain in Sudanese ports. Seeing as Russia has not had a naval base in any African country since the Cold War, this is an opportunity of great strategic significance for Russia and its allies as it allows for a heavier military presence in North Africa and the Middle East.</p>
Turkey	<p>Tukey had good relations with Bashir's administration, part of which stemmed from a 99 year lease on the Suakin islands, a strategically positioned island in Sudanese territory. Due to this, Turkey has maintained agricultural development on Sudanese land as well and this would only be supported by Burhan's government. For this reason, Turkey's interests are pro-coup and maintaining a military government.</p>
Rebel Groups	<p>The Sudanese Revolutionary Front and Sudan Liberation Movement are two of the main factions that were formed against the Al-Bashir government. Heavily involved in regional tensions, they have a high presence in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile regions. As part of the 2019 peace process, these rebel groups agreed to a ceasefire to allow the dispatch of humanitarian aid by government agencies. The Sudanese Liberation Movement is notably connected to tribal leaders and is particularly against discrimination of non-Arabs in Darfur.</p> <p>While the SRF is open in it's pro-military stance and is willing to accept positions in the government for some of its members, the Sudanese Liberation Movement is</p>

	<p>strongly against it. The SLM has wider support among civil society, however actual rebellion is unlikely as most rebel groups do not have full on militias which would be able to challenge the power of al-Burhan.</p> <p>A peace deal signed in August of 2020 by the transitional government and the five main Sudanese rebel groups was deemed a “lifeline for peace” in the region, however with the rule of al-Burhan comes a recession into the days of Bashir’s rule which took a divide and conquer approach to the rebel groups, causing splintering and division in the south-west over territorial disputes. The map displays the primary regions of territorial conflicts and concentration of rebel groups.</p> 
<p>Military Government</p>	<p>The military government, led by General al-Burhan is composed of officials that were in power during Bashir’s rule. Hamdok’s cabinet was entirely reinstated, replaced with military personnel. Now that Hamdok has resigned, this places the country entirely under the hands of military rule, foreshadowing a future of many human rights violations, hindrances on freedom of speech and economic instability.</p>
<p>Pro-democracy protestors</p>	<p>Currently, Sudan has been facing pro-democracy protests which have been continuing for months since the coup. Initially, thousands of people marched on the streets resulting in internet shutdowns and confrontations with law enforcement authorities. A high number of protestors are shot, killed or injured on a daily basis.</p> <p>The protests are the last hope for the people who have been constantly subject to dictatorship and instability and without any strong opposition to the military, the</p>

	protestors have no choice but to take on the fight themselves.
UNHRC	The UNHRC has adopted resolutions condemning the coup and has publicly denounced the actions of the government. It has promised to continue monitoring the situation however any direct intervention would be unlikely.

Possible Solutions

Current solutions taken on by most international regulatory bodies and powerful nations like the US involve putting pressure on the military government to force a reinstatement, however these are largely unsuccessful seeing as Prime Minister Hamdok who was the last remaining representative has already stepped down, likely due to internal pressure. It seems that al-Burhan has no intention of stepping down or ceding power as he had initially stated. While international pressure is necessary, withholding funding from a nation where the populace is already suffering puts them at further risk of crisis and human rights violations at the hands of the government, especially considering the pandemic and the economic recession that is taking place in Sudan. It is recommended that delegates find solutions that effectively remove the military government and protect the civilian government as it is reinstated, or delegates find solutions through negotiations with the military government.

Past Actions

- 2020 Juba Peace Agreement

Although this action was taken before the military coup, it provides comprehensive solutions to the internal territorial conflicts taking place such as the Darfur conflict. It also addresses peaceful negotiations with rebel groups and discusses an efficient transition to the civilian government. A [summary](#) of the peace agreement is available and it is highly recommended that delegates read it as it provides insightful and comprehensive policies and perspectives into solutions that can actually be applied to Sudan. Although many of its objectives surrounding the transition to the civilian government are highly unlikely to be implemented considering the current circumstances, these solutions would be necessary if a civilian government were to be reinstated.

- Resolution [A/HRC/S-32/L.1](#)

Introduced by the UK, the resolution calls for swift and strong action against the coup. Calls for the immediate restoration of the civilian government and release of all those arbitrarily detained. Also calls for updates on the situation on human rights violations since the military takeover occurs. Lastly, it calls for an expert to be posted in Sudan to create a comprehensive report on human rights since the military takeover next year.

- African Union

The African Union has suspended all Sudanese action and engagement with the Union, deeming the takeover unconstitutional. It has stated that it refuses to continue with any negotiations until the transitional civilian government is reinstated.

Guiding Questions

- Is the reinstatement of the civilian government a reasonable expectation?
- Will further sanctioning of the military government result in a productive outcome?
- If reinstatement is the way forward, how can member states ensure a peaceful process with minimal casualties and respect of sovereignty?
- What are the possible repercussions of all solutions provided upon the population
- With many international bodies withholding funding for Sudan, where would extra funding to facilitate peace processes come from?
- In the case that a civilian government is reinstated, what actions will member states take to prevent another military coup?
- Over the past century Sudan has gone through multiple coups and civil wars, seeing as there is a pattern of political instability, what societal issues are at the root of this instability and how must they be addressed?

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