

CHAIR REPORT

Committee: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural (SOCHUM)

Topic: The Issue of Protecting civilians in cross-border conflict zones between Sudan and south Sudan

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Introduction

The issue of protecting civilians in cross-border conflict zones between the nation of Sudan and South Sudan has become one of the major pressing humanitarian and human right challenges in the continent of Africa. Since South Sudan gained independence in 2011, The two border has been in many problem such as disagreements, armed fighting, political instability, and violence between local communities. These problem has put many citizens civilian into a dangerous condition. Going back to April 2023 , fighting broke out in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces making the situation even worse that force many people to leave their homes , Job loss and healthcare service issue plus education system were disrupted which the violence began to spread closer to the border.

For the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee "Sochum", the main concern is about protecting the safety and dignity of the civilians that were affected by the cross-border conflict and how insecurity it is . As the real world that we can see is the Civilians may be forced to leave their homes, lose access to food and basic services such as job, business or education. Therefore, the international response should focus on protecting civilians, providing humanitarian aid, improving cooperation between

Sudan and South Sudan, and reducing tensions in border communities over the long term.

Key Terms

Cross-Border Conflict

Violence, insecurity, or political tensions that affect areas across or around an international border.

Civilian Protection

Measures intended to prevent harm to people who are not taking part in hostilities and to protect their fundamental rights.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

People who are forced to leave their homes but remain within their own country.

Refugees

People who flee their country because of conflict, persecution, or serious threats and seek safety in another country.

Humanitarian Access

The ability of humanitarian organizations to safely reach civilians who need food, water, shelter, healthcare, and other assistance

Border Communities

Communities living near an international boundary whose livelihoods and safety may be directly affected by cross-border insecurity.

Ceasefire

An agreement between parties to stop or reduce fighting.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Rules governing armed conflict that seek, among other purposes, to protect civilians and persons who are not taking part in hostilities.

Background Information

The Conflict in Yemen has begun in a long term of the political, economic and social problems. These problem began going worse after the 2011 Arab Spring, Which led to President Ali Abdullah Saleh leaving his office. Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi has become the

new president but his government face d many problems, including poverty , weak government institutions and public dissatisfaction.The Houthi movement(Ansar Allah) became stronger and in September 2014 took control of the capital city of Sana'a.In March 2015 ,Saudi Arabia and its allies launched a military operations to support the Yemeni government, turning the conflict into a major regional crisis.

The conflict has caused one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.A million of Yemenis citizens have suffered from hunger , displacement , disease and limited access to healthcare , basic services and education.Damage to important infrastructure and difficulties in delivering those humanitarian aid has caused the problem situation even more worse.

The Conflict has also affected countries outside Yemen.Yemen is near the Bab el-Mandeb Straight, an important route for international trade and energy shipments.Since 2023, attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden has disrupted the whole global shipping.Similar to the strait of hormuz situation.An important route for International trade and energy shipment has been affected the most.In 2023 , attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden have disrupted global shipping that many shipping companies has force them self to spend more on shipping itself to take a longer route around the Cape of Good Hope location in South Africa which increase the transportation cost and causing problems for global supply chains.

Major Countries and/or Organizations Involved

Sudan

The conflict inside Sudan is the main source of the recent refugee movement toward South Sudan.Protecting civilians inside Sudan and allowing all humanitarian access are very essential.

United Nation

UN agencies orchestrate humanitarian relief efforts, safeguard vulnerable civilian populations, manage comprehensive refugee assistance, and foster global cooperation.

South Sudan

The Major host country for people fleeing to Sudan.While the border communities face substantial humanitarian pressure.

UNHCR

Lead refugee protection and assistance also works with South Sudanese and to partners with monitoring arrival and providing support.

IOM

Support displacement tracking , Deliver emergency humanitarian aid, tracks displacement number and assists border crossers also returnees fleeing conflict to support long-term community.

ICRC

Protects the people or refugees affected by armed conflict and promotes respect for international humanitarian law.

African Union

Support African-led peace , mediation , conflict prevention and peace regional cooperation.

IGAD

Provide a regional framework for diplomacy , peace agreement and the Horn of Africa.

Timeline of Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>2005</i>	<i>The Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended the Second Sudanese Civil War and established a process leading toward South Sudan's independence.</i>
<i>9 July 2011</i>	<i>South Sudan became an independent state.</i>
<i>December 2013</i>	<i>South Sudan Civil War began, causing major internal and cross-border displacement</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan provided a framework for peace.</i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan was signed.</i>
<i>15 April 2023</i>	<i>Fighting began between the SAF and RSF in Sudan.</i>

2023-2026 *Continued cross-border displacement increased humanitarian needs in South Sudan.*

30 June 2026 *UNHCR recorded 615,046 refugees from Sudan in South Sudan.*

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- ***Fourth Geneva Convention 1949:*** *Provides important protections for the citizens civilian during armed conflict.*
- ***1951 Refugee Convention:*** *Establishes the international framework for refugee protection, including protection against return to serious danger.*
- ***UN Security Council Resolution 1996 (2011):*** *Publish the UNMISS in South Sudan, including civilian-protection responsibilities.*
- ***UN Security Council Resolution 2155 (2014):*** *Strengthened UNMISS with a focus on civilian protection and humanitarian assistance.*
- ***UN Security Council Resolution 2252 (2015) :*** *Continued UNMISS and its civilian-protection and humanitarian responsibilities.*

Previous Attempts to solve the issue

International efforts have already included such as the peace agreements, regional mediation, UN Mission, Humanitarian assistance and refugee response program UNHCR. In South Sudan, UNMISS has supported civilian protection, peace building and humanitarian efforts. The African Union which is the IGAD has supported political dialogue and the peace processes. Following the outbreak of the Sudan conflict in 2023, UN agencies and humanitarian partners expanded assistance in neighboring country. In South Sudan the joint border monitoring has been used to track the arrivals and identify people with urgent protection needs. UNHCR 2026 regional response are planning to emphasize border monitoring, stronger protection capacity and the timely assistance for vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers. However, continued conflict, limited infrastructure, insecurity and the scale of displacement is still one of the major that remain obstacles until now a days.

Possible Solutions

A sustainable solution to protect the civilians in cross-border conflict zones requires stronger cooperation between Sudan, South Sudan, United nation and Regional organizations. The International community should be supporting the humanitarian access, strengthen civilian protection and provide sufficient assistance to refugees include the host communities. Improving access to food, clean water and education which is the living daily essentials can reduce the humanitarian pressure caused by displacement. Better communication between border authorities can help find threats to civilians and provide help more quickly.

To address the challenges faced by displaced civilians, humanitarian organization and government should improve the protection system at border areas that focus on children , separated families , women , older people and people with disabilities. Regional organizations such as the African Union and IGAD should continue supporting dialogue and cooperation between Sudan and South Sudan nation. The more great support for local peace building , community dialogue and cooperation over shared resources such as land, water and livestock movement can help reduce the tension in the border communities. International and long-term agreement , investment in infrastructure must be continued until this situation has ended and might be continuing. Shelter , healthcare and education are very important to help affected communities recover and reduce the risk of future displacement that might happen in the future repeatedly.

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