

Timeline

1899-1955 - Sudan is ruled jointly by Britain and Egypt.

1956 - Sudan votes for and gains independence.

1962 - Southern Sudanese separatist rebels, Anya Nya, begin civil war with the north.

1969 - Colonel Jaafar Numeiri leads a successful coup and subsequently outlines a policy for southern autonomy.

1972 - South Sudan gains some autonomy after Anya Nya and the government in Khartoum sign a peace agreement.

1978 - Oil is discovered in the south of Sudan.

1983 - Second civil war begins in the south between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) after Sudanese President Numeiri rescinds the south's autonomy. President Numeiri institutes Sharia law.

1988 - Implementation of a cease fire between the SPLM and a subsection of the ruling coalition government fails.

1989 - Military takes control over Sudan.

2001 - Al-Turabi is arrested along with members of his Popular National Congress Party after signing a memorandum of understanding with the armed wing of the SPLM, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

2002 - A ceasefire agreement is signed between the SPLA and the government. The Machakos Protocol gives the south a path towards self-determination after six years.

2003 - Rebels claim Darfur is being neglected. Al-Turabi is released and the ban on the PNC is lifted.

2004 - Hundreds of thousands flee to Chad following the army's attempts to quell an uprising in western Darfur. UN accuses pro-government Arab Janjaweed militias of killing non-Arab villagers in Darfur. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell calls the Darfur killings genocide.

2005 - The government and southern rebels sign the North/South Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which includes a permanent ceasefire, southern autonomy, and agreements on wealth and power sharing. UN charges the government and militias with systemic abuse in Darfur, but doesn't label the violence genocide. The south gains autonomy when a new constitution is signed. John Garang, a former southern rebel leader, is sworn in as VP, but dies in a plane crash, sparking renewed violence. A power-sharing and autonomous government, dominated by former rebels, is formed in the south.

2006 - Sudan cites compromised sovereignty when rejecting a UN resolution calling for a peacekeeping force in Darfur. UN's top official, Jan Pronk, is expelled from Sudan. Fighting between the North and South continues.

2007 - A minister and a Janjaweed militia leader are indicted on suspected war crimes by the International Criminal Court. UN Security Council authorizes a force of 26,000 for Darfur.

2008 - Aid workers are kept from areas in West Darfur due to government bombings of rebel held territory. Arab militia and SPLM continue to clash over a disputed oil rich area on the north-south divide. Fears of an arms race between North and South Sudan emerge following allegations of hijacked Ukrainian tanks headed for South Sudan.

2009 - The International Criminal Court in The Hague issues an arrest warrant for President Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. The Khartoum government denies arming southern ethnic groups in an attempt to destabilize the region. North and South Sudan agree to accept the court ruling in The Hague and on the terms for independence.

2010 - President Bashir announces that even with a southern option for independence, he will accept the referendum results. The Darfur, rebel, Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) signs a peace accord with the government, leading Bashir to declare the Darfur war over.

2011 - Southern Sudanese vote for independence. Over 100 are killed in southern Sudan's Jonglei. North occupies the disputed border region of Abyei after violent clashes erupt. South Sudanese government threatens to suspend talks with the North over accusations of a northern coup plot. North and South governments agree to a resolution to demilitarize the Abyei region and to allow Ethiopian peacekeepers. The UN estimates that 600 people have been killed in ethnic violence in Jonglei state. 75 people are killed when rebels in the South Sudan Liberation Army attack Mayom in Unity State. Sudan's army denies responsibility after accusations of air assault on a refugee camp in Yida in Unity State.

2012 - After 100,000 flee ethnic violence, South Sudan declares Jonglei State a disaster area. A non-aggression pact is signed, but Sudan closes Southern oil export pipelines over fees leading the South to half public spending. Fighting continues in the Bentiu area of South Sudan. 200,000 refugees flee from violence in Sudan's southern border states into South Sudan. Eight people are killed after security forces open fire on a peaceful protest triggered by the deaths of two men during violence between security forces and young people the night before. North and South Sudanese presidents agree on trade, oil and security issues following talks in Ethiopia, but fail to resolve border issues.

2013 - North and South agree to resume oil production and to demilitarize the border area. After a multi-million dollar financial scandal, President Kiir fires the finance minister and the cabinet affairs minister. A month later, the president fires the entire cabinet and the vice president as a power struggle intensifies with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. Southern civil war begins when the president accuses the former VP of attempting to overthrow him. Thousands are killed and many flee violence as rebels take over regional town. Ugandan troops intervene on the government's behalf. South Sudan ratifies the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

2014 - Over a million people are displaced. The former VP, Riek Machar, is charged with treason. UN accuses Machar loyalists of killing hundreds of civilians in the oil town of Bentiu. Thousands have been killed, a million displaced and five million need humanitarian aid according to UN envoy, Toby Lanzer.

2015 - Elections canceled due to ongoing fighting. China sends a battalion for the UN Peacekeeping mission in South Sudan. 250 child soldiers freed as a result of UNICEF negotiations. 12,000 child soldiers still active in the conflict.



Torture Methods

During the 2012 disarmament campaign, which was an attempt to collect left-over weapons from decades of conflict and to quell ethnic violence, South Sudanese security forces systematically tortured, raped, and killed unarmed civilians.

ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION has led to an outbreak of violence mainly between the Murle and Lou Nuer communities. In an attempt to disarm ethnic factions, South Sudanese soldiers have been accused of torturing and killing civilians.

SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE continues unabated in South Sudan. Women and girls are at an increased risk due to the current militarized environment and the fact that fathers and husbands have been lost due to the violence. Sexual violence and rape at the hands of government and opposition forces are continually reported. United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has reported that sexual violence is a “consistent characteristic” of the conflict. Due to the social stigma and lack of adequate medical facilities in remote areas many completed and attempted rapes go unreported.

SHOOTING of unarmed civilians by security officers have occurred with impunity.

SIMULATED DROWNING has been reported by civilians. Some were tied together while others' heads were held down in pools of water in order to gain information about the location of weapons.

BEATING civilians with sticks, poles, and rifle butts has resulted in serious injury and death. Security officers beat civilians in an attempt to retrieve guns during the 2012 disarmament. Many were beaten over and over again by different groups of soldiers even if they produced a disarmament card, which is given to those whom the security forces have determined have been disarmed.

LOOTING, THEFT, AND DESTRUCTION of civilian homes, including food, animals, clothes, vehicles and other household items has been widely reported. The perpetrators are both government and opposition forces who often leave nothing of value intact.

DETENTION of civilians, community leaders, religious leaders, and media professionals has occurred.

THREATS AND MURDER of civilians around UN protected sites has been perpetrated by both government and opposition forces.

CHILD ABDUCTIONS and cattle raids have reportedly been carried out against feuding ethnic groups and resulted in hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of stolen cattle.

THREATS AND HUMILIATION are used as a means of coercion and can include threats of rape, assault, and death of the victim or the victim's family members. Threats are often used to coerce confessions of being a rebel or to garner information on the whereabouts of weapons or individuals.

Current Situation

Population: 10.8 million (World Bank 2012)

Ethnic groups: Dinka 35.8%, Nuer 15.6%, Shilluk, Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dugotona, Acholi

Religion: Christianity, Animism, Traditional Religions

Official languages: English, Arabic

Regional languages: Dinka, , Nuer, Bari, Zande, Shilluk

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, WAR CRIMES, and grave human rights abuses such as intentionally killing thousands of civilians, executing captured soldiers, kidnapping and sexually assaulting women and girls, arbitrarily detaining civilians, burning and destroying homes and medical facilities and looting public and private property as well as humanitarian aid have been committed by government forces and the opposition, allied with former President Riek Machar. Civilians have been drawn into the fighting by embracing historical narratives of ethnic rivalry. Tensions between Muslim and Christian groups have added to the strife. Almost one million people are internally displaced inside South Sudan, about 300,000 have fled to neighboring countries and almost 100,000 are in UNMISS protection sites. Due to the internal displacement, obstruction and looting of humanitarian aid, and impassable roads, the UN designated South Sudan as a humanitarian emergency with the potential of turning into a large-scale famine.

SOUTH SUDANESE INDEPENDENCE was gained in July of 2011 after a referendum. Since then, there has been continued conflict between South Sudan and the north over share oil revenues and the where the border lies. The violence in South Sudan is said to be caused in part by accusations made by President Salva Kirr of Vice President Riek planning to overthrow him. Riek denies these claims and points to rival factions of the South Sudan army turning on each other as the cause of violence.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE has occurred after government forces attacked villages in the Bau area. In addition, there is currently no legislation that sets 18 as the age of marriage. Almost half of all South Sudanese girls, 15 – 19 are married and some are married as young as 12. Marital rape is not a criminal offense.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, such as the unlawful killing, arrest, and detention of journalists, religious leaders and civilians by government security forces have occurred. In 2014, the UN laid out gross human rights violations – including ethnic-based killings, rapes, revenge attacks, and the targeting of civilians on a large scale. Authorities have routinely censored newspapers, removing articles about sensitive topics and have harassed and arrested journalists who report on anti-government protests. Outspoken activists and those critical of the new government have been found killed in their homes. The whereabouts of some are unknown and they are feared dead.

CHILD SOLDIERS have been used by both the government and opposition forces. UNICEF estimates there are 12,000 children currently fighting in the conflict.