

Forum: Reform Security Council

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TOPIC 2: The issue of the responsibility to protect for Sudan

Topic Libguides

I. Introduction to the Topic

The responsibility to protect (R2P) is a principle that holds states accountable for protecting their populations from mass atrocities, including genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. In the case of Sudan, the application of R2P has become crucial due to the ongoing conflict and human rights violations in the country.

International Context:

At an International scale, the conflict has led to a significant increase in the number of refugees fleeing Sudan. It is estimated that over two million people, including Sudanese, returning refugees, and migrants from other countries, have left Sudan since 2013. This has created a refugee crisis, with neighbouring countries such as Egypt, Chad, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic receiving a large number of Sudanese refugees. Moreover, the conflict has the potential to destabilise the entire region. There is a risk of spillover conflicts in neighbouring countries, which could further exacerbate the humanitarian situation and lead to increased displacement.

Regional Context:

Sudan is a key country of transit and origin for refugees and migrants travelling towards North Africa and sometimes onward to Europe. However, due to the hostile nature of the conflict, many related migration routes have been defeated, and led to a complex array of mixed migration consequences and dynamics in the region.

National Context:

The conflict has resulted in significant internal displacement within Sudan. As of April 28th, 2023, over 334,000 individuals have been newly displaced internally, with the majority in West Darfur, South Darfur, Northern, and Khartoum states. This has put a strain on resources and has created a humanitarian emergency within the country. This connects to the ethnic tensions within Sudan. As conflict spreads and people align with local military factions, risk of further divisions and conflicts within Sudanese society has increased.

Local Context:

Many Sudanese civilians are trapped in conflict-affected areas and are unable to flee due to various constraints, such as lack of resources, dangerous conditions, or vulnerability. This group of people face

significant challenges and are in need of humanitarian assistance. The suspension of aid operations in most parts of the country has worsened the problem, however. As a consequence, it has left thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable groups without access to essential resources such as water, food, and shelter or medical services.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Responsibility to Protect refers to the responsibility of states to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. It also includes the responsibility of the international community to assist states in fulfilling this duty and the responsibility of communities to protect populations if states fail to do so.

Peacekeepers

Peacekeepers are military forces deployed by international organisations, such as the African Union (AU) or the United Nations (UN), to maintain peace and security in conflict-affected areas. In the context of Sudan, peacekeepers have been increasingly called upon to protect the civilian population, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), who are vulnerable to abuse and violence.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally displaced persons are individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, or human rights abuses but have not crossed an international border. In Sudan, there are millions of IDPs who require protection and assistance.

Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian aid refers to the assistance provided to people affected by crises, such as armed conflicts or natural disasters. It includes the provision of food, shelter, healthcare, and other essential services such as medical services. In the context of Sudan, humanitarian aid plays a crucial role in protecting and supporting the affected population, particularly IDPs and other vulnerable groups.

International Humanitarian Law

International humanitarian law (IHL), also known as the laws of war or the laws of armed conflict, is a set of rules that govern the conduct of armed conflicts. It aims to protect civilians, combatants who are no longer taking part in hostilities, and other persons affected by armed conflicts.

III. Key Stakeholders

Sudanese Government and Armed Forces

The Sudanese government and armed forces play a crucial role as they are responsible for protecting their own citizens. However, reports indicate that there have been allegations of their involvement in attacks on civilians and ethnic groups, which raises concerns about their commitment to fulfilling their responsibility to protect.

United Nations (UN)

The UN Security Council has the authority to take action to protect civilians in situations where a state is unable or unwilling to do so. The UN has a peacekeeping mission in Sudan and has been monitoring the situation in Darfur.

International Human Rights Organizations

Human rights organisations such as Human Rights Watch provide valuable information and evidence of atrocities committed against civilians, which can be used to advocate for stronger international intervention and accountability for those responsible. These organisations also play a role in raising awareness and mobilising public support for the protection of civilians in Sudan.

Regional Organisations

Regional organisations, such as the African Union, play a role in mediating conflicts, supporting peace processes, and ensuring the protection of civilians. The African Union has previously been involved in peacekeeping efforts in Sudan and can contribute to addressing the ongoing crisis and protecting civilians.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

NGOs working on the ground in Sudan provide humanitarian assistance, protection services, and support to affected communities. These organisations play a crucial role in advocating for the rights and protection of civilians, documenting human rights abuses, and providing essential services to those in need.

IV. Key Issues

Insufficient Protection for Civilians

The insufficient protection provided to civilians in Sudan, particularly those who have been internally displaced, has drawn international recognition. Majority of Sudanese migrants are currently vulnerable to violence, abuse, and displacement.

Government Resistance

The Sudanese government's resistance to the efforts of international actors, including the AU and the United Nations (UN), to protect civilians, has put many people at great risk. The Sudanese government has impeded the deployment of a robust UN force, compromised investigations, limited patrols, and denied essential resources to the AU force. This resistance hampers the ability to effectively implement R2P and ensure the safety of civilians.

Humanitarian Access and Aid Delivery

Ongoing conflict and insecurity have hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. Attacks on humanitarian convoys, looting of aid, and restrictions imposed by the Sudanese government have impeded the timely and effective delivery of aid.

War Crimes and Human Rights Violations

War crimes and human rights violations are on the rise in Sudan. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for individuals involved in the Darfur conflict, but their apprehension and prosecution have been rather challenging.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
18 August 1955 – 27 March 1972	The First Sudanese Civil War was a civil war between the northern and southern regions of Sudan, which has resulted in the death of around a million people
22 September 1980 – 20 August 1988	The Iran-Iraq War was an armed conflict between Iran and Iraq from 1980 to 1988. Sudan supported Iraq in line with Arab League policy
5 June 1983 – 9 January 2005	The Second Sudanese Civil War was a conflict between the central Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army, resulting in the independence of South Sudan.
26 February 2003 – 31 August 2020	The war in Darfur was a conflict between rebel groups from non-Arab communities fighting against the Sudanese government. The conflict resulted in a humanitarian crisis, with widespread displacement and a high death toll.
28 May 2004	The African Union deployed a peacekeeping force called the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in 2004 to perform peacekeeping operations in the Darfur region, initially consisting of 150 troops and later increased to about 7,000 troops, with the aim of containing the violence and promoting peace.
26 March 2012 – 26 September 2012	The Heglig Crisis was a brief war fought between Sudan and South Sudan in 2012 over oil-rich regions, resulting in clashes, occupation, and eventual resolution through an agreement on borders and natural resources.
15 December 2020 – 1 December 2022	The Al-Fashaga conflict is a military conflict between Sudan and Amhara militants from Ethiopia over the control of the Al-Fashaga region.
15 April 2023 – present	The war in Sudan is an ongoing military conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Issue of Insufficient Protection for Civilians

Strengthening peacekeeping efforts, increasing humanitarian aid and support, promoting dialogue and reconciliation among conflicting parties, and advocating for the respect of human rights and the rule of law in Sudan. Thus, delegates may consider the potential implications of actions strengthening

peacekeeping efforts, increasing humanitarian aid and support, and promoting dialogue, while also considering the effect of these actions to their delegation, and to multiple stakeholders.

Issue of Government Resistance to Humanitarian Aid

Diplomatic engagement, international pressure through public statements and sanctions, partnership between the AU and UN, and raising public awareness through international media coverage is considered to overcome the challenges and ensure the safety and well-being of the population in Darfur. Thus, delegates may consider the potential implications of actions diplomatic engagement, international pressure through public statements and sanctions, and partnership between the AU and UN, while also considering the effect of these actions to their delegation, and to multiple stakeholders. Specifically, with the diplomatic engagement, delegates must consider the political tensions between DRC and potential ally states and non-ally states.

Humanitarian Access and Aid Delivery

Currently in Sudan, many humanitarian aid are in need, including food, water, medical support, and shelter. However, these come in costs, and political relations. This can be an interesting topic for delegates to discuss as many countries differ in economic strength and political relation with Sudan and its allies or enemies. If you are a LEDC, supporting Sudan via food aid may be economically costly and may be triggering certain states. On the other hand, supporting Sudan may be in favour of Sudan-supporting states, of them may include MEDCs, who are willing to reward neutral countries to be in favour of Sudan; this can be a great incentive for countries to support Sudan.

War Crimes and Human Rights Violations

War crimes and human rights violations are on the rise in Sudan. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for individuals involved in the Darfur conflict, but their apprehension and prosecution have been rather challenging. Advocating for Human Rights NGOs such as Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch, and calling in international & regional organisations such as the UN or the African Union may be a feasible solution in gathering opinion and perspective.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

Less Economically Developed Countries:

- Does the issue align with your country's core values/government aims?
- Are you facing similar problems within your country?
- Consider any common grounds you share with the issue of DRC
- Consider the effect of the issue and how it affects your country

More Economically Developed Countries

- What possible aid can you offer to resolve the issue?
- How would your intervention affect the issue? How would it affect different stakeholders?
- Would your intervention worsen the issue? If so, how?

P5 and G4 Nations:

- What is your relationship with the Democratic Republic of Congo? Would your country help?
- What are possible resolutions/statements that will disadvantage your country?
- What are the effects of this issue on an international scale and how would it affect your country economically?

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IX: Additional Resources

Map of the DRC Region:



Net Migration For the DRC:

