

South Sudan: Genocide Emergency

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After a twenty-one year civil war, including genocide by the Sudanese government that took two million lives, the mis-named Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005 provided for a referendum on independence for South Sudan. In January 2011, by a favorable vote of 99 percent, South Sudan voted for independence. In July 2011, Salva Kiir Mayardit, a Dinka, became president and Riek Machar, a Nuer, became Vice President. In 2013, genocidal warfare between Kiir's Dinka and Machar's Nuer fractured the new state. Over 300,000 people have died since independence.

South Sudan is one of the most corrupt countries on earth, with much humanitarian aid diverted into the pockets of government officials. World Food Program warehouses have been looted and much needed roads, clinics, and schools have not been built, despite 1.6 billion dollars in aid from the US alone since 2014 and large annual oil revenues. Machar's Nuer rebel militia groups are supported with arms and financing from the Arab government in Khartoum.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has sponsored peace talks to resolve the ongoing civil war. The African Union has also been unsuccessful in its effort to end the ongoing conflict. Machar has fled Juba, the capitol, because he says Kiir wants to kill him. Machar wants increased protection by UN Peacekeepers. Kiir will not allow more UN troops to enter the country, despite the Chapter VII mandate of UN Mission In Sudan Peacekeepers.

The conflict in South Sudan is a power struggle between President Salva Kiir and his Dinka group and his deputy, Riek Machar and his Nuer group. The struggle follows many years of conflict between the groups over territory, cattle, and resources. The conflict has only gotten more deadly since the discovery of South Sudan's huge oil reserves and the advent of modern military weapons. Tens of thousands of people have been killed on both sides and more than 1.6 million have been internally displaced.

In 2014, the South Sudanese government and rebel forces agreed to attend peace talks in Ethiopia. IGAD and the UN brokered a deal in 2015 by imposing sanctions on both sides. Since 2015, each side has blamed the other for violating the ceasefire established under the agreement. The two leaders did not reach an agreement on election terms by the stated March 2015 deadline, so President Kiir's term was extended, and elections are now slated for 2018.

Many thousands of South Sudanese women have been subjected to rape and sexual violence. Thousands of villages have been pillaged. Both sides recruit child soldiers, a war crime. Even humanitarian workers and peacekeepers have been targets of violence. Farmers have not been able to plant or harvest crops. In 2014, the UN Security Council declared South Sudan's food crisis the worst in the world.

Although the U.S. was a leading facilitator for South Sudanese independence, the U.S. has not played a large role in mediating peace talks within South Sudan. The U.S. and Europe have imposed sanctions on both sides, but little progress in resolving the conflict has been made. The U.S. and EU have not been willing to back their demands for peace by targeting warring leaders with tough financial and travel sanctions.

Genocide Watch considers South Sudan at Stage 9: Extermination.

Genocide Watch recommends:

- The U.S. and EU should demand compliance with peace agreements by South Sudan's leaders. Their failure should result in targeted sanctions against them and their elites.
- Foreign assistance should be routed through accountable NGO's, not the government.
- The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) should be given a mandate to arrest perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity.



- Both Salva Kiir and Riek Machar and their military commanders should be investigated for war crimes by the International Criminal Court.