

Saint Ignatius College Prep

SIMUN XVI

Saint Ignatius Model United Nations



Chicago, IL

November 4, 2017

United Nations Human Rights Council



UNHRC

Topic 1: Effects of the Civil War in South Sudan

Topic 2: Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia

Chair: Rose Benas

PO: Max Tiemann

Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the sixteenth Saint Ignatius Model United Nations Conference! My name is Rose Benas, and I will be serving as your chair for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Your vice chair will be Max Tiemann. I am currently a junior and have attended numerous conferences since freshman year. The topics we will be discussing are very prevalent to our international world today. The first topic concerning South Sudan is currently crippling the nation and resulting in multiple human rights violations. The second topic of human trafficking is a deeply rooted problem, and these networks are constantly changing and expanding, specifically in Southeast Asia. I hope to see all delegations represent their positions accurately when debating these topics, and look forward to hearing all the creative solutions you present.

The UNHRC, created in 2006, is comprised of forty seven member states distributed equally based on geography. They are elected by the UN General Assembly, and serve for three years. For SIMUN XVI, twenty five current members will be represented. Please keep this in mind when conducting your research.

You can email me your position papers prior to the conference or bring them in as a hard copy on the day of: November 4th. Remember you will not be eligible for awards if you have not turned in a position paper. I look forward to meeting all of you! If you have any questions or concerns about committee, please email me or my vice chair!

Sincerely,

Rose Benas (rose.benas@students.ignatius.org)

Max Tiemann (maxwell.tiemann@students.ignatius.org)

Topic 1: Effects of the Civil War in South Sudan

Background

Sudan has been a source of conflict since its beginning in 1956. These tensions are fueled by ethnic and geographical differences. The majority of North Sudan is ethnically Arabic and religiously Muslim while most of South Sudan is religiously Catholic. Both regions are also home to nomadic groups and tribes. In addition, the existence of oil in South Sudan added fuel to the fire. North Sudan would sell the oil from their ports and not give the south enough of the profit. In 2005, a fragile Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was struck between north and south, giving 49% of oil revenues to the south. This essentially meant the south would gain much needed infrastructure, roads, healthcare, etc. However, scattered fighting and guerilla warfare continued throughout the country, and disputes over oil-rich regions remained. By 2011, a referendum was held and South Sudan voted in favor of independence. North and South proceeded to create a ten kilometer demilitarized zone while Ethiopian peacekeeping forces entered both countries. South Sudan officially gained its independence on July 9, 2011, but had suffered many losses. Over twenty years of guerilla warfare and a violent civil war had resulted in 1.5 million casualties and four million displaced persons.

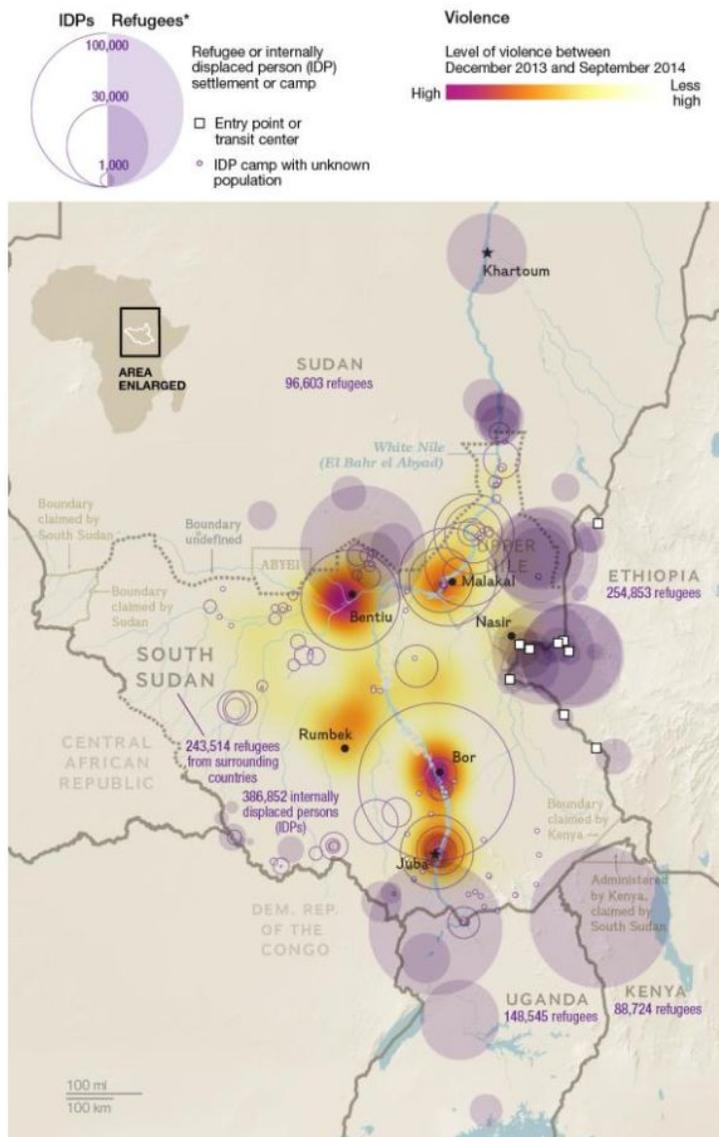
Civil War & the Crisis

Unfortunately, another civil war would strike South Sudan from 2013 to 2015, sparked by a political divide between President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar. Each belongs to opposing rival tribes, the Dinka and Nuer (listed respectively). 2014 saw broken ceasefires, destroyed cities, and attempted peace talks in Ethiopia. A peace treaty was later formed in August 2015, but fighting continued.

¹This civil war and ongoing combat has only resulted in violence towards civilians and a multitude of human rights violations. Soldiers from the government's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) pillaged villages, burned houses and food storages. This has added to the total of 2.4 million displaced persons who reside in UN compounds or refugee camps.

They also killed, raped, and tortured civilians, causing many to flee. Those unable to escape due to ailments or disabilities are subjected to further abuse. In addition, there have been many accounts of government soldiers raping or gang raping women and girls based on ethnicity. Few survivors have access to healthcare, while some choose not to seek medical aid. In addition, both sides have abducted and recruited child soldiers for their armies. They have also detained those having suspected

connections with the opposing side. Those detained have been held in poor conditions for length times, subjected to torture, and restricted from seeing a lawyer or judge. Some have even been subjected to enforced disappearances. These countless abuses led a 2016 UN commission to



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<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/special-features/2014/10/141001-south-sudan-dinka-nuer-ethiopia-ju-ba-khartoum/>

declare an “ethnic war” and a possibility for genocide being conducted in parts of South Sudan, which President Kiir completely denied.

Furthermore, the South Sudanese do not have civil liberties, and free speech is often faced with consequences. For example, when Governor Nyipuocho openly criticized the army’s abuse of citizens in 2016, he was fired and jailed by the president; this only generated more anger and aggression. In addition, journalists who speak the truth are constantly being harassed, intimidated, threatened, arrested, tortured, and their businesses shut down and destroyed.

Not only are civilians being attacked, but also UN bases for aid and relief. For example, after opposing leader Machar fled the country due to violence at the capital, Kiir appointed a new vice president which only created more tension. Both armies attacked densely populated areas, and hit a clinic in a UN displaced persons camp in Juba, forcing the patients to be relocated. Meanwhile, troops restricted the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) peacekeepers from freely moving about during the fighting. Another example is when soldiers, belonging to the ethnic group Dinka, dressed in SPLA uniforms, and accompanied by a group of armed civilians attacked a UN base for displaced persons. This attack resulted in thirty casualties and burned shelters.

South Sudan’s government officials and army are continuously committing inhumane crimes against their own people and constantly partaking in guerilla warfare without consequences. Although the 2015 peace agreement had called for a court to investigate these abuses, it has not yet been established by the African Union and South Sudanese government. Since neither side has been held accountable for their actions by government investigations or faced consequences, the human rights violations continue. Kiir has made some efforts into

investigations of soldiers, but they have never been made public and no soldier has ever faced prosecution in court. Therefore, these international crimes against humanity continue.

In 2017, a famine was declared due to the civil war and the resulting collapse of infrastructure. This is only further aggravated by desertification which is the process of the expanding Sahara Desert. Since farms have been torched, livestock stolen, and farmers run off their land, crops are not being produced in the necessary amounts. Many farmers and civilians are hiding in places very difficult to reach, so they cannot be helped by relief teams. Those in hiding are scattered throughout the country and also may go unnoticed by aid agencies. The effects of the famine must be lessened through relief programs, but the only way it can truly be eradicated is to eliminate the root of the problem – the violence against the civilians.

Bloc Positions

African & Middle Eastern States: Some countries have sent peacekeeping troops, supplies, or relief teams, and then suffered due to their efforts. Others lack the resources and financial stability to help South Sudan in the same way. Many are being asked to take in refugees from the crisis.

Asian States: Many larger countries have good relations with South Sudan and have funded peace talks and aid. Smaller countries face their own struggles with human rights violations within their own countries and have more limited means of support.

Eastern European States: Some countries are being prompted to take in refugees; not all are willing or have the space.

Latin American & Caribbean States: Many countries are not well equipped to aid South Sudan with resources and currently face their own human rights violations.

Western European & Other States: Most countries are in a good position with the power and resources to take action, give relief, and accept refugees.

Questions to Consider

- How can we prevent the attacks on innocent civilians?
- How can we evacuate those in pillaged cities, susceptible to abuse?
- Is there a way to contain the fighting to strictly soldiers, and ultimately try to eliminate the violence?
- How do we care for and relocate the displaced persons?
- How can aid and relief be safely given to South Sudan?
- How can we help stop the seeming resistance of the government to help from other countries?
- How can we hold individuals accountable for their human rights violations?
- What can be done to reverse the famine?
- How can infrastructure and the destroyed cities be restored?
- How can we guide South Sudan towards a more stable and humane governing system?
- What steps can be taken to prevent these abuses and disasters such as these in the future?

Helpful Sources:

<https://www.hrw.org/africa/south-sudan>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14019202>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/special-features/2014/10/141001-south-sudan-dinka-nuer-ethiopia-juba-khartoum/>

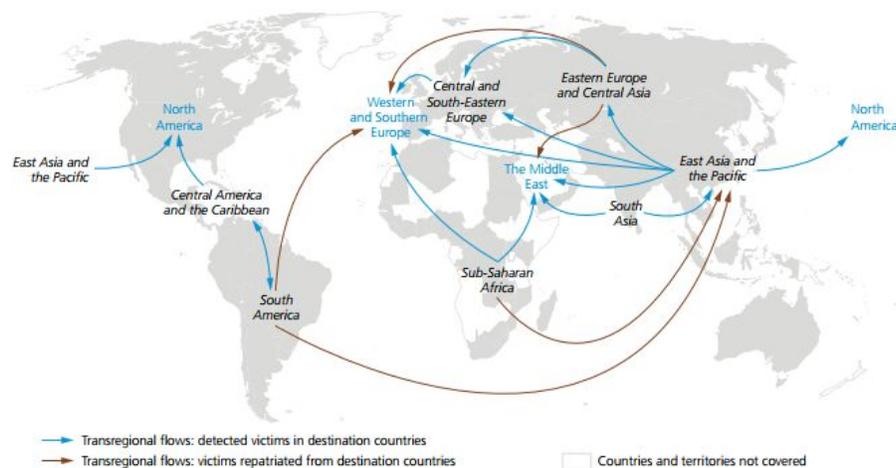
Topic 2: Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia

² The ongoing crisis of human trafficking enslaves an estimated 2.5 million people, affecting 161 countries. This term includes forced labor, sex trafficking, domestic servitude, forced marriages, trafficking of children, and trafficking for organs. Trafficking involves the country of origin, path of travel, and destination. However, the most difficult



cases to detect are internal, because the victim does not have to cross borders or face inspection from other governments. In addition, it is very hard to crack the human trafficking networks since they have existed for so long with deep roots and influential connections. Even so, countries exacerbate this crisis by withholding intelligence or not sharing it promptly. Specifically, Southeast Asia is drastically effected by human trafficking due to its high poverty rates. As this industry globalizes, the demand increases, and it is easy to find the supply in developing nations.

■ Main destinations of transregional flows and their significant origins, 2012-2014



² Image from UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016

This ongoing modern form of slavery is both caused by poverty and perpetrates poverty, thus creating a vicious cycle. Traffickers can easily take advantage of the impoverished and exploit them for their own profits. If a victim is presented with a chance at cheap travel documents, a new job to help a struggling family, or the opportunity to work off debt, they will easily fall susceptible to the tricks of human traffickers. It is not until they are traveling to their destination that they realize it is not what they expected it would be. For some, they reach their job or recruitment agency, and then are put into forced labor or other forms of exploitation. As human trafficking continues, organized crime and wealthy traffickers gain even more power, easily undermining the government. As these criminals gain more influence, the government and police lose power, making it easier for traffickers to get away with their crimes and ensnare more victims. Without a strong government to protect them, people only become poorer and easier to sell into the industry. Even if victims survive and escape their traffickers, the lack of education and tools prevent them from rejoining society and creating a stable life for themselves.

Furthermore, many countries struggle to enforce laws against human trafficking or do not have any. In some countries such as Cambodia, the police are not granted enough funds from the government. Thus, they have to use their own money for interviews, captures, and containment. If the police do raid, it is possible for the human traffickers to change locations, pay off the police, and get their victims back. In addition, some countries like Thailand have corrupt government officials who participate, take bribes, and profit from the trade themselves. Many of the victims are imported and exported alongside products of industries such as fishing and textiles that are crucial to these countries' economies. Since human trafficking often accompanies trade necessary for a country's survival, government officials are willing to turn a

blind eye to, or even perpetrate these crimes. Therefore, even if someone detects human trafficking, they may not report it, since they know nothing will be done. Some governments are involved with trafficking their own people to other countries. As a result of this, they do not participate in global efforts to stop human trafficking.

In order to combat this global threat, countries must work together to dismantle these widespread human trafficking networks. By understanding how citizens can fall victims and can be easily moved across borders without detection, all nations can work towards a solution. Strict human trafficking laws and enforcement can ensure that these criminals face the appropriate consequences. Prosecution of corrupt government officials or police officers will encourage more people to take action and eradicate human traffickers. Above all, after countries recognize the root of the problem, these nations can take steps to alleviate poverty in their countries.

Bloc Positions

Asian States: Many victims of human trafficking originate in the developing countries of Southeast Asia and are then transported all over the world. This inhumane industry often goes undetected or does not face the appropriate consequences. Due to poverty rates and the scale to which human trafficking occurs, these nations turn to others for aid.

African & Middle Eastern States: Many nations are sources and destinations for human trafficking, and experience many of the same problems as Southeast Asia.

Eastern European States: These countries have been experiencing increasing problems in recent years with human trafficking within their nations and the problem this poses for all of the

European Union. Some of these nations are developing nations as well and are at an increased risk for being sources and destinations.

Latin American & Caribbean States: Like many Asian and African states, human trafficking has been and continues to be an ongoing problem. Due to their increased poverty rates, they are sources and destinations for victims.

Western European & Other States: These countries must continue their efforts to eliminate human trafficking in their own nations, and many are in a great position to extend aid to other countries. Spreading awareness and sharing intelligence is necessary.

Questions to Consider

- To what extent is human trafficking affecting my country?
- How often does it go undetected?
- Why do human trafficking victims cross my borders without discovery?
- How can we begin to dismantle its global networks?
- How can countries struggling from corruption begin to enforce trafficking laws and solutions proposed by the UN?
- How can we ensure human traffickers face appropriate consequences?

Helpful Sources

<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/29/opinion/horrors-of-human-trafficking-in-south-asia.html>

<http://www.heritage.org/asia/report/combating-human-trafficking-asia-requires-us-leadership>

