

Civil War and the Un Peacekeeping Operation in South Sudan

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Abstract: The study is devoted to the UN peacekeeping operation in South Sudan which became necessary to overcome the effects of the civil war which lasted 39 years with intervals. It began in 1955 and only in 2005 the truce was established. After the referendum in July 2011 South Sudan was proclaimed an independent state and UN peacekeeping operation began, simultaneously to assist the government of this country to ensure stability and security of the civilian population. Particular emphasis UN Security Council made on the protection of civilians. With this aim the country was introduced with significant contingent of military personnel. A series of armed conflicts which began in Southern Sudan shortly after the independence proclamation, especially in Jonglei State led the UN to strengthen the military component of its mission. The armed conflict began in the capital, Juba in December 2013. The Security Council reacted immediately and authorized an increase in the number of troops of the peacekeeping forces.

Key words: Sudan, civil war, Addis Ababa, peace agreement, UN referendum, South Sudan, independence, Security Council, UN peacekeeping operation, troops, armed conflict, Jonglei, security, civilian population, UN secretary-general, patrolling, mandate, humanitarian law, Juba, tribal clashes

INTRODUCTION

South Sudan independence was proclaimed July 9, 2011 and coincided with the beginning of the UN peacekeeping operation in this very young African Country. This peacekeeping operation did not come out of nowhere. Work of United Nations Observer Mission and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed earlier this year began in March 2005.

Peace agreement formally ended the civil war in Sudan which began in 1955 a year before independence proclamation. The conflict between the North and South of the country was largely a consequence of the colonial legacy.

During the 58 years of the Anglo-Egyptian rule of South and North Sudan were managed differently. North Sudan was guided by the Muslim Egypt and the Arab world as a whole. At the same time, South Sudan was guided by the East Africa due to the close connection of languages and cultures and in this part of the country has developed Christianity. First Sudanese Civil War began in 1955 a year before independence proclamation. It lasted until 1972 when the peace agreement was signed between the warring parties in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. This agreement marked the beginning of a relatively peaceful period but in 1983 the war was renewed when president of the country D. Nimeyri violated the peace agreement (Kizito Sabala, 2011).

In 1993 the Heads of States of the Intergovernmental Development East Africa Organization joined the initiative of the international community to promote peace talks between the warring parties. Thus began the long process that eventually led to Comprehensive Peace Agreement signing in 2005.

Beginning in July 2002, 6 protocols which dealt with different aspects of the conflict settlement, including the right of the people of Southern Sudan to hold a referendum on independence were signed.

The referendum took place in January 2011 and 99% percent of voters who came to vote gave their votes in favor of independence.

MAIN PART

The 1996 resolution of the UN security council dated July 8, 2011 defined the main purpose of the peacekeeping operation in South Sudan the strengthening of peace and security and to promote the creation of conditions for development in the Republic of South Sudan in order to improve the government's ability of the Republic of South Sudan to provide effective and democratic governance. Among the many tasks assigned by the Security Council peacekeeping force in Southern Sudan a special place was given to the problems in the field of security: assistance to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in the discharge of its duties to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflicts and protect civilians, to provide the Government

of the Republic of South Sudan Advisory with assistance and support in carrying out their responsibilities to ensure the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law, curb violence, including through proactive deployment and patrolling in the areas at high risk of conflict within its capabilities and areas of deployment and protection of civilians from the threat of physical violence, particularly in cases where the Government of the Republic of South Sudan does not provide such security (UN Security Council Resolution, 1996).

Deployment of UN peacekeepers in southern Sudan began on 8 July 2011 when the special representative of the Secretary-General Ms. Hilde Johnson Frafyurd and a small vanguard team arrived in the country to speed up the start of the mission. By July 31 >2,000 international and national staff, 203 military observers of the United Nations, 64 staff officers and 378 police officers of the United Nations were officially transferred from the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to the new mission. By September 22, 2011 the number of the military component of the peacekeeping mission in South Sudan was 5329 persons from the 7000 authorized number of troops.

The UN peacekeeping mission had to quickly engage in activities to ensure the safety and security of the civilian population of southern Sudan from the 1st. In July, August and December 2011 an escalation of tension in some areas of southern Sudan, particularly in Jonglei State took place. As noted in the report of the UN mission “in December 2011, about 6-8,000 well-organized armed youths from the Luo Nuer ethnic group gathered in Jonglei State and performed a series of systematic attacks in areas inhabited by Murle ethnic group within 12 days. As a result, hundreds of people were killed and wounded, tens of thousands became refugees”.

Inter-communal clashes in the state have seriously jeopardized the civilian population including women and children. In addition the armed conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile that broke out in June and July, respectively led to the formation of the refugees flow from these areas. In response, the peacekeeping forces launched an integrated campaign, including monitoring, assessment for early warning of civil population, air and ground patrols, mediation, peace initiatives and support of police forces deployment in the affected areas. In addition, the UN mission has responded to rising tensions in Jonglei State to take preventive measures and the organize political processes, including consultations with public authorities and community leaders to prevent violence (Report of The Secretary-General, 2011).

In February 2013 in the same state of Jonglei a group of armed men from the Murle ethnic group attacked a group of pastoralists from the group Luo Nuer, more than a hundred people, mostly women and children, were killed and about 50 were wounded.

In December, the armed conflict reached the capital of the country Dzhuby. The split in the ruling party People's Liberation Movement of Sudan led to armed clashes in the capital which then escalated into full-scale civil war. The UN Security Council adopted a resolution which authorized the extension of the mandate of the peacekeeping mission in South Sudan and significantly increased military contingent at December 24, 2013 (UN Security Council Resolution, 2013).

SUMMARY

Half a century of armed conflict in Sudan formed a whole generation of people who are used to solve their problems with the help of the armed forces. Separation of South Sudan did not eliminate the causes of inter-tribal conflict in the South. The UN peacekeeping force introduced in South Sudan with no serious military contingents of armed heavy military equipment, including aircraft will not be able to cope with their powers as mandate, including the security of civilians.

CONCLUSION

The escalation of violence in the young state of South Sudan, the political crisis that split the ruling party People's Liberation Movement of Sudan, once again forced to recall the last in the second half of the 20th century civil war. Complex processes of becoming an independent state forced the international community through the United Nations to assist by giving the UN peacekeeping force and obliging them to ensure, above all, the safety of civilians.

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