

The United Nations operation in South Sudan

Essay

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Abstract

The objective of this essay is to share the importance of the United Nations mission in South Sudan and how it can affect the peace and security of neighboring countries. This organization has been working since its inauguration day to deliver the same goal to all the member countries: ensuring peace and security. On that account, the reader is provided with information about the country situation, development and what actions the United Nations did take.

Keywords:

Operation, crisis, peace, peacekeeping, violence.

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2. Introduction

The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1945, after the Second World War, currently made up of 193 Member States. This organization's main goal is addressing the problems of today's society: global poverty, racial injustice, refugee crisis. Aiming to inspire great hopes in maintaining tranquility and safety all around the world, there is constantly improvement in the welfare of all nations, including various areas such as economic and social development. How does the UN accomplish all of these? Through peacekeeping operations in the most dangerous countries with difficult environment situations. There are currently 12 such ongoing operations with the main purpose of guiding those countries back to peace.

¹Homepage of United Nations, URL:

<https://www.un.org/en/our-work/maintain-international-peace-and-security>

3. What is a Peacekeeping Operation?

3.1 When did the first operation take place?

Peacekeeping was first born during a difficult time when the Security Council (one of the six principal organs, in charge of ensuring international peace and security) was getting repeatedly ambushed by rivals during the Cold War. For the first time, their mission was to observe The Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arabic neighbors, an operation which later on became known as United Nation Supervision Organization(UNTSO) and successfully set the start for the upcoming operations. Until this day, there have been 70 years of peacekeeping functionings all over the world.

3.2 The short lived victory of South Sudan

Despite gaining their independence, the dilemma they faced spoke volumes. In December 2013, the crisis began: the appearance of rapid food shortages which later on lead to two counties ending up in famine, hard access to clean water increasing the risks of disease, political disputes turning into violent street outbreaks and spreading as well across the young nation. Also, an insurmountable number of refugees appeared and then were placed in makeshift displacement camps or escaping to neighboring countries for safety, placing South Sudan as one of the most fled countries in the world. Hospitals and schools were also getting attacked and destroyed. This threatening environment brought the death of more than 100 aid workers. Overall, the situation for the citizens did not look good and action had to be taken, cue for the United Nation to intervene. As a result, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan(UNMISS) was established to integrate peace and proper conditions for the country's development.

Homepage of United Nations Peacekeeping URL:<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history>

Homepage UNMISS, URL : <https://unmiss.unmissions.org/about-unmiss>

3.3 How did the United Nations handle the situation?

The organization did not waste any time and immediately began taking measures. Active patrolling across the country was put in place, to prevent any violent outbreaks and offer the people of South Sudan the feeling of safety and security. This was composed of peacekeepers which worked hand in hand with humanitarian agencies to secure a safe return of displaced families from camping sites back to their homes. Despite all these efforts, not everything went according to plan: in 2014, 58 people were killed by an armed bomb that went off in an UN base and in 2016, South Sudanese troops invaded the capital, leaving victims behind. But UNMISS continued their work and provided basic needs : a clean water supply, food, shelter and medical care. As for reviving the peace and security of the country and their neighbors, they had the help from powerful leaders from domains such as politics, religion, and economics. The Ceasefire and Transitional Security Monitoring and Verification Mechanism did not falter to help them monitor at all times and report any violent acts or abuse of human rights.

3.4 What is happening now in South Sudan?

To this day, the UNMISS is present there. South Sudan has faced many challenges and its future situation is still unknown. The food shortage has set its roots in the country and the violence is still present but in a smaller percentage. Despite all of these, a change is visible. The country's approach on handling problems improved and now have more help from the outside. What is more, peace talks were mediated between Sudan's transitional government and the Sudan Revolutionary Front, leading later on August 31st 2020 to a peace deal signing and in the following fall 180,000 displaced civilians were put under the protection of the UN peacekeepers.

4. Conclusions

South Sudan is facing an enormous amount of threats for the country and civilians' well-being that seem to not end anytime soon. The United Nations operation is considered a small part of the puzzle for the serenity of this almost forgotten country. Without their intervention maybe today it could have been unrecognizable and on the bridge of vanishing.

As the world's only and truly universal global organization, the UN is working hard along with its people or eager souls to help the world become its best version.

A wish of mine is for more people to wake up to reality and understand the problems of today's society and just like the people of South Sudan say in their national anthem "*We vow to protect our nation.*". For a future military officer like me, the welfare of not just my country, but on a global level as well, is enough to give me an impetus to put all my effort in for a change.

Homepage of Wikipedia, Page "United Nations Mission in South Sudan", URL:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Mission_in_South_Sudan

Homepage of Europe Mercy Corps, page "South Sudan Crisis", URL:

<https://europe.mercycorps.org/en-gb/blog/south-sudan-crisis#happening-south-sudan-now>

5. Annexes

5.1 List of Literature

5.1.1. Sites and Online Pages

- 1 ¹Homepage of United Nations, URL:
<https://www.un.org/en/our-work/maintain-international-peace-and-security>
[04.11.2021]
- 2 Homepage of United Nations Peacekeeping URL:
<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history> [04.11.2021]
- 3 Homepage UNMISS, URL :
<https://unmiss.unmissions.org/about-unmiss> [04.11.2021]
- 4 Homepage of Wikipedia, Page “United Nations Mission in South Sudan”, URL:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Mission_in_South_Sudan [04.11.2021]
- 5 Homepage of Europe Mercy Corps, page “South Sudan Crisis”, URL:
<https://europe.mercycorps.org/en-gb/blog/south-sudan-crisis#happening-south-sudan-now> [04.11.2021]

6. Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on.

I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.



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(Alexandra Maria Farcaş)

Breaza, Romania in February 2022

Principal/Commander of “Dimitrie Cantemir” Military High School

Colonel




Aurel - Constantin NEAGU , PhD