

Timeline

1899-1955 - Sudan is ruled jointly by Britain and Egypt.
1956 - Sudan votes for and gains independence.
1958 - General Ibrahim Abboud takes power after leading a military coup to overthrow the civilian government.
1962 - Southern separatists led by the Anya Nya movement spark civil war.
1964 - Islamist-led government replaces Abboud.
1969 - Jaafar Numeiri leads a successful military coup.
1971 - After a brief coup against Numeiri, Sudanese Communist Party leaders are executed.
1972 - South Sudan gains some autonomy after Anya Nya and the government in Khartoum sign a peace agreement.
1978 - Oil is discovered in the south of Sudan.
1983 - Second civil war begins in the south between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). President Numeiri institutes Sharia law.
1985 - A Transitional Military Council takes over after Numeiri is deposed following popular unrest.
1986 - Sadiq al-Mahdi is elected prime minister.
1989 - National Salvation Revolution stages a coup.
1993 - Omar Bashir becomes president.
1998 - Over 96% of voters endorse the new constitution.
1999 - A state of emergency is called following a power struggle between President Bashir and the parliamentary speaker, Hassan al-Turabi. Exportation of oil begins.
2000 - Opposition parties boycott elections resulting in Bashir retaining presidency.
2001 - Al-Turabi is arrested along with members of his Popular National Congress Party after signing a memorandum of understanding with the armed wing of the SPLM, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).
2002 - A ceasefire agreement is signed between the SPLA and the government. The Machakos Protocol gives the South a path towards self-determination after six years.
2003 - Rebels claim Darfur is being neglected. Al-Turabi is released and the ban on the PNC is lifted.
2004 - Hundreds of thousands flee to Chad following the army's attempts to quell an uprising in western Darfur. UN accuses pro-government Arab Janjaweed militias of killing non-Arab villagers in Darfur. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell calls the Darfur killings genocide.
2005 - A peace deal between southern rebels and the government includes a permanent ceasefire and agreements on wealth and power sharing. Khartoum forms a power-sharing, autonomous government with former rebels in the south. UN charges the government and militias with systematic abuse in Darfur, but doesn't label the violence genocide. Al-Turabi is freed. The South gains autonomy when a new constitution is signed. John Garang, a former southern rebel leader, is sworn in as VP, but dies in a plane crash, which sparks renewed violence.
2006 - Sudan cites compromised sovereignty when rejecting a UN resolution calling for a peacekeeping force in Darfur. UN's top official, Jan Pronk, is expelled from Sudan. Fighting between the North and South continues. UN Security Council authorizes a force of 26,000 for Darfur.
2007 - A minister and a Janjaweed militia leader are indicted on suspected war crimes by the ICC.
2008 - Aid workers are kept out of some areas in West Darfur after government bombings of rebel positions. According to UN humanitarian chief, John Holmes, 300,000 have died in the five-year conflict in Darfur. Sudan and Chad sign a peace accord, but diplomatic relations are broken off a month later when Sudan accuses Chad of involvement with Darfur rebel groups' raid of Omdurman. Northern and southern leaders agree to arbitration over

disputed territory. Bashir calls for a ceasefire in Darfur, but rebel groups vow to fight until the government concedes to power and wealth sharing.

2009 - ICC issues an arrest warrant for Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. The indictment is rejected by Sudan. Al-Turabi is arrested after calling on Bashir to face war crimes charges. Khartoum government denies arming southern ethnic groups in an attempt to destabilize the region.

2010 - President Bashir announces his support for referendum regardless of the results. The rebel Darfur, Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) signs a peace accord with the government, leading Bashir to declare the Darfur war over. Bashir wins a new term as president. ICC issues a second arrest warrant for Bashir on charges of genocide. Kenya, an ICC signatory, fails to enforce the ICC warrant during a visit from Bashir.

2011 - Southern Sudanese vote in favor of independence. Thousands flee as northern soldiers take over Abyei. A state of emergency is declared in the Blue Nile state where about 100,000 flee violence. North and South agree to install committees to resolve unresolved disputes. Sudan's army denies responsibility after being accused by the South of aerial attacks on a refugee camp in Yida in Unity State. Kenya promises to arrest Bashir if he enters Kenya. ICC prosecutor requests a warrant for Sudan's defense minister for war crimes in Darfur.

2012 - A non-aggression pact is signed, but South Sudan closes oil export pipelines over fees, leading the South to halve public spending. Sudan promises to remove troops from the Abyei as peace talks resume. Protests against the government grow after fuel and subsidy cuts are made in response to a lost oil revenue from South Sudan's independence. North and South Sudanese presidents agree on trade, oil and security issues following talks in Ethiopia, but fail to resolve border issues.

2013 - North and South agree to resume oil production and to demilitarize border. Many die following waves of demonstrations over the government's cut in fuel subsidies. The National Congress Party (NCP) is split after dissident members reach out to secularists and leftists. Long-term ally and first vice president, Ali Osman Taha, is released from his cabinet position by Bashir.

2014 - International outcry leads to the eventual release and overturn of a death sentence for apostasy of a pregnant woman who was raised Christian, but born to a Muslim father. Government intensifies strikes against Nuba mountain region.

2015 - President Bashir reelected for another five years despite low turnout and election boycotts.



Torture Methods

BEATINGS with metal poles, pipes, rubber hoses, sticks, gun butts, batons and fists have occurred as a part of interrogations and as an attempt to disperse protesters. Victims, including children, have also been tied up and beaten by Sudanese authorities as a means of extracting information.

STRESS POSITIONS have been used by Sudanese security forces as part of interrogations to extract information and to humiliate detainees. For example, detainees have been forced to balance on their knees and elbows on concrete floors in the sun or sit on the ground with the left hand on the right shoulder and the right arm extended through the loop created, with one finger on the ground. The detainee is then ordered to spin around the finger and then suddenly made to stand at attention resulting in falling to the ground.

ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTION AND DISAPPEARANCES based on ethnic appearance or allegiance, or links to opposition parties or rebel groups have occurred at the hands of the Sudanese security forces.

INHUMANE DETENTION CONDITIONS including overcrowded cells, poor sanitation, water and food restrictions, and lack of medical attention have resulted in deaths and serious injury.

SLEEP DEPRIVATION, TEMPERATURE CONTROL, AND BRIGHT LIGHTS have been used in detention to extract information.

DETENTION OF CHILDREN as young as 8 were reported to have occurred in military prisons. Rebel groups, particularly JEM, have also been accused of using child soldiers. The “Lost Boys of Sudan”, a group at least 20,000 children, mostly boys, between the ages of 7 and 17, separated from their families, travelled large distances multiple times to seek safety from the conflict.

RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT by government forces against displaced women and girls, including the rape of a 10-year-old girl, have occurred with impunity.

THREATS, including the threat of death, beating, and rape have been used to intimidate protesters during interrogations by security forces.

HARASSMENT of journalists, human rights defenders, and those presumed to be in opposition to the government, in the form of threatening phone calls and attempted abductions, have occurred.

EXCESSIVE FORCE, including the use of live bullets, tear gas, and rubber bullets, has been used by Sudanese security forces against protesters and resulted in serious injury and death.

BURNING AND LOOTING of homes has occurred indiscriminately against the civilian population under the guise of rooting out rebels and government agitators.

Current Situation

Population: 45.7 million (UN estimate)

Ethnic groups: Sudanese Arab (70%), Fur, Beja, Nuba, Fallata

Languages: Arabic (official), English (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, Fur

Religion: Sunni Muslim, small Christian minority

VIOLENT CONFLICT in Darfur has been described as a genocide. In 2013, more than 500,000 people were displaced and an estimated 2.5 million are said to be in camps in Darfur and Chad. Since the beginning of 2014, over 450,000 people have fled violence in Darfur. Additionally, the fighting in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile has spread to North Kordofan displacing tens of thousands. Indiscriminate bombing and continued violence has killed and injured civilians and destroyed clinics, schools, and other civilian buildings, instilling fear and forcing over a million people to flee their homes. At least 230,000 people from this area live in refugee camps in Ethiopia and South Sudan.

PRESS FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION have been restricted by the government. The government has forced newspapers to close and threatened journalists. Journalists and bloggers have been arrested and forced to hand over their email and social media passwords. Opposition party members and activists have been arrested and held without charges for weeks. Civil society organizations have been threatened, harassed, and forced to close.

LAW REFORM has failed to protect civilians through implementation of a permanent constitution. Additionally, the National Security Act of 2010 allows for detention up to four and half months without judicial review. Cross amputation (amputation of opposing arm and leg) is used as a punishment. Women and girls are flogged and punished in public. The Sudan Armed Forces Act of 2007 subjects civilians to military court for crimes such as leaking classified information, publicizing “false news”, and undermining the constitutional system.

TRAFFICKING, TORTURE AND MURDER by traffickers of mostly Eritreans in Eastern Sudan and Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula has continued with the facilitation of Sudanese and Egyptian security officers.

GOVERNMENT continues to be run by the current president of Sudan, Omar Bashir, who took power in a coup in 1989. He subsequently banned the formation of political parties and began working with the leader of the National Islamic Front, introducing Islamic Sharia Law. Nine years later, he won Sudan’s first multi-party election in 24 years although there were allegations of widespread intimidation and voter fraud. There have been two international arrest warrants charging him with genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

SUDANESE GOVERNMENT RAPID SUPPORT FORCES, led by former militia leader, Brig. Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagolo and mobilized to fight rebels has burned homes, killed and robbed civilians, stolen livestock, and forced tens of thousands to flee towns and IDP camps.