

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

SOUTH SUDAN

WHERE:

South Sudan is a large country in northeast Africa. At its borders are Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic.

WHEN:

South Sudan is the world's newest country. Weak government and pre-existing ethnic tensions have caused turmoil since South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011.

WHO:

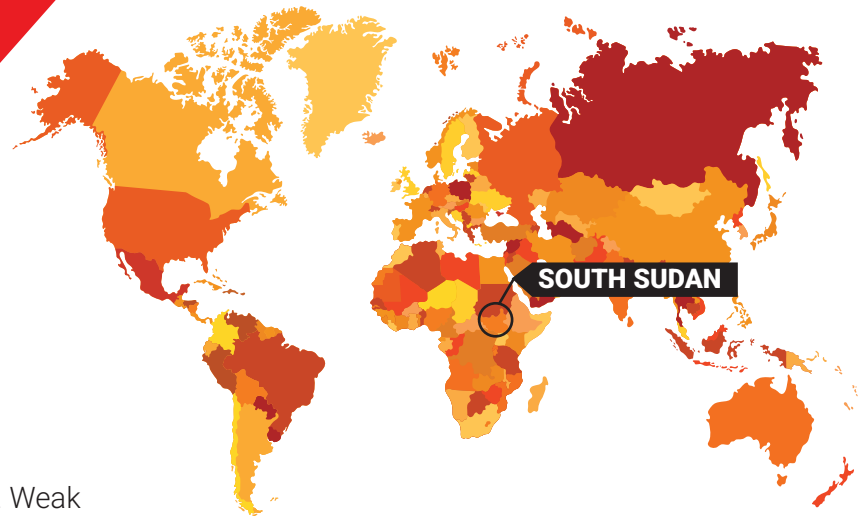
Salva Kiir and Riek Machar lead the two main opposing political parties. The parties represent two main ethnic factions.

The leaders have formed a unity government (Salva Kiir is the president) but there is an ongoing power struggle between the two factions.

Over 14 million people (mainly women and children) have been forced from their homes by the violence and are suffering from hunger, disease, and sexual violence.

WHAT:

Both sides are accused of war crimes against civilians. To date, attempted international interventions have failed.



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NZDF PEACEKEEPING IN SOUTH SUDAN UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN

WHERE:

South Sudan (headquartered in Juba).

WHEN:

UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) 2011 – 2025 (ongoing).

WHAT:

The mandate for UNMISS is:

- Protecting civilians.
- Supporting the peace process.
- Monitoring human rights violations.

At maximum it includes 20,000 peacekeepers from 73 countries.

NZDF personnel are regularly serving in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

WHY:

Peacekeepers from around the world are in South Sudan to help the country recover from years of civil war (when part of Sudan), and rebuild a new society so civilians are safe and can thrive.