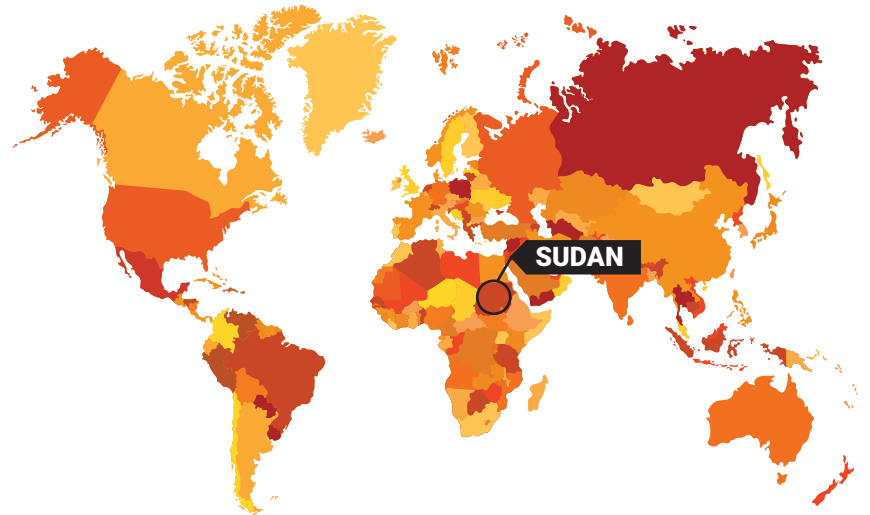


NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

SUDAN

WHERE:

Sudan is a large country in NE Africa. At its borders are Libya, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and the Central African Republic. This part of Africa is volatile - politically unstable and violent.



WHEN:

There is currently a civil war in Sudan, begun during Ramadan in 2023.

For the first half of the twentieth century Sudan was a joint protectorate of Egypt and the United Kingdom. The independent Republic of Sudan was declared in 1956, civil wars followed, and South Sudan seceded in July 2011.

WHO:

Most of the people to the north of Sudan (which is wealthier) are Arab and Muslim; to the poorer south the people are mostly Christian or animist (the belief that natural objects and the universe possess souls or spiritual essences).

WHAT:

Omar al-Bashir took power during a coup in 1989 and for thirty years implemented an oppressive rule during which Christians were persecuted and ongoing genocides against minorities took place.

He hired private militias to fight for him, notably the Rapid Defense Force (RSF) also known as the Janjaweed militia.

Eventually the RSF combined with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to overthrow al-Bashir after a period of increasing popular protests calling for democracy, access to services, and a new system of governance.

WHY:

The current civil unrest is a power struggle between SAF and the RSF. Both sides are accused of war crimes against civilians.

Attempted international interventions to date have failed.

Various international countries and organisations (United Arab Emirates, the Wagner Group - mercenaries) are implicated in this conflict, supporting one side or the other.

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

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

NZDF PEACEKEEPING IN SUDAN UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN AND UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN

WHERE:

Sudan.

South Sudan (headquartered in Juba).

WHEN:

United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) 2005 - 2011.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) 2011 - 2024.

WHAT:

The mandate for UNMIS was to:

- Support the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.
- Provide humanitarian assistance.
- Protect and promote human rights.
- Other functions related to governance, recovery and development.

The UNMIS ended its operation on July 9, 2011, the same day South Sudan became an independent nation.

The maximum deployed were 10,519 uniformed personnel, including 9,304 troops, 513 military observers, 702 police officers, 966 international civilian personnel, 2,837 local civilian staff, and 477 United Nations volunteers.

The mandate for UNMISS is:

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

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

As of March 2024, three NZDF personnel are serving in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS):

- The Deputy Plans Officer at the force headquarters in Juba.
- Two other New Zealanders are located in different camps across South Sudan as military observers.

WHY:

Peacekeepers from around the world are in Sudan and South Sudan to help both countries recover from years of civil war and rebuild society so civilians are safe and can thrive.

FATALITIES - UNMIS:

More than 50 peacekeepers have died.