



Sudan's Civil War Continues Despite Attempted Truces

The civil war in Sudan continues to rage on despite multiple agreed-upon truces. So far, each one of these truces has failed and neither side has shown any interest in ending the conflict or coming to the negotiating table. Many international organizations and countries, including the UN, United States, Saudi Arabia, and South Sudan, have tried to mediate ceasefires or negotiations, but so far none have been effective.

The conflict has now been going on for nearly three weeks. It began when fighting broke out between General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the chief of the army and de-facto leader of Sudan, and his former subordinate, Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo, the leader of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This week, it was announced by Dafallah Alhaj, al-Burhan's envoy that an agreement was made for the sole purpose of the ceasefire and no mediation attempts were made. Each side thinks they can win this fight militarily, so have no reason to negotiate. If enough international pressure does build up and they are forced into negotiations, whoever can position themselves more strongly militarily will have an edge in these negotiations. There is also speculation that about the leaders' ability to control their troops. Al-Burhan could be removed by his own generals, while Hemedti's rival, Musa Hilal, who was the former head of the RSF, could use this conflict as an opportunity to reclaim his old position. There is also an economic component to the conflict, as both leaders make massive amounts of money from a variety of different industries. The situation in Sudan remains extremely unstable and unpredictable.

The lack of any path out of this conflict is concerning. People in Sudan were already struggling with growing inflation and many were on international aid. Now much of the aid has stopped flowing into the country out of safety concerns. The little aid that does make it in is not nearly enough to support the now-growing refugee population. Countries have been working to get any of their citizens out of the country. The civilians in Sudan are on their own. Forces often shelter in civilian buildings, putting the civilians in the line of fire. Only a third of the hospitals in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan where most of the fighting is taking place, are currently operational. Those that remain open are running dangerously low on medical supplies and the staff are exhausted. Many of the gunshot victims that come in have sustained multiple wounds, indicating that they are being specifically targeted. As resources become scarcer, gangs have also become a growing factor, looting supplies. People living in the conflict zone are faced with an impossible choice. They must choose to risk starving if they remain, or risk being gunned down if they try to leave. There have been multiple reports of each happening. Reliable information is also hard to come by, further complicating any attempts to escape or gather resources.

Neighbors are helping neighbors in Khartoum, but it is often not enough. Any attempts to mediate the conflict have been ineffective. New, innovative, and likely unorthodox methods need to be implemented to end this conflict. Each side is evenly matched, and will likely keep fighting until either that changes or

an outside force makes continuing the fight less attractive. A potential solution may include sanctioning the leaders' sources of income and pushing them to reach a peaceful solution to continue their operations. Though historically ineffective. Sanctions have the opportunity to force the warring sides to the negotiating table. It is important that if sanctions are implemented, they are done so carefully and in a way where they cannot be circumvented and do minimal harm to the civilian population.