

**Globalized Election
Weekly Report
April 15, 2010 to April 20, 2010**

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Presentation on April 21, 2010**

Week # 115

Presidential and parliamentary elections were held in Sudan from 11 April to 15 April 2010 (extended from the original end date of 13 April) to elect the President of Sudan and the National Assembly of Sudan.

SUDAN

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Sudan

Capital	Khartoum 15°37.983'N 32°31.983'E
Largest city	Omdurman
Official language(s)	Arabic and English
Demonym	Sudanese
Government	Federal presidential democratic republic
- President	Omar al-Bashir (NCP)
- Vice President	Salva Kiir Mayardit (SPLM)
- Vice President	Ali Osman Taha (NCP)
- Constitutional Advisor	Minni Minnawi (SLA)
Legislature	The Majlis
- Upper House	Council of States
- Lower House	National Assembly
Establishment	
- Kingdoms of Nubia	2000 BC
- Sennar dynasty	1504
- Unification with Egypt	1821
- Independence from Egypt, and the United Kingdom	1 January 1956
- current constitution	9 January 2005

Area

- Total 2,505,813 km²
967,495 sq mi

- Water (%) 6

Population

- 2009 estimate 42,272,000

- Density 16.9/km²
43.7/sq mi

GDP (PPP) 2009 estimate

- Total \$92.037 billion

- Per capita \$2,309

GDP (nominal) 2008 estimate

- Total \$58.029 billion^[2] (66th)

- Per capita \$1,522^[2] (125th)

1. INTRODUCTION

Sudan officially the **Republic of the Sudan** is a country in northeastern Africa. It is the largest country in Africa, and the Arab World, and tenth largest in the world by area. It is bordered by Egypt to the north, the Red Sea to the northeast, Eritrea and Ethiopia to the east, Kenya and Uganda to the southeast, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west and Libya to the northwest. The world's longest river, the Nile, divides the country between east and west sides.

Sudan is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, with historical and urban settlements dating back to 3000 BC. The people of Sudan have a long history extending from antiquity, which is intertwined with the history of Egypt, with which it was united politically over several periods. After gaining independence from Egypt, and the United Kingdom in 1956, Sudan suffered a civil war, lasting 17 years, subsequently followed by ethnic, religious, and economic conflicts between the Northern Sudanese (with Arab and Nubian roots), and the Christian and animist Nilotes of Southern Sudan. This led to a second civil war in 1983, and due to continuing political and military struggles, Sudan was seized in a bloodless coup d'état by colonel Omar al-Bashir in 1989, who thereafter proclaimed himself President of Sudan.

Sudan then achieved great economic growth by implementing macroeconomic reforms and finally ended the civil war by adopting a new constitution in 2005 with rebel groups in the south, granting them limited autonomy to be followed by a referendum about independence in 2011. Rich in natural resources such as petroleum and crude oil, Sudan's economy is currently amongst the fastest growing in the world. The People's Republic of China and Japan are the main export partners of Sudan.

However, after an Islamic legal code was introduced on a national level, the ruling National Congress (NCP) established themselves as the sole political party in the state and has since supported the use of recruited Arab militias in guerrilla warfare, such as in the ongoing conflict in Darfur. Because thousands of people were displaced and killed, the need for humanitarian care in Darfur has attracted worldwide attention, and the

conflict has been described as a genocide. Officially a federal presidential representative democratic republic, the politics of Sudan are widely considered by the international community to take place within an authoritarian dictatorship due to the influence of the NCP. These factors led to the termination of diplomatic relations between Sudan and Chad, obstructed humanitarian assistance to the civilian population and has even led to war crimes charges being issued against members of the Sudanese government. On 4 March 2008, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for President Omar al-Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, the first sitting head of state ever indicted by the ICC. Sudan has also been the subject of severe sanctions due to alleged ties with Egyptian Islamic Jihad and al-Qaeda. Sudan has scored medium in human development in the last few years, ranking #150 in 2009, between Haiti and Tanzania. Statistics indicate that about 17% of the population live on less than US \$1.25 per day.

A member of the United Nations, Sudan also maintains membership with the AU, LAS, OIC and NAM, as well as serving as an observer in WTO. Its capital is Khartoum, which serves as the political, cultural and commercial center of the nation, while Omdurman remains the largest city. Among Sudan's population of 42 million people, Sunni Islam is the official and largest religion, while Arabic and English are the official languages.

History

Independence and civil wars (1956-1989)

The continued British occupation of Sudan fueled an increasingly strident nationalist backlash in Egypt, with Egyptian nationalist leaders determined to force Britain to recognize a single independent union of Egypt and Sudan. With the formal end of Ottoman rule in 1914, Hussein Kamel was declared Sultan of Egypt and Sudan, as was his brother Fuad I who succeeded him. The insistence of a single Egyptian-Sudanese state persisted when the Sultanate was retitled the Kingdom of Egypt and Sudan, but the British continued to frustrate these efforts. The Egyptian Revolution of 1952 finally heralded the beginning of the march towards Sudanese independence. Having abolished

the monarchy in 1953, Egypt's new leaders, Muhammad Naguib, whose mother was Sudanese, and later Gamal Abdel-Nasser, believed the only way to end British domination in Sudan was for Egypt to officially abandon its sovereignty over Sudan. The British on the other hand continued their political and financial support for the Mahdi successor Sayyid Abdel Rahman whom they believed could resist the Egyptian presence in Sudan. However they realised his political inability and diminishing support in northern and central Sudan, both Britain and Egypt with no option but to allow the Sudanese in the north and south together self determination and a free vote on independence. In 1954 the governments of Egypt and Britain signed a treaty guaranteeing Sudanese independence on 1 January 1956, in a special ceremony held at the People's Palace where the Egyptian and British flags were lowered and the new Sudanese flag, composed of green, blue and white stripes, was raised in their place. Afterwards, Ismail Al-Azhari was elected first Prime Minister and led the first modern Sudanese government.

In 1955, the year before independence, a civil war began between Northern and Southern Sudan. The southerners, anticipating independence, feared the new nation would be dominated by the north. Historically, the north of Sudan had closer ties with Egypt and was predominantly Arab and Muslim while the south was predominantly a mixture of Christianity and Animism. These divisions had been further emphasized by the British policy of ruling the north and south under separate administrations. From 1924, it was illegal for people living north of the 10th parallel to go further south and for people south of the 8th parallel to go further north. The law was ostensibly enacted to prevent the spread of malaria and other tropical diseases that had ravaged British troops, as well as to facilitate spreading Christianity among the predominantly Animist population while stopping the Arabic and Islamic influence from advancing south. The result was increased isolation between the already distinct north and south and arguably laid the seeds of conflict in the years to come.

The resulting conflict lasted from 1955 to 1972. The 1955 war began when Southern army officers mutinied and then formed the Anya-Nya guerilla movement. A few years later the first Sudanese military regime took power under Major-General Abboud.

Military regimes continued into 1969 when General Gaafar Nimeiry led a successful coup. In 1972, a cessation of the north-south conflict was agreed upon under the terms of the Addis Ababa Agreement, following talks which were sponsored by the World Council of Churches. This led to a ten-year hiatus in the national conflict.

In 1983, the civil war was reignited following President Gaafar Nimeiry's decision to circumvent the Addis Ababa Agreement. President Gaafar Nimeiry attempted to create a federated Sudan including states in southern Sudan, which violated the Addis Ababa Agreement that had granted the south considerable autonomy. He appointed a committee to undertake "a substantial review of the Addis Ababa Agreement, especially in the areas of security arrangements, border trade, language, culture and religion".^[34] Mansour Khalid a former foreign minister wrote, "Nimeiri had never been genuinely committed to the principles of the Addis Ababa Agreement". In September 1983, the civil war was reignited when President Gaafar Nimeiry's culminated the 1977 revisions by imposing new Islamic laws on all of Sudan, including the non-Muslim south. When asked about revisions he stated "The Addis Ababa agreement is myself and Joseph Lagu and we want it that way... I am 300 percent the constitution. I do not know of any plebiscite because I am mandated by the people as the President". Southern troops rebelled against the northern political offensive, and launched attacks in June 1983. In 1995, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter negotiated the longest ceasefire in the history of the war to allow humanitarian aid to enter Southern Sudan which had been inaccessible owing to violence. This ceasefire, which lasted almost six months, has since been called the "Guinea Worm Ceasefire." Since 1983, a combination of civil war and famine has taken the lives of nearly 2 million people in Sudan.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), based in southern Sudan, was formed in May 1983. Finally, in June 1983, the Sudanese government under President Gaafar Nimeiry abrogated the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement (A.A.A.). The situation was exacerbated after President Gaafar Nimeiry went on to implement Sharia Law in September of the same year.

The war continued even after Nimeiry was ousted and a democratic government was elected with Al Sadig Al Mahdi's Umma Party having the majority in the parliament. The leader of the SPLA John Garang refused to recognize the government and to negotiate with it as representative of Sudan but agreed to negotiate with government officials as representative of their political parties.

Recent history (1989-present)

On 30 June 1989, colonel Omar al-Bashir led a group of army officers in ousting the unstable coalition government of Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi in a bloodless military coup. Under al-Bashir's leadership, the new military government suspended political parties and introduced an Islamic legal code on the national level. He then became Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation (a newly established body with legislative and executive powers for what was described as a transitional period), and assumed the posts of chief of state, prime minister, chief of the armed forces, and minister of defense. Subsequent to al-Bashir's promotion to the Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, he allied himself with Hassan al-Turabi, the leader of the National Islamic Front (NIF), who along with al-Bashir began institutionalizing Sharia law in the northern part of Sudan. Further on, al-Bashir issued purges and executions in the upper ranks of the army, the banning of associations, political parties, and independent newspapers and the imprisonment of leading political figures and journalists.

The Sudanese army advanced successfully in the south, reaching the southern borders with neighbouring Kenya and Uganda. The campaign started in 1989 and ended in 1994. During the fight the situation worsened in the tribal south causing casualties among the Christian and animist minority. Rebel leader Riek Mashar subsequently signed a peace agreement with the Sudanese government and became Vice President of Sudan. His troops took part in the fight against the SPLA during the government offensive in the 1990s. After the Sudanese army took control of the entire south with the help of Riek Mashar, the situation improved. In time, however, the SPLA sought support in the West by using the northern Sudanese government's religious propaganda to portray the war as a

campaign by the Arab Islamic government to impose Islam and the Arabic language on the Christian south.

The war went on for more than 20 years, including the use of Russian-made combat helicopters and military cargo planes which were used as bombers to devastating effect on villages and tribal rebels alike. "Sudan's independent history has been dominated by chronic, exceptionally cruel warfare that has starkly divided the country on racial, religious, and regional grounds; displaced an estimated four million people (of a total estimated population of thirty-two million); and killed an estimated two million people." It damaged Sudan's economy and led to food shortages, resulting in starvation and malnutrition. The lack of investment during this time, particularly in the south, meant a generation lost access to basic health services, education, and jobs.

On 16 October 1993, al-Bashir's powers increased when he appointed himself President of the country, after which he disbanded the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation and all other rival political parties. The executive and legislative powers of the council were later given to al-Bashir completely. In the 1996 national election, where he was the only candidate by law to run for election, al-Bashir transformed Sudan into an Islamic totalitarian single-party state and created the National Congress Party (NCP) with a new parliament and government obtained solely by members of the NCP. During the 1990s, Hassan al-Turabi, then Speaker of the National Assembly, reached out to Islamic fundamentalist groups, as well as allowing them to operate out of Sudan, even personally inviting Osama bin Laden to the country. The United States subsequently listed Sudan as a state sponsor of terrorism and U.S. firms were barred from doing business in Sudan. Further on, al-Turabi's influence and that of his party's "'internationalist' and ideological wing" waned "in favor of the 'nationalist' or more pragmatic leaders who focus on trying to recover from Sudan's disastrous international isolation and economic damage that resulted from ideological adventurism." At the same time Sudan worked to appease the United States and other international critics by expelling members of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and encouraging bin Laden to leave. Prior to the 2000 presidential election, al-Turabi introduced a bill to reduce the President's powers, prompting al-Bashir to dissolve parliament and declare a state of

emergency. After he urged a boycott of the President's re-election campaign and signed an agreement with Sudan People's Liberation Army, Omar al-Bashir suspected that they were plotting to overthrow him and the government, thus jailing Hassan al-Turabi that same year.

Peace talks between the southern rebels and the government made substantial progress in 2003 and early 2004. The peace was consolidated with the official signing by both sides of the Nairobi Comprehensive Peace Agreement 9 January 2005, granting Southern Sudan autonomy for six years, to be followed by a referendum about independence. It created a co-vice president position and allowed the north and south to split oil deposits equally, but also left both the north's and south's armies in place. John Garang, the south's peace agreement appointed co-vice president died in a helicopter crash on 1 August 2005, three weeks after being sworn in. This resulted in riots, but the peace was eventually able to continue. The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was established under the UN Security Council Resolution 1590 of 24 March 2005. Its mandate is to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and to perform functions relating to humanitarian assistance, and protection and promotion of human rights. In October 2007 the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) withdrew from government in protest over slow implementation of a landmark 2005 peace deal which ended the civil war. Due to significant cultural, social, political, ethnic and economic changes in short amounts of time, conflicts were evolved in western and eastern provinces of Sudan in addition to an escalating conflict in Southern Sudan. Since the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), several violent struggles between the Janjaweed militia and rebel groups such as the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in the form of guerilla warfare in the Darfur, Red Sea and Equatoria regions have occurred, which has resulted in death tolls between 200,000 and 400,000, over 2.5 million people being displaced and the diplomatic relations between Sudan and Chad being at a crisis level.

Darfur conflict



Map of Northeast Africa highlighting the Darfur region of Sudan

Just as the long north-south civil war was reaching a resolution, some clashes occurred in the western region of Darfur in the early 1970s between the pastoral tribes. The rebels accused the central government of neglecting the Darfur region economically, although there is uncertainty regarding the objectives of the rebels and whether they merely seek an improved position for Darfur within Sudan or outright secession. Both the government and the rebels have been accused of atrocities in this war, although most of the blame has fallen on Arab militias known as the Janjaweed, which are armed men appointed by the Al Saddiq Al Mahdi administration to stop the longstanding chaotic disputes between Darfur tribes. According to declarations by the United States Government, these militias have been engaging in genocide; the fighting has displaced hundreds of thousands of people, many of them seeking refuge in neighbouring Chad. The government claimed victory over the rebels after capturing a town on the border with Chad in early 1994. However, the fighting resumed in 2003.

On 9 September 2004, the United States Secretary of State Colin Powell termed the Darfur conflict a genocide, claiming it as the worst humanitarian crisis of the 21st century. There have been reports that the Janjawid has been launching raids, bombings, and attacks on villages, killing civilians based on ethnicity, raping women, stealing land, goods, and herds of livestock. So far, over 2.5 million civilians have been displaced and the death toll is variously estimated from 200,000 to 400,000 killed. These figures have

remained stagnant since initial UN reports of the conflict hinted at *genocide* in 2003/2004. Genocide has been considered a criminal offense under international humanitarian law since the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

On 5 May 2006, the Sudanese government and Darfur's largest rebel group, the SLM (Sudanese Liberation Movement), signed the Darfur Peace Agreement, which aimed at ending the three-year-long conflict. The agreement specified the disarmament of the Janjaweed and the disbandment of the rebel forces, and aimed at establishing a temporal government in which the rebels could take part. The agreement, which was brokered by the African Union, however, was not signed by all of the rebel groups. Only one rebel group, the SLA, led by Minni Arko Minnawi, signed the DPA.

Since the agreement was signed, however, there have been reports of widespread violence throughout the region. A new rebel group has emerged called the National Redemption Front, which is made up of the four main rebel groups that refused to sign the May peace agreement. Recently, both the Sudanese government and government-sponsored Muslim militias have launched large offensives against the rebel groups, resulting in more deaths and more displacements. Clashes among the rebel groups have also contributed to the violence. Recent fighting along the Chad border has left hundreds of soldiers and rebel forces dead and nearly a quarter of a million refugees cut off from aid. In addition, villages have been bombed and more civilians have been killed. UNICEF recently reported that around 80 infants die each day in Darfur as a result of malnutrition.

The people in Darfur are predominantly Black Africans of Muslim belief. While the Janjawid militia is made up of Arabized Black African (Black Arabs); the majority of Arab groups in Darfur remain uninvolved in the conflict. Darfurians—Arab and non-Arab alike—profoundly distrust a government in Khartoum that has brought them nothing but trouble.

The International Criminal Court has indicted State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun and alleged Muslim Janjawid militia leader Ali Mohammed Ali, also

known as Ali Kosheib, in relation to the atrocities in the region. Ahmed Haroun belongs to the Bargou tribe, one of the non-Arab tribes of Darfur, and is alleged to have incited attacks on specific non-Arab ethnic groups. Ali Kosheib is a former soldier and a leader of the popular defense forces, and is alleged to be one of the key leaders responsible for attacks on villages in west Darfur.

The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor on Darfur, Luis Moreno Ocampo, announced on 14 July 2008, ten criminal charges against President Bashir, accusing him of sponsoring war crimes and crimes against humanity. The ICC's prosecutors have claimed that al-Bashir "masterminded and implemented a plan to destroy in substantial part" three tribal groups in Darfur because of their ethnicity. The ICC's prosecutor for Darfur, Luis Moreno Ocampo, is expected within months to ask a panel of ICC judges to issue an arrest warrant for Bashir

The Arab League, African Union, and even France support Sudan's efforts to suspend the ICC investigation. They are willing to consider Article 16 of the Rome Statute, which states ICC investigations can be suspended for one year if the investigation endangers the peace process.

Chad-Sudan conflict

The Chad-Sudan conflict officially started on 23 December 2005, when the government of Chad declared a state of war with Sudan and called for the citizens of Chad to mobilize themselves against the "common enemy"—the United Front for Democratic Change, a coalition of rebel factions dedicated to overthrowing Chadian President Idriss Déby (and who the Chadians believe are backed by the Sudanese government), and Sudanese janjawid, who have been raiding refugee camps and certain tribes in eastern Chad. Déby accuses Sudanese President Omar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir of trying to "destabilize our country, to drive our people into misery, to create disorder and export the war from Darfur to Chad."

The problem prompting the declaration of war was an attack on the Chadian town of Adré near the Sudanese border that led to the deaths of either one hundred rebels (as most

news sources reported) or three hundred rebels. The Sudanese government was blamed for the attack, which was the second in the region in three days, but Sudanese foreign ministry spokesman Jamal Mohammed Ibrahim denied any Sudanese involvement, "We are not for any escalation with Chad. We technically deny involvement in Chadian internal affairs." The Battle of Adré led to the declaration of war by Chad and the alleged deployment of the Chadian air force into Sudanese airspace, which the Chadian government denies. The leaders of Sudan and Chad signed an agreement in Saudi Arabia on 3 May 2007 to stop fighting from the Darfur conflict along their countries' 1,000-kilometre (600 mi) border.

Eastern Front

The **Eastern Front** is a coalition of rebel groups operating in eastern Sudan along the border with Eritrea, particularly the states of Red Sea and Kassala. The Eastern Front's Chairman is Musa Mohamed Ahmed. While the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) was the primary member of the Eastern Front, the SPLA was obliged to leave by the January 2005 agreement that ended the Second Sudanese Civil War. Their place was taken in February 2004 after the merger of the larger Beja Congress with the smaller Rashaida Free Lions, two tribal based groups of the Beja and Rashaida people, respectively. The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), a rebel group from Darfur in the west, then joined.

Both the Free Lions and the Beja Congress stated that government inequity in the distribution of oil profits was the cause of their rebellion. They demanded to have a greater say in the composition of the national government, which has been seen as a destabilizing influence on the agreement ending the conflict in Southern Sudan.

The Eastern Front had threatened to block the flow of crude oil, which travels from the oil fields of the south-central regions to outside markets through Port Sudan. A government plan to build a second oil refinery near Port Sudan was also threatened. The

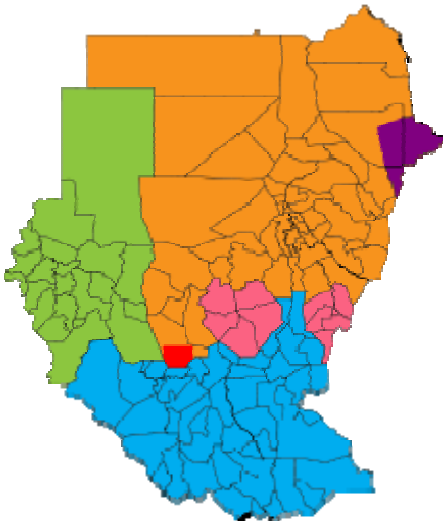
government was reported to have three times as many soldiers in the east to suppress the rebellion and protect vital infrastructure as in the more widely reported Darfur region.

The Eritrean government in mid-2006 dramatically changed their position on the conflict. From being the main supporter of the Eastern Front they decided that bringing the Sudanese government around the negotiating table for a possible agreement with the rebels would be in their best interests.

They were successful in their attempts and on the 19 June 2006, the two sides signed an agreement on declaration of principles. This was the start of four months of Eritrean-mediated negotiations for a comprehensive peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the Eastern Front, which culminated in signing of a peace agreement on 14 October 2006, in Asmara. The agreement covers security issues, power sharing at a federal and regional level, and wealth sharing in regards to the three Eastern states Kassala, Red Sea and Al Qadarif.

In July 2007, many areas of the country were devastated by flooding, prompting an immediate humanitarian response by the United Nations and partners, under the leadership of acting United Nations Resident Coordinators David Gressly and Oluseyi Bajulaiye. Over 400,000 people were directly affected, with over 3.5 million at risk of epidemics. The United Nations have allocated US\$ 13.5 million for the response from its pooled funds, but will launch an appeal to the international community to cover the gap. The humanitarian crisis is in danger of worsening. Following attacks in Darfur, the U.N. World Food Program announced it could stop food aid to some parts of Darfur. Banditry against truck convoys is one of the biggest problems, as it impedes the delivery of food assistance to war-stricken areas and forces a cut in monthly rations. In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed Scott Gration as his envoy to Sudan.

Autonomy, separation and conflicts



North Sudan Darfur Eastern Front South Sudan Abyei Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile

- Abyei is to hold a referendum in 2011 on whether to join South Sudan or not.
- Southern Sudan is an autonomous region intermediate between the states and the national government. Southern Sudan is scheduled to have a referendum on independence in 2011. As agreed in the peace agreement a new currency, the Sudan Pound was launched throughout the country on 10 January 2007, and will replace the Sudanese Dinar. But this agreement has come under dispute owing to poor communication. The Southern Sudanese government tried to launch a new currency, but stopped after the central Sudanese government declared that such a move constituted a breach of the peace agreement.
- Darfur, a region of three western states, is plagued by a violent conflict between the Sudanese government and a group of rebelling peoples of the region. (see Darfur conflict, Transitional Darfur Regional Authority).
- There was also an insurgency in the east led by the Eastern Front. On 14 October 2006, both the Sudanese government and the Eastern Front signed a power-sharing agreement ending the insurgency.

Government and politics

Officially, the politics of Sudan takes place, in the framework of a federal presidential representative democratic republic, where the **President of Sudan** is Head of State, Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces in a multi-party system. Legislative power is vested in both the government and in the two chambers, the National Assembly (lower) and the Council of States (upper), of the bicameral **National Legislature**. The judiciary is independent and obtained by the Constitutional Court.

However, following a deadly civil war and the now low scale war in Darfur, Sudan is widely recognized as an authoritarian state where all effective political power is obtained by President Omar al-Bashir and the ruling National Congress Party (NCP). The political system of the Republic of Sudan was restructured following a military coup on 30 June 1989, when Omar al-Bashir, then a colonel in the Sudanese Army, led a group of officers and ousted the government of Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi. Under al-Bashir's leadership, the new military government suspended political parties and introduced an Islamic legal code on the national level.

He then became Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation (a newly established body with legislative and executive powers for what was described as a transitional period), and assumed the posts of chief of state, prime minister, chief of the armed forces, and minister of defense. Further on, after institutionalizing Sharia law in the northern part of the country along with Hassan al-Turabi, al-Bashir issued purges and executions in the upper ranks of the army, the banning of associations, political parties, and independent newspapers and the imprisonment of leading political figures and journalists.

In 1993, Sudan was transformed into an Islamic authoritarian single-party state as al-Bashir abolished the Revolutionary Command Council and created the National Islamic Front (NIF) with a new parliament and government obtained solely by members of the NIF. At the same time, the structure of regional administration was replaced by the creation of twenty-six states, each headed by a governor, thus making Sudan a federal

republic. As a result, the civil war with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) would only escalate in the following years.

Following the signing of the 2005 **Comprehensive Peace Agreement** (CPA) between the government of Omar al-Bashir and the SPLA, a Government of National Unity was installed in Sudan in accordance with the Interim Constitution whereby a co-Vice President position representing the south was created in addition to the northern Sudanese Vice President. This allowed the north and south to split oil deposits equally, but also left both the north's and south's armies in place. Following the Darfur Peace Agreement, the office of senior Presidential advisor was allocated to Minni Minnawi, a Zaghawa of the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA), and this thus became the fourth highest constitutional post.

Executive posts are divided between the National Congress Party (NCP), the Sudan People's Liberation Army, Eastern Front and factions of the Umma Party and Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). This peace agreement with the rebel group Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) granted Southern Sudan autonomy for six years, to be followed by a referendum about independence in 2011.

According to the new 2005 constitution, the bicameral National Legislature is the official Sudanese parliament, and is divided between two chambers; the National Assembly, a lower house with 450 seats, and the Council of States, an upper house with 50 seats. Thus the parliament consists of 500 appointed members altogether, where all are indirectly elected by state legislatures to serve six-year terms.

Despite his international arrest warrant, Omar al-Bashir is a candidate in the upcoming 2010 Sudanese presidential election, the first democratic election with multiple political parties participating in nine years. His political rival is Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit, leader of the SPLA and current President of the autonomous Government of Southern Sudan. There is considerable concern amongst the international community of a return to violence in the run-up to the referendum on the CPA in January.

States, districts, and counties



Political map of Sudan. Hala'ib Triangle has been under Egyptian administration since 2000.

Sudan is divided into twenty-five states (*wilayat*, sing. *wilayah*) which in turn are subdivided into 87 districts; the ten states in Southern Sudan are subdivided into 84 counties. The states are:

- Al Jazirah
- Al Qadarif
- Blue Nile
- Central Equatoria
- East Equatoria
- Jonglei
- Kassala
- Khartoum
- Lakes
- North Bahr al Ghazal
- North Darfur
- North Kurdufan
- Northern (aš-Šamālīyya)
- Red Sea (al-
- River Nile
- Sennar
- South Darfur
- South Kurdufan
- Unity
- Upper Nile
- Warab
- West Bahr al Ghazal
- West Darfur
- West Equatoria
- White Nile

Bahr al-
Ahmar)

Elections in Sudan

Sudan elects on national level a head of state - the president - and a legislature. The president is elected for a five year term by the people. Elections for the unicameral, 360-member National Assembly were last held in December 2000.

The country is currently in an interim (transitional) period following the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on 9 January 2005 that officially ended the civil war between the Sudanese Government (based in Khartoum) and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebel group. The newly formed **National Legislature**, whose members were chosen in mid-2005, has two chambers. The **National Assembly** (*Majlis Watani*) consists of 450 appointed members who represent the government, former rebels, and other opposition political parties. The **Council of States** (*Majlis Welayat*) has 50 members who are indirectly elected by state legislatures. All members of the National Legislature serve six-year terms.

Sudan is a one party dominant state with the National Congress in power. Opposition parties are allowed, but are widely considered to have no real chance of gaining power.

2000 Presidential election

Summary of the 11 to 20 December 2000 Sudanese presidential election results

Candidates - Parties	Votes	%
Omar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir - National Congress (<i>Al Muttamar al Watani</i>)		86.5

Gaafar Nimeiry - <i>Alliance of the Peoples' Working Forces (Tahaaluf Quwa Alsha'b Al'amila)</i>		9.6
Malik Hussain		1.6
Dr. AL-Samuel Hussein Osman Mansour - Liberal Democrats (<i>Hizb AL-Demokhrateen AL-Ahrar</i>)		1.0
Mahmoud Ahmed Juna		1.0
Source: SUNA		

2000 Parliamentary election

Summary of 11 to December 2000 National Assembly of Sudan election results

Parties	Votes	%	Seats
National Congress (<i>Al Muttamar al Watani</i>)		.	355
Non-partisans		.	5
Total			360

Source: Political Parties of the World

Sudanese general election, 2010

Background

The largest country in Africa and the Arab world, Sudan is one of the poorest nations in the globe. This despite the fact that its economy is also one of the fastest growing, thanks to mineral and oil resources.

Sudan has been ravaged by civil war. The first conflict erupted in 1955 between residents of the northern and southern regions, just before Sudan gained independence from Egypt. A second civil war began in 1983, as southerners rebelled against the imposition of Islamic Sharia law for everyone—including the Christian and Animist south.

In 1989, Omar al-Bashir seized power in a bloodless coup. Al-Bashir quickly became a dictator. He suspended political parties, maintained the enforcement of Sharia law across the entire country, and launched a military campaign to control the south.

Sunni Muslims account for most of Sudan's population. Muslims are predominantly in the north of the country. They constantly clash with the south, which has a higher proportion of Christians and Animists.

In 1993, al-Bashir declared himself president of Sudan.

In 2005, the country enacted a new Constitution. The document included a promise of greater autonomy for the south for six years and a referendum on independence in 2011. The pact followed years of talks with south-based rebel forces that have consistently fought power established in Khartoum, the capital.

Over two million people have died in Sudan since 1983. Sudan has been deemed a state sponsor of terrorism, a dictatorship and a genocidal regime. The country has been subject to United Nations (UN) sanctions since 1995.

Al-Bashir and his country are most infamous for the current genocide occurring in the Sudanese region of Darfur. Since 2003, an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 people—most of whom are black Muslims—have died in clashes between several armed groups,

including Arab militias hired by the government known as the Janjaweed. Over one million people in Darfur have been displaced as a direct result from this conflict. Rape as a weapon of war is said to be widely used in Darfur.

Since 2005, the UN has been able to offer limited humanitarian assistance to the terrorized population of Darfur. Al-Bashir has been chided for years for delaying the entrance of UN personnel into the war-ravaged zone to assist the small African Union (AU) contingent that has been authorized to be there.

For over a decade, Sudan has also been the target of allegations that it condones slavery. Reports of black men from the south being enslaved by the Arabs from the north are common.

On Mar. 4, 2008, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for al-Bashir for crimes against humanity. Prosecutors with the ICC claimed that the Sudanese president "masterminded and implemented a plan to destroy in substantial part" three tribal groups in Darfur solely on the basis of their ethnicity. This is the first time a serving head of state is indicted by the ICC. Both the AU and the Arab League condemned the arrest warrant against al-Bashir.

The ICC has also indicted Ahmad Harun, Sudan's deputy minister for humanitarian affairs, and Ali Kosheib, a Janjaweed leader, with mass murder and rape. Sudan's government has refused to hand them over to the ICC.

Al-Bashir has remained defiant of international criticism, appointing well-known Janjaweed leaders to government positions as recently as 2008.

Sudan's conflict is a concern for the stability of north-east Africa. Violence and refugees have spilled over to neighbouring Chad. It has been reported that the government of Chad is now backing some of the militias in Darfur to fight against Khartoum-backed forces. The Central African Republic is also suffering the consequences of the conflict in Sudan.

The People's Republic of China and Japan are Sudan's largest trading partners. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has been a major obstacle for imposing tougher sanctions on Sudan and for moving forward with proposed

"humanitarian interventions." China has repeatedly stated that any action against al-Bashir or his government would violate Sudan's sovereignty.

2010 President, National Assembly Election

These elections were the Sudan's first multi-party exercise in 24 years. The legislative and presidential ballot is the result of a commitment made by the government in 2005, when it enacted a new Constitution after signing a peace agreement with the rebel south.

In 2008, a controversial census calculated that about 38 million people live in Sudan. Some regions have contested the results, saying that they have more residents than the census states. Residents in the south threatened to boycott the ballot if the census results are not revised.

It was unclear whether Sudan's Darfur region, home to more than a million internally displaced people, will participate in the election due to the ongoing conflict.

Incumbent president Omar al-Bashir contested for re-election representing the National Congress Party (NCP).

Yasir Arman, a secular Muslim, is the presidential candidate for the Liberation Movement (SPLM), the political arm of the southern rebels. Sadiq al-Mahdi, who served twice as prime minister, is running with the Umma Party. His cousin, Mubarak al-Mahdi, is the candidate for a splinter group called the Umma Reform and Renewal Party. Mohammed Ibrahim Nugud is representing the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP).

Other candidates include the only woman, Fatima Abdel Mahmood of the Socialist Democratic Union (SSU)—the only woman in the race—and Munir Sheik Al-Deen from the New National Democratic Party (DUP).

In February 2010, the International Criminal Court (ICC) was ordered to review evidence to determine if al-Bashir should be tried for genocide. The court had previously said the president could not face trial for that charge but this decision was appealed.

On Feb. 15, Arman launched his campaign, saying, "Those who do not provide the opportunity within their party to choose a new candidate to replace twenty years of one individual's rule cannot allow the people of Sudan freedom of choice, and the people of

Sudan must only rely on themselves and turn the elections battle to a democratic, inclusive public battle for a change to new hope and a new Sudan."

Arman is seen as one of the strongest contenders in the presidential race.

For his part, al-Bashir launched his own campaign mocking accusations against him, saying, "Where is the ethnic cleansing? Where is the genocide?" and adding, "No one forced these elections on us. (...) We want fair elections, we want clean elections."

On Mar. 31, SPLM candidate Arman withdrew from the election, citing the continued conflict on Darfur and electoral irregularities.

Voting began on Apr. 11. Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, who is overseeing the democratic process, declared:"It's not going to be a perfect election. There are no such things. But if we feel that in the elections the will of the voters has been expressed adequately then that would be the primary judgment we will make."

Political Players

President: Omar al-Bashir (NCP)

Vice-president: Salva Kiir Mayardit (SPLM)

Vice-president: Ali Osman Taha (NCP)

Legislative Branch: Following the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), Sudan has a bi-cameral legislature. The National Assembly (*Majlis Watani*) has 450 appointed members who represent the government, former rebels, and other opposition political parties. The Council of States (*Majlis Welayat*) has 50 members who are indirectly elected by state legislatures.

Presidential and parliamentary elections are being held in Sudan from 11 April to 15 April 2010 (extended from the original end date of 13 April) to elect the President of Sudan and the National Assembly of Sudan. The election brings to the end the transitional period which began when the decades-long Second Sudanese Civil War ended in 2005.

Date

The elections were to be held in Sudan from March to April 2009, and there were reports that they may be delayed up to six months from the latest possible date of July 2009 due to problems with the preparation of the vote. However, on 2 April 2009, the electoral commission pushed the date back to 6 February to 21 February 2010 and results were to be declared on 27 February 2010. The elections will entail: national presidential and parliamentary, the south Sudanese presidency, state governors, the southern parliament and state assemblies. The electoral commission released the date after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for President Bashir on 4 March 2009.

On 11 June 2009, it was rumoured that the elections might be delayed for a short time once more. This was immediately rejected by the government. However, it was announced on 30 June 2009 that the election would be postponed until 5 April to 12 April 2010 after problems with the national census. The census results were expected early April 2009 but were not released until mid-May 2009; upon its release, the SPLM contested that Southern Sudan are a third of Sudan's total population while the census stated a much smaller number. It is unknown if the Darfurian amalgamation referendum, due to take place in July 2010, will be pulled back to match the general election.

Census

A census, which is necessary for the election to be held, was initially planned to be held in July 2007, then from 15 November 2007 onwards, then delayed to be held from 2 February 2008 onwards due to funding issues. It was again postponed to 15–30 April 2008. On 12 April 2008, a few days before the census was slated to start, the SPLM

withdrew from the census, stating that they wanted IDPs to return to their homes before the census would take place; this calls the timetable for the 2009 elections into question. However, it was agreed on 14 April 2008 to start the census on 22 April 2008 instead. It was finished by 6 May 2008 (with about 90% of the country covered by then; many people claimed, however, not to have been counted, but officials stated that in no state was the covering rate below 80%) and results are expected in September. Preliminary results released in early July claimed a population of about 38 million, with the most populated states being Khartoum with 6.5 million and Al Jazirah with 4.2 million; South Sudan had 3.8 million residents according to the census, which is strongly contradicted by estimates which put the population of South Sudan at least 11 million residents. The full results of the census were to be released in February 2009. The total population of Sudan was given as 39 million by the census, with (according to unofficial reports only) Khartoum having 5 million, Darfur 7.5 million and South Sudan 8.2 million. South Sudan had indicated it might boycott the election if the census gave them substantially fewer than the 11–13 million inhabitants they estimate to have.

Electoral law

The draft bill on the electoral law was being discussed in February 2008; differences remained over the proportion between FPTP seats and proportional seats, over the amount of seats reserved for women, and over how many votes smaller parties would have to win in order to gain entry into parliament. The SPLM wants 50% proportionally elected and 50% through FPTP, and it wants women to be given 50% of the proportional seats; the Sudanese government wants only 40% to be proportionally elected and wants a separate list of women-only seats, of which all would be given to the list with the most votes. The election law was passed on 8 July 2008. 60% of seats will be chosen in constituencies, and 40% (split 25% women to 15% general seats) by proportional representation; the proportional seats have an electoral threshold of 4%, candidates for presidential elections require 200 endorsements from 18 of Sudan's 25 states, citizens have to be over 18 years to vote and over 40 years and without a criminal record to stand in the election.

The border constituency report was completed by the National Elections Committee in November, 2009. Some state politicians have appealed the report and their concerns have been printed in a report published on the National Elections Committee website. Despite these objections, it is likely that the constituency borders will remain.

Darfur

Due to the ongoing War in Darfur, the election held without the participation of the Darfur region. However, a Sudanese official has stated that elections would be held in "99% of Darfur" and that the election would be held at a later date in those regions where it was not possible at that time.

Candidates

SPLM leader Salva Kiir Mayardit has stated he will contest the presidential election. He will also be supported by the former eastern rebels from the Beja Congress, to increase the chances of unseating Omar al-Bashir, who has held power since 1989.

69 parties registered for the election.

Opposition parties including the SPLM considered nominating Sadiq al-Mahdi, who was Prime Minister from 1986 to 1989, as their presidential candidate. Yasir Arman was the SPLM candidate, but the SPLM withdrew from the presidential election, citing fears of fraud.

The university professor Abdullah Ali Ibrahim planned to run as an independent presidential candidate. Islamist opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi announced on 2 January 2010 that his party, the Popular Congress Party, had designated its deputy leader, Abdullah Deng Nial, as its presidential candidate. One of the renowned female politicians, professor Fatima Abdel Mahmoud, has been nominated by the Socialist Democratic Union of which she is leader.

Controversies

There were numerous accusations of irregularities which forced the election to be extended by 2 additional days for a total of 4 days. However, former American President Jimmy Carter said he was happy with the extension of voting days while monitoring the elections even after other monitors (a European contingent amongst them) had left. On the last day of the elections the head of the ruling party in the south said: "Three days ago at night some southern army soldiers came to the home of the president of the National Congress Party (NCP) in Raja, and killed him and eight other members of the NCP." He claimed it was because of anger that people had voted for the ruling party. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement denied responsibility while having claimed repression.

Result

In 16 state constituencies and 17 national constituencies (18 and 15 according to other sources), a repoll was ordered (if it occurs within 60 days); the results in the other constituencies will be announced on 20 April 2010. 27 MPs (five national, four in the Southern Sudanese Legislative Assembly, and 18 for state assemblies) were elected by default, as they had no opponent in the election.

Counting in Sudan's first multiparty presidential and local elections in decades began Friday as early results showed the incumbent president ahead in voting that was marred by delays, faulty registration and boycotts.

Omar al-Bashir is widely expected to win another five years in office, but a string of troubles in the voting process - including the withdrawal of his most credible challengers and allegations of fraud from opposition groups and observers - could raise questions of the legitimacy of an al-Bashir win.

Early results confirmed the incumbent president won most of the votes already counted by the National Elections Commission. Tallies from a few districts in Sudan and abroad showed him garnering between 88 percent and 94 percent of votes counted. Final results are expected Tuesday.

The five-day vote, which ended Thursday and also included local and national parliamentary elections, was a key requirement of a 2005 peace deal which ended a 21-year civil war between the country's north and south that ravaged the southern half of the country and left 2 million people dead and many more displaced.

The vote was intended to produce a democratically elected government for the impoverished country and pave the way for a referendum next year on independence for southern Sudan.

But international observers, local monitors and opposition leaders said the voting process was heavily controlled by al-Bashir's ruling party. Local observers said they fear election results could spark violence.

Only one violent incident was reported during the vote, when soldiers from the semiautonomous south killed at least five supporters of al-Bashir's National Congress Party in the southern province of Western Bahr al-Ghazal on Thursday.

The elections were considered competitive on the local and parliamentary levels as over 70 parties and independents competed for the first time for places in local governments across the country.

The vote, which was twice delayed, is seen by al-Bashir as a chance to reaffirm his political legitimacy in the face of an international arrest warrant for alleged war crimes committed in Darfur.

The conflict in the western region of Darfur broke out in 2003 between government forces and rebel groups. An estimated 300,000 people died of violence, disease and displacement in the conflict, which is separate from the north-south civil war.

The elections are also expected to keep the south's largest party, the Sudan's People Liberation Army, a junior member of the national government, in power in the south because it remains the most organized political force there.

The SPLM boycotted the elections in the north, but is keen to see the vote accepted to ensure the 2011 referendum on southern secession proceeds as planned. Al-Bashir had threatened the referendum could be derailed if elections didn't go ahead on time.

Despite criticism of the vote from some observers, the head of the Arab League's monitors in Sudan, Salah Halima, called the elections "a model" of transparency and fairness. He told the state news agency SUNA the vote "ended successfully and smoothly."

There are nearly 800 international monitors in Sudan for the elections, including a team led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.