

Understanding Sudan

A Teaching and Learning Resource



Darfur Simulation

Before the simulation, the teacher should review, with students, the latest actions of the U.N. Security Council to enable a peaceful solution to the Darfur crisis. This should include summarizing the latest Security Council resolutions, reviewing the discussion and context that took place during the voting on the resolutions, and understanding the more general context of the Darfur crisis.

For the simulation, the teacher can present the students with a new scenario involving action by the Government of Sudan (GOS). Here are two example scenarios:

Scenario 1: The GOS has used the Sudan Armed Forces to forcibly shut down some of the largest displaced persons camps. Numerous displaced persons have been killed, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons have fled to Chad or Khartoum. Relief organizations estimate that up to 50,000 vulnerable persons will die in the coming month. Rebel groups have used the chaos to attack the town of Nyala, and heavy fighting has ensued.

Scenario 2: The main rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has taken hostage a group of 11 American college students from the Save Darfur movement, who were touring displaced persons camps in rebel-held territory. JEM says they will not release the Americans until a no-fly zone is enforced by the United Nations. They say they will hold a general congress to unify the rebel movements in Darfur, using the hostages as human shields so the Sudan Government will not attack them during the congress. The Sudan Government immediately responds by bombing two rebel-associated villages, killing 22 civilians.

Students will each choose a country to represent, including the members of the Security Council and several non-members who wish to present in front of the Security Council. At least two countries, Sudan and the United States, should be represented by groups who work on their positions collaboratively. At stake is the policy for dealing with the GOS regarding Darfur. Non security-council members are allowed to address the Security Council with their concerns, although they cannot vote on any resolution.

For the simulation, participants should prepare a series of statements and points for negotiation in the meetings. The instructions to students should be:

In essay form, please consider the following points of negotiation from the perspective of your country and government. Note: What is important for this exercise is not the outcomes but your ability to explain what outcomes your government prefers. Consider how your government could benefit most and explain why.

1. What is your country's position of the current state of U.N. activity in Sudan?
2. What interests does your country have in maintaining these positions?

3. What new policies would you consider implementing?

4. Who are your allies in these issues? What states do you anticipate sharing common goals with?