



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

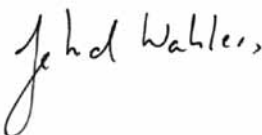
The main focus of the April edition of KAS International Reports are the transitions and transformations that have been taking place in Africa. Not only the Arab world has been feeling these effects. Other parts of Africa have also been undergoing major changes, some of which we have examined in previous editions. One example of a country suffering from decades of conflict is the Sudan. On 9 July 2011 a new state emerged when the South split from the North after a referendum in which a mass majority of South Sudanese voted for independence. It appeared as though the years of civil war had finally ended, a new nation had been born and the people of South Sudan could celebrate. But harsh reality soon set in: many disputes remained unresolved, and there was still no agreement on issues such as the precise demarcation of the border, the future of the oil business, the distribution of oil revenues and foreign debts. Hopes that after independence a peaceful resolution would be achieved on these controversial issues have so far foundered. Each day new confrontations and bellicose rhetoric hit the headlines, including reports of military skirmishes (particularly in the oil-rich border areas), rebel uprisings and bloody tribal feuds that have left thousands dead.

At the end of January this year, talks about the future of the oil business collapsed. The main flashpoint was the issue of transit fees: South Sudan has three-quarters of the oil reserves, while the North maintains control over the only terminal and the necessary infrastructure. The North is reliant on the South's oil, while the South must channel its exports through the North, but the two sides have been unable to reach an agreement on pipeline fees. The North charges the South with inadequate remuneration for use of the pipeline, promptly retaining for its own use sizeable quantities of oil as "compensation". In turn, the South has accused the North of theft and has simply halted oil exports altogether. At the beginning of February the situation worsened to such an extent that the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, stationed troops in the border regions and Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir threatened retaliation in case of an attack.

There is also the thorny question of how to deal with hundreds of thousands of refugees. According to the United Nations, post-secession some 700,000 South Sudanese remain in the North. Most of these fled their homes during the civil war and now live in refugee camps while seeking a way to return. Mid-February a treaty was signed which allowed over 300,000 South Sudanese in the North to return to the South within a fixed period ending on April 8. South Sudan must now make huge efforts to manage this flood of refugees. They present an enormous additional burden for a country already unable to meet the needs of its existing population. With almost no infrastructure and the threat of famine looming, a humanitarian crisis appears inevitable.

Ethnic conflicts also jeopardise the existence of the new country. A state of emergency has been declared in the Jonglei region after a series of brutal massacres and widespread destruction, but warring tribes continue to clash over land and cattle. Due in part to the resurgence of ancient tribal feuds, such skirmishes have now quite simply become a battle for survival.

At the African Union summit meeting held in Addis Ababa at the end of January, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon spoke of a "major threat to peace and security" across the region and urged the presidents of Sudan and South Sudan to compromise. Initially, this aim seemed within reach, and a meeting was arranged for 3 April in the South Sudanese city of Juba. This would have been the first visit by Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir to the South since the split and could have set a new course for relations between the two countries. Instead the North once again began bombing targets in the South, resulting in the meeting's cancellation and with that an opportunity for dialogue was squandered. Signals of rapprochement are now urgently needed. If the situation continues to escalate, the region will once again face the threat of war.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerhard Wahlers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'G'.

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