Syria plays with fire

A series of explosions have taken place across the Syrian capital Damascus over the last fortnight, with regime and opposition accusing each other of carrying out the attacks, writes Bassel Oudeh in Damascus

Juba's other war

The threat to the nascent South Sudanese state is said to be from Khartoum, but there are signs that it could also come from the United Nations.

Eight months since South Sudan began its transitional period of national unity and reconciliation, the country has not been able to resolve its ethnic, communal, and tribal differences. Sectarian violence has erupted in several parts of the country, including the capital Juba, where clashes between members of the Nuer and Dinka tribes have left dozens dead.

The United Nations has warned that the situation in South Sudan is likely to deteriorate further, with a potential for civil war. However, the government of South Sudan has refused to accept the UN's peace proposals, accusing them of being biased against the country.

The threat to the South Sudanese state, therefore, could come from both within and without. The United Nations, with its peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, has been criticized for its inability to prevent the conflict from escalating.

In Juba, there have been reports of ethnic cleansing, with large numbers of people being forced to leave their homes. The United Nations has been criticized for its slow reaction to the situation, with many calling for a stronger and more assertive approach.

The United Nations has announced that it will send a new peacekeeping mission to South Sudan, but the government of South Sudan has refused to accept it. The United Nations has also been criticized for its inability to prevent the conflict from escalating further.

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