

# Satellite Sentinel Project

## SAF TROOPS, TANKS, AND ARTILLERY MASSING AT EL OBEID BARRACKS

**ALERT: POTENTIAL TROOP DEPLOYMENT**

PREPARED BY



Harvard  
Humanitarian  
Initiative

**26 MAY 2011**

SATELLITE SENTINEL PROJECT (SSP) HAS IDENTIFIED A PREVIOUSLY UNIDENTIFIED ASSEMBLY OF SAF FORCES AT THE EL OBEID BARRACKS, APPROXIMATELY 440 KILOMETERS (273 MILES) FROM ABYEI TOWN AND THE CONTESTED BORDER LINE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH SUDAN. BASED ON ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS AND THE FORMATION OF THE UNITS, SSP HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE FORCES AT EL OBEID ARE CAPABLE OF IMMINENT FORWARD DEPLOYMENT AND COULD REACH ABYEI TOWN IN LESS THAN A DAY.



**24 MAY 2011 | SAF TROOPS, TANKS, AND ARTILLERY CLEARLY VISIBLE AT EL OBEID**

THE INFANTRY VISIBLE IN PLATOON-SIZED FORMATIONS AT THE BASE APPEARS TO COMPRISE A COMPANY TO BATTALION-SIZED UNIT. 13 TOWABLE ARTILLERY UNITS ARE PRESENT IN A LINE AT THE FACILITY. THE ARRAYED ARTILLERY APPEARS TO CONSIST OF TWO DIFFERENT SIZES, THOUGH THE EXACT TYPE OF THE WEAPONS IS NOT IDENTIFIABLE.

DIGITALGLOBE SATELLITE IMAGERY CAPTURED NINE ARMORED VEHICLES CONSISTENT WITH T-55 OR T-64 MAIN BATTLE TANKS AND ACCOMPANYING DOUBLE-BERTH VEHICLES CONSISTENT WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRANSPORTS (HETs) USED TO MOVE TANKS. UNDER OPTIMAL CONDITIONS AND FUNCTION, THE ARMORED VEHICLES AND HETs ARE WITHIN ESTIMATED DRIVING RANGE OF THE CONTESTED BORDER LINE AND ABYEI TOWN WITHOUT NEEDING TO REFUEL. SSP HAS IDENTIFIED VEHICLES CONSISTENT WITH INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLES AND HEAVY TRANSPORT.

THIS MASSING OF FORCES IS CONSISTENT WITH THE HIGH TEMPO OF SAF OPERATIONS REPORTED NEAR AND WITHIN THE ABYEI REGION AND THE CONTESTED BORDER LINE OF SOUTH SUDAN SINCE THE SAF AND MISSERIYA MILITIA INCURSION INTO ABYEI ON 21 MAY.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Satellite Sentinel Project conducts regular, intensive monitoring of Sudan to assess the current human security situation and identify potential threats to civilians.

Analysis prepared by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and UNITAR/UNOSAT. Imagery and additional analysis provided by DigitalGlobe.



6 HETs



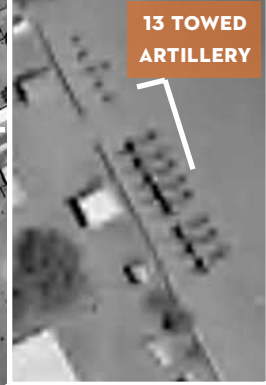
6 TANKS  
CONSISTENT WITH  
T-55s/T-64s

3 TANKS CONSISTENT  
WITH T-55s/T-64s

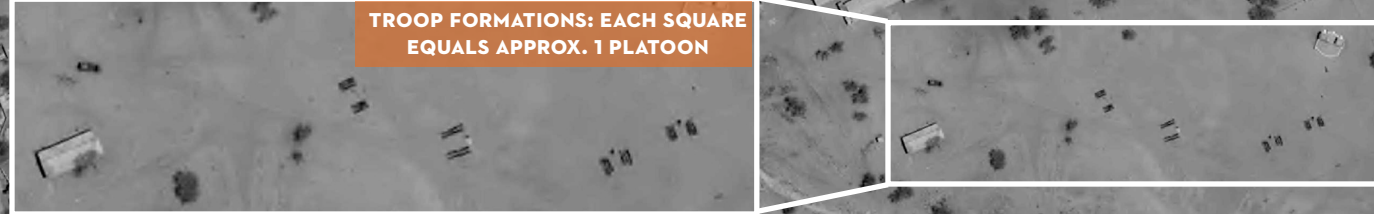


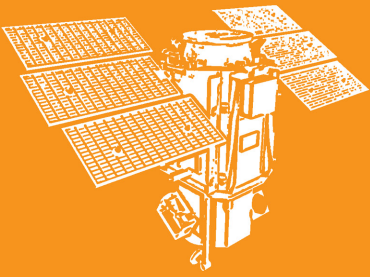
POSSIBLE INFANTRY  
FIGHTING VEHICLES

13 TOWED  
ARTILLERY



TROOP FORMATIONS: EACH SQUARE  
EQUALS APPROX. 1 PLATOON





# Satellite Sentinel Project

## ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE PARTNERS

### THE WORLD IS WATCHING BECAUSE YOU ARE WATCHING.

The Satellite Sentinel Project – conceived by George Clooney – combines satellite imagery analysis and field reports with Google’s Map Maker technology to deter the resumption of war between North and South Sudan. The project provides an early warning system to deter mass atrocities by focusing world attention and generating rapid responses on human rights and human security concerns.

This project is the result of an unprecedented collaboration between Not On Our Watch, the Enough Project, Google, the United Nations UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), DigitalGlobe, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, and Trellon, LLC.

The project works like this: Commercial satellites passing over the border of northern and southern Sudan are able to capture possible threats to civilians, observe the movement of displaced people, detect bombed and razed villages, or note other evidence of pending mass violence.

UNITAR/UNOSAT leads the collection and analysis of the images and collaborates with Google and Trellon to design the web platform for the public to easily access the images and reports. Harvard Humanitarian Initiative provides system-wide research and leads the collection, human rights analysis, and corroboration of on-the-ground reports that contextualizes the satellite imagery. The Enough Project contributes field reports, provides policy analysis, and, together with Not On Our Watch, and our Sudan Now partners, puts pressure on policymakers by urging the public to act. DigitalGlobe provides satellite imagery and additional analysis.

The Satellite Sentinel Project marks the first sustained, public effort to systematically monitor and report on potential hotspots and threats to security along a border, in near real-time (within 24-36 hours), with the aim of heading off humanitarian disaster and human rights crimes before they occur.

Not On Our Watch – co-founded by Don Cheadle, George Clooney, Matt Damon, Brad Pitt, David Pressman, and Jerry Weintraub – has provided seed money to launch the project. To support the Satellite Sentinel Project, donate at [www.satsentinel.org](http://www.satsentinel.org).

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Google



DIGITALGLOBE

