



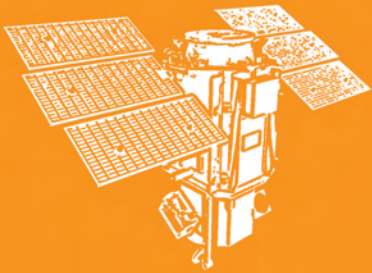
# Satellite Sentinel Project

**MASS ATROCITY ALERT**

**CRIME SCENE:  
EVIDENCE OF MASS GRAVES  
IN KADUGLI**

**14 JULY 2011**





# Satellite Sentinel Project

## CRIME SCENE: EVIDENCE OF MASS GRAVES IN KADUGLI

MASS ATROCITY ALERT  
REPORTED BY  Harvard  
Humanitarian  
Initiative

### 14 JULY 2011 | OVERVIEW

Satellite Sentinel Project (SSP) has found evidence consistent with allegations that the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Government of Sudan-aligned (GoS) militias have apparently engaged in a campaign of systematic mass killing of civilians in Kadugli, South Kordofan. Under the Rome Statute and other international humanitarian law, the systematic killing of civilians in peace or war by their own government can constitute crimes against humanity.

Based on an analysis of DigitalGlobe satellite imagery and eyewitness reports obtained by the Satellite Sentinel Project, SSP has identified a site consistent with mass graves in Kadugli. SSP has found evidence corroborating at least four, independent eyewitness accounts that SAF, GoS-aligned militias and other GoS-aligned forces are present in Kadugli and are alleged to be methodically searching houses for civilians. The four eyewitnesses claim that the SAF and GoS-aligned militias are systematically killing those suspected of supporting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and others.

SSP has also found evidence consistent with a possible pile of people in body bags or white plastic tarps in Kadugli. This imagery corroborates an eyewitness account of bodies being placed in body bags or some form of white plastic tarp by SAF and GoS-aligned militia forces.

Detailed situation reports from UN agencies and other aid providers are severely limited due to the lack of free and unfettered access to Kadugli town. In the absence of on-the-ground reports from humanitarian actors and journalists, eyewitness reports from those who were in Kadugli town within the past month, combined with satellite imagery analysis, are the only available means of assessing the situation there at present.

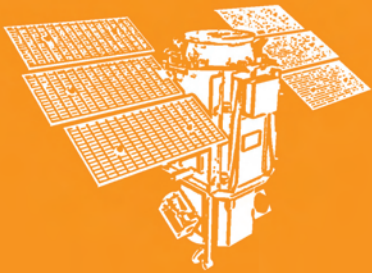
### IN THE REPORT:

1. ALLEGATIONS OF CIVILIAN KILLINGS NEAR TILO SCHOOL AND THE PRESENCE OF MASS GRAVES NEARBY
2. ALLEGATIONS OF HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES BY SAF AND NORTHERN-ALIGNED MILITIA FORCES

#### 1. ALLEGATIONS OF CIVILIAN KILLINGS NEAR TILO SCHOOL AND THE PRESENCE OF MASS GRAVES NEARBY

One eyewitness report by an individual who fled Kadugli, communicated to SSP, alleges that SAF killed an unknown number of civilians because of their suspected support for the SPLM in Tilo village, near the Tilo Secondary School, in Kadugli on 8 June. The SAF troops arrived at Tilo in light trucks with machine guns mounted on the back of the vehicles, according to the eyewitness. Five SAF soldiers allegedly held down one civilian while one of the soldiers slit the civilian's throat. The same witness also reports seeing and hearing SAF soldiers seal the doors of houses in Tilo and set the houses afire, burning alive civilians trapped inside.

A second, separate eyewitness report directly received by SSP, corroborated by DigitalGlobe imagery, alleges that at least two pits were dug on 8 June less than a kilometer south of the Tilo School in Kadugli and approximately 100 meters from a radio tower. The eyewitness reports seeing a yellow-colored earthmover



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being driven by someone dressed as a civilian. The vehicle had a “bucket with teeth” on the front of the machine. The bucket could move from side to side, and it would lift up earth and deposit it elsewhere. The eyewitness estimated that the apparent size of the pits measured approximately 10 meters long by 5 meters wide, but the individual could not confirm the site dimensions.

By the evening of 8 June, the same eyewitness reports that SAF soldiers, apparent GoS-aligned militia, men in brown uniforms consistent with those worn by prisoners at the local prison, and individuals dressed in a way consistent with Sudan Red Crescent Society (SRCS) workers were seen driving in large, green trucks in the vicinity of the site. Given allegations that GoS-aligned intelligence officers had been reportedly posing as SRCS workers near the UNMIS compound last month, it is unknown whether or not those individuals in SRCS consistent dress, including a white apron with a red crescent, were in fact affiliated with the SRCS. Impersonating a Red Cross or Red Crescent worker can constitute a violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Large green trucks were moving back and forth from the site. The eyewitness claims that dead bodies had been picked up from the market area of Kadugli and from El Gardud and Tilo villages in Kadugli around that time.

Men at the site were reportedly unloading dead bodies from the trucks and depositing them in the open pits. The individual claims to have seen some bodies in what appeared to be bags that were “white” and “plastic,” others were in light brown bags made of a different kind of material. Some bodies were not in any type of body bag or wrapping.

SAF soldiers prevented the individual from getting closer to the site at that time. The eyewitness said that he estimated that 100 or more bodies were deposited at the site on the evening of 8 June.

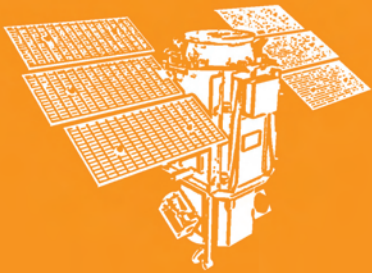
The individual says that killings have continued in Kadugli town since 8 June and bodies in the town have been collected, but it is unknown where the remains have been taken. There are some bodies, according to the witness, allegedly still present in a forest to the south of Kadugli. A third eyewitness account communicated to SSP on 12 June also alleges the presence of a mass grave south of the Tilo School.

### IMAGERY ANALYSIS OF ALLEGED MASS GRAVES NEAR TILO SCHOOL

**FINDING |** DigitalGlobe satellite imagery analyzed by SSP shows no discernable activity at the alleged mass grave site near Tilo School on 17 June [Fig. 1]. However, as of 4 July, three excavated areas measuring approximately 26 by 5 meters are visible less than 1 kilometer south of the Tilo School.

**CONCLUSION |** The three excavated areas positively identified by imagery analysis, independent of eyewitness reports, corroborate allegations by two eyewitnesses of potential mass graves south of the Tilo School in Kadugli.





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### 2. ALLEGATIONS OF HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES BY SAF AND NORTHERN-ALIGNED MILITIA FORCES

Four eyewitness accounts communicated to SSP allege that SAF and GoS-aligned forces began as early as 5 or 6 June to search house-to-house for SPLM supporters and others, reportedly killing those that they found. As of 10 July, according to one witness, the house-to-house searches continue to occur. Some of the vehicles driven by the SAF and GoS-aligned militias, according to two witnesses, include white-colored light vehicles, such as land cruisers, and white-colored Mitsubishi trucks. The vehicles described as “Mitsubishi trucks” or “dump trucks” have been reportedly used to collect dead bodies in Kadugli town proper.

One eyewitness has claimed that GoS-aligned forces are putting dead bodies, in some cases, in what appear to be white plastic tarps or other body bags. Another eyewitness alleges that people were taken and killed by SAF troops and police officers in front of their houses near the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) facilities around 6 or 7 June. On approximately 7 or 8 June, the witness saw what he called white “Mitsubishi trucks” picking up bodies south of the ECS guest house in Kadugli.

### IMAGERY ANALYSIS CONSISTENT WITH WIDESPREAD SAF PRESENCE IN KADUGLI AND THE SYSTEMATIC KILLING OF CIVILIANS

**FINDING |** Dozens of white-colored light vehicles are seen in areas throughout Kadugli on 4 July. Heavy trucks consistent with white-colored transport trucks are visible as well. These vehicles appear consistent with SAF and GoS-aligned militia vehicles previously observed by SSP at GoS-aligned encampments and those described by multiple eyewitnesses as being present in Kadugli town.

On 4 July, a pile of white bundles is clearly visible in Kadugli town near the ECS facilities, just south of the church and guest house. White-colored vehicles consistent with those used by SAF and GoS-aligned militia are present in that area. Tracking consistent with the presence of heavy vehicles is visible there as well.

**CONCLUSION |** The presence on 4 July of apparent SAF and GoS-aligned militia vehicles in residential areas where killing of civilians allegedly has occurred corroborates reports that SAF and GoS-aligned forces are systematically searching homes. The presence of white bundles just south of the ECS guest house is consistent with the allegations that bodies have been placed in tarps or bags of some sort near the ECS facilities, corroborating claims that SAF troops are systematically hunting and killing civilians.

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#### 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.

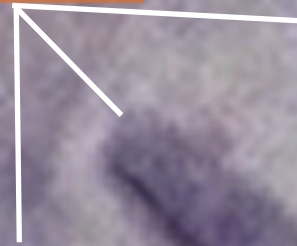
Analysis prepared by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. Imagery and additional analysis provided by DigitalGlobe. Bottom cover image from razed village of Todach provided by Tim Freccia for the Enough Project.

17 JUNE

4 JULY



3 EXCAVATED AREAS  
CONSISTENT WITH  
MASS GRAVES



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DIGITALGLOBE



enough

COMPARISON: 17 JUNE - 4 JULY 2011 | FIG 1

POTENTIAL MASS GRAVES NEAR TILO SCHOOL | KADUGLI, SOUTH KORDOFAN





TILO SCHOOL  
(FORMER SITE  
OF JOINT MILITARY  
COMMISSION)

3 EXCAVATED AREAS  
CONSISTENT WITH  
MASS GRAVES

LESS THAN 1 KM





BRIDGE

SUDANESE CHURCH OF CHRIST

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN (ECS) OFFICES

ORTHODOX CHURCH COMPOUND

ECS GUEST HOUSE

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

VEHICLES CONSISTENT WITH DUMP TRUCKS

OBJECT CLUSTER CONSISTENT WITH REPORTED BODY BAGS (SEE FIG 4)

REPORTED LOCATION OF MARKET

REPORTED LOCATION OF MARKET

STADIUM

HOSPITAL

Satellite Sentinel Project



17 JUNE

4 JULY



Satellite Sentinel Project



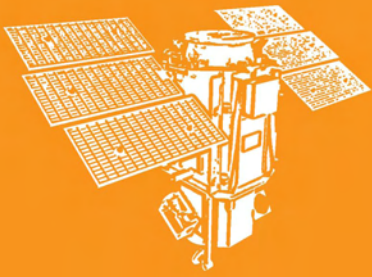
## EVIDENCE OF SAF PRESENCE

The number and type of vehicles - including light vehicles and trucks - seen moving throughout Kadugli appear consistent with reports of widespread SAF and GoS-aligned militia presence. Both light vehicles and trucks appear consistent with dump trucks and other vehicles described by eyewitnesses as being used to transport bodies.

TRUCK  
CONSISTENT WITH  
DUMP TRUCK

LIGHT  
VEHICLES





# 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, DigitalGlobe, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, and Trelon, 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.

Google and Trelon 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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