



Satellite Sentinel Project

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

ALERT: POTENTIAL TROOP DEPLOYMENT

PREPARED BY



Harvard
Humanitarian
Initiative

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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.
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, 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.

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