



# Satellite Sentinel Project

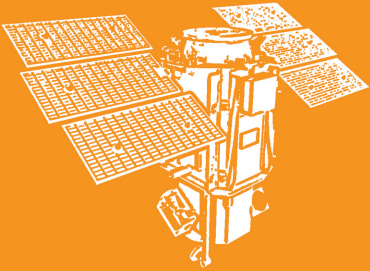
**MASS ATROCITY ALERT**

## **COVER-UP**

**NEW EVIDENCE OF THREE MASS GRAVES  
IN SOUTH KORDOFAN**

**17 AUGUST 2011**





# Satellite Sentinel Project

## COVER-UP: NEW EVIDENCE OF THREE MASS GRAVES IN SOUTH KORDOFAN

MASS ATROCITY ALERT

REPORTED BY



Harvard  
Humanitarian  
Initiative

### 17 AUGUST 2011 | OVERVIEW

Satellite Sentinel Project (SSP) has identified three new apparent mass grave sites in and around Kadugli in South Kordofan, Sudan based on an analysis of DigitalGlobe satellite imagery and multiple eyewitness accounts. The three alleged mass grave sites identified in this report are separate from and in addition to the three apparent mass graves south of the Tilo School in Kadugli shown in SSP's 14 July 2011 report.

Near the Hagar Al Nar neighborhood of Kadugli, SSP has documented the apparent ongoing burial of white bundles in a remote wooded location over the past month that appear consistent with human remains covered in some form of tarps. In the Murta area, Government of Sudan-aligned forces appear to be concealing the presence of an alleged mass grave underneath a water tower near Kadugli, corroborating claims made in the 15 August UN human rights report on South Kordofan. These actions could constitute efforts by the Government of Sudan to actively conceal evidence of potential war crimes and crimes against humanity. SSP has also corroborated an eyewitness account of an alleged mass grave outside a private garden of mango and lime trees in the Hagar Al Nar neighborhood of Kadugli.

### IN THIS REPORT:

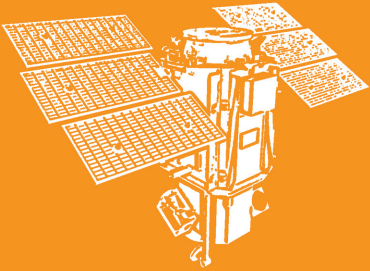
1. APPARENT MASS GRAVE SITE WEST OF HAGAR AL NAR NEIGHBORHOOD, KADUGLI
2. ATTEMPTED CONCEALMENT OF ALLEGED MASS GRAVE IN MURTA AREA, KADUGLI
3. ALLEGED MASS GRAVE SITE NEAR KHALIL YAGROUP GARDEN, KADUGLI

### 1. APPARENT MASS GRAVE SITE WEST OF HAGAR AL NAR NEIGHBORHOOD, KADUGLI

**FINDING |** DigitalGlobe satellite imagery captured on 4 July shows newly disturbed earth at two sites at an isolated location west of the Hagar Al Nar neighborhood in Kadugli. The two sites of disturbed earth are approximately 50 meters apart in a remote wooded area. The sites are located approximately 115 meters below large white writing on the side of a mountain. The Arabic sentences on the mountain translate as, "Kadugli, the town of love and peace," and, "Immunize your children."

At least eight irregular white bundles are present at the two sites in the 4 July image near disturbed earth. The multiple irregular piles of white bundles are present at both areas and vary in size, shape and disposition. Some of the bundles are distinctly shaped like the letters "C" or "J". Objects consistent with a white tent and a green tent are visible approximately 370 meters to the west of the two sites and remain present in imagery through 6 August.

On 4 August, the number of piles increases noticeably and the position of the piles has changed. Two days later, on 6 August, the position and number of white bundles changes yet again. In both the 4 August and 6 August images, the white bundles are in close proximity to the disturbed earth. There is no indication of either disturbed earth or white bundles visible at the same location in DigitalGlobe imagery taken on 2 June, approximately four days before the fighting in Kadugli began.



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**CONCLUSION** | SSP concludes, based on the analysis of DigitalGlobe satellite imagery, that the location west of Hagar Al Nar near the mountain with the writing on it is consistent with a mass grave. Activity at the location corroborates previously reported patterns of body collection and disposal in the Kadugli area which reportedly began after 5 June.

The changing numbers and positions of white bundles over an approximately one month period in a wooded, isolated area, immediately adjacent to disturbed earth, indicate potential burial operations on a large scale. There is no apparent ongoing construction at the location, nor are there roads or residential structures in the immediate vicinity.

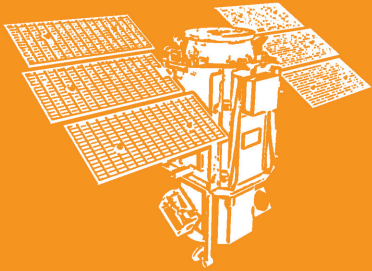
The “J” or “C” shaped white bundles, as well as their approximate dimensions, are consistent with human remains, which can bend in the middle when wrapped in a tarp. Testimony given by Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail of the Episcopal diocese of Kadugli at an emergency hearing held by the International Affairs Subcommittee for Africa, Global Health and Human Rights of the United States House of Representatives on 4 August, that a parishioner had seen bodies being moved to mass graves “wrapped in white body bags or white, plastic tarps.” A 27 July statement by a spokesperson for the foreign ministry of the Government of Sudan claims that some of the corpses in Kadugli were in a decomposed state and required “special handling” during their removal by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.

### 2. ATTEMPTED CONCEALMENT OF ALLEGED MASS GRAVE IN MURTA AREA, KADUGLI

**FINDING** | The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) report released on 15 August states that individuals from the Murta area of Kadugli claimed on 10 June that there were “fresh mass graves” located near the “Kadugli police training centre,” southeast of the Murta bus station. An eyewitness account received by SSP indicates that, as of 9 June, there was a mass grave in the vicinity of a water tower near the police training center. The eyewitness claim communicated to SSP alleges that bodies were being thrown from a “big truck” into “a hole near the water tower.”

Five witnesses told SSP that the Central Reserve Police (CRP), also known as Abu Tira, operate a training center in the vicinity of the UNMIS Compound, in Murta, on the outskirts of Kadugli. Those individuals also said that there is a water tower approximately a kilometer from the CRP training center. They each verified the location of the water tower, the CRP training center, and the bus station on a map. DigitalGlobe imagery captured on 2 June shows a facility consistent with their description of the area.

Imagery taken on 4 August reveals the water tower identified by witnesses was moved approximately four meters east of its previous location shown in the 2 June imagery. In the same image, a large hole is clearly visible at the location where the water tower was previously positioned. Imagery taken on 6 August indicates that the water tower has been moved back to its original position directly over the large hole. In addition, a heavy transport truck of some kind can be seen on the road, apparently departing the facility.



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Disturbed earth is visible around the water tower in imagery captured on 4 August. On 6 August, when the water tower has returned to its original position, the disturbed earth is still visible. There are no major areas of new disturbed earth visible anywhere else in the vicinity of the water tower.

**CONCLUSION** | SSP concludes that Government of Sudan-aligned forces may be attempting to conceal the presence of an alleged mass grave underneath a water tower near the CRP training center in Murta area, Kadugli. The eyewitness claim that bodies were being thrown into a “big hole” on 9 June near a water tower close to the CRP facility in Murta is consistent with the presence of a large pit underneath the water tower’s most recently observed position. The eyewitness claim is corroborated by the allegations made on 10 June of “fresh mass graves” in the vicinity of a police training center in Murta included in the August 2011 UNHCHR report.

The movement of the water tower back and forth over a short distance suggests an apparent effort by Government of Sudan-aligned forces to conceal the clearly discernable pit present there.

### 3. ALLEGED MASS GRAVE SITE NEAR KHALIL YAGROUP GARDEN, KADUGLI

**FINDINGS** | An eyewitness reported directly to SSP that on 9 June, while hiding in the Khalil Yagoup private garden in the Hagar Al Nar neighborhood of Kadugli, the individual witnessed a Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) land cruiser parked in front of the garden. According to the witness, two men wearing what appeared to be SRCS aprons took a dead body out of the vehicle and placed it on the ground. The eyewitness then reported seeing a yellow earth mover with five or six bodies in its bucket, which were subsequently dumped into a hole approximately four meters outside the fence surrounding the garden. The dead bodies had blood on their clothes, according to the eyewitness.

On a map of the area, the eyewitness independently identified the location where the grave was allegedly dug. In imagery captured by DigitalGlobe on 2 June, there are no signs of disturbed earth at the location identified by the eyewitness. The next available satellite image of the site, taken on 4 July, shows disturbed earth at the location the eyewitness identified on the map. Additional imagery captured on 4 and 6 August, shows grass growing on the site the eyewitness claims is a grave.

**CONCLUSION** | SSP concludes, based on analysis of DigitalGlobe satellite imagery, that the disturbed earth at the Khalid Yagoup garden is consistent with the eyewitness report of an alleged mass grave at that location. The eyewitness’ detailed description of the garden and the surrounding area was verified by SSP. Before and after imagery confirms that the earth at the location identified by the witness was disturbed sometime between 2 June and 4 July, which is consistent with the individual’s claims.

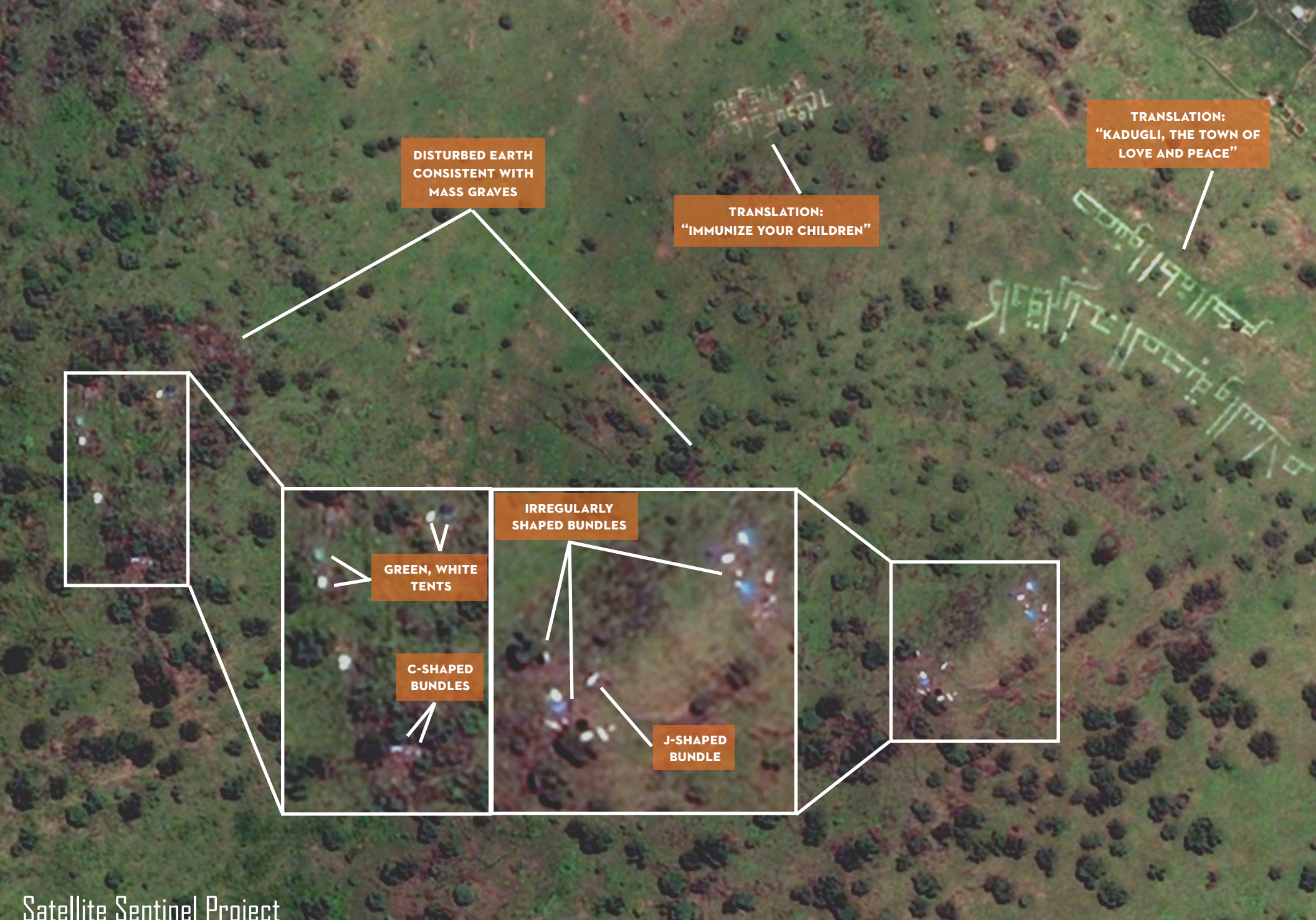
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#### ABOUT THE PROJECT

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.





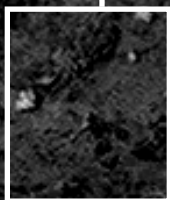
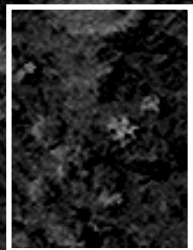


2 JUNE

4 JULY

4 AUGUST

6 AUGUST



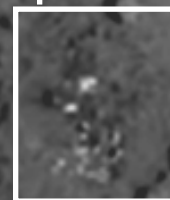
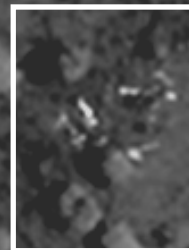
NO BUNDLES  
APPEAR VISIBLE  
AS OF 2 JUNE



C-SHAPED  
BUNDLE



AT LEAST 8  
IRREGULARLY  
SHAPED WHITE  
BUNDLES APPEAR  
AROUND NEWLY  
DISTURBED EARTH



MORE WHITE  
BUNDLES  
APPEAR VISIBLE

BUNDLES  
APPEAR TO  
MOVE RIGHT



BUNDLES,  
INCLUDING BLUE  
TARP, APPEAR  
TO HAVE MOVED  
SLIGHTLY

BUNDLES  
APPEAR TO  
MOVE LEFT

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PROGRESSION: 2 JUNE - 6 AUGUST 2011 | FIG 1B  
APPARENT MASS GRAVE SITE WEST OF HAGAR AL NAR NEIGHBORHOOD | KADUGLI, SOUTH KORDOFAN

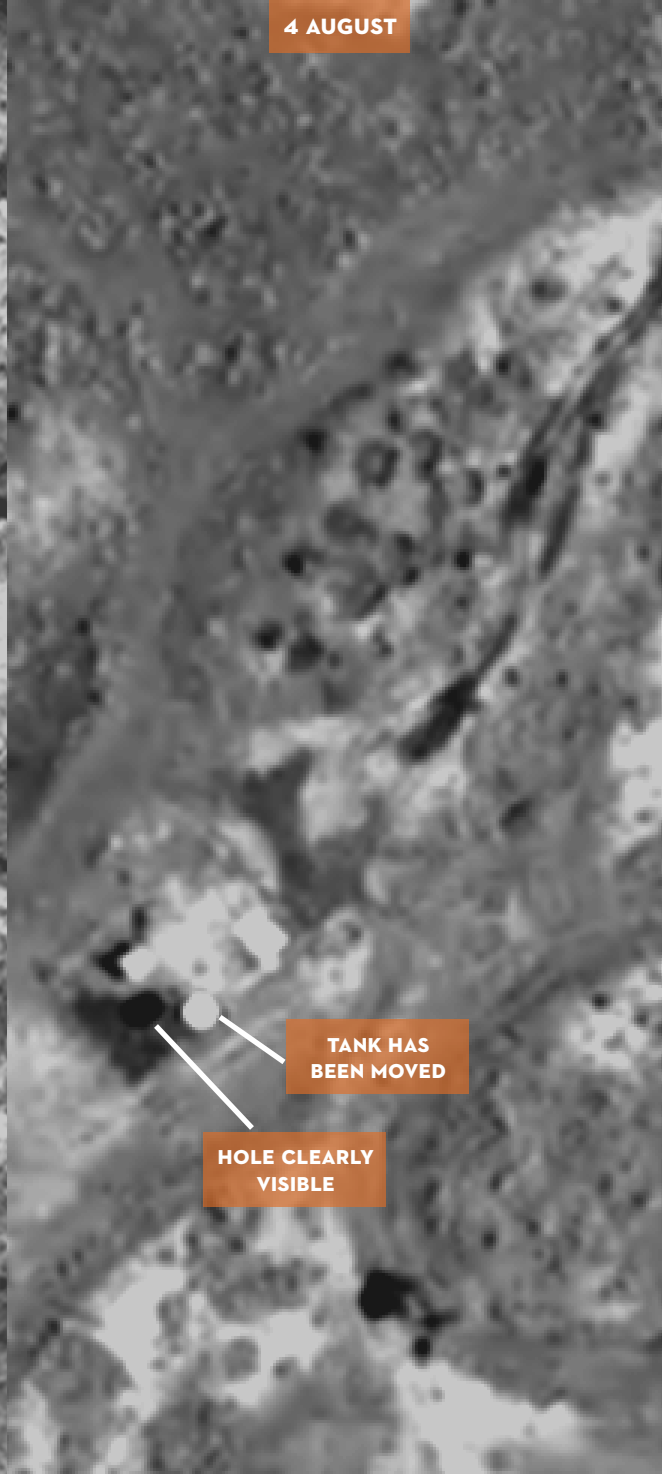


2 JUNE



UNDISTURBED  
EARTH

4 AUGUST



TANK HAS  
BEEN MOVED

HOLE CLEARLY  
VISIBLE

6 AUGUST



HEAVY TRUCK

TANK REPLACED  
OVER HOLE

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PROGRESSION: 2 JUNE - 6 AUGUST 2011 | FIG 2  
ATTEMPTED CONCEALMENT OF ALLEGED MASS GRAVE IN MURTA AREA | KADUGLI, SOUTH KORDOFAN



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KHALIL YAGROUP  
GARDEN

OVERGROWTH VISIBLE ON  
AREA OF DISTURBED EARTH

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6 AUGUST 2011 | FIG 3A  
ALLEGED MASS GRAVE SITE NEAR KHALIL YAGROUP GARDEN | KADUGLI, SOUTH KORDOFAN



2 JUNE



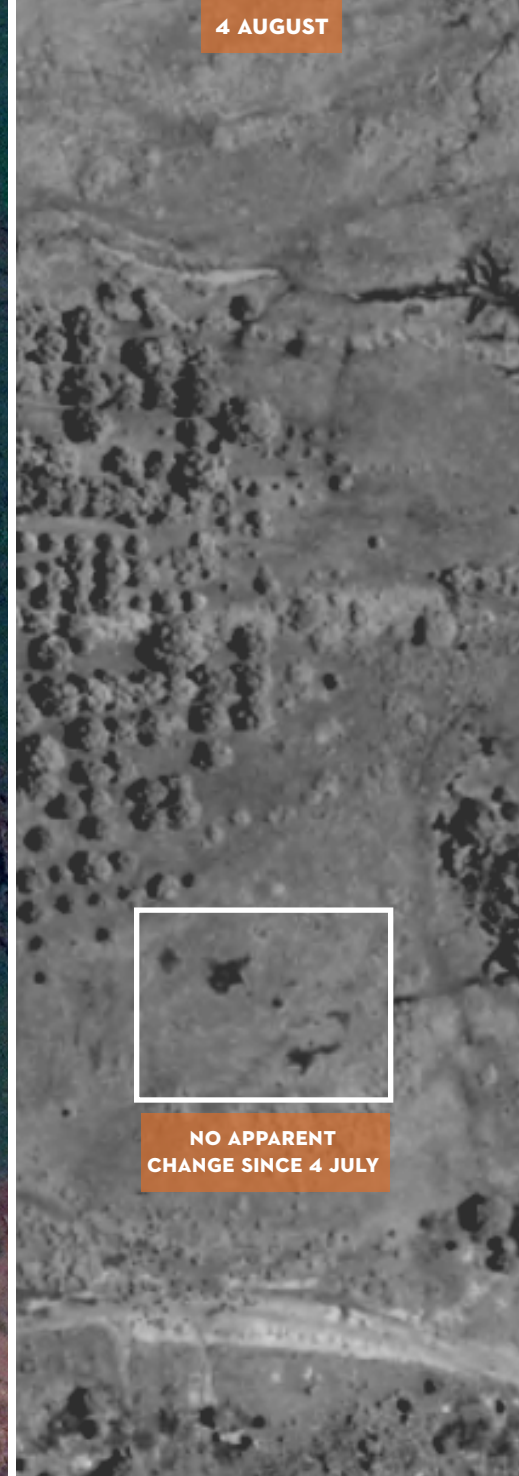
NO DISTURBANCE  
CLEARLY VISIBLE

4 JULY



FIRST SIGN OF  
DISTURBED EARTH

4 AUGUST



NO APPARENT  
CHANGE SINCE 4 JULY

6 AUGUST



OVERGROWTH  
VISIBLE ON AREA OF  
DISTURBED EARTH

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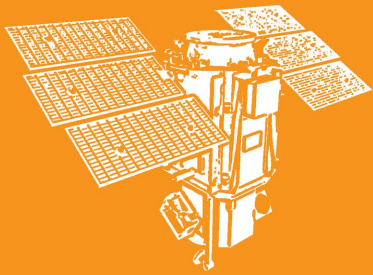


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PROGRESSION: 2 JUNE - 6 AUGUST 2011 | FIG 3B

ALLEGED MASS GRAVE SITE NEAR KHALIL YAGROUP GARDEN | KADUGLI, SOUTH KORDOFAN





# 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 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.

Google and Trellon 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).

Press Inquiries: Contact Jonathan Hutson at [jhutson@enoughproject.org](mailto:jhutson@enoughproject.org) | 202.386.1618



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