

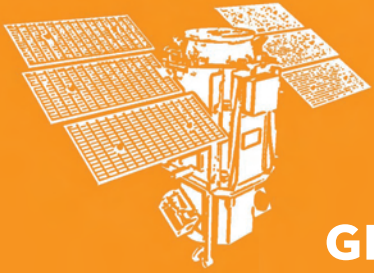


Satellite Sentinel Project

ALERT: POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF LAWS OF WAR

LOOTING ABYEI GROUND AND SATELLITE CORROBORATION

26 MAY 2011



Satellite Sentinel Project

LOOTING ABYEI: GROUND AND SATELLITE CORROBORATION

ALERT: POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF LAWS OF WAR

PREPARED BY



Harvard
Humanitarian
Initiative

26 MAY 2011

Satellite Sentinel Project (SSP) analysis of DigitalGlobe satellite imagery corroborates reports of looting by Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Misseriya militia in Abyei. A 24 May satellite image shows vehicles traveling on the Diffra road north of Abyei carrying what appear to be irregular payloads (Fig 1). Ground photographs recently released by the Enough Project and analyzed in this report by SSP show both uniformed SAF forces and armed irregular forces loading vehicles with items apparently taken from homes and other civilian buildings in Abyei. The irregular payloads present on the vehicles heading away from Abyei (shown in Figure 1) are consistent with the photographs and reports of people from northern Sudan looting Abyei town (Figures 2-4). SSP has also identified a new suspected SAF encampment in the vicinity of where the vehicles were traveling, several miles north of Abyei town, which is evidence consistent with SAF control of that area (Fig 5).



**23 MAY 2011 | PHOTOS TAKEN IN ABYEI TOWN
CORROBORATE REPORTS OF LOOTING AND RAZING**

The evidence of alleged looting by apparent uniformed SAF forces and armed, northern-aligned militias represents a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions and can constitute a war crime. The Geneva Conventions prohibits looting, stating: “Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations,” according to Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Under international humanitarian law, the Government of Sudan has a responsibility to maintain law and order in Abyei and prevent its forces and all armed actors operating in areas of its control from wanton theft or destruction of property. Sudan is party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, as well as the First and Second Additional Protocols.

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 and the Enough Project. All non-satellite imagery from Abyei town provided by the Enough Project. Bottom cover image from razed village of Todach provided by Tim Freccia for the Enough Project.



2 LIGHT VEHICLES 200 METERS
TO THE NORTH APPEAR LOADED
WITH MATERIAL

A TRUCK OR LIGHT
VEHICLE APPARENTLY LOADED
WITH PEOPLE AND/OR MATERIAL

LIGHT VEHICLE,
LOADED

THE ENOUGH PROJECT obtained exclusive, eyewitness photos of organized looting and razing in Abyei town, Sudan. Abyei town is currently occupied by the Sudan Armed Forces and northern-aligned militias. The photos were taken on Monday, 23 May as northern forces invaded the disputed border region of Abyei.

SOLDIER IN UNIFORM
CONSISTENT WITH SAF



MATERIAL CONSISTENT
WITH REPORTS OF LOOTING

SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM
CONSISTENT WITH SAF

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23 MAY 2011 | FIG 3

SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM TRAVEL THROUGH LOOTED AREA | ABYEI TOWN



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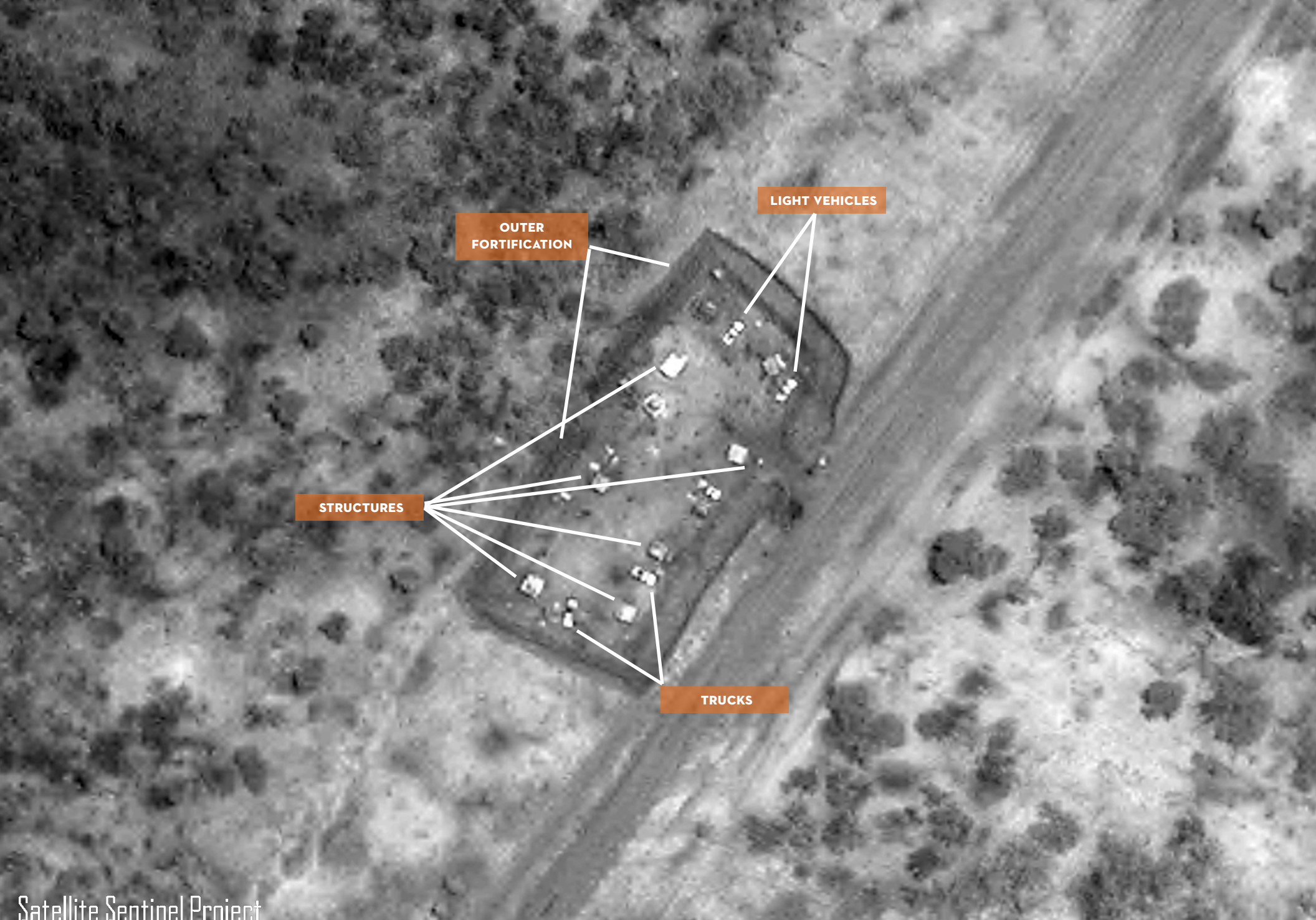
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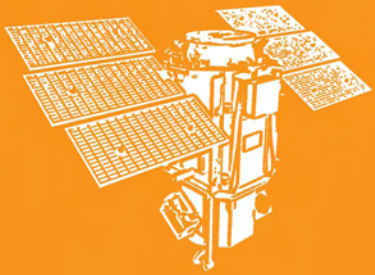
DIGITALGLOBE



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23 MAY 2011 | FIG 4
TUKULS AND OTHER STRUCTURES BURN THROUGHOUT THE TOWN | ABYEI TOWN





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.

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