ATROCITY ALERT

RSF Closed Berm Exit and Ongoing Body Disposal Operations in El-Fasher

6 November 2025

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Humanitarian Research Lab

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The Faculty Director of the Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) at the Yale School of Public Health is Dr. Kaveh Khoshnood. The analysis and production of this report was overseen by HRL Executive Director Nathaniel Raymond and Caitlin Howarth. Analysis and report production was conducted by the Humanitarian Research Lab's Conflict Analytics team.

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I. Key Findings

The Yale School of Public Health's Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) assesses that RSF has closed a critical exit point used by civilians to escape El-Fasher, North Darfur. Additionally, three instances of possible body disposal are visible in satellite imagery in and around the city. This possible body disposal includes: one instance of possible bodies dumped on the side of a road and burning objects that may be consistent with bodies at the Mellit Gate berm exit point and at Saudi Hospital. Saudi Hospital was the site of an alleged mass killing that Yale HRL corroborated in past reporting through the identification of objects with human dimensions at the site. Objects are removed from the ground of the RSF-controlled Children's Hospital after Yale HRL identified multiple mass killings at the location.

RSF closing Garni Gate, 2-4 November 2025 (13.707883, 25.257496)

RSF has closed a critical escape route through the berm from El-Fasher to Garni, North Darfur. Satellite imagery collected on 4 November 2025 shows that RSF has walled in their escape point crossing the berm toward Garni. This heavily reinforced traffic control point had multiple bollards formed from dirt visible in satellite imagery on 2 November 2025. The earth has now been pushed, likely by a mechanical earth mover, to close the berm from both sides in satellite imagery collected on 4 November 2025.

These actions serve to further entrap civilians inside El-Fasher who have been subjected to months of siege, famine, and targeted attacks, and to systematic mass killings over the past ten days.

Evidence of RSF Burning Objects that May be Consistent with Bodies

Yale HRL identifies two instances of burning of objects that may be consistent with bodies at RSF's berm control point at Mellit Gate and at Saudi Hospital in satellite imagery collected on 6 November 2025. The practice of burning bodies is not consistent with Islamic burial practices. The apparent immolation of objects that may be consistent with human remains complicates any future effort to count the number of people killed since the fall of El-Fasher and to identify and return the remains to family members.

Burning of Objects at Saudi Hospital, 6 November 2025 (13.629331, 25.329449): Yale HRL identifies the burning of objects at Saudi Hospital that may be consistent with bodies in satellite imagery collected on 6 November 2025.

Yale HRL identifies a cluster of white oblong objects in a grouping near main hospital buildings at Saudi Hospital in satellite imagery from 1 November 2025. The white objects are visibly charred with black smoke visible in satellite imagery on 6 November 2025. Yale HRL does not provide individual dimensions of the objects visible in satellite

imagery due to the fact that they are very closely positioned, however the shape of the objects may be consistent with bodies.

Yale HRL first identified objects with dimensions consistent with bodies outside Saudi Hospital in satellite imagery collected on 28 October 2025.[1] Those objects were removed and flatbed truck activity was visible north of the area in satellite imagery collected 30 October, 31 October, and 2 November 2025.[2] Videos geolocated to the Saudi Hospital and ground reporting has stated that RSF killed as many as 460 people at Saudi Hospital after capturing El-Fasher.[3] RSF claimed on 2 November that the hospital was operational.[4]

Burning of Objects at Mellit Gate Berm Control Point, 1-6 November 2025 (13.70185, 25.37438): Yale HRL identifies activity that may be consistent with the burning of bodies at Mellit Gate. Yale HRL identifies a cluster of objects at RSF's reinforced berm crossing at Mellit Gate in satellite imagery collected on 30 October and 1 November 2025. A cluster of objects in the same location are burning in imagery collected on 6 November 2025.

This reinforced berm crossing is north of Mellit Gate along a well-used dirt road and was created in June 2025 and reinforced with earthen bollards or dividers between 26 September and 4 October 2025. This area is well-controlled by RSF and was used as a crossing for a herd of camel on 25 October 2025. Satellite imagery collected on 30 October 2025 shows multiple clusters of objects and material newly present along the berm, or earthen walls, on the El-Fasher side of the berm. They are present alongside a parked contingent of about 15 light technical vehicles used extensively by RSF. Other vehicles and activity is visible inside the bollards of the berm crossing. Due to the resolution of available imagery and the size and orientation of the objects it is not possible to confirm what the objects precisely are.

Yale HRL has identified at least seven groupings of objects consistent with bodies along dirt roads out of El-Fasher toward RSF's berm that walls in the city. Yale HRL has reviewed multiple videos filmed by RSF soldiers themselves systematically executing people, often men, along areas that are bermed and shooting people while fleeing.[5] RSF's Mellit Gate berm crossing is also one of the few formal RSF-controlled escape routes out of El-Fasher. People arriving in Tawilah and other areas have repeatedly reported that RSF has executed people at berms and when crossing, including separating out groups of people, often specifically men, and executing or disappearing them.[6]

This activity may be consistent with burning bodies and other forms of body disposal.

Possible Body Disposal off Road between El-Fasher and Garni, 3-4 November 2025 (13.718841,25.278346)

Yale HRL identifies two light-colored objects newly visible in satellite imagery collected between 3-4 November 2025 just off the paved El-Fasher-to-Kutum Road. These white

objects measure 1.1 and 1.6 meters respectively. The larger object appears to be curved or have a bend. These objects may be consistent with human remains that are smaller in size, human beings bent due to ligature, or bodies of smaller animals.

These light-colored objects are located approximately 40 meters off the paved El-Fasher-to-Kutum road. They are at a possible junction with a dirt road or trafficked area; tracking consistent with ruts made from repeated vehicle travel is present perpendicular and leading to the El-Fasher-to-Kutum Road where these objects are located. These objects are within approximately 600 meters from the berm that walls in El-Fasher and approximately 5 kilometers from the RSF-created control point on the El-Fasher-to-Kutum road out of El-Fasher.

Objects Removed from RSF-controlled Former Children's Hospital El-Fasher, 1-6 November 2025 (13.621739,25.383059)

The grounds of the former Children's Hospital have been cleared of objects, including dark objects consistent with human bodies and light-toned objects, in satellite imagery collected on 3 and 6 November 2025. The grounds of the facility have a consistent but textured dark color visible in satellite imagery collected on 3 November 2025. The grounds of the facility are the same color but have a smooth texture in satellite imagery collected on 6 November 2025.This activity may be consistent with systematically grating or ploughing the surface and then flattening it, including possibly with earth movers.

Yale HRL had identified at least two potential mass killings on the grounds of the RSF-controlled former Children's Hospital El-Fasher, as well as body disposal activities and a mass grave just outside the facility in reporting since RSF captured El-Fasher (*See previous reports on alleged mass killings and body disposal for more details*).[7]

II. Methodology

Yale HRL utilizes data fusion methodologies of open source and remote sensing data analysis. Yale HRL produced this report through the cross-corroboration of open source data, including social media, local news reporting, multimedia, and other reports, and remote sensing data, including satellite imagery and thermal sensor data. Researchers analyzed open source data across social media, news reports, and other publicly available sources to identify, chrono- and geolocate, and verify incidents. Analysts assess the credibility and reliability of open source data based on a source's level of detail, past credibility, and the corroboration of other independent sources. Remote sensing and satellite imagery analysis relies on multi-temporal change detection, which involves the comparison of two or more satellite images of the same area captured at different times to detect differences in coloration, visual properties, and presence, absence, or positional change of objects across the images.

Limitations

There are significant limitations to the data fusion methodology. The information environment in Sudan does not have the breadth of data available in other locations and there is likely a significant reporting bias for those who provide open source reporting. The tools and techniques present significant challenges to assess activities such as extrajudicial detention, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), and conflict-related casualties, particularly in environments with limited data. Satellite imagery analysis is limited by available imagery over time and space. Available nadir angles of satellite imagery can produce challenges to assess structural damage, until multiple angles and ground-level photographic and video materials emerge to help inform the analysis. Image resolution level can also limit the analyst's ability to perceive the full extent of damage present.

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[1] Raymond, Nathaniel A., Howarth, Caitlin et al. "HUMAN SECURITY EMERGENCY Day Two of RSF Control: Mass Killings Continue in El-Fasher." 28 October 2025. Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale School of Public Health: New Haven. https://files-profile.medicine.yale.edu/documents/b9c14991-6b22-492e-9e16-f903d25d9b49

[2] Raymond, Nathaniel A. and Caitlin Howarth et al. "Atrocity Alert: RSF Mass Killings Persist in El-Fasher." 31 October 2025. Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale School of Public Health: New Haven. https://files-profile.medicine.yale.edu/documents/bc5a6e36-8da3-452a-8ad9-18eac96ec064;

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[3] Mohanad (@MohanadElbalal) "Reports emerging that RSF militiamen have entered the Saudi teaching hospital in Al Fashir and killed all the sick and wounded." X, formerly known as Twitter, 28 October 2025. https://x.com/MohanadElbalal/status/1983231462250819908, archived at https://perma.cc/G7QQ-TEML

El-Fasher Commitees Resistence of Coordination "لك بحرجلا نيباصملاو لخاد يفشتسملا يدوعسلا" Facebook. 28 October 2025. https://www.facebook.com/share/1BgBTGHy2e/ archived at https://archive.ph/myWDM .

[4] ردا "Facebook, Arabiya Al 31 .على فيديوهات مستشفى الفاشر :قوات الدعم السريع تقول إنها تعالج جرحى الجيش السوداني ً." October 2025. https://www.facebook.com/AlArabiya/videos/%D8%B1%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%8B-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%B1-%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B9-%D8%AA%D9%82%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%A5%D9%86%D9%87%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC-%D8%AC%D8%B1%D8%AD%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3/2053725785460303/, archived at https://perma.cc/5KMS-VJZF

The Sudan Times, “RSF releases footage from wards at Saudi Hospital in El-Fasher” The Sudan Times. 31 October 2025. https://thesudantimes.com/sudan/rsf-releasesfootage-from-wards-at-saudi-hospital-in-el-fasher/, archived at https://perma.cc/SU2M-WBC9;

[5] *Widespread reporting including:*
Eltahir, Nafisa, “Men shot by the hundreds, disappeared after Sudanese city falls to paramilitaries, witnesses say.” Reuters, 31 October 2025. Available at https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/men-shot-by-hundreds-disappeared-aftersudanese-city-falls-paramilitaries-2025-10-31/ archived at https://perma.cc/5TDA2XKF;

[6] *Widespread reporting including:*

Eltahir, Nafisa, “Men shot by the hundreds, disappeared after Sudanese city falls to paramilitaries, witnesses say.” Reuters, 31 October 2025. Available at https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/men-shot-by-hundreds-disappeared-aftersudanese-city-falls-paramilitaries-2025-10-31/ archived at https://perma.cc/5TDA2XKF;

Sudan War Monitor “Investigation: The Killing Fields of El Fasher” *Sudan War Monitor,* 3 November 2025. https://sudanwarmonitor.com/p/rsf-ethnic-based-killings-in-fasher, archived at https://perma.cc/J339-CHAJ;

Elbagir, Yousra “Thousands targeted in ‘killing fields’ around Sudanese city in paramilitary group’s hands” *Sky News* 4 November 2025. https://news.sky.com/story/tens-of-thousands-missing-in-killing-fields-around-city-in-hands-of-sudans-paramilitary-group-13463324,

[7] Raymond, Nathaniel A., Howarth, Caitlin et al. “HUMAN SECURITY EMERGENCY Day Two of RSF Control: Mass Killings Continue in El-Fasher.” 28 October 2025. Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale School of Public Health: New Haven. https://files-profile.medicine.yale.edu/documents/b9c14991-6b22-492e-9e16-f903d25d9b49

Garni Gate, El-Fasher

BERM ACCESS CLOSURE OBSERVED BETWEEN 02-04 NOVEMBER 2025

13.707883, 25.257496

Analysis of imagery collected between 02 and 04 November 2025 shows that the western access checkpoint in the berm surrounding El-Fasher has had its entry and exit points to the city closed by means of new earthen berm constructions.

This now-closed access point is situated on a road leading to the village of Garni, North Darfur.

02 November 2025 © 2025 Vantor

04 November 2025 © 2025 Vantor

Saudi Hospital, El-Fasher

BURNING OBJECTS OBSERVED ON 06 NOVEMBER 2025

13.629331, 25.329449

Analysis of satellite imagery initially collected between 31 October and 01 November 2025 over the south side of Saudi Hospital in El-Fasher shows the new presence of a grouping or cluster of white oblong objects near the main building of the hospital.

Imagery later collected on 06 November 2025 shows the cluster of objects are visibly charred and emitting black smoke, indicative of the cluster actively burning in the imagery.

Additionally observed in 06 November imagery is the new presence of a white closed-back panel truck or SUV parked behind the main building, and a white pickup truck parked roadside outside of the south entrance of the hospital.

31 October 2025 © 2025 Vantor

01 November 2025 © 2025 Vantor

06 November 2025 © 2025 Vantor

Mellit Gate, El-Fasher

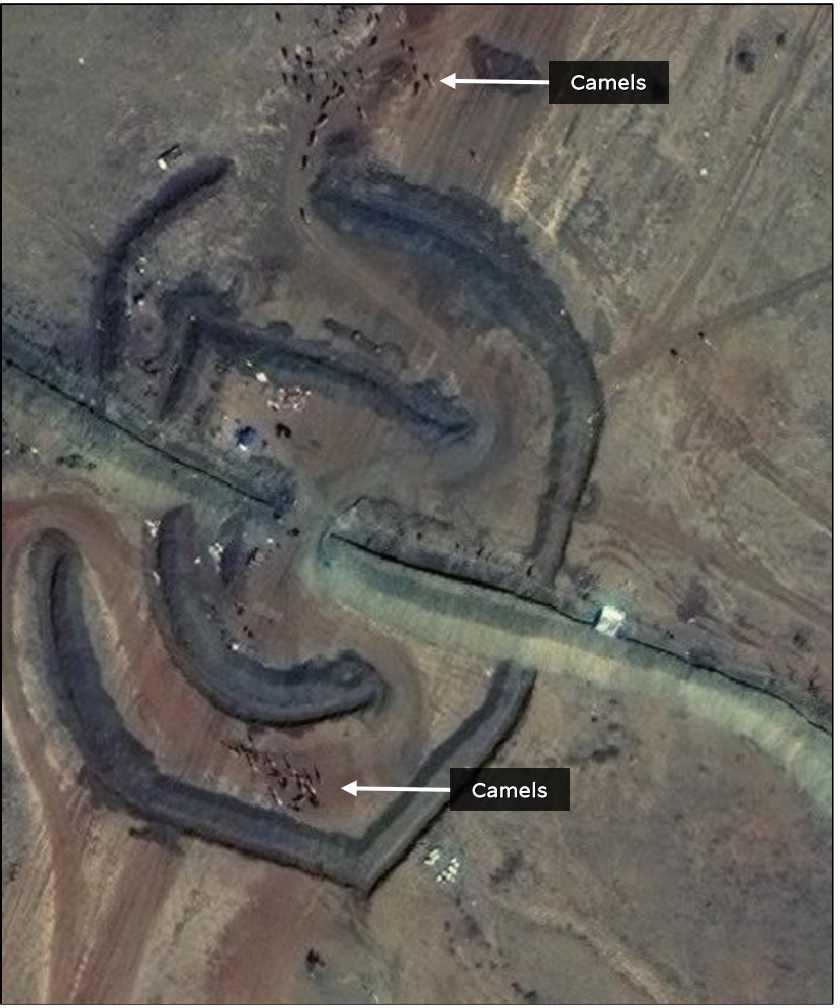
BURNING OBJECTS OBSERVED ON 06 NOVEMBER 2025

13.70185, 25.37438

Analysis of satellite imagery initially collected between 25 October and 30 October 2025 of the Mellit Gate, the northern checkpoint in the berm surrounding El-Fasher, shows on 30 October a new presence of objects and material placed within the trench of a berm on the southern side checkpoint. Additionally, approximately 15 light technical vehicles are observed gathered next to the dumping site at the trench.

Previous imagery of this location collected on 25 October 2025 shows several camels on both the northern and southern sides of the berm making passage at the checkpoint. The objects and material also remains visible in the trench in imagery collected 01 November 2025.

Imagery collected on 06 November 2025 shows the objects and material visibly charred and emitting black smoke, indicative of them actively burning in the imagery.



25 October 2025 © 2025 Vantor

30 October 2025 © 2025 Vantor

06 November 2025 © 2025 Vantor

El-Fasher to Kutum Road, El-Fasher

LIGHT-COLORED OBJECTS OBSERVED BETWEEN 03-04 NOVEMBER 2025

Analysis of satellite imagery collected between 03-04 November over the Kutum-to-El-Fasher Road, approximately 5.4 km southeast of Garni, shows light-colored objects that approximately measure 1.1-1.6 meters newly present in imagery collected on 04 November that were not present in prior imagery. These objects are present in imagery collected through at least 6 November 2025.

13.718841,25.278346

03 November 2025 © 2025 Vantor

04 November 2025 © 2025 Vantor

Former Children's Hospital, El-Fasher

REMOVAL OF DARK COLORED OBJECTS OBSERVED BETWEEN 03-06 NOVEMBER 2025

Analysis of satellite imagery collected on 03 and 06 November 2025 of the former Children's Hospital in El-Fasher shows the removal of clusters of dark colored objects previously visible in imagery collected on 01 November 2025.

The surface of the ground is the same color compared to prior imagery collected on 03 November 2025, but now has a smoother texture in satellite imagery collected on 06 November 2025. This activity may be consistent with systematically grating or ploughing the surface and then flattening it, including possibly with earth movers.

13.621739,25.383059

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