

HUMAN SECURITY EMERGENCY

El-Fasher Falls to RSF: Evidence of Mass Killing

27 October 2025

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Humanitarian Research Lab

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Citation | Raymond, Nathaniel A., Caitlin Howarth, et al. "HUMAN SECURITY EMERGENCY El-Fasher Falls to RSF: Evidence of Mass Killing," 27 October 2025. Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale School of Public Health: New Haven.

I. Key Findings

The Yale School of Public Health's Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) finds evidence consistent with Rapid Support Forces (RSF) conducting alleged mass killings after capturing El-Fasher, North Darfur, according to satellite imagery analysis collected today, 27 October 2025. Yale HRL corroborates the fall of El-Fasher to RSF through the fusion of open source and remote sensing data.

Evidence of RSF Conducting Mass Killings

Yale HRL has observed RSF vehicles deployed in tactical formations consistent with house-to-house clearance operations in Daraja Oula neighborhood; civilians were confirmed to be seeking refuge in Daraja Oula as recently as last week. These activities include the blocking of side streets with vehicles and the presence of gun-mounted vehicles. Imagery analysis shows objects consistent with the size of human bodies on the ground near RSF vehicles, including at least five instances of reddish earth discoloration. At least three of the reddish instances have objects nearby measuring approximately 1.3-2.0 meters, consistent in dimension with human bodies. House-to-house clearance operations are approximately 250 meters from Al Safiya mosque – which RSF attacked in a drone strike on 19 September 2025 that killed approximately 78 people¹ – and slightly northwest of the Saudi Hospital.

Yale HRL identifies objects consistent with bodies near the earthen walls (berm) surrounding El-Fasher; these observations are consistent with reports of executions near the berm and the killing of people attempting to flee the city by crossing the berm. These objects are consistent with the size range of adult human bodies and are not present in previous imagery.

Yale HRL has identified multiple credible reports of mass killings in El-Fasher across social media and open sources.² There are multiple reports of civilians dying while fleeing El-Fasher, including due to wounds incurred by RSF. Yale HRL will continue to investigate and report on these findings.

People Visible Fleeing El-Fasher

Additionally, groups of people can be seen visible leaving the city south toward RSF-controlled Zamzam IDP camp and west toward Tawilah corroborating reports of civilian flight from El-Fasher in recent hours.³

Large groups of objects consistent with people are visible south of El-Fasher on the B-26 road to RSF-controlled Zamzam, formerly one of the largest Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Sudan. This area is totally under RSF control and has been used as a base of operations for RSF.

Yale HRL also identifies groups of people visible west of El-Fasher toward the berm that surrounds the city.

RSF Control of All Major SAF Military Installations

Lastly, Yale HRL confirms RSF control of the SAF Sixth Division headquarters based on the presence of RSF-consistent vehicles and cross-corroboration with publicly available vehicles. Significant damage is visible at the SAF Sixth Division Headquarters in satellite imagery collected on 26 September 2025 and additional RSF-consistent vehicles are present in satellite imagery on 27 September 2025.

RSF appears to have deployed main battle tanks (MBTs) consistent with T-55 tanks in areas under its control. Two turreted vehicles, one measuring approximately 6.2 meters long and 3.7meters wide, and up to 9 meters in length with its turret are consistent with T-55 and a second similar vehicle measuring approximately 6.3meters long and 3 meters wide and 7.6m in length with turret are visible in satellite imagery collected on 27 October 2025 near the 157th Artillery Brigade. Yale HRL confirms RSF's control in the airfield in El-Fasher based on the absence of SAF vehicles and identifies damage at SAF's former artillery base in satellite imagery collected on 27 October 2025.⁴

II. Human Security Analysis

In July 2023, Yale HRL met privately with the members of the United Nations Security Council to warn that El-Fasher would likely come under siege in the months ahead. More than 2 years later, El-Fasher has fallen after nearly a year and a half of siege conditions by RSF which has resulted in the carpet-bombing of large swaths of the city by Sudan Armed Forces, an unknown number of civilian casualties caused by both sides, and almost 15 months of IPC-5 Famine conditions in areas caused by RSF's siege of the city.⁵ At this moment, the worst fears of those initial warnings, expressed privately to governments and the United Nations as well as publicly through the media and reports, are being realized. El-Fasher appears to be in a systematic and intentional process of ethnic cleansing of Fur, Zaghawa, and Berti indigenous non-Arab Communities through forced displacement and summary execution.

The world must act immediately to put the maximum amount of pressure on the RSF and its backers, specifically the UAE, to end the killing now. The actions by RSF presented in this report may be consistent with war crimes and crimes against humanity (CAH) and may rise to the level of genocide. Yale HRL has produced more than one report every 10 days for the length of the siege of El-Fasher, documenting in detail the events and actions that have led to the current catastrophe. The nations of the world might be able to say that they could not have stopped it, but they cannot reasonably say that they did not know.

III. 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. Coordinates have been provided for each location to facilitate the chrono- and geolocation of potential evidence, including video, photographs, audio, and eyewitness accounts.

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.

¹ Plett-Usher, Barbara and Peter Mwai, "Drone strike on Sudan mosque kills 78, medic tells BBC," BBC News, 19 September 2025. Available at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp8wzzjze8xo>, archived at <https://perma.cc/PUJ6-QC8Z>. 2 UNICEF, "At least 11 children reportedly killed in attack on a mosque in Sudan's North Darfur State," 22 September 2025. Available at <https://www.unicef.ca/en/pressrelease/least-11-children-reportedly-killed-attack-mosque-sudans-north-darfur-state>, archived at <https://perma.cc/EST6-VPDC>. 3 Sudan War Monitor, "Worshippers massacred in RSF drone strike on Mosque in El Fasher: Mass civilian casualties deepen fears of ethnic cleansing in North Darfur," 19 September 2025. Available at <https://sudanwarmonitor.com/p/worshippersmassacred-in-rsf-drone>, archived at <https://perma.cc/PLW3-4QGD>.

² Multiple credible reports across open sources and local media including: DARFUR NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (@DNforHR) “🇸🇩 Update from North Darfur October 26, 2025” X, formerly known as Twitter, <https://x.com/DNforHR/status/1982457555935797252>, archived at <https://perma.cc/8T5F-WRUQ>; Radio Dabanga “” Radio Dabanga, 27 October 2025, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a3%d9%85%d9%85-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%85%d8%aa%d8%ad%d8%af%d8%a9-%d8%aa%d8%b7%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a8-%d8%a8%d9%85%d9%85%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%aa-%d8%a7%d9%85%d9%86%d8%a9-%d9%84%d9%84%d9%81%d8%a7%d8%b1>, archived at <https://perma.cc/4HL8-LZ68>; Sudan Tribune “أحزاب وكيانات حقوقية تندد بانتهاكات «الدعم السريع» في الفاشر - سودان تريبيون” Sudan Tribune, 27 October 2025. <https://sudantribune.net/article/306464>, archived at <https://perma.cc/RJ9P-SJN5>; Radio Dabanga, “قوات الدعم السريع تعلن إحكام سيطرتها على الفاشر وسط اتهامات بارتكاب انتهاكات واسعة” Radio Dabanga, 27 October 2025. <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%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%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%86-%d8%a5%d8%ad%d9%83%d8%a7%d9%85-%d8%b3%d9%8a%d8%b7%d8%b1%d8%aa%d9%87%d8%a7-%d8%b9>, archived at <https://perma.cc/EKA8-DBFJ>; Radio Dabanga, “نزوح أكثر من 5 آلاف شخص من الفاشر” Radio Dabanga, 27 October 2025 <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%d9%86%d8%b2%d9%88%d8%ad-%d8%a3%d9%83%d8%ab%d8%b1-%d9%85%d9%86-5-%d8%a2%d9%84%d8%a7%d9%81-%d8%b4%d8%ae%d8%b5-%d9%85%d9%86-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%81%d8%a7%d8%b4%d8%b1> archived at <https://perma.cc/2DKK-DBCN> Multiple credible reports across social media and local media including: DARFUR NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (@DNforHR) “🇸🇩 Update from North Darfur October 26, 2025” X, formerly known as Twitter, <https://x.com/DNforHR/status/1982457555935797252>, archived at <https://perma.cc/8T5F-WRUQ>; Radio Dabanga “” Radio Dabanga, 27 October 2025, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a3%d9%85%d9%85-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%85%d8%aa%d8%ad%d8%af%d8%a9-%d8%aa%d8%b7%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a8-%d8%a8%d9%85%d9%85%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%aa-%d8%a7%d9%85%d9%86%d8%a9-%d9%84%d9%84%d9%81%d8%a7%d8%b1>, archived at <https://perma.cc/4HL8-LZ68>; Sudan Tribune “أحزاب وكيانات حقوقية تندد بانتهاكات «الدعم السريع» في الفاشر - سودان تريبيون” Sudan Tribune, 27 October 2025. <https://sudantribune.net/article/306464>, archived at <https://perma.cc/RJ9P-SJN5>; Radio Dabanga, “قوات الدعم السريع تعلن إحكام سيطرتها على الفاشر وسط اتهامات بارتكاب انتهاكات واسعة” Radio Dabanga, 27 October 2025. <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%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%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%86-%d8%a5%d8%ad%d9%83%d8%a7%d9%85-%d8%b3%d9%8a%d8%b7%d8%b1%d8%aa%d9%87%d8%a7-%d8%b9>, archived at <https://perma.cc/EKA8-DBFJ>; Radio Dabanga, “نزوح أكثر من 5 آلاف شخص من الفاشر” Radio Dabanga, 27 October 2025 <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%d9%86%d8%b2%d9%88%d8%ad-%d8%a3%d9%83%d8%ab%d8%b1-%d9%85%d9%86-5-%d8%a2%d9%84%d8%a7%d9%81-%d8%b4%d8%ae%d8%b5-%d9%85%d9%86-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%81%d8%a7%d8%b4%d8%b1> archived at <https://perma.cc/2DKK-DBCN>

³ Multiple sources, including: Radio Dabanga “نزوح 26 ألف شخص من الفاشر خلال يومين ودعوات دولية ومحلية” *Radio Dabanga*, 27 October 2025, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%d9%86%d8%b2%d9%88%d8%ad-26-%d8%a3%d9%84%d9%81-%d8%b4%d8%ae%d8%b5-%d9%85%d9%86-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%81%d8%a7%d8%b4%d8%b1-%d8%ae%d9%84%d8%a7%d9%84-%d9%8a%d9%88%d9%85%d9%8a%d9%86-%d9%88%d8%af%d8%b9%d9%88>, archived at <https://perma.cc/RBF9-5ES7>; Sudan Tribune “أسرة نازحة تفر إلى منطقة “طويلة” هربًا من العنف في الفاشر (831)” *Sudan Tribune*, 27 October 2025, <https://sudantribune.net/article/306462>, archived at <https://perma.cc/R7VX-GJ25>; Sudan Tribune “أسرة نازحة تفر إلى منطقة “طويلة” هربًا (831)” *Sudan Tribune*, 27 October 2025, <https://sudantribune.net/article/306462>, archived at <https://perma.cc/R7VX-GJ25>

⁴ Multiple sources, including Radio Dabanga, “البرهان يؤكد سقوط الفاشر وانسحاب الجيش من المدينة” *Radio Dabanga*, 27 October 2025, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a8%d8%b1%d9%87%d8%a7%d9%86-%d9%8a%d8%a4%d9%83%d8%af-%d8%b3%d9%82%d9%88%d8%b7-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%81%d8%a7%d8%b4%d8%b1-%d9%88%d8%a7%d9%86%d8%b3%d8%ad%d8%a7%d8%a8-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ac%d9%8a>, archived at <https://perma.cc/4K4R-TBPV>; Sudan Tribune, “الدعم السريع تعلن سيطرتها على قيادة الفرقة السادسة مشاة بمدينة الفاشر - سودان تربيون” *Sudan Tribune*, 26 October 2025, <https://sudantribune.net/article/306421>, archived at <https://perma.cc/N75E-CFZ8>; Sudan Tribune, “منأوي يقر بسقوط الفاشر وسط قلق أممي حيال أوضاع المدنيين” *Sudan Tribune*, 26 October 2025, <https://sudantribune.net/article/306421>, archived at <https://perma.cc/5TGQ-JHLC>; Darfur24 “” Darfur24, 27 October 2025, <https://www.darfur24.com/2025/10/27/%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a8%d8%b1%d9%87%d8%a7%d9%86-%d9%8a%d9%83%d8%b4%d9%81-%d9%85%d9%88%d8%a7%d9%81%d9%82%d8%aa%d9%87-%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%89-%d8%a7%d9%86%d8%b3%d8%ad%d8%a7%d8%a8-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ac%d9%8a%d8%b4/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/9ENX-A5MR>.

⁵ IPC, “Famine Review Committee: Sudan, December 2024,” Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). December 2024: Rome. Available at https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Famine_Review_Committee_Report_Sudan_Dec2024.pdf

**Darja Oula, El-Fasher
27 October 2025**

Cluster of objects consistent with the size of human bodies and reddish ground discoloration

13.6325556, 25.3259461

In imagery collected over Darja Oula on 27 October 2025, the presence of clusters of light and dark colored objects consistent with the size of human bodies, reddish ground discoloration, and vehicles are visible. These observations are not seen in prior satellite imagery.

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27 October 2025 © Airbus DS 2025

Daraja Oula, El-Fasher
27 October 2025

Reddish ground discoloration and
vehicle presence

13.6324204, 25.3282774

In imagery collected over Daraja Oula on 27 October 2025, two reddish ground discolorations are visible that are not seen in prior satellite imagery. Multiple vehicles are present in the same area, which appears consistent with door-to-door clearance operations.



27 October 2025 © Airbus DS 2025

Esri, © OpenStreetMap contributors, HERE, Garmin, USGS

Daraja Oula, El-Fasher
27 October 2025

Cluster of objects consistent with the size of human bodies and reddish ground discoloration

13.6337961, 25.3256965

In imagery collected over Daraja Oula on 27 October 2025, the presence of two clusters of light and dark colored objects consistent with the size of human bodies, reddish ground discoloration, and vehicles are visible. These observations are not seen in prior satellite imagery.

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Daraja Oula, El-Fasher
27 October 2025

Clusters of objects and ground
discoloration

13.6329010, 25.3271401

Imagery collected over the Daraja Oula neighborhood in El-Fasher on 27 October 2025 shows the presence of clusters of objects, ground discoloration, and light technical vehicles. The objects within these clusters measure between 1.5 meters – 2 meters in length. A group of light technical vehicles appear to be blocking the road near where what appears to be red discoloration on the ground. One cluster of objects is flanked by 3 light technical vehicles.



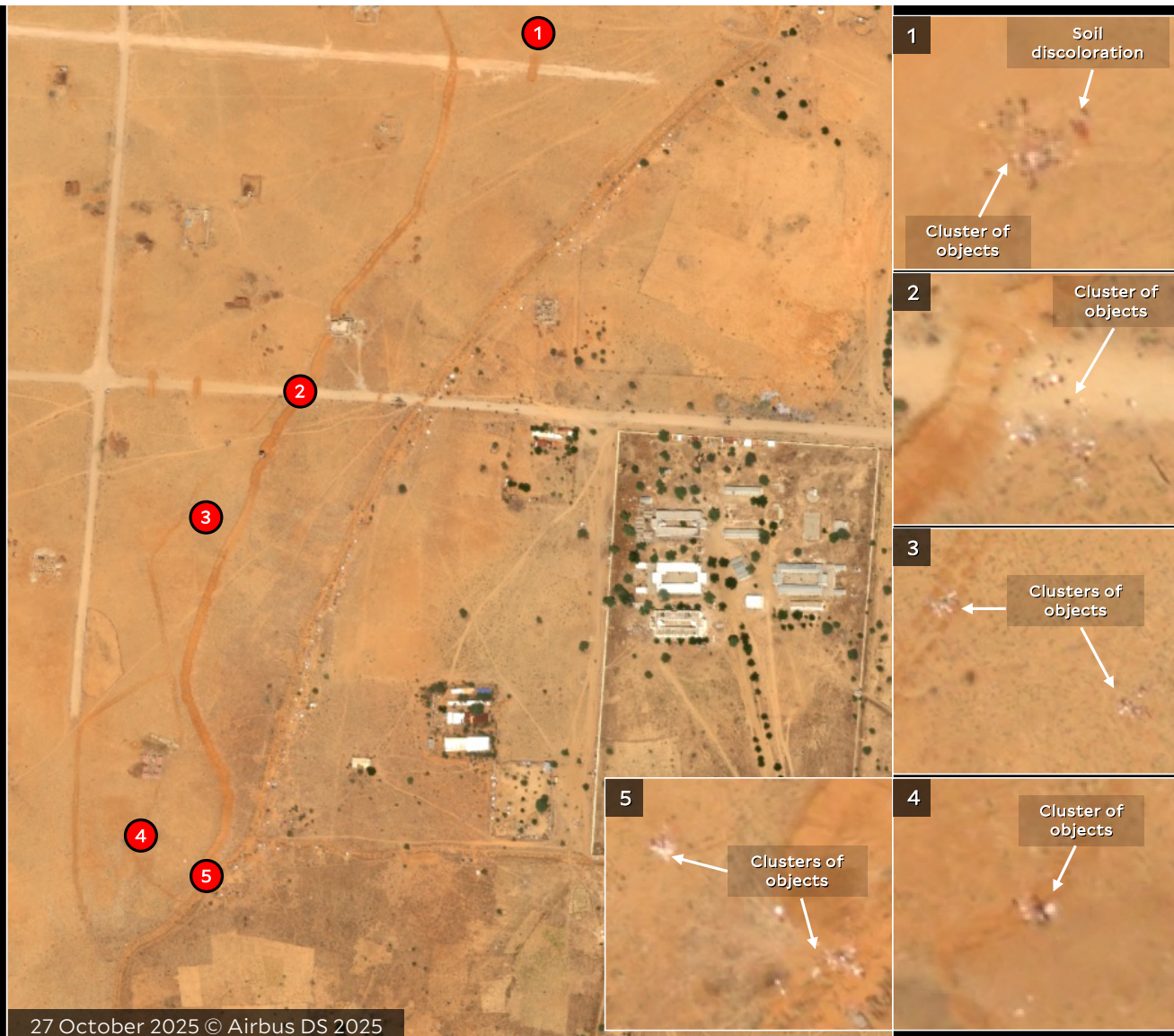
27 October 2025 © Airbus DS 2025

157th Artillery Brigade, El-Fasher 27 October 2025

Clusters of objects and ground
discoloration

13.6365946, 25.3109425

In imagery collected over the 157th Artillery Brigade in El-Fasher on 27 October 2025 shows the presence of clusters of objects along the defensive berm. These objects are not visible in imagery collected on 26 October 2025 and the appearance of these objects coincides with reports that civilians were shot attempting to flee El-Fasher over the berm.



**6th Division HQ, El-Fasher
26 October 2025**

Munition impacts, thermal scarring,
and confirmation of RSF presence.

13.6283278, 25.3497824

- Thermal scarring
- Munition impact

In imagery collected over the 6th
Division Headquarters in El-Fasher
on 26 October 2025 shows the
presence of at least 15 new
munition impacts and thermal
scarring in and around the
headquarters since imagery
collected on 15 October.

Geolocation by Yale HRL
corroborates the presence of RSF
soldiers in the area as well as a T55
tank driving past the headquarters.



**157th Artillery Brigade, El-Fasher
27 October 2025**

Presence of tanks and light technical vehicles

13.6248554, 25.3127202

Imagery collected over the 157th Artillery Brigade in El-Fasher on 27 October 2025 shows the presence of two objects consistent with tanks, one likely being a T55, not previously visible in imagery collected on 26 October 2025. Videos posted to social media show a tank consistent with a T55 driving past the 6th Division Headquarters.



Object consistent with T55 Tank
measuring
6.2m x 3.3m, 9m in length with
turret

Light technical
vehicle

Object consistent with tank
measuring
6.3m x 3m, 7.6m in length with turret