

RSF Shells Abu Shouk IDP Camp and Attacks Communities Near El-Fasher

18 March 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) corroborates damage to approximately 15 structures in Abu Shouk Internally-Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp, El-Fasher between 12 and 15 March 2025. The damage is consistent with shelling from artillery or heavy mortars larger than 82mm, and local news media and aid organizations reported that Rapid Support Forces (RSF) shelled the camp with heavy artillery on 15 March 2025.¹ Abu Shouk IDP Camp has been in Famine conditions since October 2024, and a visible increase in temporary structures at two locations within the camp demonstrate the active presence of vulnerable IDP populations in the area.²

Yale HRL also identifies thermal scarring consistent with intentional razing to structures in at least 18 communities in El-Fasher, Tawilah, Dar As Salaam, and Kelemendo localities between 19 February and 16 March 2025. The communities with thermal scarring are approximately 5-60.5 kilometers from El-Fasher, and 12 of the 18 communities have been previously attacked. Through analysis of satellite imagery from 15 March 2025, Yale HRL also observed approximately 60 pack-animals affixed to carts present at a distance and direction consistent with displacement from communities identified as attacked in this report. HRL is withholding imagery and other details on this convoy for security reasons.

On 12 March 2025, the Sudan Liberation Movement accused RSF of systematically attacking and burning villages in Tawilah locality, and *Sudan Tribune* posted a video of thermal scarring at a community in Tawilah.³ The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) Sixth Infantry Division in El-Fasher later reported that RSF killed 16 people in attacks on 37 communities south of El-Fasher from 14-15 March 2025.⁴ Local news organizations estimated that these attacks resulted in the displacement of hundreds of households.⁵

Table 1. Arson Attacks on Communities near El-Fasher, 19 February – 16 March 2025

Name	Locality	VIIRS Detection Dates*	Visible Thermal Scarring in Satellite Imagery
Shagara Musa	El-Fasher	N/A	06-16 March 2025
Tartoura/Bederi	El-Fasher	13 March 2025	06-16 March 2025
Umm Hegalig	El-Fasher	N/A	24 February – 01 March 2025
Jughmar	El-Fasher	N/A	19-24 February 2025
Um Ashoush	El-Fasher	N/A	06-16 March 2025
Shagara Humaida	El-Fasher	12 March 2025	06-16 March 2025
Muqrin	El-Fasher	12 March 2025	06-16 March 2025
Goz Bayna	Dar As Salaam	11, 14, and 15 March 2025	06-16 March 2025
Tawilah Community 7	Tawilah	N/A	06-16 March 2025
Dar As Salaam Community 15	Dar As Salaam	N/A	06-16 March 2025

El-Fasher Community 18	El-Fasher	N/A	01-16 March 2025
Godul Waquif	Dar As Salaam	N/A	06-16 March 2025
Hegier Fo	Dar As Salaam	N/A	06-16 March 2025
Gileidit	El-Fasher	N/A	06-16 March 2025
El-Fasher Community 37	El-Fasher	N/A	19-24 February 2025
El-Fasher Community 38	El-Fasher	N/A	22-25 February 2025
Abu Deleiq	Kelemando	28 February 2025	24 February-01 March 2025
El-Fasher Community 39	El-Fasher	28 February 2025	24 February-01 March 2025

*Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) data, when available, can narrow down the time period when communities were attacked.

These arson attacks cause civilian casualties and displacement, devastate livelihoods, and leave survivors in extremely critical humanitarian conditions.⁶ Communities in Jebel Marrah, Dar As Salaam, and other areas of North Darfur have not only been key sources of food and other essential goods in the El-Fasher area but have also received civilians fleeing conflict in El-Fasher and Zamzam.⁷ Attacks on these communities therefore expose already vulnerable populations to further displacement and renewed violence.

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.

Place names were identified using UN P-codes obtained via the United Nations Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) and International Organization for Migration (IOM)’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Sudan. This baseline was then verified and informed through open source analysis by Yale HRL’s analysts with relevant cultural and linguistic skills.

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 Radio Dabanga, "قصف مدفعي وجوي في الفاشر، وغارات في نيالا"، March 16, 2025, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%81-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D9%88%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%8C-%D9%88%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7>, archived at <https://perma.cc/YQ3X-4TDF>; HRL MMC_083 has been redacted for security reasons

² The increase in temporary structures in Abu Shouk was visible in satellite imagery between 11-15 March 2025. HRL is withholding this imagery for security reasons. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, "Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Snapshot October 2024 - May 2025," December 24, 2024, https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Sudan_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Oct2024_May2025_Snapshot.pdf, archived at <https://perma.cc/9EKQC4E8>; Farouk Chothia, "Sudan slides deeper into famine, experts say," BBC News, December 24, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cz0rp93vdnzo>, archived at <https://perma.cc/PNU9-CAW9>

³ Al Jazeera, "الجيش السوداني يتقدم في محور وسط الخرطوم"، March 13, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/news/2025/3/13/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%AF%D9%85-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%88%D8%B1-%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7>, archived at <https://perma.cc/NNC9-SQR3>; Radio Dabanga, "مقتل 15 مدنيا في الفاشر خلال يومين جراء القصف المدفعي واتهامات للدعم السريع"، March 13, 2025, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%d9%85%d9%82%d8%aa%d9%84-15-%d9%85%d8%af%d9%86%d9%8a%d8%a7-%d9%81%d9%8a-%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-%d8%ac%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%a1-%d8%a7>, archived at <https://perma.cc/DMZ7-HANZ>; Sudan Tribune (@SudanTribune_AR), "مقطع فيديو يُظهر إحراق #دارفور #القوات #الدعم السريع قرى مناطق شرق محلية طويلة بشمال #دارفور X (formerly known as Twitter), https://x.com/SudanTribune_AR/status/1899816987317924244, archived at <https://perma.cc/E9RF-5CVW>

⁴ Radio Dabanga, "قصف مدفعي وجوي في الفاشر، وغارات في نيالا"، March 16, 2025, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/ar/all-news/article/%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%81-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D9%88%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%8C-%D9%88%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7>

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⁵ Darfur24, “تفانم أوضاع النازحين العالقين في “خزان تنجر” بجبل مرة” March 10, 2025, <https://www.darfur24.com/2025/03/10/%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%85-%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B6%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B2%D8%AD%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%AE%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%86/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/C7CX-C6VU>

⁶ Caitlin N. Howarth, Kaveh Khoshnood, Nathaniel A. Raymond et al. “Kill Box: RSF Attacks IDP Camps and Razes Dozens of Communities around El-Fasher.” 5 February 2025. Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale School of Public Health: New Haven; Darfur24, “تفانم أوضاع النازحين العالقين في “خزان تنجر” بجبل مرة” March 10, 2025, <https://www.darfur24.com/2025/03/10/%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%85-%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B6%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B2%D8%AD%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%AE%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%86/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/C7CX-C6VU>

⁷ Médecins Sans Frontières, “Sudan: MSF forced to halt activities as violence engulfs Zamzam camp in North Darfur,” February 24, 2025, <https://www.msf.org/sudan-msf-forced-halt-our-activities-violence-engulfs-zamzam-camp-north-darfur>, archived at <https://perma.cc/SA9T-QBWR>; Sudan Tribune, “الجيش: تدمير مركبات واسقاط أكثر من 100 مسيرة للدعم “السريع في الفاشر” March 10, 2025, <https://sudantribune.net/article298413/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/LMJ8-6826>; AFP, “Survivors recount horrific RSF attack on famine-hit Sudan camp,” <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250218-survivors-recount-horrific-rsf-attack-on-famine-hit-sudan-camp>, archived at <https://ghostarchive.org/archive/6cEAV>; Darfur24, “بسبب الحصار.. بدء نفاذ السلع من الفاشر وارتفاع أسعار “المتوفرة” March 9, 2025,

<https://www.darfur24.com/2025/03/09/%D8%A8%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D8%AF%D8%A1-%D9%86%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%B9-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%B1-%D9%88/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/FKJ8-LPG3>

Abu Shouk IDP Camp, El-Fasher

CONFLICT-RELATED DAMAGE OBSERVED BETWEEN 12-15 MARCH 2025

Analysis of satellite imagery collected between 11 and 15 March 2025 of the Abu Shouk IDP Camp shows damage to several structures likely due to shelling.

Imagery at a lower resolution collected by Planet on 12 March 2025 shows the structures are undamaged, narrowing the timeframe to 12 and 15 March 2025.



11 March 2025 © 2025 Maxar Technologies



15 March 2025 © 2025 Maxar Technologies

Abu Shouk IDP Camp, El-Fasher

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Abu Shouk IDP Camp, El-Fasher

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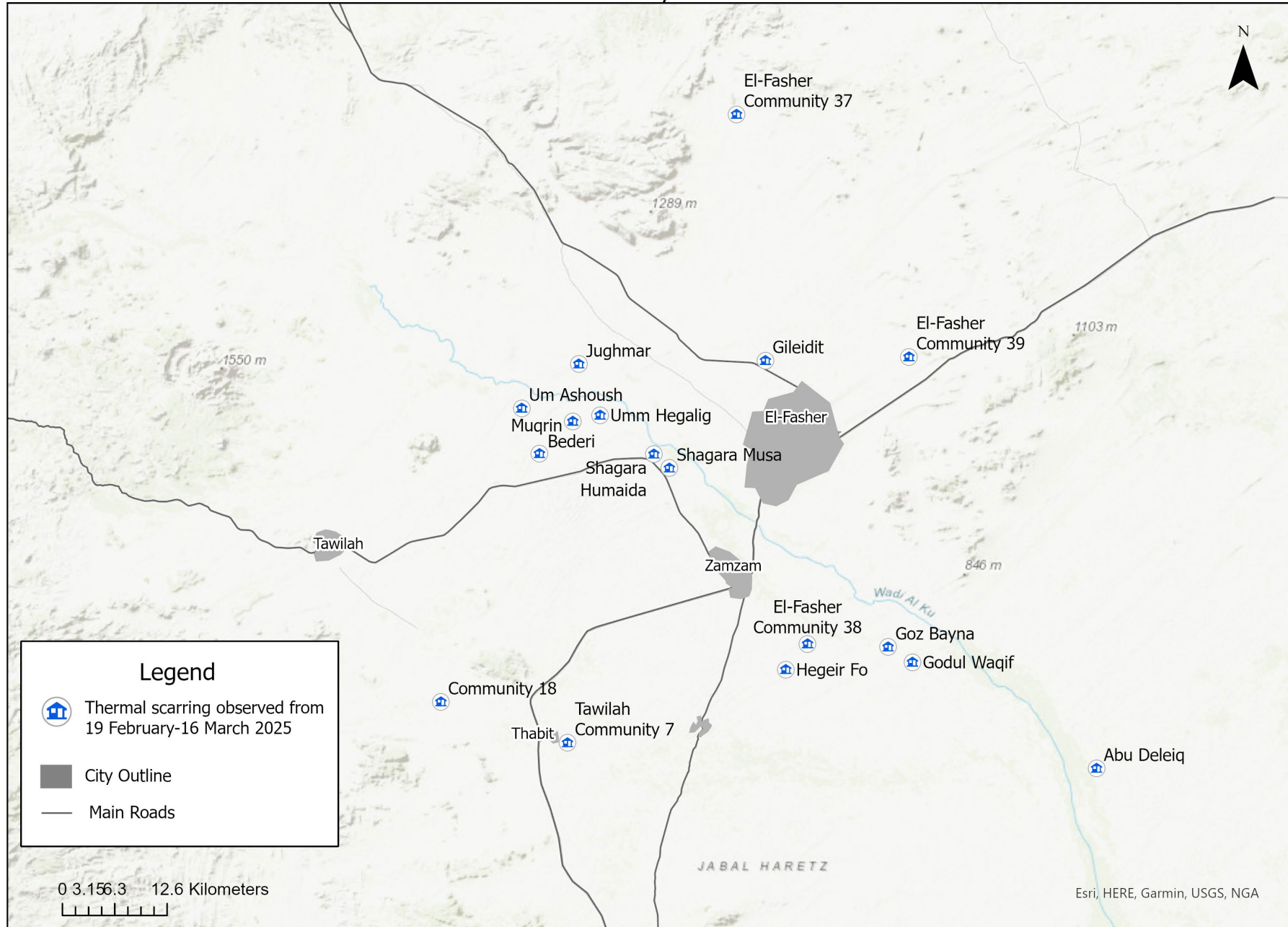


11 March 2025 © 2025 Maxar Technologies

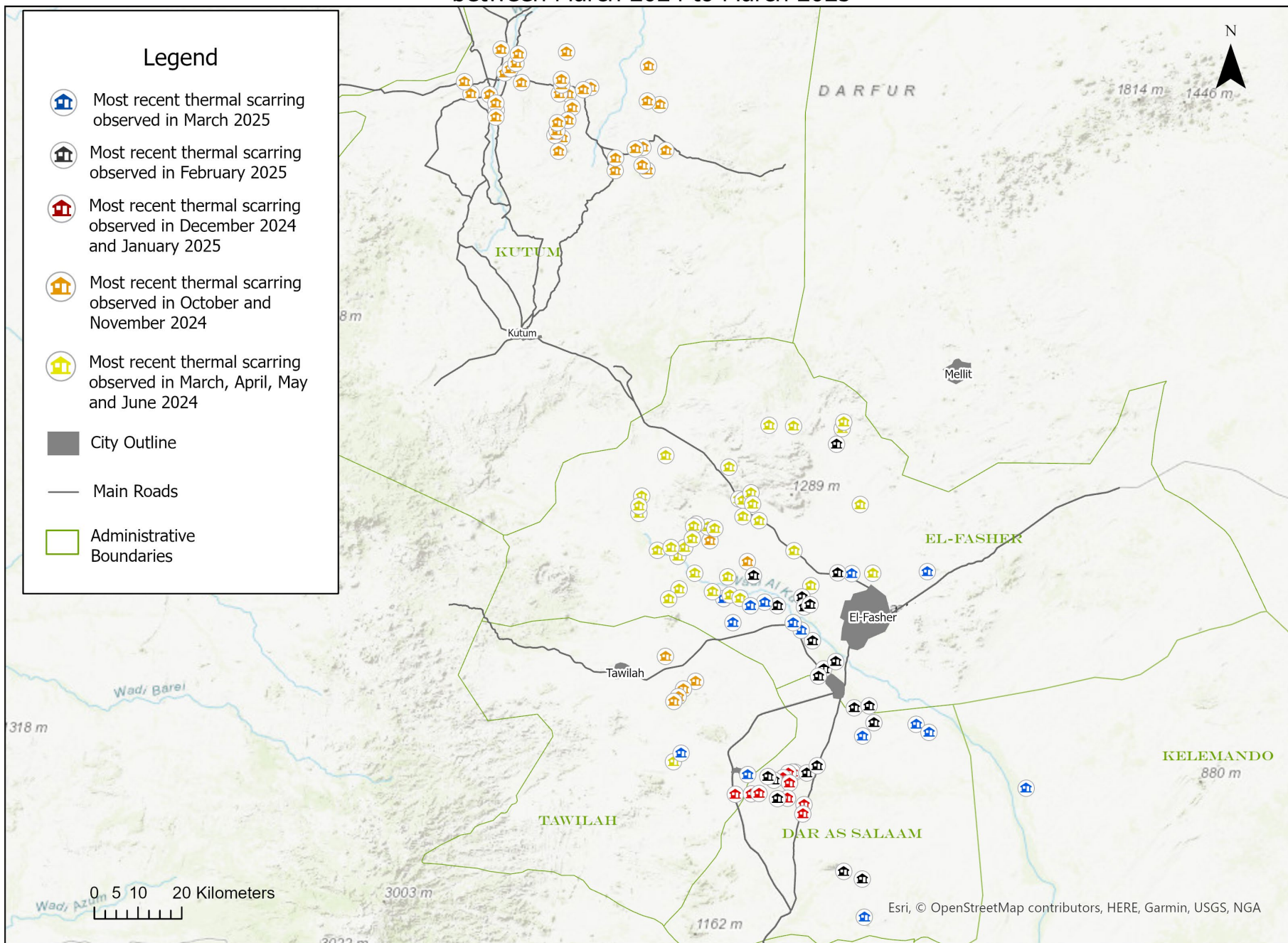


15 March 2025 © 2025 Maxar Technologies

Thermal Scarring at Communities in El-Fasher, Tawilah, Kelemando, and Dar As Salaam Locality from 19 February to 16 March 2025



Burned Communities in El-Fasher, Tawilah, Kutum, Kelemando, and Dar As Salaam Locality between March 2024 to March 2025



Gileidit, El-Fasher

THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06-16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Gileidit between 06 and 16 March 2025. This community was previously observed to have been attacked between 20 and 25 January 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



06 March 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel



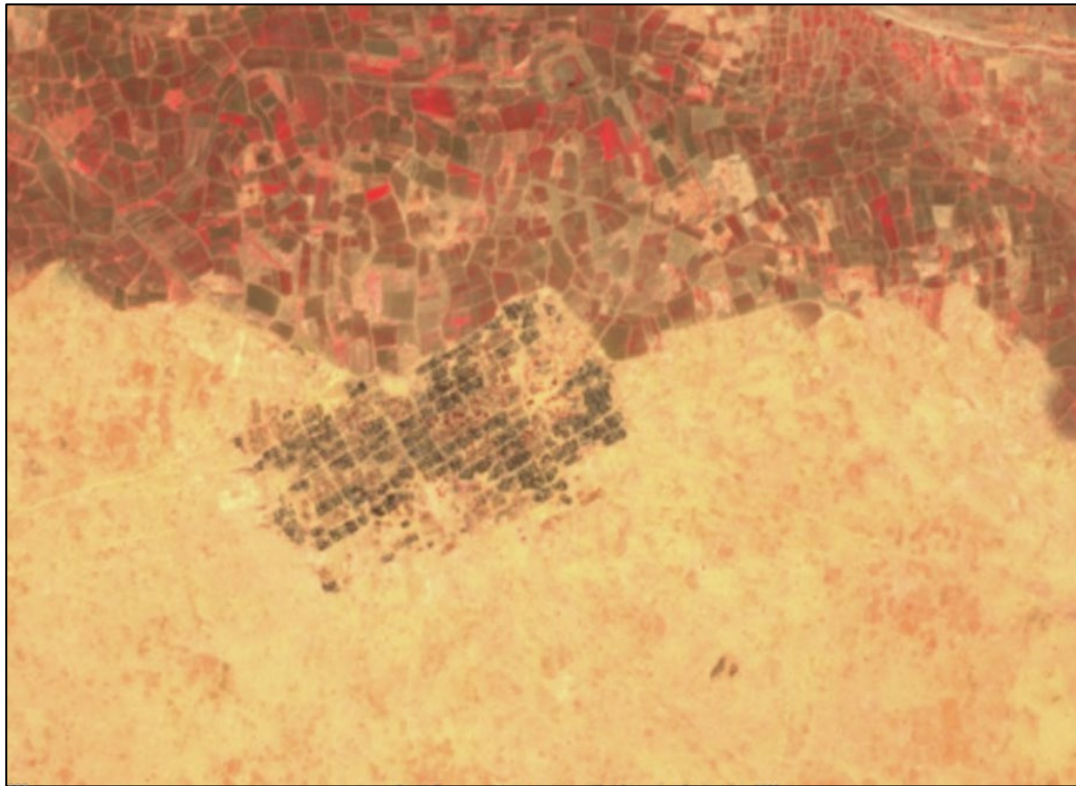
16 March 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel

Umm Hegalig, El Fasher

THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 24 FEBRUARY-01 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Umm Hegalig between 24 February and 01 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



24 February 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel



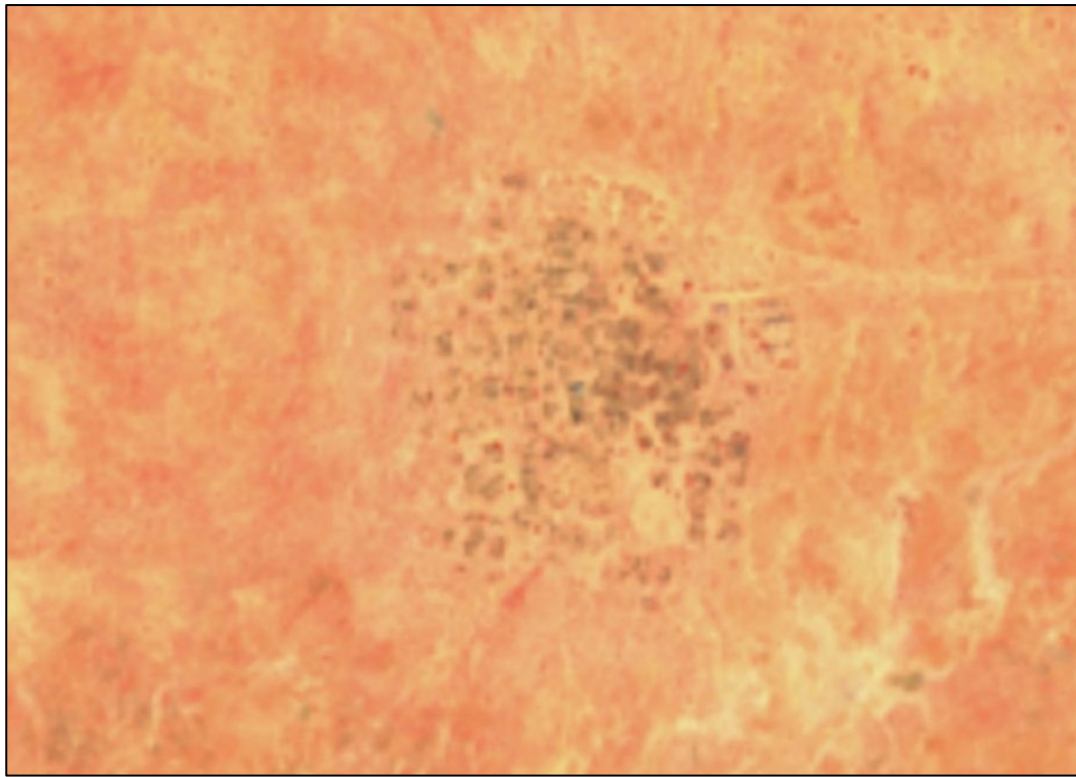
01 March 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel

Jughmar, El Fasher

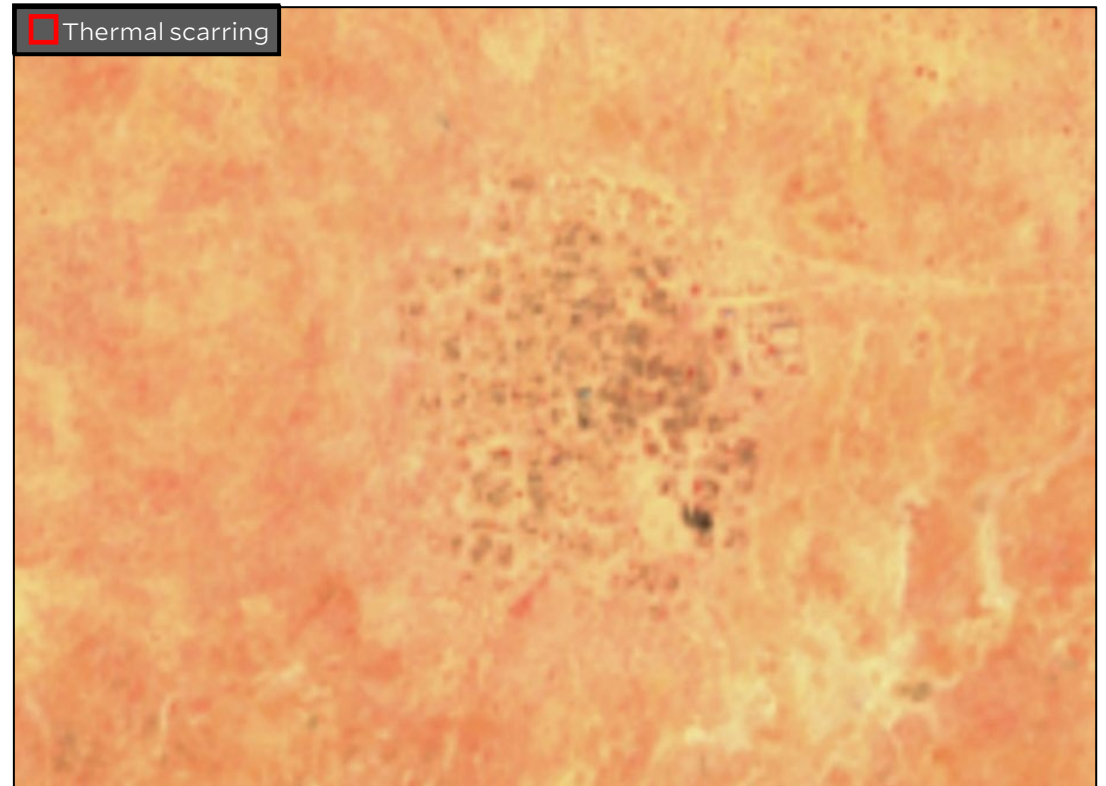
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 19-24 FEBRUARY 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Jughmar between 19 February and 24 February 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



19 February 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel



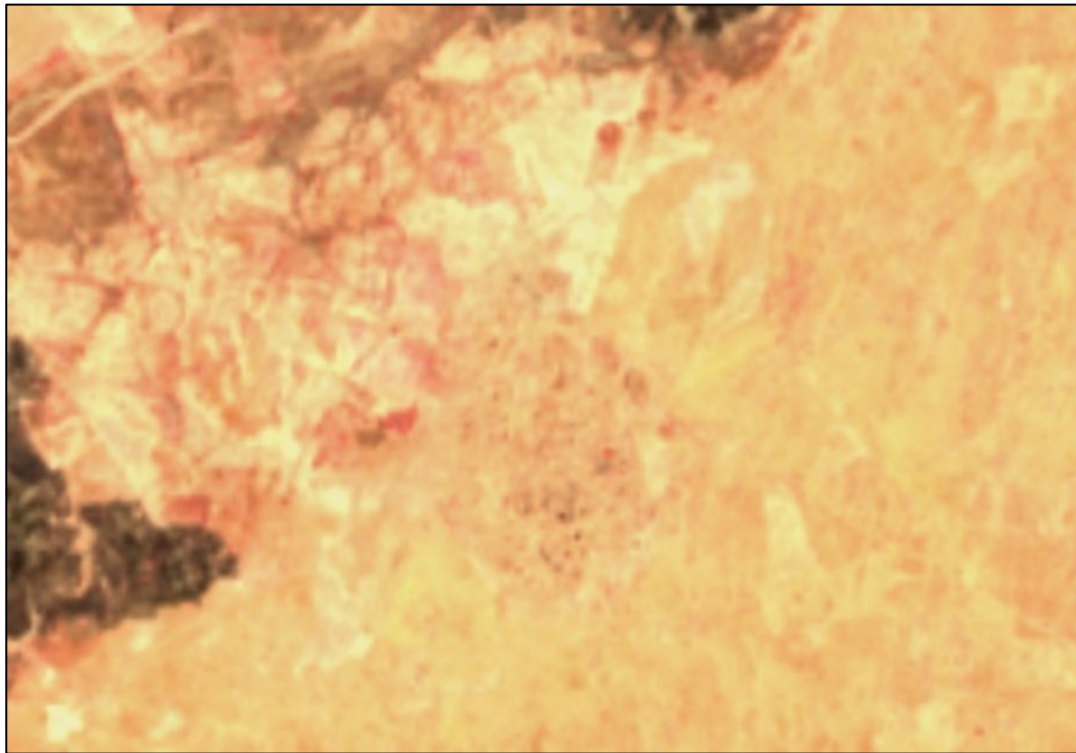
24 February 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel

Um Ashoush, El Fasher

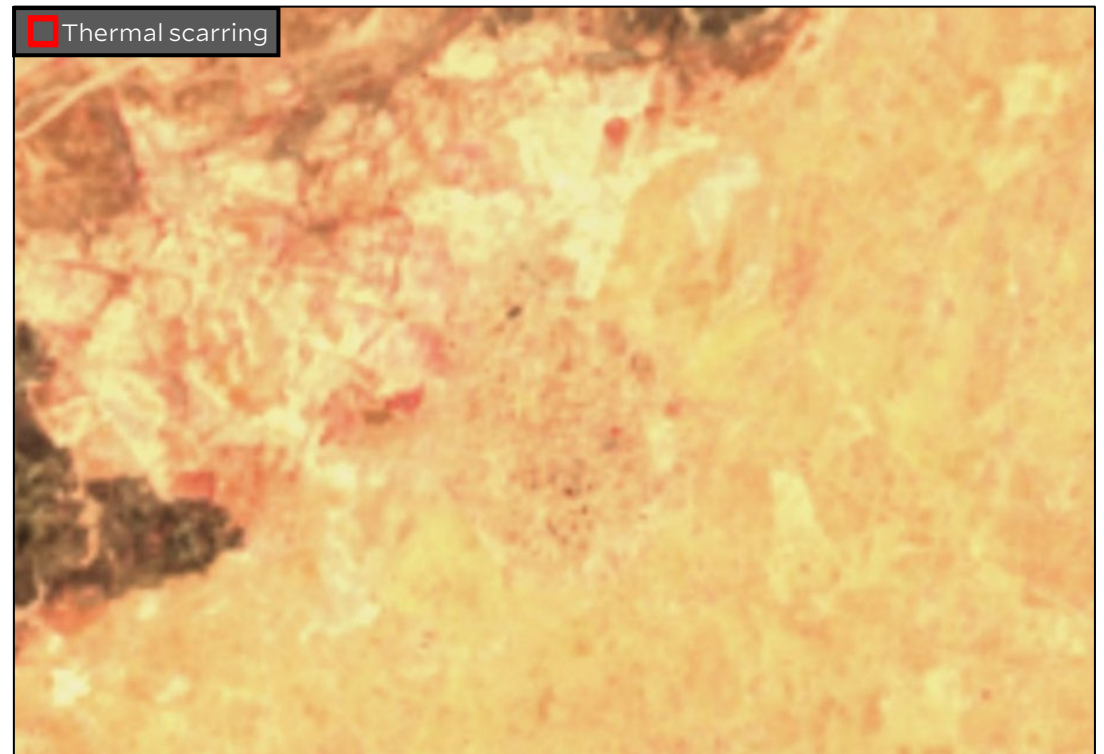
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06-16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Um Ashoush between 06 and 16 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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Tartoura, El Fasher

THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06-16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Tartoura between 06 and 16 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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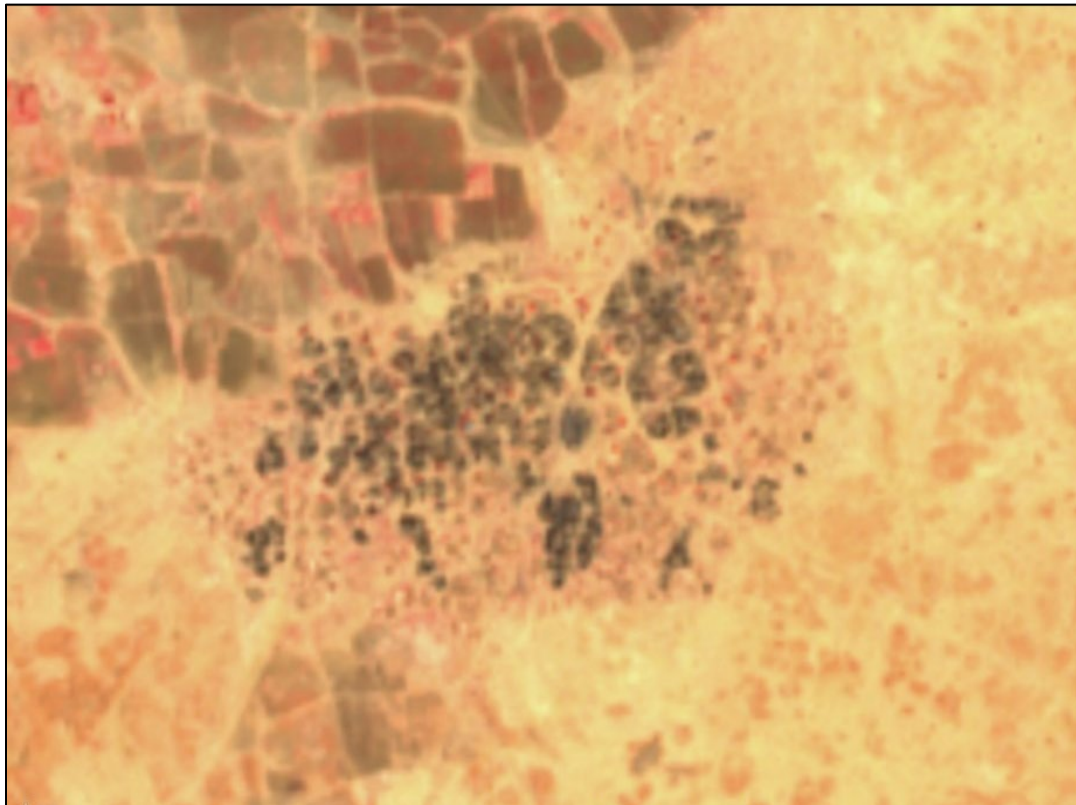
16 March 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel

Muqrin, El Fasher

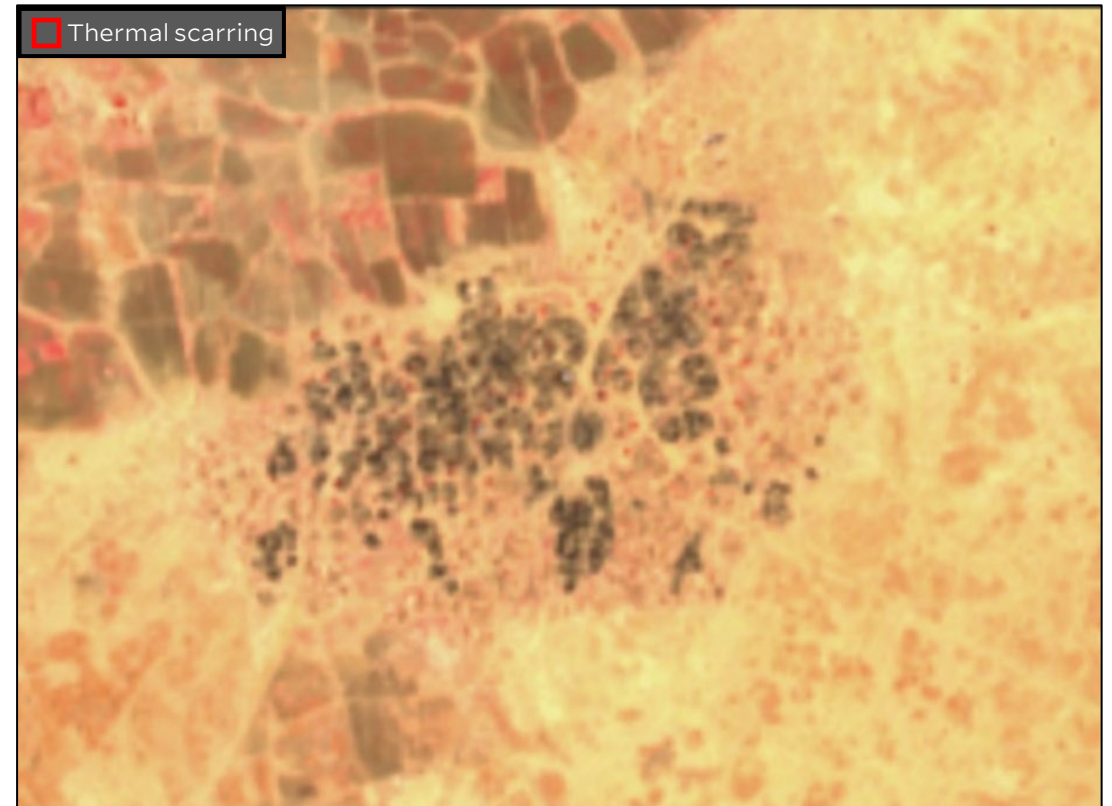
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06–16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Muqrin between 06 and 16 March 2025. According to analysis of VIIRS data, a fire event occurred on 12 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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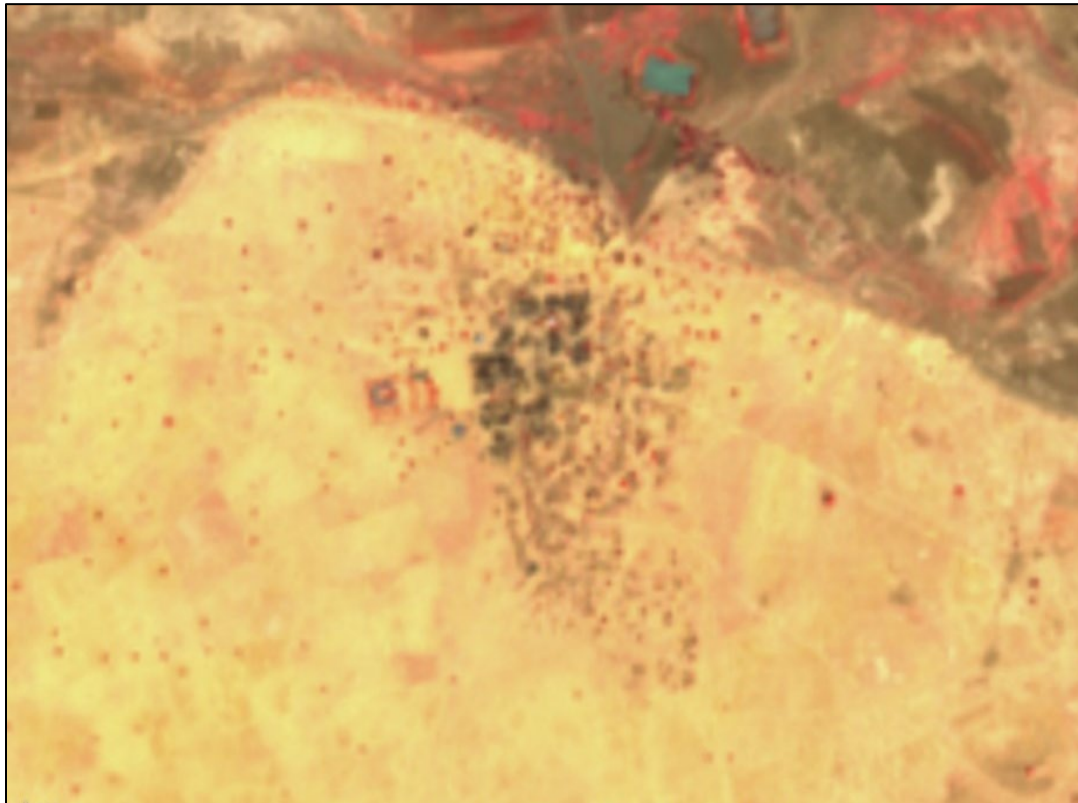
16 March 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel

Goz Bayna, Dar As Salaam

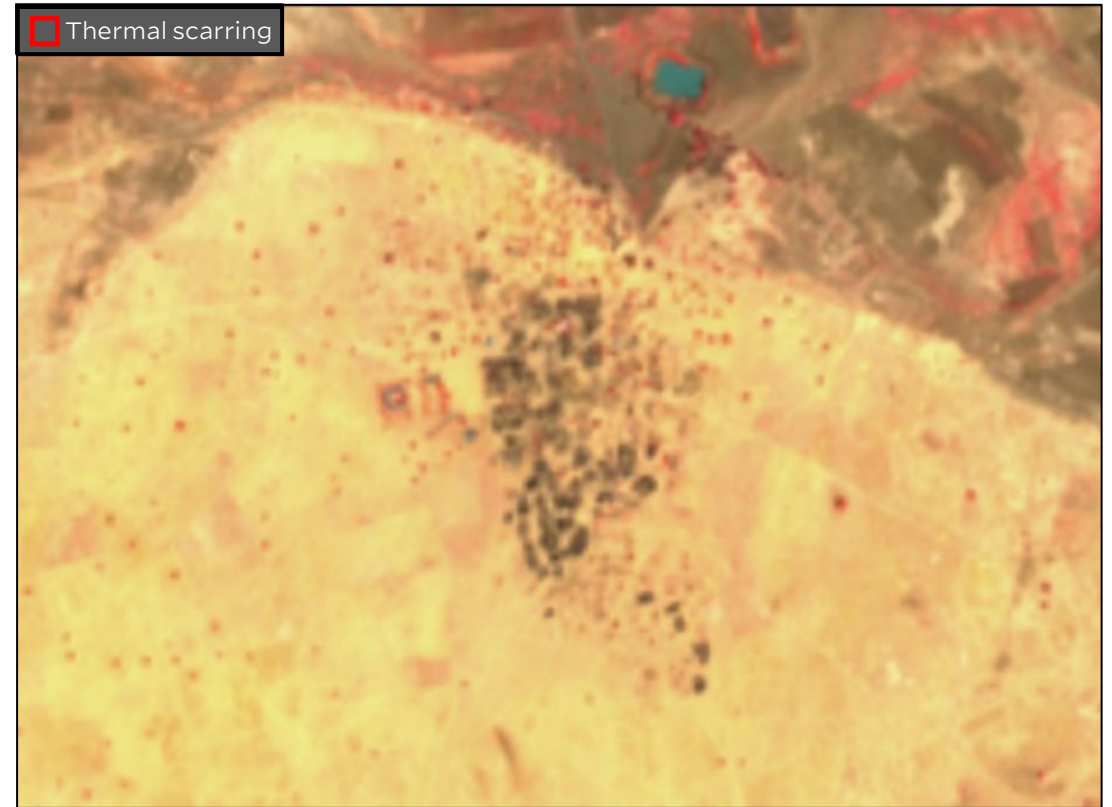
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06-16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Goz Bayna between 06 and 16 March 2025. According to analysis of VIIRS data, fire events occurred on 11, 14, and 15 March 2025

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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Tawilah Community 7, Tawilah

THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06-16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Tawilah Community 7 between 06 and 16 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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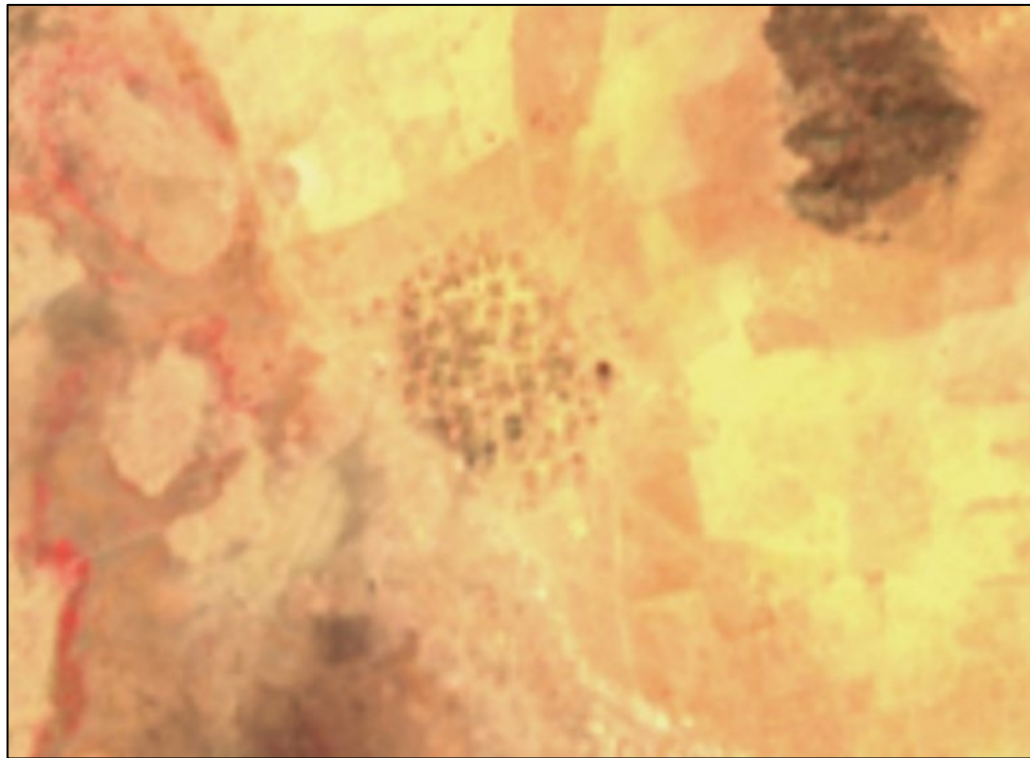
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Dar As Salaam Community 15, Dar As Salaam

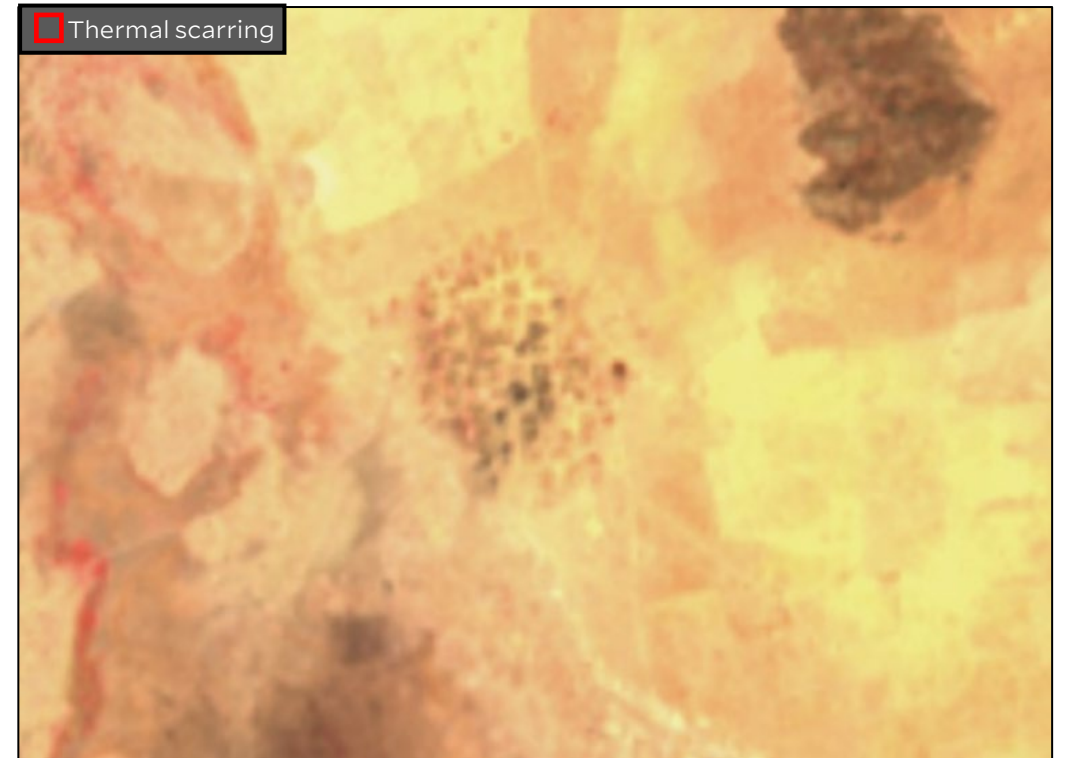
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06-16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Dar As Salaam Community 15 between 06 and 16 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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El-Fasher Community 18, El-Fasher

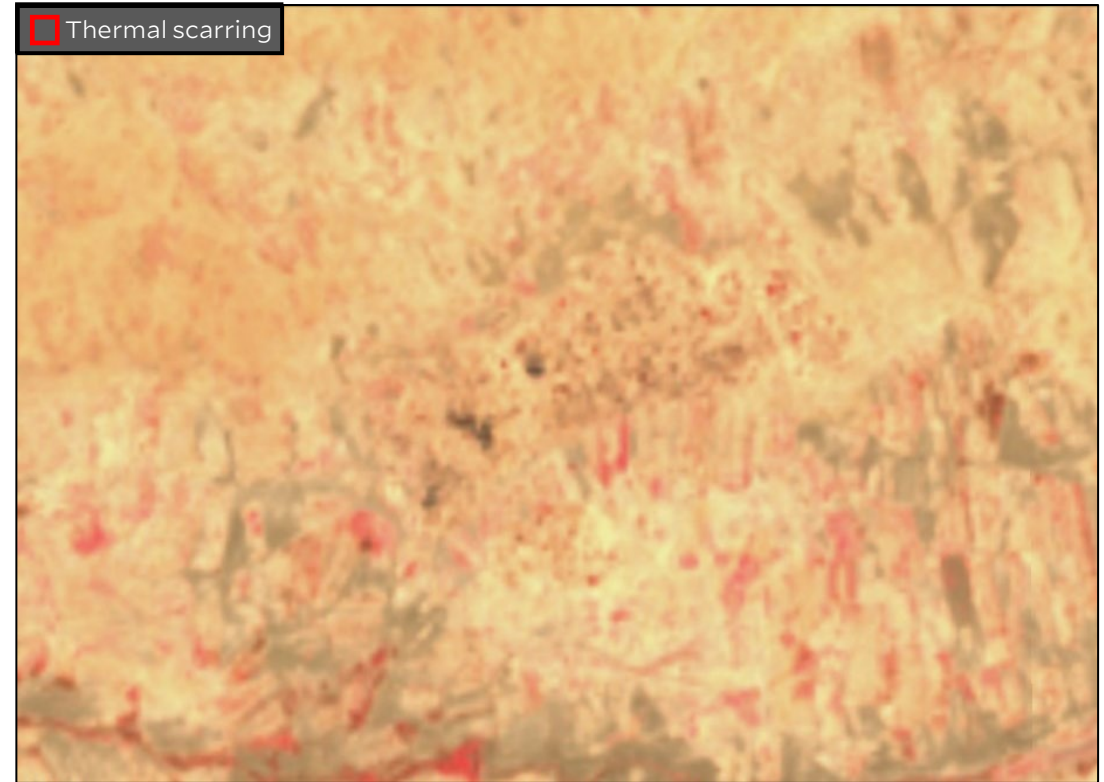
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 01-06 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at El-Fasher Community 18 between 01 and 06 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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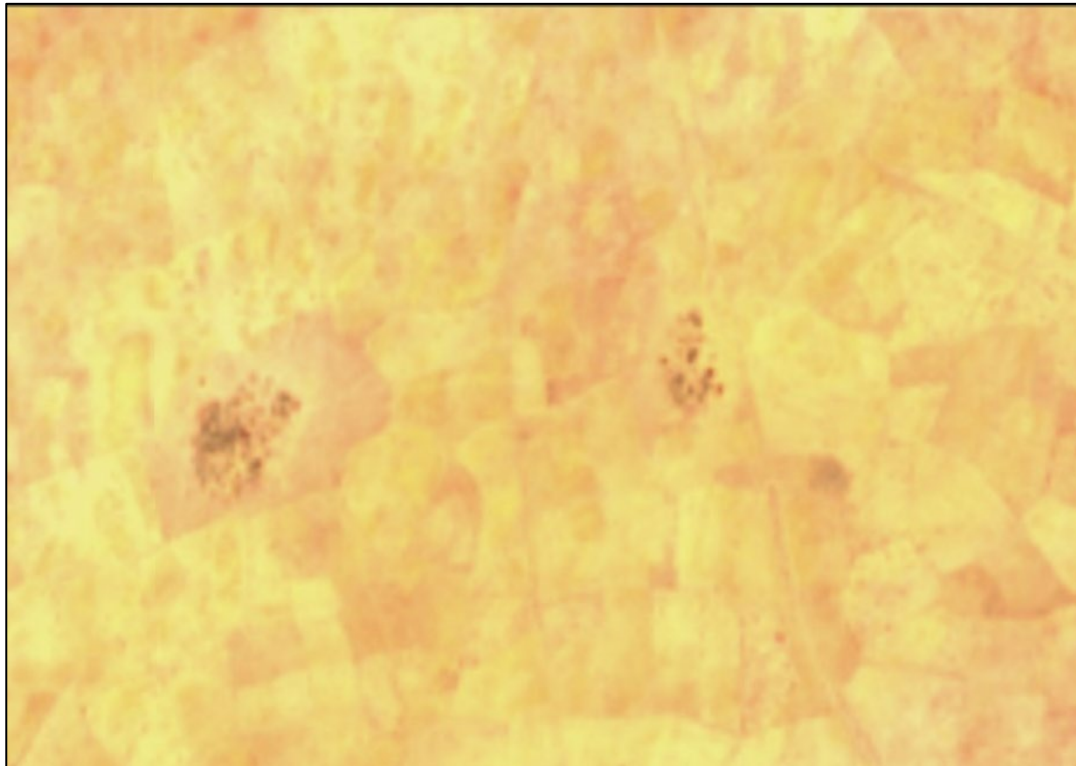
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Hegier Fo, Dar As Salaam

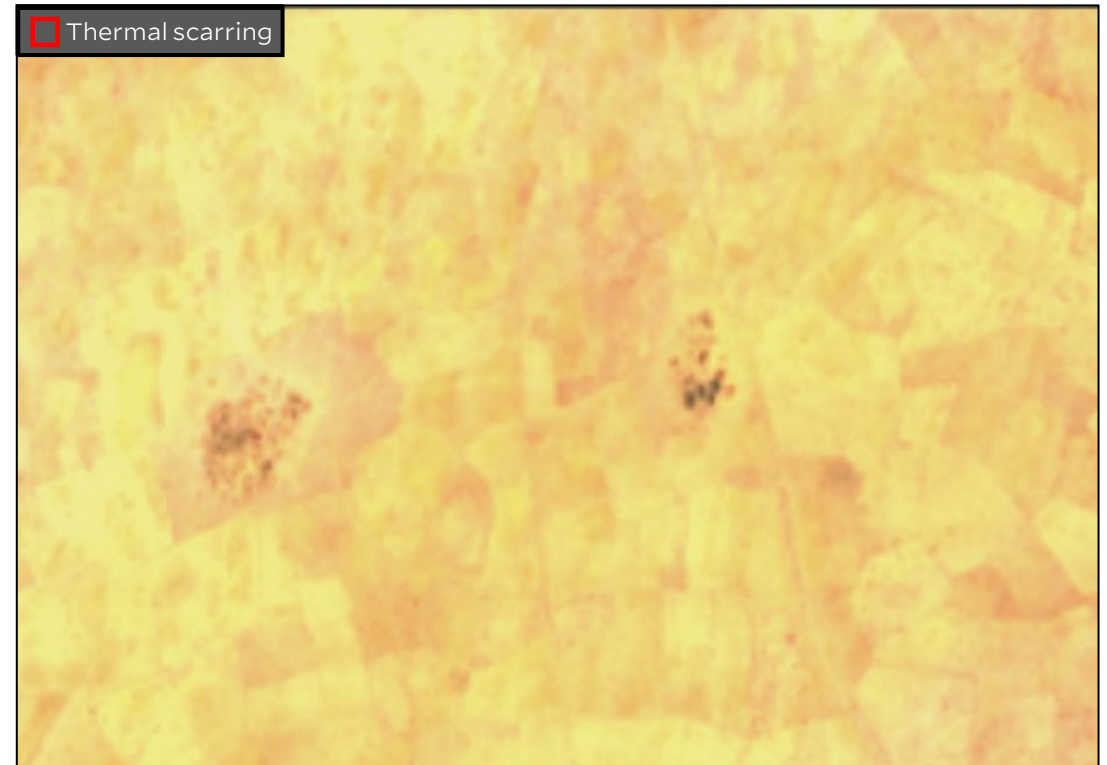
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06-16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Hegier Fo between 06 and 16 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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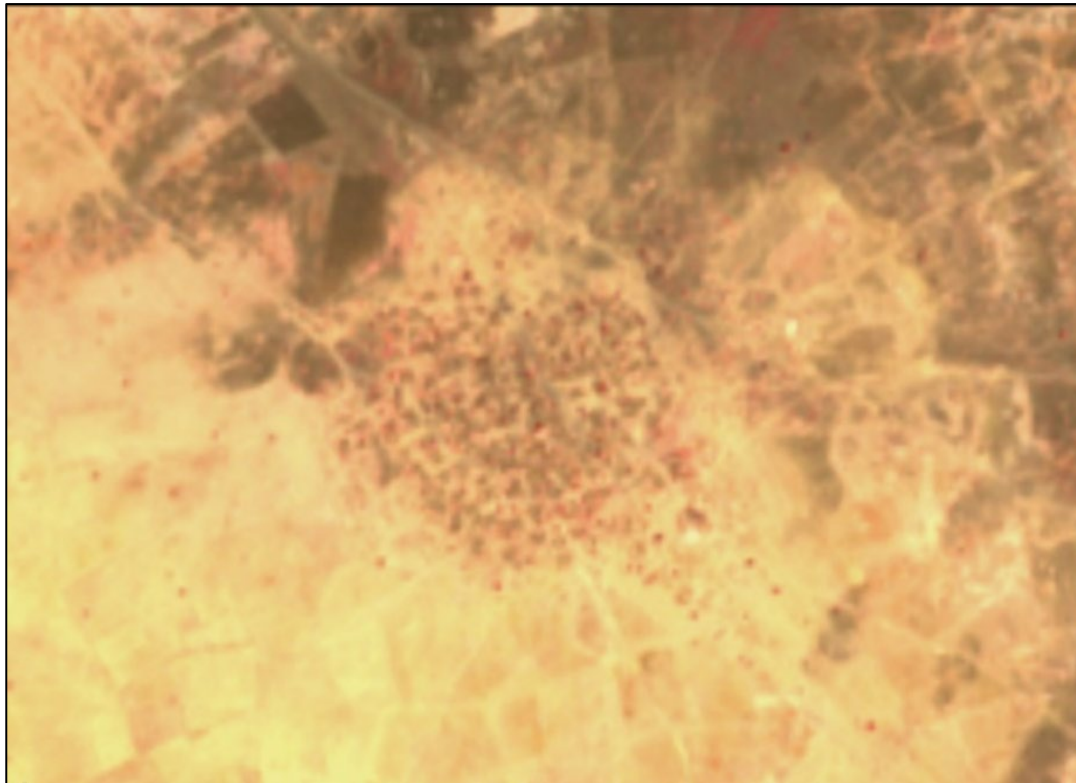
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Godul Waqif, Dar As Salaam

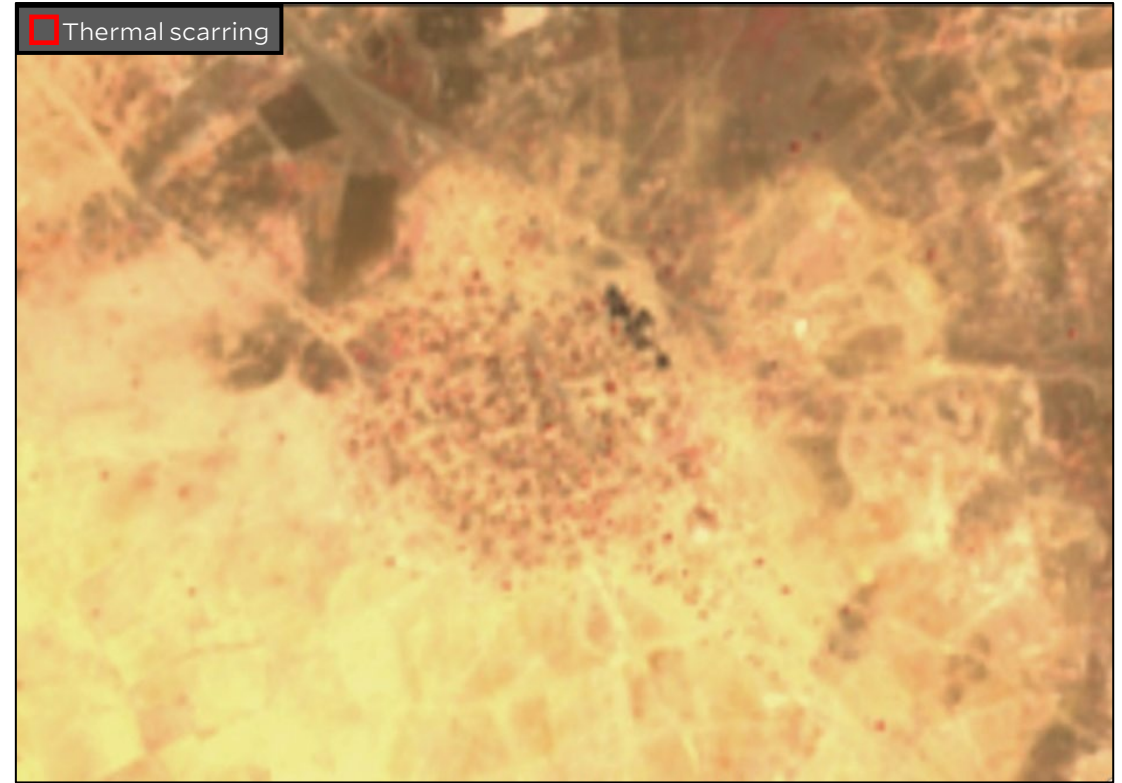
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06-16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Godul Waqif between 06 and 16 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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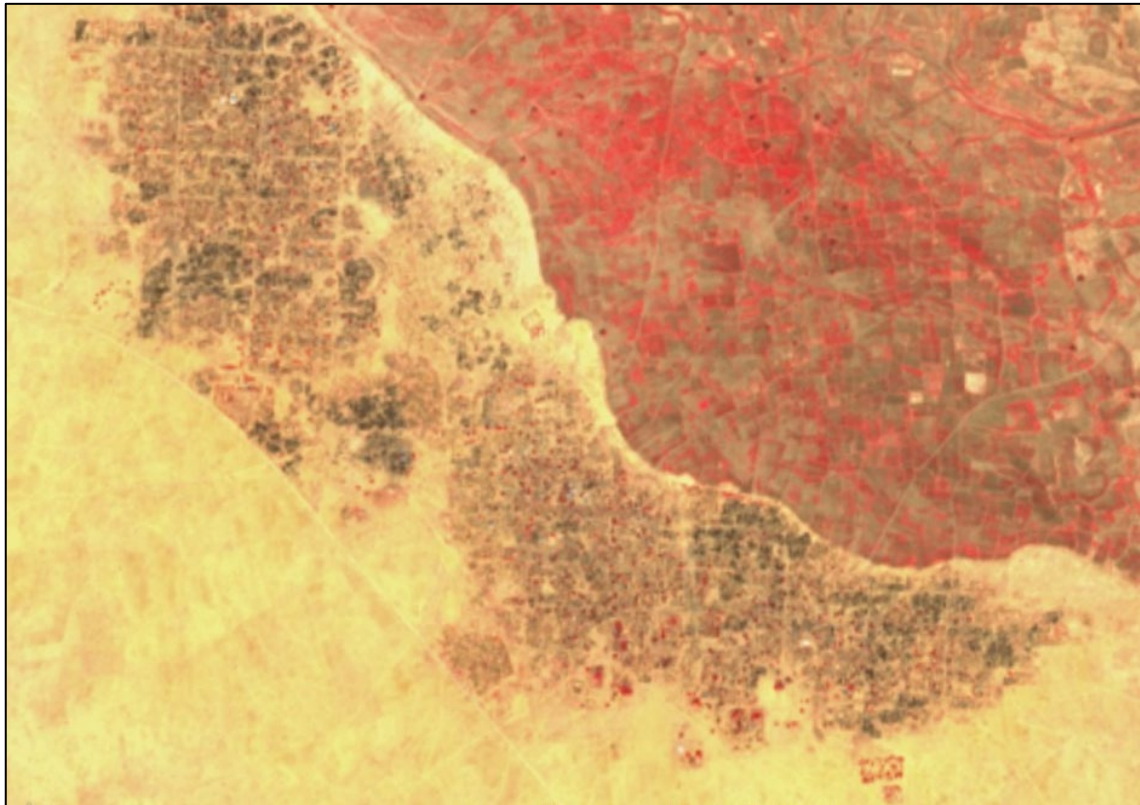
16 March 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel

Shagara Humaida and Shagara Musa

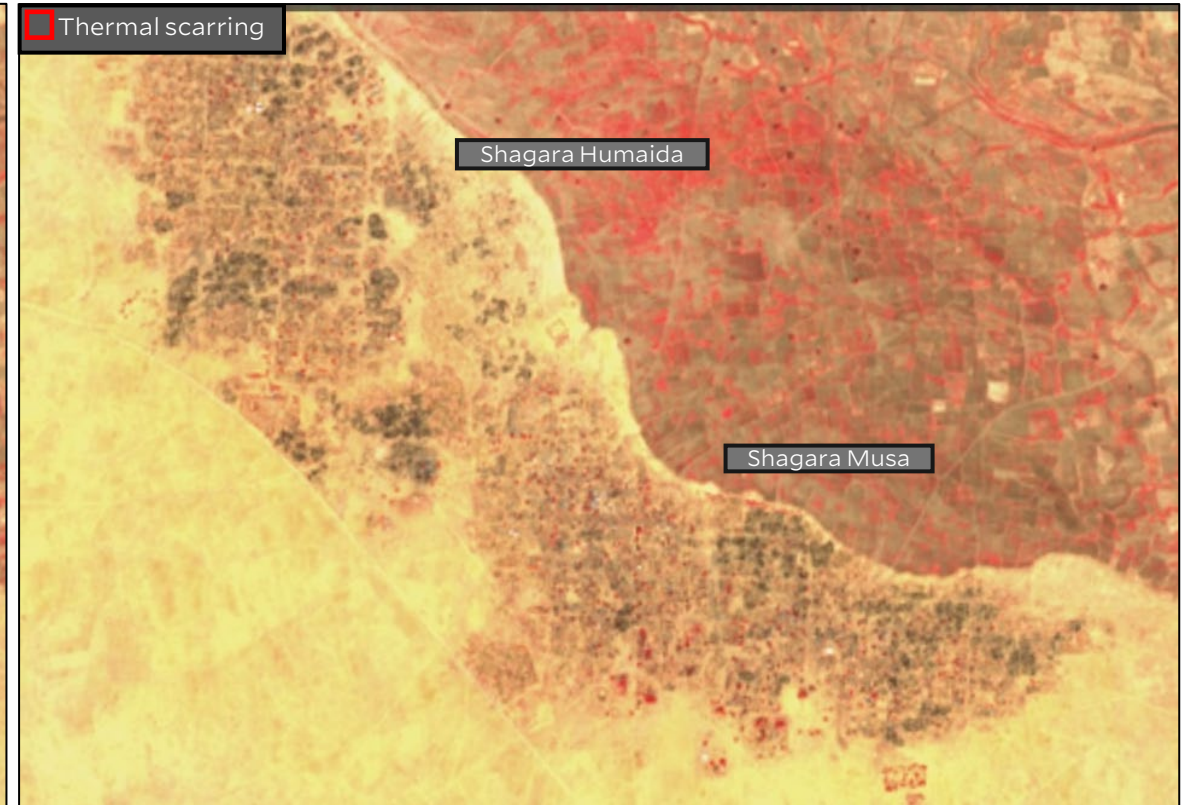
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 06-16 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Shagara Humaida and Shagara Musa between 06 and 16 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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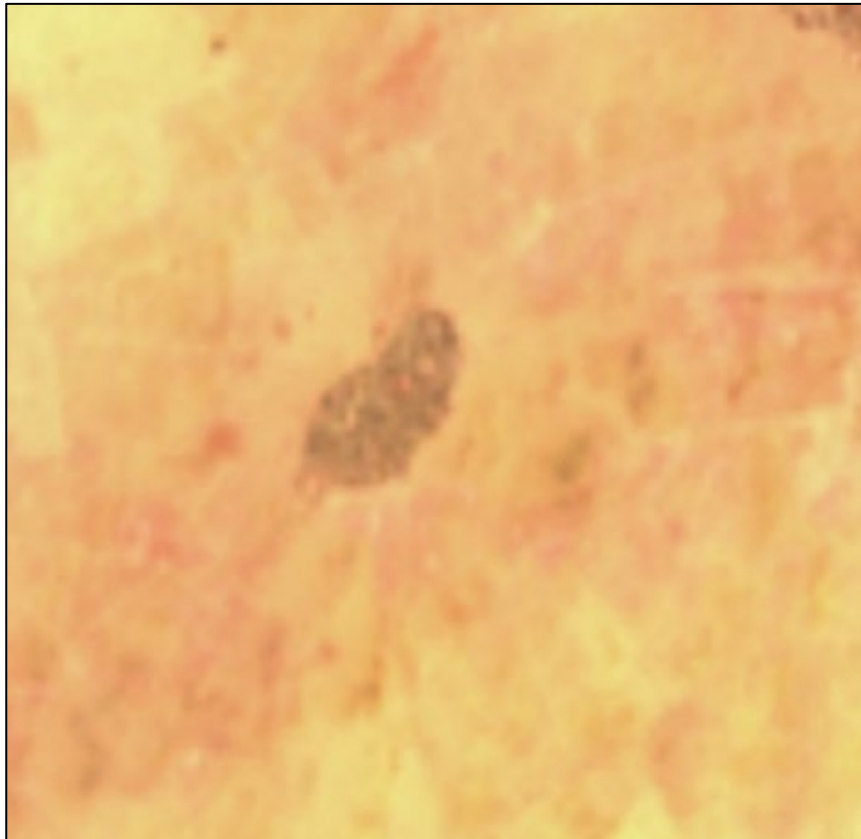
16 March 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel

El-Fasher Community 38

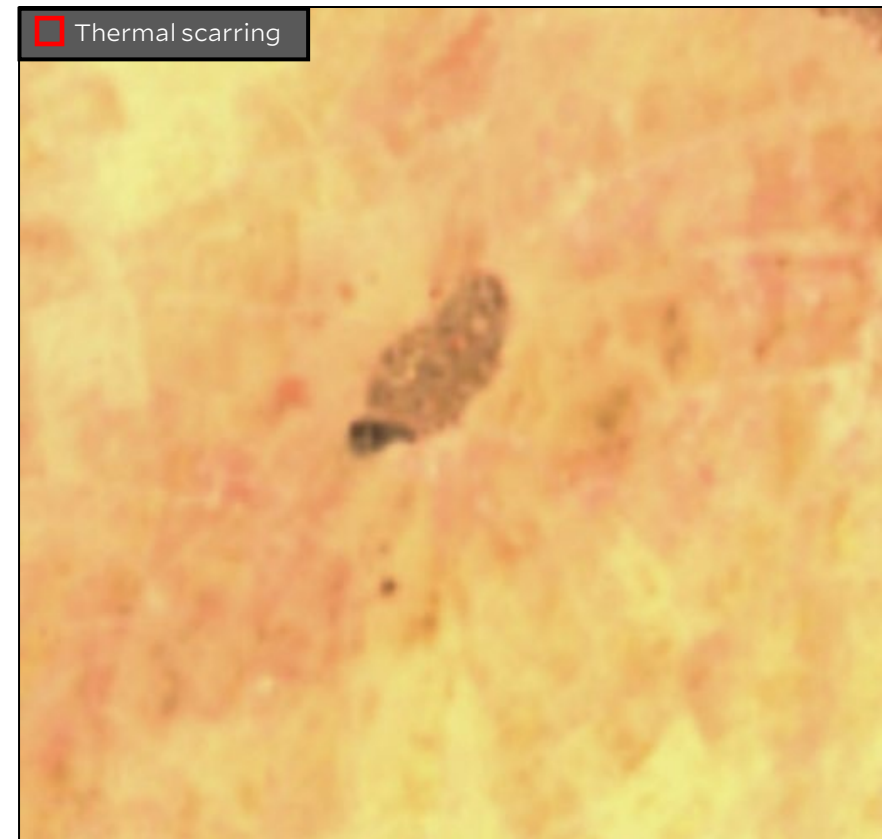
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 19-24 FEBRUARY 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at a community, referred to here as "El-Fasher Community 38, between 19 and 24 February 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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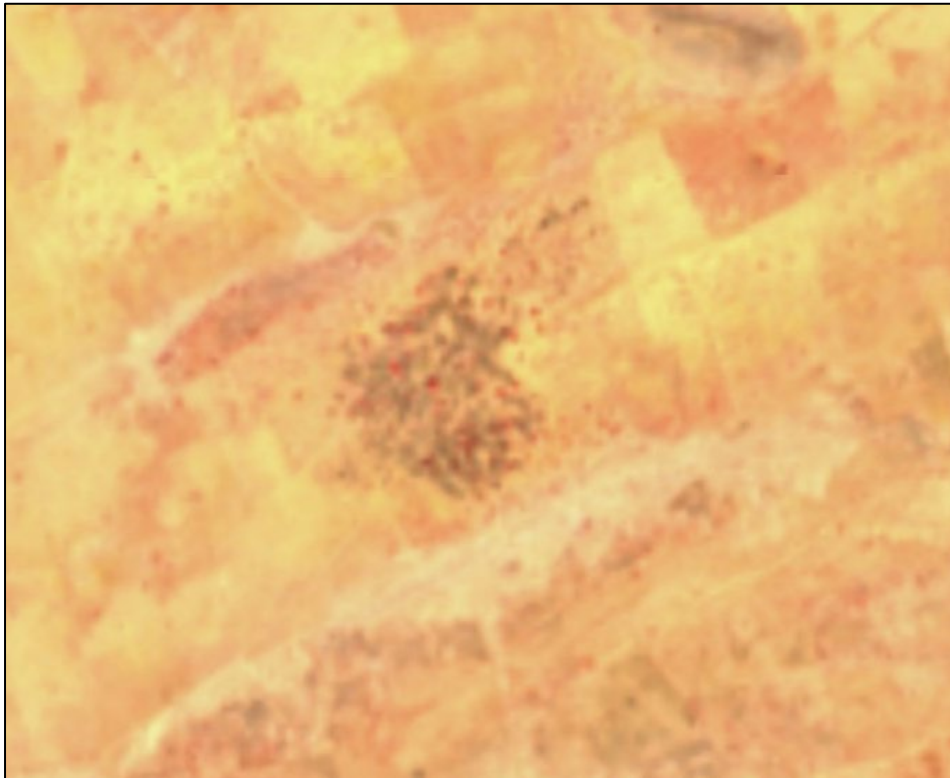
24 February 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel

El-Fasher Community 39, El-Fasher

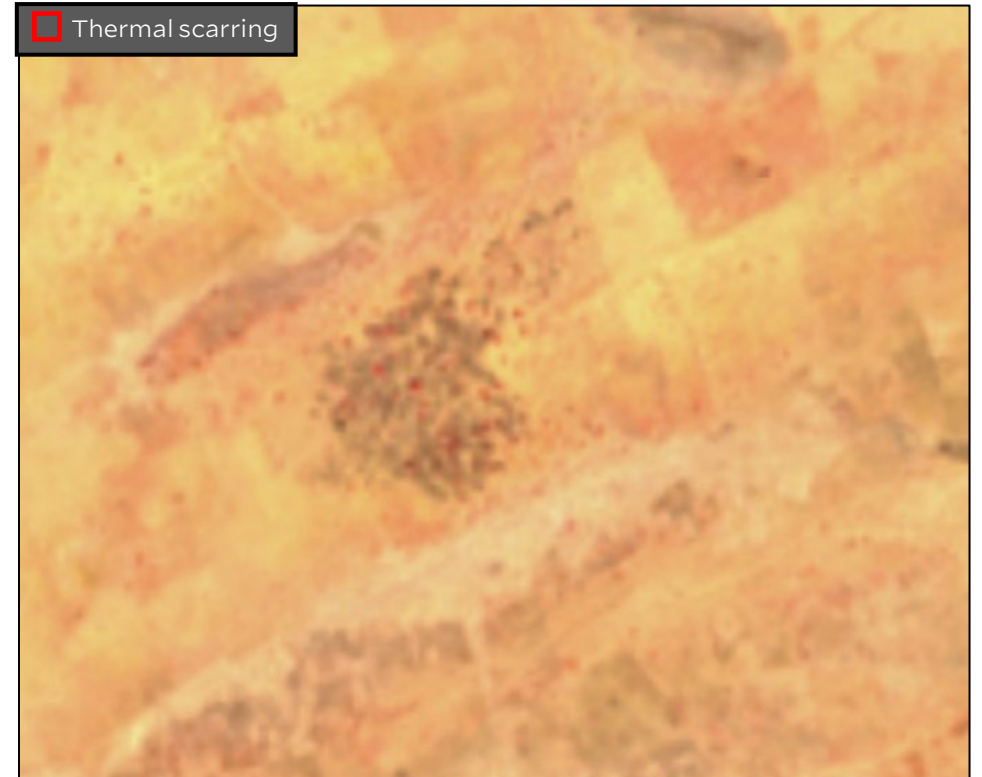
THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 24 FEBRUARY-01 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at El-Fasher Community 39, between 24 February and 01 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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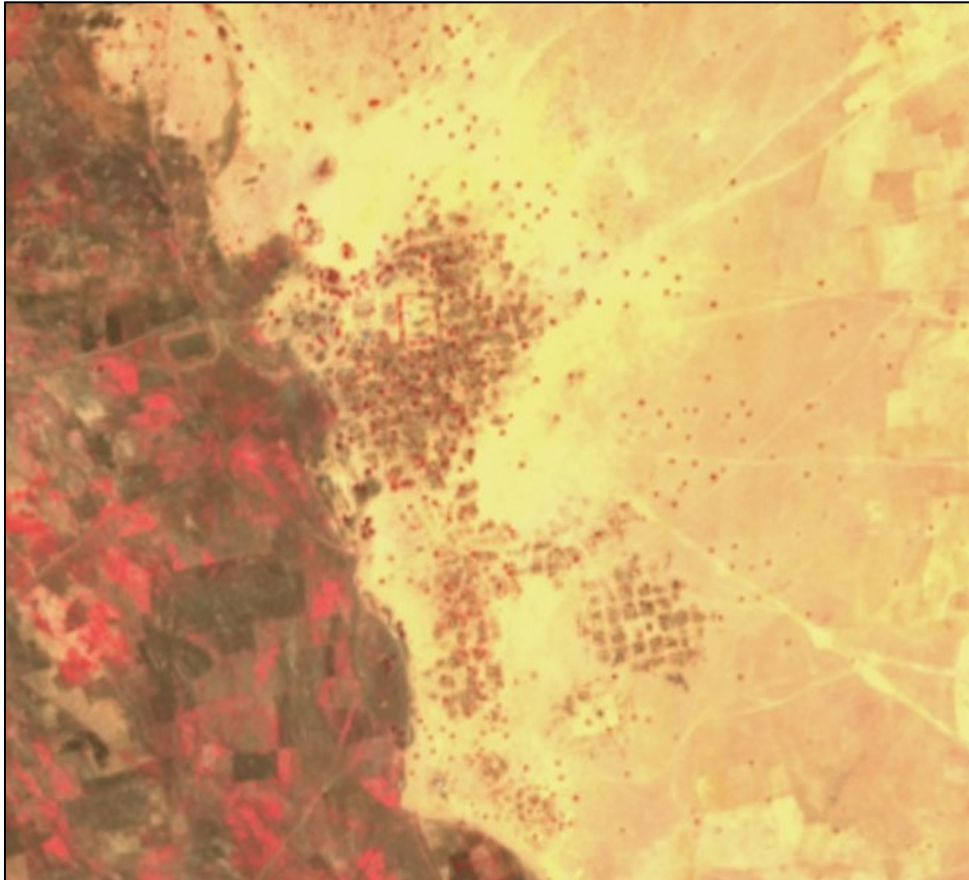
01 March 2025 © 2025 Copernicus Sentinel

Abu Deleiq, Kelemando

THERMAL SCARRING OBSERVED BETWEEN 24 FEBRUARY-01 MARCH 2025

According to analysis of satellite imagery, thermal scarring was observed at Abu Deleiq between 24 February and 01 March 2025.

The unaffected ground between burned structures and lack of thermal scarring on the ground outside individual community areas is highly consistent with intentional attack targeting structures.



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