Emergency Alert: RSF Massacre in Abu Shouk IDP Camp Corroborated

11 August 2025

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Humanitarian Research Lab

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I. Key Findings

The Yale School of Public Health's Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) corroborates reports of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)'s alleged massacre from 11 August 2025 of over 40 civilians in Abu Shouk Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp. A large grouping of over 40 light vehicles is visible in satellite imagery in and throughout the northwest neighborhoods of Abu Shouk IDP Camp in satellite imagery collected at approximately 10:39 am CAT (8:39 am UTC). Yale HRL can confirm that RSF-controlled escape routes in the north of El-Fasher appear blocked during this period.

On 11 August 2025 the El-Fasher Emergency Response Room (ERR) reported that RSF allegedly committed a massacre in Abu Shouk and Navaisha IDP Camps.[1] The exact time of these alleged killings is not currently clear. The El-Fasher ERR stated that RSF allegedly killed more than 40 people and injured more than 19 people, "including civilians executed inside their homes."[2] Yale HRL has identified and continues to analyze additional photos and videos allegedly showing RSF shooting at people crawling away from them and berating and using ethnic slurs toward alleged captured Joint Forces prisoners of war (POWs).[3] In one video, an alleged RSF fighter uses a slur "كدروك" which translates to "pig," one of the greatest insults in Sudanese and Islamic culture. Yale HRL continues to investigate all available data.

Of the 40-plus light vehicles visible in and throughout northwest Abu Shouk IDP Camp, at least five vehicles are visible facing south – four of these are in a line facing south down a main road in Abu Shouk IDP Camp. Due to hazy weather conditions, Yale HRL cannot determine the direction that all vehicles are facing or whether those vehicles were in motion at the time the image was collected. Overall, Yale HRL assesses that vehicle positions corroborate ground reports that vehicles attacked Abu Shouk from the north, moving in southward vector into the camp. Findings from imagery analyzed by HRL appear consistent with independent ground reports received within hours of the alleged massacre.

Joint Forces claimed to have repulsed RSF forces from Abu Shouk.[4] Yale HRL cannot confirm these claims at this time.

Abu Shouk IDP Camp was formed by the survivors of the first Darfur Genocide in the early 2000s. The IDP Camp is predominantly composed of Fur, Zaghawa, and other non-Arab communities who fled the Janjaweed, the predecessor of the RSF.

RSF Blocking Exit Routes

Yale HRL has collected and analyzed new satellite imagery that shows RSF blocking escape routes used by civilians to exit El-Fasher. In imagery collected on 9 August 2025, what appear to be tires attached to pylons have been placed across the El-Fasher-to-Kutum road north of El-Fasher and at an opening in the direction of RSF-controlled Mellit, North Darfur. This activity illustrates RSF's active control over these access points.

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.

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.

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[1] شمال دارفور_الفاشر
", Facebook 11 August 2025, "غرفة طوارئ معسكر ابوشوك غرفة طوارئ معسكر أبوشوك
https://www.facebook.com/people/%D8%BA%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%A9-%D8%B7%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A6-%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B4%D9%88%D9%83/61550602327399/ archived at https://archive.ph/7MRxx
[2] *Ibid*
[3] HRL_MMC_106, HRL_MMC_108, HRL_MMC_109, HRL_MMC_110 redacted for human security concerns.
[4] HRL_MMC_107 redacted for human security concerns

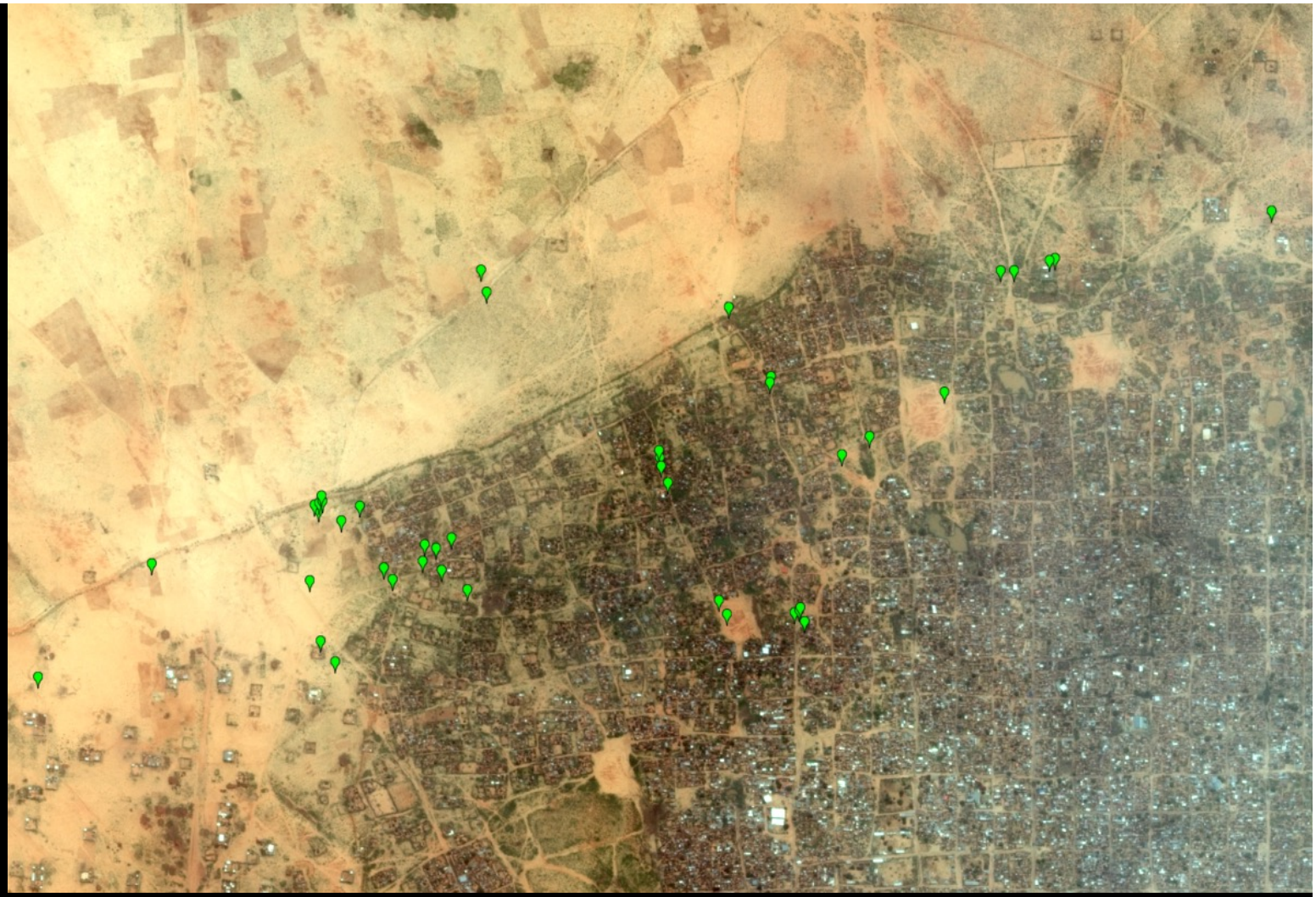
More than 40 Light Vehicles in Northwest Abu Shouk IDP Camp

Newly observed technical vehicles

Over 40 vehicles are visible in Abu Shouk IDP Camp in satellite imagery collected on at 08:38 am UTC (11on 11 August 2025.

At least three vehicles are outside Abu Shouk IDP camp, of which one is at a gap in a berm (earthen wall) directly surrounding Abu Shouk IDP Camp.

Of the more than 40 vehicles visible inside Abu Shouk IDP Camp, four vehicles are in a column facing south. Due to hazy weather conditions, Yale HRL cannot determine the direction that all vehicles are facing or whether those vehicles were in motion at the time the image was collected.



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Northen Access Checkpoint El-Fasher 09 August 2025

Very high-resolution imagery collected over El-Fasher shows a detailed view of tire pylons used as moveable roadblocks at the northern-access checkpoint of the city.

At least five tire pylons are observed on the Kutum-to-El-Fasher road, with two of those pylons moved into a diagonal position. Three additional tire pylons are observed positioned at an opening of a bermed passageway to an unpaved northern access road leading towards Mellit.

Satellite Imagery 09 August 2025 | © 2025 Maxar Technologies

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