

**Confirmation: SAF Attack on El Daein
Teaching Hospital**

24 March 2026

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Humanitarian Research Lab

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This report was independently produced by the Yale School of Public Health's Humanitarian Research Lab. Learn more at <https://medicine.yale.edu/lab/khoshnood/>.

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I. Key Findings

The Yale School of Public Health's Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) confirms an alleged likely Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) targeted the El Daein Teaching Hospital in an aerial attack in Rapid Support Forces (RSF)-controlled El Daein, East Darfur through satellite imagery analysis. SAF attacked El Daein Teaching Hospital on Friday, 20 March, the first day of Eid Al-Fitr, the celebration that ends the holy month of Ramadan.¹ Yale HRL assesses that this attack was conducted by SAF because El Daein is both a base of RSF control and a part of the traditional area of the Rizeigat communities, a group that comprises a significant percentage of the make-up of the RSF.

Damage to the El Daein Teaching Hospital is visible in low resolution satellite imagery between 20-21 March 2026, and in very high resolution (VHR) satellite imagery from 24 March. VHR imagery shows damage to the roof in at least two places as well as the wall of the hospital facility, with significant debris on the road and roof visible. This damage is consistent with damage from aerial munitions. The damage is in at least three places indicating that there were multiple precise impacts. Damage is not visible in satellite imagery in areas surrounding the hospital, which include government and police buildings. This provides evidence that the hospital was specifically targeted.

Both the Emergency Lawyers group and coverage from *Ayin Network* reported that there were multiple aerial strikes, reportedly from a drone.² Yale HRL is not able to determine the type of aircraft involved based on the damage visible in satellite imagery data alone, but confirms that the damage is consistent with an aerial munition. Local sources cited in a *Darfur24* report claimed that the hospital was bombarded in a large explosion and the hospital was bombarded again after people responded to the first attack. The East Darfur State Executive Director of the Ministry of Health reported two aerial strikes on the hospital at approximately 8:40 pm and approximately 9:00 pm local time on 20 March 2026.³ This type of attack is known as a "double tap" that strategically seeks to increase casualties by not only targeting a site but then targeting those who respond to the attack. While Yale HRL can confirm multiple aerial munition impacts, Yale HRL cannot confirm that this attack is a "double tap" based on satellite imagery alone.

Photos of damage to the El Daein Teaching Hospital facility show debris and damage including metal tension rods from a damaged roof structure and metal panels caved in over a damaged bedframe. Piles of brick debris can be seen inside hospital rooms themselves as well as along an exterior wall.⁴ A video report from *Ayin Network* shows rows of patient beds and whole hospital rooms covered in debris with large holes in the walls and roof of the interior of the facility.⁵ This damage corresponds to the at least three impacts visible in VHR satellite imagery, which includes places on the roof and wall of the hospital facility, as well as significant debris on the road and roof. The attack reportedly damaged El Daein Teaching Hospital's pediatric, maternity (obstetrics and gynecology), and emergency departments and "shattered" window and door glass.⁶ The gate, which had multiple cafes, was also damaged.⁷ El Daein Teaching Hospital, which is the largest in East Darfur, closed as a result of the attack's extensive damage.

Sudanese media and the World Health Organization Director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reported on 22 March that the strikes on El Daein Teaching Hospital had caused at least 153 casualties. The strikes killed at least 64 people and injured at least 89 people.⁸ Many of those killed were reportedly patients of the hospital.⁹ At least 13 of the 64 people who were killed were reportedly children, along with “1 male doctor, 2 female nurses,” seven women, including three pregnant women, and 44 men including eight elderly men.¹⁰ At least eight other healthcare workers, eleven children, fifteen women, and 55 men were reportedly injured in the attack.¹¹

El Daein Teaching Hospital is the largest in East Darfur. According to the East Darfur State Executive Director of the Ministry of Health, the hospital has a reportedly has a patient population of 3.5 million people including 900,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).¹² It provides services to vulnerable groups including those who are unable to pay private hospital fees and displaced people and critical dialysis services.¹³ The hospital is a teaching hospital, meaning it helps train the next generation of healthcare workers. The East Darfur Dialysis Center was relocated to the El Daein Teaching Hospital in March 2025 after a SAF strike in August 2024 destroyed the facility and its equipment and the center provided dialysis services for patients in both the Kordofan and Darfur regions.¹⁴

El Daein, East Darfur is under RSF control who maintains military and logistics capabilities in El Daein. On 6 March SAF drones targeted a fuel warehouse, killing at least six civilians including children.¹⁵

II. Human Security Analysis

Throughout Ramadan and the months since SAF has expanded their drone arsenal, SAF has conducted drone attacks on a range of critical infrastructure in Rapid Support Forces (RSF)-controlled areas, notably targeting markets.¹⁶ While critical infrastructure may be a legitimate military target, it must meet a standard for demonstrated military dual use and such an attack must be deemed a military necessity.

Hospitals under international law are special protected objects and targeting special protected objects is a war crime. Hospitals’ special protected status does not end unless they are actively used in military operations against an opposing party. This protected status endures when hospitals are used to treat wounded combatants. A legal attack against a hospital under international humanitarian law requires that both (a) the hospital has been used by a military in a way that ends its status as a special protected status (i.e. to launch an attack), and (b) the attack on the hospital must be preceded by a warning with a time limit to allow for safe evacuation of the facility. The party attacking the hospital maintains its obligations under international humanitarian law to take precautions to minimize harm.¹⁷ SAF has not demonstrated that either standard has occurred.¹⁸

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.

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.

El Daein Teaching Hospital, El Daein

Conflict-related damage observed between
06 January-24 March 2026



06 January 2026 © 2026 Vantor

Analysis of satellite imagery collected between 06 January and 24 March 2026 shows damage due to multiple munition impacts at the Teaching Hospital in El Daein. The damage to the facility is consistent with that from an aerial munition.

Also observed in imagery collected on 24 March is apparent dirt and debris in the road near one of the locations of damage in front of the hospital. Possible damage to a berm located across the street from the hospital is also visible on this date.



24 March 2026 © 2026 Vantor
This image is enhanced with Vantor's HD Imagery Processing

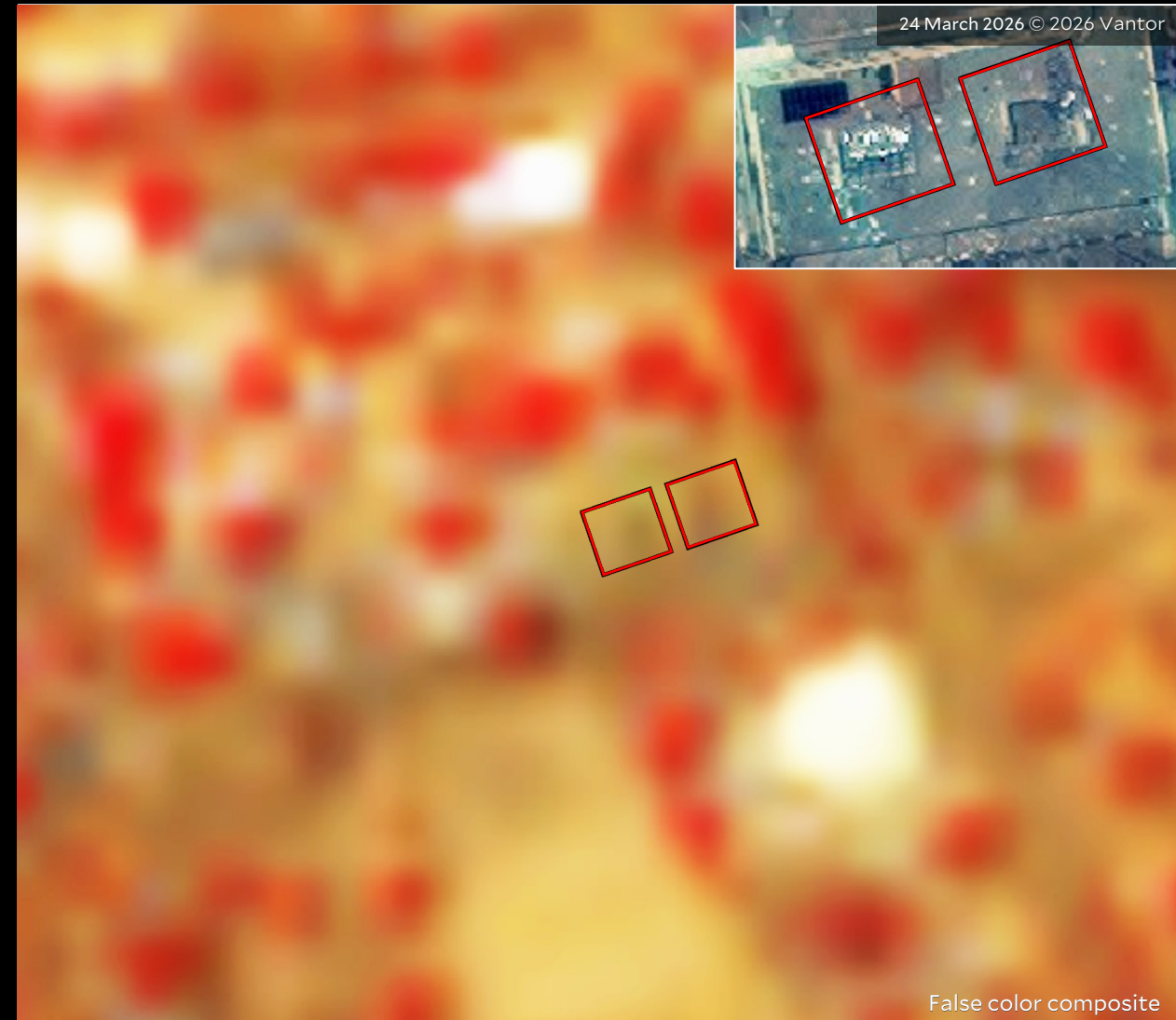
El Daein Teaching Hospital, El Daein

Conflict-related damage observed between
20-21 March 2026

Analysis of Sentinel-2 satellite imagery collected between 20 and 21 March 2026 shows the register of two dark markings coinciding geospatially with the exact location of apparent damage observed in high resolution imagery collected on 24 March 2026 of the El Daein Teaching Hospital.



20 March 2026 © 2026 Copernicus Sentinel



21 March 2026 © 2026 Copernicus Sentinel

¹ Darfur24 “الأمم المتحدة: 153 قتيلاً ومصاباً في الهجوم على مستشفى الضعيفين” *Darfur24*, 22 March 2026. Available at

<https://www.darfur24.com/2026/03/22/%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a3%d9%85%d9%85-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%85%d8%aa%d8%ad%d8%af%d8%a9-153-%d9%82%d9%8e%d8%aa%d9%8a%d9%84%d9%8b%d8%a7-%d9%88%d9%85%d9%8f%d8%b5%d8%a7%d8%a8%d9%8b%d8%a7-%d9%81%d9%8a-%d8%a7%d9%84/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/JGD3-DJZ8>

² Darfur24 “توقف عمل مستشفى الضعيفين بعد قصف أودى بحياة 39 مدنياً” *Darfur24*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://www.darfur24.com/2026/03/21/%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%82%D9%81-%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B6%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%81-%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%89-%D8%A8%D8%AD%D9%8A/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/75R7-GXXW>;

Ayin Network “Deadly airstrike destroys Al-Daein Hospital” *Ayin Network*, 24 March 2026. Available at <https://3ayin.com/en/al-daein-/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/2JPS-957X>

³ Darfur24 “عشرات القتلى و الجرحى جراء غارة جوية على مستشفى الضعيفين التعليمي ” *Darfur24*, 21 March 2026. Available at

<https://www.darfur24.com/2026/03/21/%d8%b9%d8%b4%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%aa-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%82%d8%aa%d9%84%d9%89-%d9%88-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ac%d8%b1%d8%ad%d9%89-%d8%ac%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%a1-%d8%ba%d8%a7%d8%b1%d8%a9-%d8%ac%d9%88%d9%8a%d8%a9-%d9%85%d8%b3/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/2H5Q-MHTZ>;

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⁴ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (DrTedros) “.@WHO has verified yet another attack on health care in #Sudan.” *X, formerly known as Twitter*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://x.com/DrTedros/status/2035467783509873080>, archived at <https://perma.cc/K5PQ-95WT>

⁵ Ayin Network “Deadly airstrike destroys Al-Daein Hospital” *Ayin Network*, 24 March 2026. Available at <https://3ayin.com/en/al-daein-/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/2JPS-957X>

⁶ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (DrTedros) “.@WHO has verified yet another attack on health care in #Sudan.” *X, formerly known as Twitter*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://x.com/DrTedros/status/2035467783509873080>, archived at <https://perma.cc/K5PQ-95WT>;

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⁷ Darfur24 "توقف عمل مستشفى الضعيف بعد قصف أودى بحياة 39 مدنياً" *Darfur24*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://www.darfur24.com/2026/03/21/%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%82%D9%81-%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B6%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%81-%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%89-%D8%A8%D8%AD%D9%8A/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/75R7-GXXW>

⁸ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (@DrTedros) ".@WHO has verified yet another attack on health care in #Sudan." *X, formerly known as Twitter*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://x.com/DrTedros/status/2035467783509873080>, archived at <https://perma.cc/K5PQ-95WT>;

Emergency Lawyers (@EmergencyLawyers) "Two drones belonging to the army bombed Al-Duwayn Educational Hospital in East Darfur State," *X, formerly known as Twitter*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://x.com/EmergencyLawyers/status/2035383575965577700>, archived at <https://perma.cc/JP89-U4G4>;

Darfur24 "توقف عمل مستشفى الضعيف بعد قصف أودى بحياة 39 مدنياً" *Darfur24*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://www.darfur24.com/2026/03/21/%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%82%D9%81-%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B6%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%81-%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%89-%D8%A8%D8%AD%D9%8A/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/75R7-GXXW>

⁹ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (DrTedros) ".@WHO has verified yet another attack on health care in #Sudan." *X, formerly known as Twitter*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://x.com/DrTedros/status/2035467783509873080>, archived at <https://perma.cc/K5PQ-95WT>

¹⁰ Sudan Tribune "ارتفاع ضحايا الهجوم على مستشفى الضعيف إلى (150) قتيلاً وجريحاً" *Sudan Tribune*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://sudantribune.net/article/311958>, archived at <https://perma.cc/E6ZB-CUPC>;

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¹¹ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (DrTedros) ".@WHO has verified yet another attack on health care in #Sudan." *X, formerly known as Twitter*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://x.com/DrTedros/status/2035467783509873080>, archived at <https://perma.cc/K5PQ-95WT>

¹² Ayin Network "Deadly airstrike destroys Al-Daein Hospital" *Ayin Network*, 24 March 2026. Available at <https://3ayin.com/en/al-daein/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/2JPS-957X>

¹³ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (DrTedros) ".@WHO has verified yet another attack on health care in #Sudan." *X, formerly known as Twitter*, 21 March 2026. Available at <https://x.com/DrTedros/status/2035467783509873080>

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¹⁴ Darfur24 "El Daein Dialysis Center Resumes Operations" *Darfur24*, 19 March 2025. Available at , archived at <https://perma.cc/XF8Y-YNKT>

¹⁵ Darfur24 "مقتل 6 مدنيين جراء استهداف مستودع وقود بشرق دارفور" *Darfur24*. 8 March 2026.

<https://www.darfur24.com/2026/03/08/%d9%85%d9%82%d8%aa%d9%84-6-%d9%85%d8%af%d9%86%d9%8a%d9%8a%d9%86-%d8%ac%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%a1-%d8%a7%d8%b3%d8%aa%d9%87%d8%af%d8%a7%d9%81-%d9%85%d8%b3%d8%aa%d9%88%d8%af%d8%b9-%d9%88%d9%82%d9%88%d8%af-%d8%a8/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/UG57-KM3Z>

¹⁶ *Reported recent SAF UAV (drone) attacks on Markets include:*

Adekong Fuel Market: Sudan Tribune "شخصاً في قصف جوي استهدف سوقاً للوقود بغرب دارفور" *Sudan Tribune*, 12 March 2026. <https://sudantribune.net/article/311683m> archived at <https://perma.cc/8RS4-J3FD>;

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<https://www.darfur24.com/2026/03/12/%d9%85%d9%82%d8%aa%d9%84-7-%d9%85%d8%af%d9%86%d9%8a%d9%8a%d9%86-%d9%81%d9%8a-%d8%ba%d8%a7%d8%b1%d8%a9-%d8%ac%d9%88%d9%8a%d8%a9-%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%89-%d8%b3%d9%88%d9%82-%d8%ad%d8%af%d9%88%d8%af%d9%8a/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/6DRS-D8SB>;

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<https://www.darfur24.com/2026/03/11/%d8%a7%d8%b1%d8%aa%d9%81%d8%a7%d8%b9-%d8%b6%d8%ad%d8%a7%d9%8a%d8%a7-%d9%82%d8%b5%d9%81-%d8%b3%d9%88%d9%82-%d9%81%d9%8a-%d9%86%d9%8a%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a7-%d8%a5%d9%84%d9%89-11-%d9%82%d8%aa%d9%8a%d9%84/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/57WP-BLAF>;

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Mandari Market, Nuba Mountains:

Sudan Tribune "الشعبية «تتهم الجيش السوداني بقتل» 17 (مدنياً في قصف بجبال النوبة)" *Sudan Tribune*, 8 March 2026. <https://sudantribune.net/article/311497>, archived at <https://perma.cc/8Z74-GLVB>

Salia, West Darfur:

Darfur24 "إصابة مدنيين في قصف على سوق بغرب دارفور" *Darfur24*, 9 March 2026.

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¹⁷ “The protection of hospitals during armed conflicts: What the law says” *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)* 11 June 2023.

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¹⁸ Emergency Lawyers (@EmergencyLawyers) “ندين قصف مستشفى الضعيف التعليمي بولاية شرق دارفور” X, formerly known as Twitter, 21 March 2026.

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