DigitalGlobe imagery acquired for the Satellite Sentinel Project, or SSP, on November 26 and 27 indicates that a campaign of serial arson and starvation warfare by the government of Sudan has systematically destroyed a total of at least 26 Nuba villages, as well as food crops and grasslands for grazing cattle across approximately 54 square miles (140 square kilometers) in three areas of the war-torn Sudanese border state of South Kordofan.

The new satellite imagery corroborates on-the-ground reports that the government of Sudan has implemented a scorched-earth policy near Dilling and Kadugli, and shows 13 deliberately burned villages (Note only 11 village locations are identified on the attached graphic) there in addition to the 13 deliberately burned Nuban villages previously documented by SSP near al-Abassiya, South Kordofan. See SSP’s prior situation report for documentation of the deliberate burning of civilian residential structures, grasslands, and crops across 31 square miles (82 square kilometers) in the al-Abassiya area. (1)

Northwest of Dilling, the latest satellite imagery released by SSP reveals deliberate fire damage and destruction to farms and villages in an area of at least 23 square miles (60 square kilometers). Radio Dabanga reported, “Citizens from El-Delanj (also known as Dilling) accused a group of pro-government militia of burning 350 houses and 60 square kilometers of farms. Sultan Khamies Soba said pro-government militia members launched a ‘campaign against several villages’ in the locality with the intent of ‘starving and displacing the natives’. (2)

In addition to the fires in the Dilling area, DigitalGlobe’s analysts identified fires burning in a small village located 18 kilometers south of Kadugli on imagery dated November 27, 2012. At least five huts were observed on fire and much of the surrounding grassland and fields were also burning. Rebel forces of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army-North have launched mortar fire into the town of Kadugli in recent weeks; this scorched-earth program may be retaliation by the Sudanese government against Nuban civilian populations.

The systematic razing of civilian infrastructure and the deliberate burning of crops and fields can constitute crimes against humanity.

Burned Area Overview, Dilling, South Kordofan, Sudan

Burned Villages (11)

- al-Subai (prob)
- Kudur
- al-Hijairat
- Dilling

Recently Burned Area Overview (36 sq km)

DigitalGlobe Color Infrared Image, November 27, 2012
Before

Unnamed Village Burned, Dilling, South Kordofan, Sudan

DigitalGlobe Color Infrared Image, November 26, 2012

DigitalGlobe Natural Color Image, March 27, 2012

After

Burned Huts

Unnamed Village Burned, Dilling, South Kordofan, Sudan

DigitalGlobe Color Infrared Image, November 26, 2012

DigitalGlobe Natural Color Image, March 27, 2012

Unharmed Huts
Active Fire South of Kadugli, South Kordofan, Sudan

DigitalGlobe Panchromatic Image, November 27, 2012

Recently Burned Area

Unharmed Huts

Burning Huts