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THE DOCUMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY SATELLITES: THE SATELLITE
SENTINEL PROJECT

Abstract

The present work seeks to analyze and study the "Satellite Sentinel Project", created in 2010 to assist in the prevention of the perpetration of heinous crimes in Sudan and its impact in the documentation of international crimes. The founders of the Organization sustained the utilization of satellite images to monitor and document the commission of war crimes in Sudan, what was essential to support the attacked civilian population and also identify war criminals in the northern and southern Sudan. By that, it is possible to understand that the space technology can also be used as an important asset in the human rights protection systems, specially regarding the production of evidences of human rights violations. In this scenario an important question rises: are those evidences able to guarantee legal standards to the eradication of international crimes, notably the core crimes? In consequence the Sudan case will be studied in the light of the evidences obtained by the Satellite Sentinel Project, in order to understand its effectiveness. In sequence the International Criminal instruments will be analyzed in comparisson to the Space legal system. Finally, the discussion will rely on the consequences of the use of the Space technology to the human rights systems. The methodology of research is transdisciplinary, focusing in compare several areas and correlate them.