بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In loving memory of 7amid

Media Appearances and Interviews

Television and video interviews:

1. CNN Amanpour: A mass casualty event that could exceed Hiroshima

November 3, 2025

Nathaniel Raymond, executive director at the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab, and expert 7amid Khalafalla speak with Bianna Golodryga about documenting evidence of atrocities committed in Sudan:

Bianna Golodryga:
Thank you both for joining us. Nathaniel, let us start with you, and what you and your colleagues at Yale have been monitoring in El Fasher using satellite imagery and open-source data. Obviously, we have had difficulty, as reporters, getting access to the brutality that has been unfolding there, but just talk to us about what you have been seeing with the satellite imagery.

Raymond:
Well, now we are just over a week out, and the picture that the imagery is providing for us is unfortunately very clear and very grim. By the time we reached Monday of last week, we could see RSF vehicles engaged in house-to-house killing. They were blocking alleys with pickup trucks with large machine guns on the back, and we could see objects throughout the last neighborhood that was holding civilians, called Rijl Al Fula. We could see objects that were between 1.3 and 2 meters in length, which is the average size of a human body seen in imagery lying horizontally on the ground. Around some of those objects, we started to see red discoloration, and we believe that is consistent with blood.

Bianna:
When you saw those images (the blood, the bodies, the red discoloration across the city), what went through your mind?

Raymond:
I was horrified. I wanted to throw up. Unfortunately, I wasn't surprised. We have been warning the international community since July 2023 that this was going to happen. It was arguably the most accurately predicted mass killing in history. We briefed the UN Security Council six times. None of this was shocking. We had it down to the day, almost the hour. The only thing that is shocking is the lack of international response.

Bianna:
You briefed the UN six times and there was no response. 7amid, in your opinion, how did the world and the UN allow this massacre to happen?

7amid:
It's not only the UN. Unfortunately, indeed the UN is complicit and partially responsible for what's happening in El Fasher, but so are many other governments. I really appreciate the work that

Nathaniel and his colleagues at Yale HRL have been doing over the past months and years, but we have also briefed the US government, the UK government, and European governments about what's happening in El Fasher and about what's going to happen in El Fasher, because the fall of El Fasher was neither a surprise nor unforeseeable. It was anticipated, documented, and repeatedly warned about, and the level of atrocities that are unfolding at the moment was also very much predicted, because we have seen the same pattern take place in Al Junaynah two years ago. Obviously, the RSF committed so many atrocities wherever they went, but the same pattern was seen in Al Junaynah because of the specific ethnic complexities of the Darfur region, that are very different from what is happening elsewhere in Sudan. All these governments were addressed and briefed, particularly about civilian protection and atrocity prevention. Yet everyone chose to watch this happen and unfold, and now we get nothing but empty statements of condemnation.

Bianna:
Can you give us more in terms of what has stood out to you as we are getting some of these survivors' accounts of the massacre and atrocities, 7amid, from what you are hearing?

7amid:
Every story that I heard was devastating on so many levels. The stories that we are not getting, from those who are still trapped inside El Fasher. One of the recent reports by HRL suggests that you can't see anyone anymore; people are either hiding or dead in El Fasher. Those who have managed to flee were chased through out the way. As they were leaving, they had to flee on foot, and some of them had to walk 60 to 70 km to reach the town of Tawila. As they arrived there, they would tell you the most harrowing stories: for instance, how men and women were separated, and children were separated, and then the men were killed, and then the women had to walk 70 km with young children. During that daylong walk, they would see bodies all over the way of people who are either shot, or died of hunger, or died of different diseases. It is just an unimaginable situation that we have seen coming, but no one did anything about it.

Bianna:
"Systematic killings" is a term we keep hearing over and over again, Nathaniel. I was listening to an Economist report this morning and it was detailing how a hospital there, they believe, every single patient in that hospital was murdered. Your latest analysis shows the before and after of a maternity hospital and a former children's hospital, and how they were turned into a detention site. You also had sources there on the ground with whom you have lost contact. I hate to ask, because it seems pretty obvious, sadly, but what do you think has happened to them, and why have you lost contact with them?

Raymond:
Well, there has been a communications blockade, but we also assume they are dead. On Monday morning, we received word that 1,200 had died in El Fasher. By evening, sources said 10,000. By Tuesday, we couldn't reach them. Meanwhile, we are seeing a velocity of killing that can only be compared to the Rwanda genocide. We are looking at a mass casualty event that could exceed, in a week, the amount of people who died in two years in Gaza. That is the speed of killing we are at, based on what we have been seeing, with piles of bodies on the ground.

Bianna:

You said you haven't seen violence like this since Rwanda, the velocity and the ferocity of the RSF and their murders; you said it's something you haven't seen since your 26 years of your work. You also accused the United States and the UK of prioritizing their ties with the UAE over enforcing serious sanctions and putting more pressure on the UAE to stop supplying and supporting the RSF, that's something the UAE continues to deny. But talk more about the pressure that you think the United States and the UK should be putting on the UAE?

Raymond:
Well, we have incredible reporting from last week by Robbie Gramer and the team at the Wall Street Journal, that have US intelligence assessments from the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research state. Which confirm that the UAE armed the RSF, and actually confirm the assessment by our team at Yale that the UAE had transferred fixed-wing drones to the RSF for the fight on El Fasher. So the point here is that the RSF is able to do what they did here in El Fasher because of UAE support. Press releases aren't going to save those who are still alive. The only thing is a put-up-or-shut-up moment for Mohamed bin Zayed in Abu Dhabi, to tell them: stop supporting the RSF, or you are finally going to face consequences you are going to feel.

Bianna:
We should note that the ICC prosecutor said today that they are collecting evidence of alleged mass killings and rapes from reports from the RSF after they seized El Fasher. Are you in any way working with the ICC? Have they reached out to you in terms of the evidence you have been able to collect, Nathaniel?

Raymond:
I'm going to say: no comment, for reasons that will be obvious to viewers.

Bianna:
Okay. 7amid, in your words: "I would imagine, on the one hand, it's encouraging to hear the prosecutors are collecting evidence here." Ultimately though, do you think that the people who should be held accountable will be, at the end of the day?

7amid:
Honestly, at the moment I'm not quite optimistic in any way, for a number of reasons:

a. For instance, the processes that the ICC and other international systems of justice take are very slow, and the Sudanese people cannot wait for that. For instance, just a few weeks back, we had finally one of the convicted of the Darfur war and genocide back in 2003 was just now tried in The Hague and found guilty, almost 22 years after that genocide happened, while another genocide is unfolding in El Fasher and in Darfur in large. So, you know that kind of timeline does not work and cannot afford it.

b. But also because of the way peace is being made today. Because of the way the international community is engaging and diplomatic efforts have been made, continued to prioritize the warring factions, the belligerents, over civilian actors, and continued to appease them in a way that only rewards their violence and only that encourages more violence, because the more violence you commit, the more power you get, apparently, as far as peace processes nowadays are concerned. So unless there is a fundamental shift in how we make peace, in how these belligerents are not rewarded and are held to account, and

that peace does not mean sacrificing justice and it does not lead to more impunity, I don't think we are going to see an end to this.

Bianna:
What role do you think, 7amid, the United States should play here in fostering and pushing for peace and a ceasefire? This is a president who has said he has now overseen seven or eight ceasefire and peace deals. What will it take to get this on his radar too?

7amid:
I think what's very important for the US to do, quite immediately, is to hold its very close allies and friends to account: the United Arab Emirates. As Nathaniel is speaking, there is more than enough documentation of their support to the RSF and how they have been enabling the atrocities that are happening on the ground. So holding them to account and ensuring that there're no more arms going into Sudan and violating the arms embargo, of the UN and of so many other countries, that is now only ink on paper. Ensuring that actors like the UAE, but also others who are supporting other belligerents, like Egypt and so on, are held to account. This is something that is very easy for the US to do: just pick up the phones and call the heads of these states, and ensure that they don't continue this anymore.

Bianna:
Nathaniel, you are speaking to us from Yale. Two decades ago, college campuses helped lead the Save Darfur movement. Now we see that the college campuses, as it relates to this particular massacre and issue, are rather quiet. We have seen what happens when they mobilize, and the response after October 7, and the pro-Palestinian movement there on college campuses that went on for months. Are you surprised? Why don't you think we are seeing the same amount of turnout and support for those civilians in Darfur and El Fasher?

Raymond:
I think that, at the end of the day, the Save Darfur movement was unprecedented in terms of the amount of resources that went from all sorts of communities, with real pressure from the right, from the evangelical Christian community. It was well funded and well organized. Now, I think a generation later, Frederick Douglass's point he made about the abolition of slavery: "Power concedes nothing without a demand." In this case there was no demand; there was no organization; there was no built-in constituency here, as was the case with Gaza, et cetera, and now these people are dying in absolute obscurity.

Bianna:
So what is your message to college students who have seen how campuses across the world have mobilized and attracted media attention and wall-to-wall coverage? Do you think they could be equally influential here in terms of this particular crisis?

Raymond:
Right now we are talking about a mass casualty event that could rival Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Just the bodies we can see on the ground is multiple 9/11s. So the point is: my message to anyone is: do something. In a matter of hours or days is the scale of time we are working on here. So, call your congressperson, call your senator, do whatever you can now. But we are running out of time.

Bianna:

7amid, I give you the last word.

7amid:
This is definitely not a civil war inside Sudan that is contained to the borders of Sudan, and this is something that the international actors and audience need to really get right. Particularly for instance, in the US, this is a very much an international war that is fueled by arms provided by actors who are allies of the US, including obviously actors who buy arms from the US. So it is an international war that the entire world is contributing to in one way or another. If you think that you are isolated from this in any way, that is not the case.

Bianna:
Nathaniel Raymond, 7amid Khalafallah. Nathaniel, we will stay in touch with you, and we really appreciate the important work you are doing. You will continue to cover and highlight the atrocities happening in El Fasher and Sudan. We appreciate your time.