

# Impact Report

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2024



THE SENTRY

# Our Impact this Year

The Sentry continues to track and disrupt the flow of dirty money linked to war and atrocities. By dismantling the financial lifelines of corrupt regimes and their collaborators, we aim to prevent stolen wealth from being laundered through the international financial system.

In 2024, The Sentry expanded its impact through in-depth investigations, innovative strategies, and new partnerships, and we scaled our efforts in new countries and thematic areas.

Thank you for supporting The Sentry in its fight against violent kleptocracy. Together we can uphold justice, human rights, and a future built on integrity and compassion.

## Actionable Intelligence

Our work contributed to sanctions against more than 60 companies and individuals, including parts of the Wagner Group's corporate network in Africa and key figures behind Sudan's bloody civil war.

## Private Sector Engagement

The Sentry briefed multinational corporations and global financial institutions at exclusive roundtables and large-scale conferences while advancing new systems to deliver evidence and analysis directly to banks and data providers, seeking to raise the cost of kleptocracy.

## Deepening Partnerships

Collaborations with NGOs like Justice for Myanmar, Open Secrets, along with deeper engagement with governments in the Global South, are central to our mission. The launch of Atlas, our open data platform, has further amplified these efforts by equipping investigative reporters, NGOs, and policymakers with critical tools to drive impact.

## Public Advocacy

Through multimedia storytelling and advocacy campaigns, we have raised awareness and driven action. Our coverage in prominent outlets such as Bloomberg, Reuters, and USA Today highlights our impact, while our Wagner Group campaign earned the 2024 PRNews Platinum Award for "Best Media Relations Campaign of the Year."

# Investigations

Conducting targeted investigations to document and expose the economic interests of state militaries, non-state armed groups, and the cross-border networks connected to violence and corruption continues to be at the core of our work. Our findings provide governments, financial institutions, and law enforcement with the critical intelligence needed to disrupt illicit financial flows, block transactions, impose sanctions, and pursue criminal charges against the predatory actors profiting from mass atrocities.

## ► **The Aliyev's \$13 Billion Business Empire**

The Sentry's [first-ever Azerbaijan investigation](#) maps the sprawling \$13 billion network controlled by Arzu and Leyla Aliyeva, the daughters of President Ilham Aliyev. The investigation tracks 148 businesses across the oil, telecom, banking, mining, and other sectors, as well as assets including real estate, ski resorts, and luxury hotels that stretch from London and Malta to Dubai and Moscow. Our efforts to highlight Azerbaijan's entrenched kleptocracy—just as the country hosted COP29—were amplified on social media by prominent Azerbaijani journalists, activists, and opposition leaders.

## ► **The Sprawling Corporate Kingdom of South Sudan's First Family**

This [in-depth exposé](#) revealed the secret business empire of President Salva Kiir's family, detailing their control over South Sudan's critical economic sectors, including oil, mining, banking, aviation, and private security. Combining extensive records from the South Sudan Ministry of Justice with insights from numerous original Sentry investigations, "Kiirdom" illustrates how systemic exploitation fuels the country's kleptocracy.

## ► **Deadly Infrastructure Corruption in Libya**

An [investigation by The Sentry](#) shed new light on the corruption schemes and governance failures that have eroded Libya's core infrastructure, contributing to the dam collapses that killed 12,000 in 2023. Our alert also revealed new greed-driven schemes in the city's ongoing reconstruction that, if left unchecked, could lead to further disaster.

## ► **Investigations into Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organization**

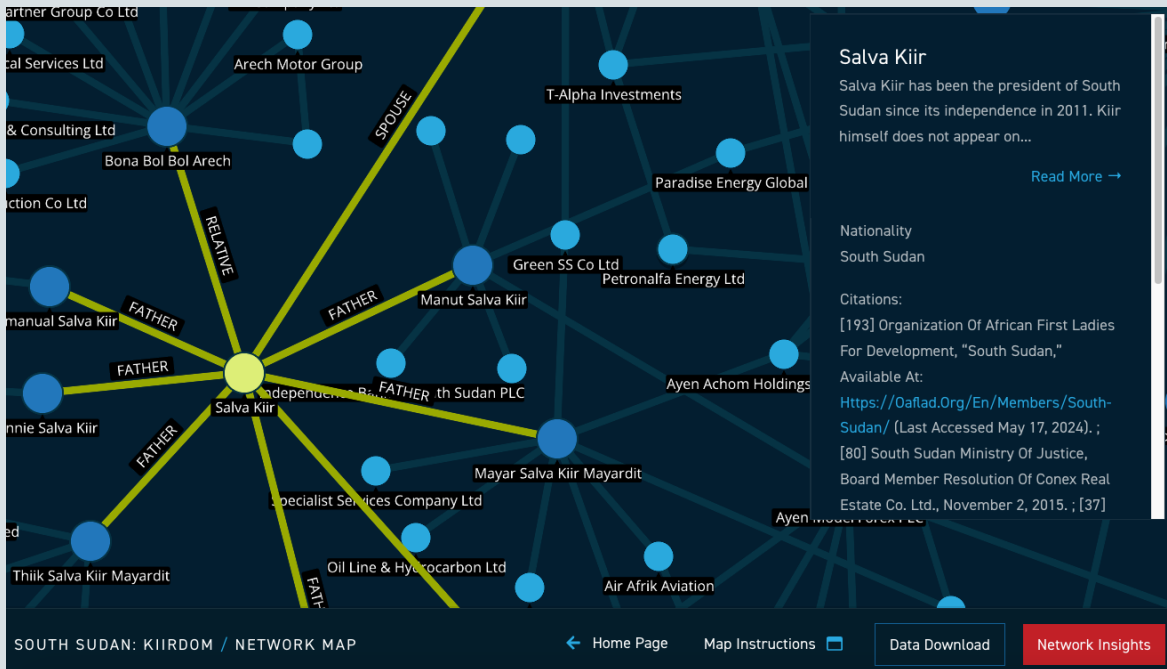
The Sentry unveiled a double investigation into Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organization, the country's secret police force notorious for human rights abuses and anti-democratic activities. The reports exposed the [CIO's secret funding streams](#) derived from tourism, property, and mining ventures, as well as its involvement in a [state-funded campaign of voter intimidation](#).

## ► **Illegal Timber Trade Task Force**

To combat the environmental devastation, corruption, and human rights abuses linked to illegal logging, The Sentry launched a [new task force](#) focused on Central Africa and Southeast Asia. This initiative targets cross-border networks behind the illegal timber trade, traces illicit supply chains, and seeks to hold accountable those who profit from this destructive industry.

# Open Data

The final quarter of 2024 marked a transformative milestone for The Sentry with the launch of [Atlas](#), our cutting-edge open data platform. Atlas revolutionizes the way predatory networks linked to violent conflict, repression, and kleptocracy are mapped, visualized, and understood.



More than a static repository of information, Atlas is an interactive tool that empowers reporters, researchers, law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and the public to explore detailed datasets, conduct independent investigations, and critically assess the evidence. By democratizing access to information that should have been public to begin with, Atlas enables users to examine industries, jurisdictions, and connections between key actors, shedding light on the networks that drive corruption.

## Transforming Transparency

To date, Atlas has showcased investigations into the wealth controlled by the families of the presidents of Azerbaijan and South Sudan, featuring sprawling network maps that untangle the complex webs of shell companies, business associates, and captured assets underpinning kleptocratic systems. These maps provide actionable insights to disrupt illicit networks and drive systemic change.

## A Platform for Global Impact

The Sentry will continue to expand Atlas, publishing new investigations and information that empower journalists, policymakers, and financial institutions with the tools to expose and dismantle corruption. By embracing an open data approach, Atlas ensures that our findings are not only accessible, but also actionable on a global scale. With Atlas, The Sentry is turning evidence into impact, equipping the world to challenge corruption in new and meaningful ways.

# Data Sharing Partnerships

In the past year, The Sentry has expanded partnerships with leading financial data providers—including Castellum.AI, Moody's, OpenSanctions, and Refinitiv—that are widely used by banks and financial institutions to screen clients and transactions for corruption risk.

Through a pilot initiative launched two years ago with Castellum.AI and Moody's, The Sentry began sharing investigative data directly with banks, companies, and investors. This real-time data sharing accelerated impact, bypassing the delays often associated with sanctions or legal action and enabling immediate actions like freezing accounts and blocking transactions.

Building on this proof of concept, The Sentry has launched a [public-private partnership](#) with Castellum.AI and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to create an AI-powered platform for NGOs to share corruption data in real time. This platform will enhance compliance systems by allowing financial institutions to screen customers, transactions, and supply chains against NGO investigations, just as they do for sanctions and other watchlists.



The Sentry presented corruption risk data on **324 corporate entities** and **112 named individuals**, significantly increasing the likelihood of their exclusion from the international financial system.



Castellum.AI



THE SENTRY

# Policy Engagement

The Sentry leverages strong relationships with governments, law enforcement, and global banks to drive direct policy change and enhance the public and private sector's ability to combat corruption and money laundering linked to conflict and human rights abuses. To disrupt the systems enabling violent kleptocracy, our efforts focus on advancing targeted network sanctions, promoting the adoption and enforcement of new and existing laws and regulations, and providing actionable intelligence to banks and data providers.

## ► **Advancements in Sanctions Policy**

The Sentry's advocacy contributed to the adoption of a new EU sanctions regime targeting Russian disinformation and enhanced coordination between the US, EU, UK, and Canada on designations and enforcement. We successfully pushed the US to impose visa restrictions on key individuals undermining peace in South Sudan.

## ► **Global South Engagement**

To drive impact on cases in Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and beyond, The Sentry intensified outreach to authorities in the Global South, with a particular focus on South Africa. Our team has presented evidence to the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, the South African Police Service's specialized anti-corruption unit. The Sentry also deepened partnerships with NGOs like South Africa's Open Secrets.

## ► **Libya Policy Leadership**

The Sentry is increasingly shaping the policy discourse on Libya, as kleptocracy becomes the primary lens through which international policymakers view the country. Through collaborations with [Bloomberg](#) on fuel smuggling, [Reuters](#) on counterfeit currency, and the [Telegraph](#) on Russia's expanding foothold, as well as articles in the [Atlantic Council](#) and [Euractiv](#) on corruption and irregular migration, we have positioned ourselves at the forefront of policy discussions.

## ► **US and EU Policy on Sudan**

Intensive engagement by The Sentry and a coalition of civil society groups prompted enhanced policy responses by both the US and the EU, including the appointment of a US Special Envoy. The Sentry successfully advocated for targeted sanctions against officials involved in arms procurement. Our [briefing for EU policymakers](#) revealed significant gaps in EU designations compared to the US and UK, outlining steps to curb the financial flows fueling the conflict.

## ► **UAE and the Illicit Gold Trade**

[In collaboration with Transparency International and other partners](#), The Sentry repeatedly highlighted the [role of the United Arab Emirates](#) in sanctions evasion and illicit gold flows from Sudan. Our advocacy prompted the EU to retain the UAE on its High-Risk Jurisdictions list, enhancing scrutiny of financial transactions.

## ► **Myanmar Sanctions Enforcement**

The Sentry and Justice for Myanmar highlighted ongoing jet fuel shipments to Myanmar's military in violation of sanctions, urging stronger enforcement by the US and moving Canada and the UK to adopt new sanctions targeting the supply chain.

# Public Advocacy

In 2024, The Sentry strengthened its position as a global resource for investigative journalists by collaborating with leading local and international media outlets, including The Economist, the Financial Times, USA Today, Bloomberg, Associated Press, Radio France International, BBC, and Foreign Affairs. Strategic media engagement amplifies The Sentry's impact, ensuring that our findings influence both public opinion and policymaking.



Investigations and policy analysis by The Sentry appeared in at least **149** articles, op-eds, podcasts, and broadcast segments.

## ► Sudan Advocacy

Amid Sudan's escalating humanitarian crisis, Don Cheadle and John Prendergast co-authored an op-ed in [USA Today](#) warning of famine risks, and The Sentry placed policy-focused articles in [Foreign Affairs](#) and [The Hill](#).

## ► Calling Out Sportswashing

The Sentry [co-leads a coalition](#) that spotlights how the UAE's partnerships with the NBA and the Premier League mask its support of a genocidal militia in Sudan.



## ► Libya Fuel Smuggling Investigation

A year-long collaboration with Bloomberg resulted in a major exposé on [fuel smuggling in Libya](#) shaped by The Sentry's leads, local contacts, and analysis. The report included exclusive revelations on the Wagner Group's activities in Libya and on Russian regional interference.

## ► Wagner Group Impact

[Architects of Terror](#), The Sentry's 2023 report on the Wagner Group's blueprint for state capture in Africa, continues to resonate, driving global awareness and media coverage of Russian mercenary operations across the continent.

# Targeted Network Sanctions

- ✓ **Africa Corps**  
The Russian mercenary group itself, as well as 11 Kremlin-linked individuals responsible for human rights abuses in Libya, Mali, and the Central African Republic.
- ✓ **Alain Goetz**  
Belgian gold trader involved in refining conflict gold from Eastern DRC.
- ✓ **M23 Leadership**  
Senior members of M23, the violent armed group in Eastern DRC, long investigated by The Sentry.
- ✓ **Myanmar Military Supply Chain**  
Entities providing jet fuel and aviation equipment, sanctioned in a coordinated effort by the UK, EU, and Canada.
- ✓ **Sudan's Rapid Support Forces**  
Algoney Hamdan Daglo Musa, responsible for arms procurements and brother to RSF leader Hemedti, as well as other RSF leaders with command-and-control responsibilities.



Evidence from The Sentry contributed to sanctions on **36 individuals** and **31 companies** in 2024.

**Sudan**

INDIVIDUALS



COMPANIES



**Myanmar**

INDIVIDUALS



COMPANIES



**Democratic Republic of Congo**

INDIVIDUALS



COMPANIES



**Wagner Group**

COMPANIES





# Thank You

The Sentry's work is made possible thanks to the generous support of our close partners and donors. We are grateful for their continued investment in our mission.



To learn more about The Sentry or to make a donation, please visit [our website](#).

The Sentry is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in the United States. EIN: 20-8827879