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PRESS RELEASE

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SITU Research is pleased to announce the launch of Spatial Practice as Evidence and Advocacy (SPEA) – a project that will utilize spatial analysis and visualization in the service of human rights fact-finding and reporting. Mobilizing innovative applications of existing and emerging technologies, a primary goal of SPEA is to broaden the “tool kit” and culture of human rights work to include design as an integral component of legal and advocacy initiatives.

Made possible in part by the generous support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Oak Foundation, SPEA will undertake applied casework with human rights organizations, news outlets, legal counsel, scientists, and researchers to generate reports targeted at synthesizing diverse forms of evidence into precise, coherent and compelling spatial narratives. Further, the SPEA project seeks not only to represent consequential data in the most effective way, but also to extend the impact of these often technical and prosaic findings through public-facing, interactive reports.

As a cross-disciplinary project, SPEA has a unique opportunity to bridge the gaps that traditionally separate and segment the fields of human rights and design. SPEA will build upon the long-form textual structure of traditional human rights reporting with the integration of spatio-visual content that can enrich the analysis of specific human rights violations. Work will focus on the collection and synthesis of disparate forms of evidence, both quantitative and qualitative, that may be gathered in a specific case (e.g., satellite imagery, video footage, the verbatim testimony of witnesses, munitions specifications, etc.). Over the next 22 months, SPEA will collaborate on a series of reports that will be made available to the public. Examples of other human rights cases that SITU Research has worked on can be found [here](#).

SITU Research is an interdisciplinary design practice that operates at the intersection of architecture, law, science and advocacy. A core value of Situ Research is the applied nature of its work. SITU Research has worked with organizations such as Human Rights Watch, B’Tselem, and Fédération Internationale des Liges des Droits de l’Homme and submitted previous work with Forensic Architecture to international organizations such as the Council of Europe’s Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society.

Oak Foundation commits its resources to address issues of global social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged.

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SITU Research is a division of SITU, an interdisciplinary design practice located in Brooklyn, NY.

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