

A week of deadly wildfires in northern Algeria & Tunisia

Sentinel-3 OLCI FR & SLSTR RBT acquired on **06 August 2021** at 09:57:29 UTC
Sentinel-3 OLCI FR & SLSTR RBT acquired on **12 August 2021** at 10:03:04 UTC
Sentinel-3 SLSTR RBT acquired on **13 August 2021** at 09:36:53 UTC
Sentinel-3 OLCI FR & SLSTR RBT acquired on **14 August 2021** at 09:49:59 UTC

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Fig. 1 - S3 OLCI (12.08.2021) - North Africa has been sweltering under searing heat. From 9 August 2021, over 90 wildfires have started in northern Algeria.

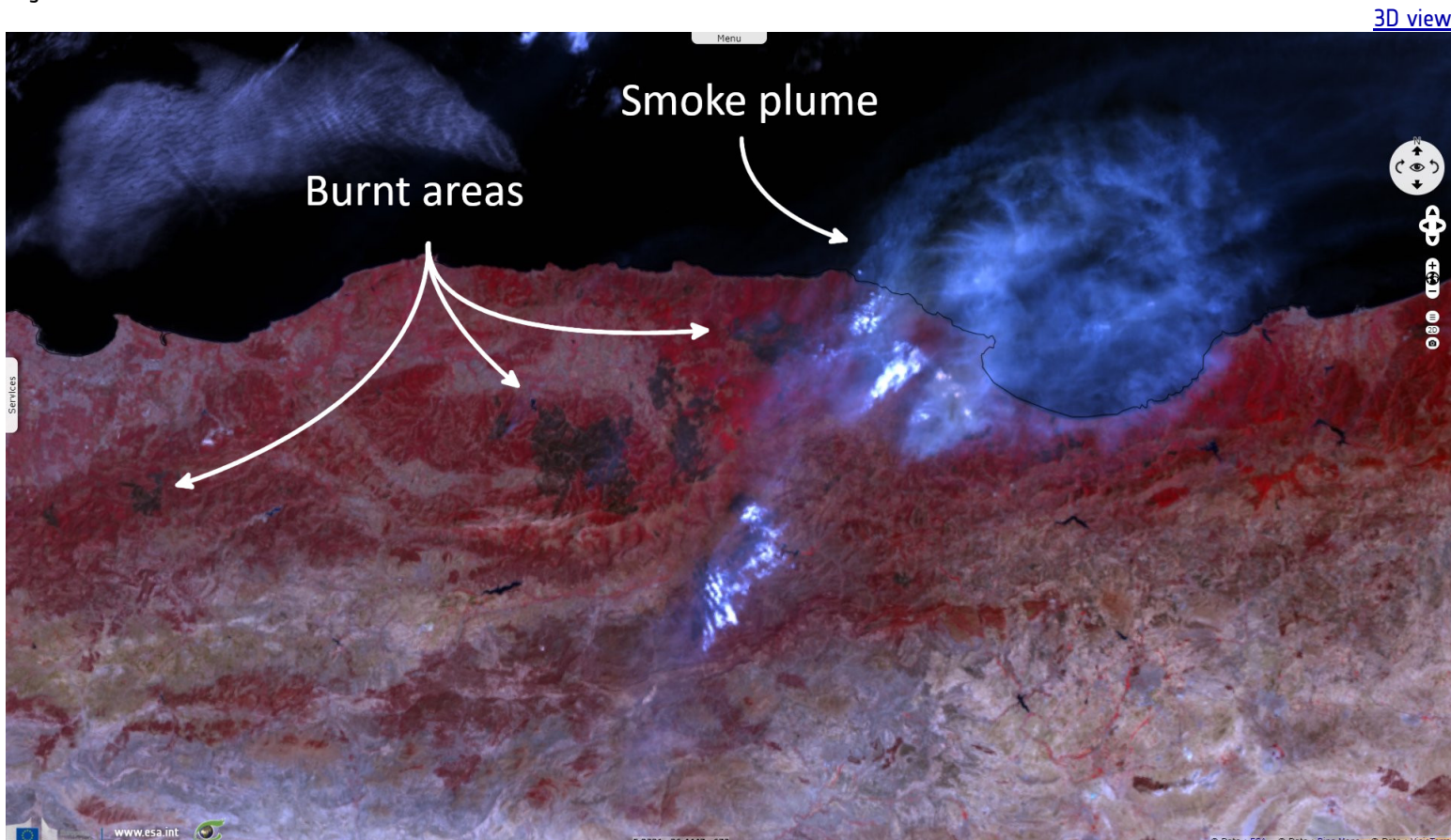


Fig. 2 - S3 OLCI (14.08.2021) - They burnt over 1000 km², killing 90 people which of 57 civilians and 33 soldiers while 15 fires have burnt 80 km², in Tunisia.

[3D animation](#)

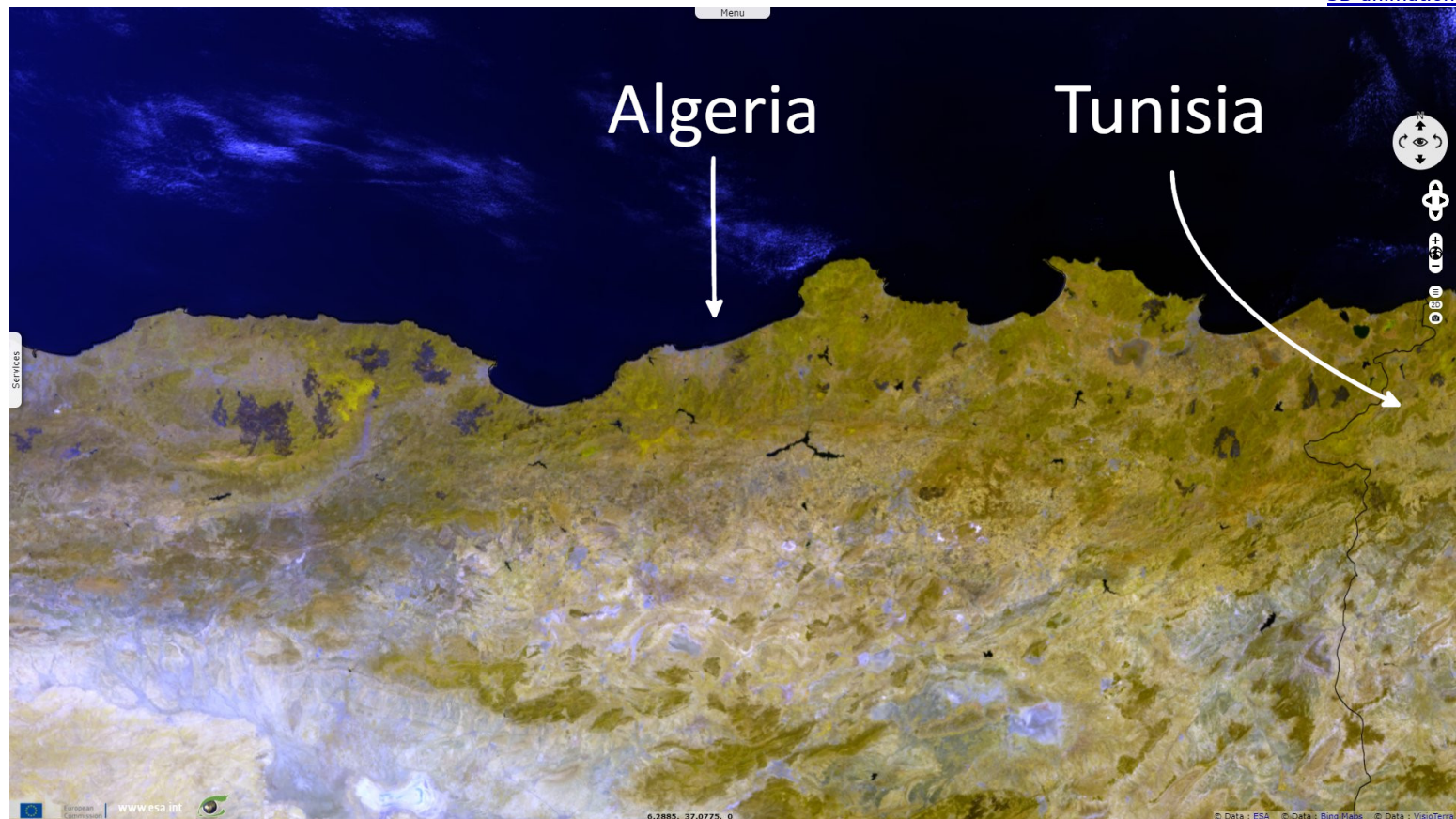
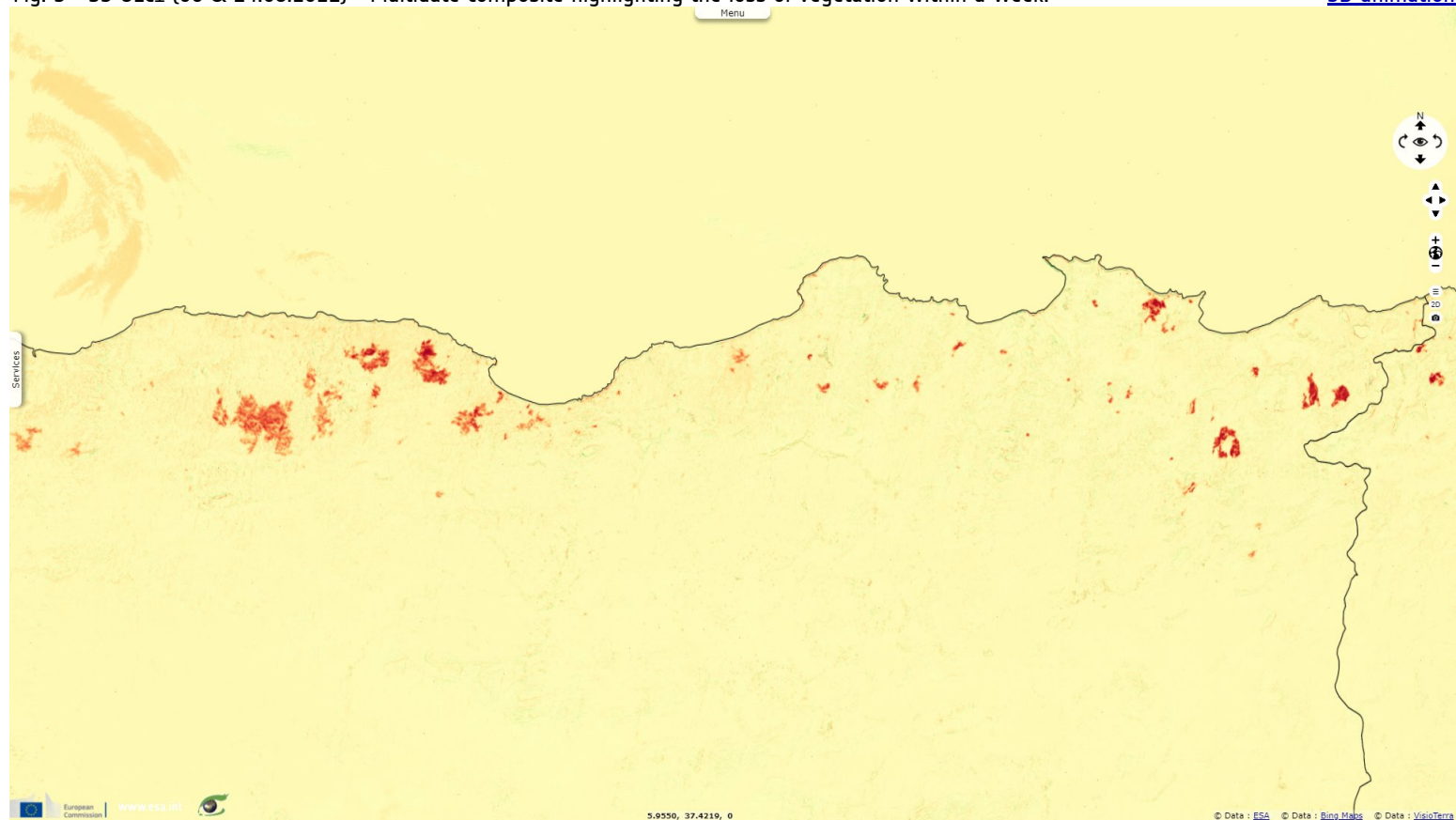


Fig. 3 - S3 OLCI (06 & 14.08.2021) - Multidate composite highlighting the loss of vegetation within a week.

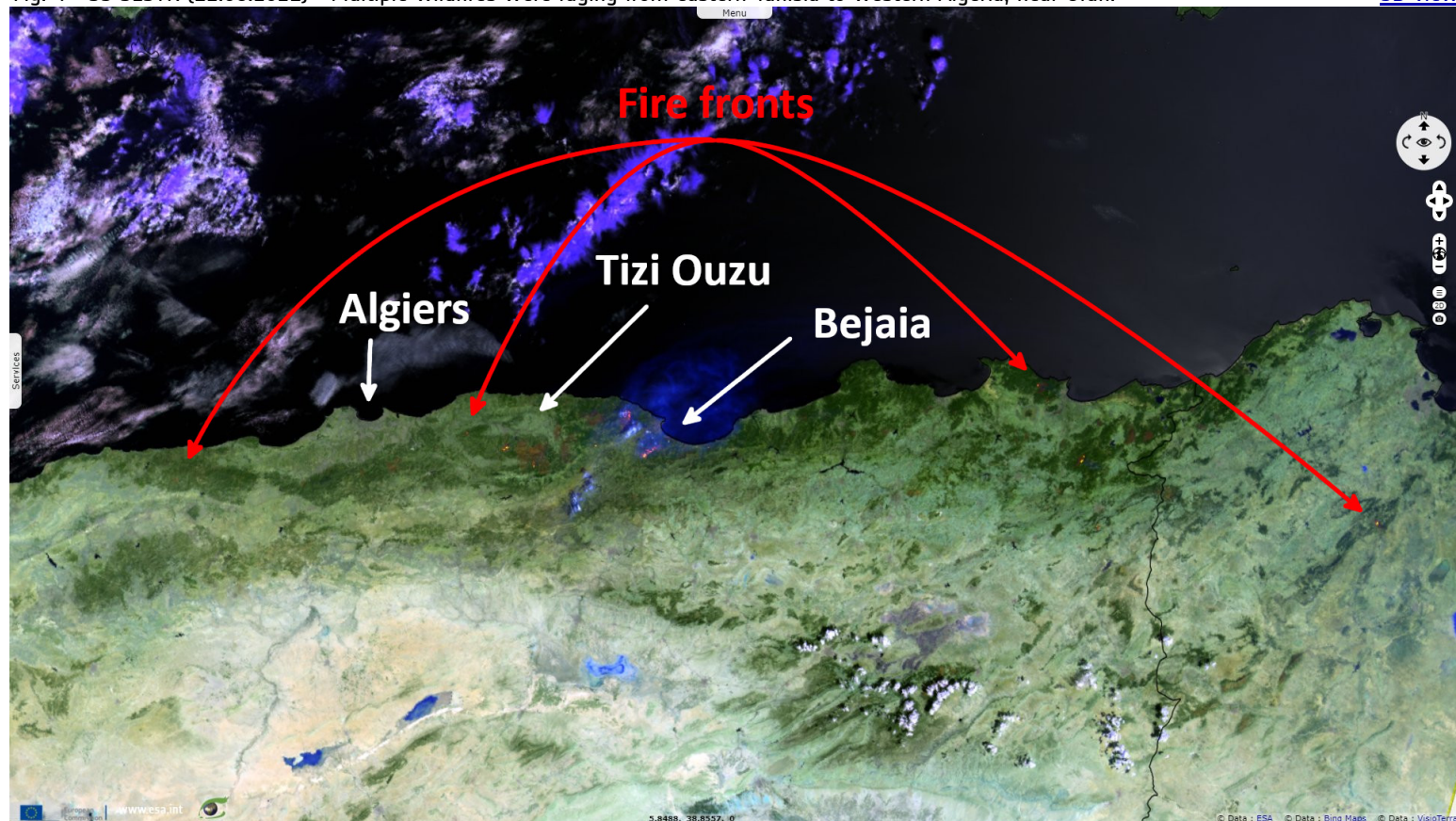
[3D animation](#)



To add to the tragedy, an artist and social activist was present in Kabylia, the most affected region, to help residents put out the fires. He was killed by a mob that believed that "he started the wildfire" due to his Arab ethnicity.

Fig. 4 - S3 SLSTR (12.08.2021) - Multiple wildfires were raging from eastern Tunisia to western Algeria, near Oran.

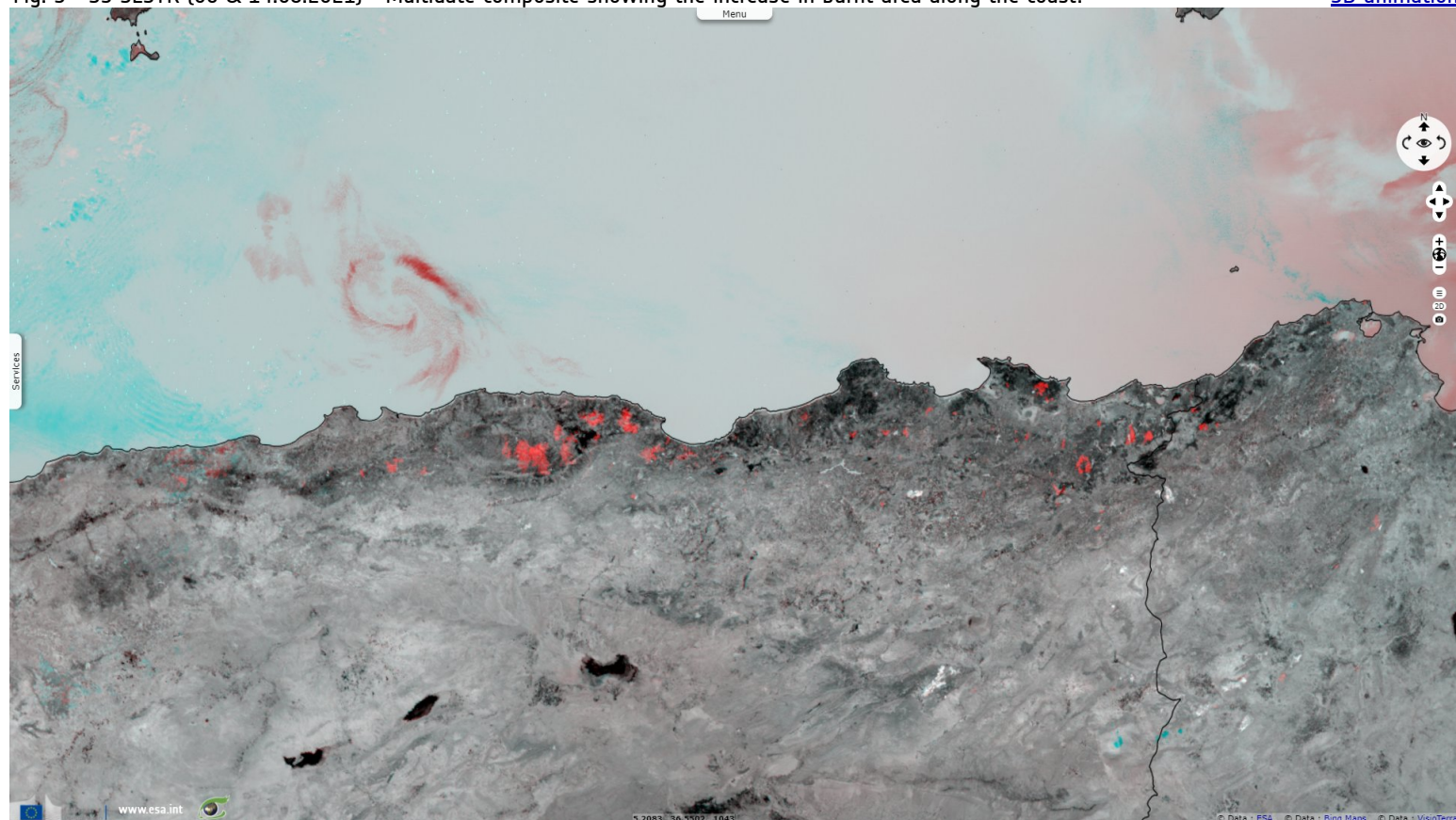
[3D view](#)















The government send out several different helicopters which have a capacity of a 1000 liters. On 12 August, France sent over two firefighting aircrafts with a capacity of 6000-7000 liters. Two other planes from Spain were expected on 13 August and another from Switzerland on 14 August.

Fig. 5 - S3 SLSTR (06 & 14.08.2021) - Multidate composite showing the increase in burnt area along the coast.

[3D animation](#)



The Algerian president said a "solidarity fund" will provide some financial aid to families affected by the fires, which have destroyed homes, olive groves and animals that provide livelihoods in the region.

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