

## Sudan: The Civilian Protection Monitoring Team

The Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) signed an "Agreement to Protect Civilians from Military Attack" in March 2002. This agreement was the result of one of Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan Senator John Danforth's "tests" of the parties' will for peace. The agreement ultimately led to the creation of the U.S.-led Civilian Protection Monitoring Team (CPMT), tasked with monitoring and investigating attacks against civilians.

### Agreement to Protect Civilians

The "Agreement to Protect Civilians from Military Attack" provides, among other things, that the parties:

- Refrain from targeting or intentionally attacking non-combatant civilians;
- Refrain from endangering the safety of civilians by intentionally using them as 'human shields';
- Take all precautions feasible to avoid incidental loss of civilian life.

### Organization and Funding

The team became fully operational in October 2002 and is now headed by U.S. Army Brigadier General Charles H. Baumann, a retired officer with extensive African and peace-keeping experience. While the funding for the CPMT comes primarily from the United States, international monitors and operations-support come through a contract with a private U.S. professional services company, Pacific Architects and Engineers. CPMT operations are independent of the U.S., GOS, and the SPLM. The CPMT's headquarters are in Khartoum, with an additional operational team in Rumbek. The team's capacity is currently at some twenty monitors and three fixed-wing aircraft.

### Investigation of Allegations

The CPMT has received and investigated dozens of allegations of attacks against civilians. Though many allegations are unsubstantiated, a number of allegations have been substantiated, including allegations of GOS attacks on civilians and looting of civilian property, and SPLM abduction of civilians and looting of property. For further details on investigations, please see the CPMT web page.

### CPMT and VMT

On October 15, 2002, both sides signed a cessation of hostilities and humanitarian access memorandum of understanding. A February 4, 2003 addendum strengthened this memorandum by calling for the establishment of a Verification and Monitoring Team to investigate violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement. The addendum allows the VMT to include personnel and aircraft from an expanded CPMT.

### Links

Civilian Protection Monitoring Team - <http://www.cpmtsudan.org/>