

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE
SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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INFORMATION NOTE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY TWO

Earthquake Indonesia.

According to a new survey released by the Indonesian government on Friday 2 June, 6,234 people have died due to the recent earthquake and an additional 33,231 people have serious injuries. As the quake toll in the highly populated area around Yogyakarta rises, a Sovereign Order of Malta assessment team has arrived on the ground.

The Sovereign Order of Malta has opened an emergency hospital in the district of Bantul. Six medics are treating some hundreds of patients per day in the village of Gedong south of Yogyakarta and are providing urgently needed drugs, dressings and infusions as well as carrying out minor operations. The emergency hospital, which is situated less than ten kilometers from the epicenter, is in charge of the medical care for about a fifth of the population in the district of Bantul. It has been installed in five rooms of a private house, which has been put at the Sovereign Order of Malta's disposal. A surgeon of the Order of Malta, Dr. Julio Vidal, is carrying out difficult operations in Bethesda hospital in Bantul alongside Indonesian doctors. A logistics expert, Mr. Ravi Triprap, has arrived in the district of Bantul on Friday.

With their mobile clinic, a medical team of the Order of Malta (consisting of a nurse, a driver and a translator) goes to see the patients in the villages nearby. They treat light injuries on the spot; and seriously injured people are transported to the emergency hospital. In addition to the immediate treatment of the injured, the team also ensures basic healthcare. It has assisted in several childbirths and provided prenatal care

In the field, the Sovereign Order of Malta is closely working together with other organizations. The Adventist relief organization (ADRA) is running two more mobile clinics in the area covered by the emergency hospital. Five volunteers of the German mine-clearing organization "Demira" and several local medics support the work of Sovereign Order of Malta in the emergency hospital and in the mobile clinic.

The Order has provided 100,000 Euro for emergency aid, and will support local hospitals and health care structures with pharmaceuticals and additional medical experts.

The severe aftershocks and the increasing activity of the nearby volcano, Merapi, are also causing great concern to the people in the affected area and to the relief teams.

The Sovereign Order of Malta has been operating in Indonesia since the 2004 tsunami in rehabilitation projects and primary health care services. Currently, 12 international and more than 200 local staff members are working in the tsunami affected region.

New York, June 6, 2006