

## Abkhazia-Georgia

### UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • Authorization and Start Date   | 24 August 1993<br>(UNSC Res. 858)  |
| • SRSG and Head of Mission       | Jean Arnault (France)  |
| • Chief Military Observer        | Major-General Niaz Mohammad Khan Khattak (Pakistan)  |
| • Senior Police Advisor          | Oleksiy Telychkin (Ukraine)  |
| • Budget                         | \$35 million (1 July 2007–30 June 2008)  |
| • Strength as of 31 October 2007 | Military observers: 130<br>Police: 17<br>International Civilian Staff: 97<br>Local Civilian Staff: 181<br>UN Volunteers: 1 |

*For detailed mission information see p. 343.*

### CIS Peacekeeping Force (CISPKF) in Abkhazia-Georgia

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Authorization Date               | 21 October 1994 (CIS Council of Collective Security), 21 July 2004 (UNSC Res. 937) |
| • Start Date                       | June 1994  |
| • Head of Mission                  | Major-General Sergey Chaban (Russia)   |
| • Strength as of 30 September 2007 | Troops: 1,600  |

The year 2007 saw a partial thaw of the frozen conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia, but meaningful discourse between the two parties remained elusive. The lack of diplomatic progress on peace negotiations was compounded by disputes over the validity of local Abkhaz elections and the continued efforts to link Abkhazia's independence with the situation in Kosovo. Georgia-Russia tensions remained

high throughout the year, driven largely by an incident involving rocket fire in the Kodori Valley (the 6 August missile incident in South Ossetia) and Russian withdrawal from the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

After Abkhazia declared independence from Georgia in 1992, the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) was established in August 1993 to verify compliance with the cease-fire agreement. In spring 1994, the two sides negotiated the "Agreement on a Cease-Fire and Separation of Forces," also known as the Moscow Agreement, which mandated the CIS Peacekeeping Force (CISPKF). Drawing on the over 1,000 Russian troops present in the conflict zone, the CISPKF was mandated to promote the safe return of refugees, provide a "security zone," and supervise implementation of the agreement. In July 1994, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 937, expanding UNOMIG's mandate to include monitoring of the CISPKF, the cease-fire agreement, and Georgian troop withdrawal from the Kodori Valley.

Several incidents toward the end of 2006 led to heightened tensions in the conflict zone throughout 2007. On 25 October 2006, the Georgian government reported that three rockets were fired in the upper Kodori Valley in northern Abkhazia, an incident that the UN Secretary-General referred to as "very serious." Following the arrest in December 2006 of an Abkhaz official from Gali by the Georgian police, the Gali administration temporarily closed several crossing points into the district. UNOMIG responded by launching fifty-two special patrols to 273 destinations on both sides of the cease-fire line. Despite this increased UN presence in the region, sporadic violence continued into early 2007.

In February and March 2007, the Abkhaz administration conducted local and parliamentary elections, the validity of which was contested by much of the international community. The Group of Friends, composed of the United States, France, Germany, Russia, and the United Kingdom, continued their attempts to define the principles for a political settlement of the conflict. Though two meetings were convened, talks stalled over the issue of Georgian withdrawal of armed personnel from the upper Kodori Valley, and over the ongoing dispute over the disappearance of

David Sigua, an Abkhaz election official from Gali district.

The most serious incident in 2007 occurred on 20 September, when Georgian and Abkhaz forces engaged in direct clashes, leading to two dead and seven detained on the Abkhaz side. Another serious incident took place on 11 March, when the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed UNOMIG that five helicopters had fired rockets from the upper Kodori Valley into the villages of Chkhalta and Adjara. A joint fact-finding report was released by UNOMIG at the end of

#### Box 4.1.1 Tajikistan

##### UN Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding (UNTOP)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| • Start Date  | 1 June 2000   |
| • End Date  | 31 July 2007  |
| • Executive Representative of the Secretary-General | Ambassador Vladimir Sotirov (Bulgaria)                      |
| • Strength as of 30 September 2007                  | Civilian Staff: 31 (10 internationally recruited, 21 local) |

##### OSCE Centre in Dushanbe

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Authorization Date               | December 1993 (Rome Ministerial), October 2002 |
| • Start Date                       | February 1994                                  |
| • Head of Mission                  | Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin (Russia)          |
| • Budget                           | \$5.2 million (October 2006–September 2007)    |
| • Strength as of 30 September 2007 | Civilian Staff: 17                             |

shortfall in the country's first postconflict elections, with five candidates vying for the presidency. Despite the challenges, the elections proceeded peacefully, resulting in a third consecutive seven-year term for President Imomali Rakhmon.

Throughout its seven-year history, UNTOP facilitated programs on a range of peacebuilding issues, including fostering national dialogue and reconciliation, strengthening democratic institutions, reintegrating former combatants, training police, and promoting human rights and rule of law. After a two-month mandate renewal in May 2007 to allow for a smooth handover of its activities to national authorities, UNTOP closed its doors, having successfully fulfilled its mandate.

Following the end of UNTOP's mandate, in December 2007 the UN opened a regional preventive diplomacy center in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, to facilitate communication among regional organizations within Central Asia and to provide continued political advice and assistance. While this is a promising sign, Tajikistan remains the poorest country in Central Asia, and it is evident that continued engagement of international actors will be necessary to consolidate the gains registered with the support of the various UN missions in Tajikistan.

Two events in 2007 highlighted Tajikistan's dramatic transformation over the past fifteen years: the tenth anniversary of the end of the country's civil war (1992–1997), and the end of the mandate of the UN Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding (UNTOP) on 31 July 2007. Since 2000, UNTOP had provided political advice to the Tajikistan government to follow up the UN Mission of Observers to Tajikistan (UNMOT). While both events are indicative of general progress in Tajikistan's postconflict recovery process, the post-UNTOP environment is

rife with political tension characterized by a democratic deficit.

In May 2006, the UN Secretary-General requested a year-long mandate extension for UNTOP to ensure assistance for the November 2006 presidential elections. UNTOP developed and implemented a technical assistance project for the elections and coordinated activities with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Centre in Dushanbe. Limited access to the media during the campaign emerged as a major

July, but did not identify the parties involved in the incident. Reports of the movement of unidentified armed personnel in the lower Kodori Valley during early 2007 were also a concern.

A further contentious issue in 2007 was the presence of two Georgian “patriotic youth camps” on the border with Abkhazia. Georgia

and Russia also continued to dispute whether the Russian presence at a military base in Abkhazia constituted a violation of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty. Russia’s withdrawal from the treaty on 14 July increased tensions, while diplomatic channels remained at a standstill.