

India and Pakistan

As one of the UN's oldest peacekeeping operations, the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) was established in 1949 and has consisted for many years of approximately forty-five military observers deployed to supervise the cease-fire between Indian and Pakistani forces, based on the Karachi Agreement of 27 July 1949. Large-scale military hostilities broke out again in 1965–1966 and in 1971, after which a cease-fire was secured and included in the Simla Agreement. However, from 1989 until 2003, firing along the line of control (LoC) between the two armies was commonplace and there were frequent incidents of violence in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir. In recent years, political relations between the two countries have improved, including tentative cooperation to deal with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in October 2005. Despite India's official position that UNMOGIP has no operational role to play since the Simla Agreement of 1972, UNMOGIP continues to perform the limited function of monitoring the cease-fire along the LoC, pending settlement of the underlying dispute over Jammu and Kashmir.

The LoC that was established in 1972 follows, with minor deviations, the cease-fire line that had been established under the 1949 Karachi Agreement. However, India and Pakistan retained divergent positions on UNMOGIP's continued role. India took the position that the mandate of UNMOGIP had lapsed, as it related specifically to the cease-fire line under the Karachi Agreement. Pakistan disagreed with this position and continued to lodge complaints

UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

• Start date	January 1949
• Chief military observer	Major-General Dragutin Repinc (Croatia)
• Budget	\$8.37 million (appropriation for 2005)
• Strength as of 31 October 2005	Military observers: 44 International civilian staff: 21 Local civilian staff: 47

of cease-fire violations with UNMOGIP. In November 2003, the government of Pakistan declared a unilateral cease-fire covering the international border between the two countries, the LoC and the working boundary between Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir.

Without a Security Council decision to make a change, UNMOGIP has continued to fulfill its mandate established in 1949 with virtually the same administrative arrangements. Its task is to monitor the cease-fire along the LoC and report to the Secretary-General on developments that affect the observance of the cease-fire. It investigates complaints and reports on them to United Nations headquarters. India has somewhat restricted the activities and movement of UN personnel on its side of the LoC by requiring the UN military observers to travel in Indian army convoys, and has rejected proposals that the UN take a mediating role in the conflict. However, both governments have continued to provide UNMOGIP with accommodation, transportation, security, and other support.

Political relations between India and Pakistan have fluctuated over the years, but took a turn for the better in January 2004, when an agreement was reached to commence a bilateral “composite dialogue” on an agreed range of issues, including Jammu and Kashmir. Numerous confidence-building measures were instigated and further progress was made in April 2005, when the two states held a mini-summit to discuss the fate of Jammu and Kashmir. In September 2005, India announced that it would reduce its troop levels in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, pending an end to alleged infiltration of militants from across the LoC.

Although India has yet to follow through on this reduction, diplomatic developments are encouraging. However, concerns have been raised by representatives of civil society on both sides of the LoC that public engagement on the fate of Jammu and Kashmir has been limited and fails to address fully the concerns of the local population. During the past year, the Secretary-General has supported the composite dialogue and the confidence-building measures undertaken by the governments of India and Pakistan, including the introduction of a bus service between Muzaffarabad and Srinagar, across the LoC.

On 8 October 2005, the region suffered a devastating earthquake, killing more than an

estimated 73,000 people and leaving some 3 million homeless, primarily on the Pakistan-administered side of the LoC. There were also UNMOGIP casualties. The two governments cautiously sought to cooperate in providing assistance to the victims of the earthquake. In the immediate aftermath, India stated that it would permit Pakistani helicopters to operate over the LoC. Similarly, President Pervez Musharraf offered to open the LoC to enable earthquake survivors and their families to cross, and to help with relief and reconstruction efforts. In November, the two countries opened five crossing points initially to facilitate the movement of relief supplies, and eventually of civilians.

Despite these goodwill gestures, violence in the region persists, including continued attacks by suspected militants and counter-insurgency activities by the Indian military. In the week following the earthquake, the Indian army killed twenty-nine suspected militants, and Ghulam Nabi Lone, the education minister in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, was assassinated. UNMOGIP’s narrow mandate and India’s thus far unchanged position on its status mean that the mission’s capacity to contribute to a further easing of tensions remains limited.