

India and Pakistan

The UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) continued to oversee a frequently tense situation between Indian and Pakistani forces in the Jammu and Kashmir region. While violence was common in the disputed region during the year (though not usually along the line of control that divides the forces), the 11 July 2006 terrorist attacks on India's mass transit system that killed 180 in the financial capital, Mumbai, temporarily dashed hopes that the two parties would move closer to resolution of their prolonged territorial dispute. Responsibility for the attacks was not claimed, but suspecting Pakistan's involvement, Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh postponed continuation of the bilateral talks aimed at normalizing relations, which had begun in 2004.

UNMOGIP continues to observe the cease-fire established by the Karachi Agreement, of 27 July 1949, despite India's official position that UNMOGIP has had no operational role to play since the signing of the 1972 Simla Agreement, which established a line of control (LOC) separating the two armies and specified that the parties should resolve their differences bilaterally. The mission monitors the 1972 LOC, which has only been slightly revised since the 1949 Karachi Agreement. Over the years, India has restricted somewhat the activities and movement of UNMOGIP observers on its side of the LOC by requiring them to travel in Indian army convoys, and has rejected proposals for the UN to play a mediating role in the conflict. Despite this resistance, both governments have continued to provide UNMOGIP with accommodation, transportation, and security.

Following tensions in 2003 that raised the prospect of nuclear confrontation, Pakistan

declared a unilateral cease-fire, later reciprocated by India. Political relations improved further in January 2004, when an agreement was reached to commence a bilateral "composite dialogue" on an agreed range of issues, including those related to Jammu-Kashmir. Numerous confidence-building measures were initiated, and a minisummit was held in April 2005 to discuss the fate of Jammu-Kashmir. Following an overall decline in violent attacks through 2005, India reduced its troop levels in Jammu and Kashmir by about 3,000.

In a demonstration of solidarity and a desire to resolve their long-standing dispute, during the September 2006 meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf and Indian prime minister Singh agreed to resume their bilateral talks at an undisclosed date in the future. UNMOGIP continues to provide on-the-ground observation, but its ability to contribute to a further easing of tension in the Kashmir region remains limited. The mission's status is likely to remain unchanged for the foreseeable future.

UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

• Authorization date	21 April 1948 (UNSC Res. 47)
• Start date	1 January 1949
• Chief military observer	Major General Dragutin Repinc (Croatia)
• Budget	\$7.9 million (1 January–31 December 2006)
• Strength as of 30 September 2006	Military observers: 44 International civilian staff: 22 Local civilian staff: 47

For detailed mission information see p. 342.

Box 4.9.1 Nepal

The handover of authority from Nepal's King Gyanendra to parliament during 2006 marked the end of both the Hindu monarchy's grip on Nepal's governing structures, and ten years of conflict between the Royal Armed Forces of Nepal and the country's Maoist rebel movement. To help sort out continuing differences over disarmament and reintegration, in August 2006 the new interim government and the rebels jointly requested the United Nations to provide a wide-ranging assistance package.

In February 2005, King Gyanendra dissolved Nepal's parliament in an effort to stifle political opposition and crush the Maoist insurgency. This move was followed by a wave of guerrilla attacks and political protests, which were met with an upsurge in arrests by the king's emergency-rule government as well as widespread human rights violations. The king lifted emergency rule on 30 April 2005, but the gesture did little to calm the situation, as Nepal's parliament was not reinstated and questions regarding the constitutional power of the monarchy went unanswered.

In response to the increased violence and restrictions placed on personal freedoms, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with the consent of the Nepalese government, established a monitoring office in Nepal in April 2005. Ian Martin was appointed Personal Representative of the High Commissioner in Nepal.

After further violence and protests, seven political opposition parties formed an alliance that brought about the reinstatement of parliament on 24 April 2006. The opposition alliance then called off protests and established an interim government, headed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. On 16 June 2006, the Maoist rebels agreed to a three-month cease-fire and joined the interim government in peace talks aimed at completely ending the decade-long conflict.

In August 2006, Secretary-General Kofi Annan dispatched a week-long assessment mission to Nepal, led by Staffan de Mistura. Following the mission's return, Annan received identical letters from the interim government and Maoist rebels, inviting the UN to dispatch

a mission to oversee the rebel cantonment, management of arms, and the overall peace process. The letter also requested that the UN continue its human rights monitoring, as well as oversee the twenty-five-point code of conduct agreed to by the two sides in anticipation of June 2007 elections.

Ian Martin was subsequently appointed Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, supported by a small team of administrators. His first task was to determine how the UN could contribute most effectively to Nepal's postconflict evolution. On 21 November 2006, the Maoists and the government agreed to a peace deal in which the Maoists would join the parliament and their weapons would be locked up and monitored by the UN.

With the first group of mission personnel starting to arrive in late December, a second assessment team was sent to plan for a full-fledged UN mission to support the peace process.