

India and Pakistan

The UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) oversaw a persistently tense situation along the Jammu-Kashmir border throughout 2007, but continued talks between India and Pakistan on the status of the disputed area created a measured level of optimism for resolution of the prolonged territorial dispute.

UNMOGIP observes 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 the line of control separating the two armies. The mission monitors that 1972 line, which has only been slightly revised since the 1949 Karachi Agreement. Over the years, India has restricted the activities and movement of UNMOGIP observers on its side of the line of control 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, political relations took a positive turn 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. At the December 2006 talks, Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, put forward a four-point plan to establish peace for Kashmir, involving demilitarization, by both sides, of the line of control, as well as self-government and joint control over the disputed areas in Kashmir. India responded cautiously to the terms of that plan, and talks continued through 2007.

Despite decreases in the overall incidence of violence in and around the line of control throughout 2007, it is unlikely that there will be any change in UNMOGIP's role in the year to come. India and Pakistan are in full control of the peace process, which is moving at a slow pace, and while the 2007 talks bode well for change, it is unlikely that this will have any immediate effect on UNMOGIP's status.

UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

- Authorization Date 21 April 1948 (UNSC Res. 47)
- Start Date 1 January 1949
- Acting Chief Military Observer Colonel Jarmo Helenius (Finland)
- Budget \$7.9 million
(1 January 2007–31 December 2007)
- Strength as of 31 October 2007 Military Observers: 44
International Civilian Staff: 22
Local Civilian Staff: 49

For detailed mission information see p. 328.