

India-Pakistan

Since 1949 the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), the second-oldest UN peacekeeping mission, has monitored the cease-fire line separating the Pakistani- and Indian-controlled areas of Jammu-Kashmir, a disputed territory over which three armed conflicts have been waged since 1947. UNMOGIP monitors the line of control and is mandated to engage in patrols, inspections, and investigations of alleged violations of the cease-fire. The mission may also perform other field tasks in the area when permitted by both countries. In June 2012, Major-General Young-Bum Choi of South Korea was appointed the new head of UNMOGIP.

The current line of control was established in 1972. Since then India has maintained that UNMOGIP has no operational role to play in Jammu-Kashmir. For this reason it restricts the activities of UN observers on the Indian side of the line of control and limits its support for UNMOGIP, though it has allowed the mission to operate out of its summer office in Indian-controlled Srinagar. Pakistan believes that the mandate still applies and has continued to file complaints with UNMOGIP regarding perceived violations of the line of control.

Tensions in Jammu-Kashmir rose again in 2012, after a lull throughout most

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 Young-Bum Choi (Republic of Korea)
- Budget \$21.0 million (1 January 2012–31 December 2013)
- Strength as of 31 October 2012
Military Observers: 39
International Civilian Staff: 25
National Civilian Staff: 48

For detailed mission information see p. 401

of 2011. In June 2012 a mysterious fire at a Sufi mosque set off confrontations between Indian police and protesters. In July a Kashmiri was killed by Indian armed forces in a disputed incident, leading to a strike, multiple protests, and arrests of separatist leaders. In August protesters set fire to an Indian police vehicle and assaulted three officers. UNMOGIP headquarters has continued to be a symbol for protesters seeking UN intervention in the dispute. In August a sit-in took place outside the mission's office.

Despite such incidents, India-Pakistan relations have improved over the past two years. Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari

met Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi in April 2012, the first such trip in seven years.

The stalemate over Jammu-Kashmir, however, will likely persist. The death in April of 138 Pakistani soldiers in an avalanche on the region's disputed Siachen glacier reinforced the continued risks in this deadlocked territorial dispute in which thousands from both sides have perished. It appears that UNMOGIP will continue to play a limited observational role as it waits for elusive diplomatic progress to be made.