

triggered by an ethnic conflict. In 2003 the New Zealand police joined the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). RAMSI was a 15-country international assistance programme to restore law and order in the Solomon Islands. This programme helped the Solomon Islands recover from civil conflict and eliminate corruption from public institutions.

In March 2005 the first contingent of New Zealand police officers as part of a German-led policing reform project was deployed to Afghanistan to help rebuild and educate the local police service. The establishment of an effective police force was a critical element in the restoration of law and order, protection of human rights and maintenance of security in Afghanistan where there were a range of problems such as illegal armed groups, opium production, widespread unemployment, etc. Despite the challenges the reality was that four years on Afghanistan became a very different place. While fragile, it was no longer a failing state. And New Zealand had made a significant contribution to that.

In addition to Afghanistan 45 personnel of New Zealand police were engaged in peacekeeping in the Kingdom of Tonga. They helped investigate crimes committed during the rioting in the capital and provided support to Tonga Police in the community.

Today New Zealand continues to be active in peacekeeping. Peacekeepers monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas and assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements they may have signed.

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INDIAN WOMEN POLICE OFFICERS CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE IN LIBERIA

The society can no longer minimize or ignore the contributions of women to all stages of conflict resolution, peacemaking, peace-building, peacekeeping and reconstruction processes. Sustainable peace will not be achieved without the full and equal participation of women and men.

Policewomen are credible and effective peacekeepers who are often placed in the front lines in riots, as they can help calm crowds.

India is the third largest contributing country to UN peacekeeping operations. Its peacekeepers are at the forefront of UN peacekeeping operations with 7846 Indian peacekeepers were deployed around the world.

125 Indian Police Officers, including 103 women and 22 men were deployed for service in peacekeeping missions in Liberia.

As the first country to send an all Female Formed Police Unit to a peacekeeping mission, India has blazed the trail in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution which recognizes that armed conflicts often affect women and girls the most severely and so mandates that women should play a more prominent role in peacekeeping efforts. The presence of women in uniform also appeared to encourage Liberian women to report instances of sexual violence.

Since being deployed in Liberia the Indian peacekeepers provided important outreach programs to local communities, such as basic self-defense training and computer classes to Liberian women to help improve their lives.

The police officers are returned to India shortly after serving for one year with United Nations Mission in Liberia and are replaced by a new all female Formed Police Unit arriving from India.

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NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE XXI CENTURY

The UN peacekeeping has been an important instrument for resolving armed conflicts and solving the problems of nation-building in the post-crisis phase. In the XXI century due to the escalation of a number of this type of conflicts the United Nations is becoming more than ever relevant and in demand.

Contemporary conflicts tend to be domestic in nature and are connected with interethnic, interfaith, territorial, political, economic and other reasons. Such problems as cross-border proliferation of weapons, organized crime and drug trafficking are becoming more vividly manifested. All this has led to an objective increase in the scale and number of multi-component peacekeeping operations sometimes with illiquid mandates. Thus, working in situations of internal political crises, «blue helmets» are forced to serve in a more complex and hazardous conditions, life-threatening peacekeepers themselves.

The mere scale of the United Nations peacekeeping operations including those performed in regions difficult of access demands the use of