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UNITED NATIONS CIVILIAN POLICE MISSION

Civilian police (CIVPOL) from over 50 countries are deployed around the globe in support of international peacekeeping operations. Their presence promotes peace and stability in areas recovering from conflict and their efforts to develop modern local police forces help to ensure that peace and stability can be sustained, even after international peacekeepers depart.

CIVPOL programs are sponsored by the United Nations (UN) or by regional security organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) or by coalitions of interested countries. They play an essential role in peace-keeping strategy.

The CIVPOL are usually deployed in the second or later stages of a peace-keeping mission. At the beginning of a mission, the CIVPOL might have full executive law enforcement authority for the region and so perform typical law enforcement functions such as patrolling and investigating. Towards the end of a mission, the CIVPOL personnel gradually hand over police responsibilities to the new local police force they have helped to train and develop.

The activities of the police depend on the conditions in the region. The UN launched its first CIVPOL mission in the Congo in 1960 to assist the government in maintaining law and order. In Bosnia and East Timor, CIVPOL were deployed to maintain law and order and also to help establish and train a professional police force for the future. In Haiti and Côte d'Ivoire, UNPOL provided support to the national police during the 2015 election activities. In response to the Ebola crisis in 2015, UNPOL collocated with the Liberian National Police to facilitate the protection of civilians through joint patrols and other operational support. In Somalia, UNPOL engaged in the process of developing a new structure of the Somali national police. In Mali, UNPOL participate in preventing and combating transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Currently, UNPOL are working in 12 peacekeeping operations and 5 special political missions. The main task of the UN police is to promote the process of peace building in the countries where they are located. UN peacekeeping is an essential tool to restore and maintain international peace and security throughout the world.

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