



MISSION STORIES

The Bangladesh Army in UN peacekeeping

Bangladesh's Army has been involved in United Nations peacekeeping missions since 1988 when 15 of its soldiers were sent to the UN Peacekeeping Operations in Iran-Iraq as Military Observers (MILOBS). Since then, some 40,000 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have taken part in 19 peacekeeping missions all over the world.

The Asian nation is now one of the world's highest troop-contributing countries, with some 8,000 of its nationals in 11 on-going missions, including 2,841 in the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

Peacekeepers from Bangladesh have been involved in operations ranging from demining in Eritrea or the transport of refugees in Somalia to the rehabilitation of schools and medical facilities in Sierra Leone. They have participated in weapon-recovery operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and rebuilt bridges destroyed by a decade of civil war in Liberia.

Bangladesh's contribution to UN peacekeeping prompted UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to describe it as "a model member of the UN, providing leadership amongst the least developed countries ... and contributing substantially to peacekeeping and humanitarian operations".

The cost of Bangladesh's commitment to UN peacekeeping, which invariably means peacekeepers working under difficult and dangerous conditions, has sometimes been high. So far 48 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have paid with their lives in the line of duty. Despite this sacrifice, the Bangladesh Army states: "We reiterate our commitment to undertake any assignment for world peace under the aegis of the United Nations".



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