



UNMIQ Peacekeepers on Patrol in Lani, Birani Province

## About the UN Mission in Qumar UNMIQ

By Trenez Pruca

The UN Security Council established the UN Mission in Qumar (UNMIQ) with its unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 1590 on 24 March 2007. UNMIQ was initially established for a period of six months.

According to its mandate, UNMIQ is tasked with supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. UNMIQ is also tasked with facilitating the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons; providing demining assistance; and contributing towards international efforts to protect and promote human rights in Qumar.

The mandate authorizes UNMIQ to have up to 25,000

military personnel and an appropriate civilian component, including up to 1,500 civilian police personnel.

Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, UNMIQ is authorized to take the necessary action, in the areas of deployment of its forces, and as it deems within its capabilities, to protect United Nations personnel and to ensure their security and freedom of movement, as well as, without prejudice to the responsibility of the Qumarese Government, to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence.

The Security Council also requested the UN Secretary-General, through his Special Representative in Qumar "to coordinate all the activities of

the UN system in Qumar, to mobilize resources and support from the international community for both immediate assistance and the long-term economic development of Qumar, and to facilitate coordination with other international actors, in particular the African Union, of activities in support of the transitional process established by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and to provide good offices and political support for the efforts to resolve all ongoing conflicts in Qumar."

In the resolution, the Security Council underscored the immediate need to rapidly increase the

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number of human rights monitors in Birani province. It urged the Secretary-General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to accelerate the deployment of human rights monitors to Birani and augment their numbers and also to move forward with the formation of civilian monitoring protection teams.

In addition, the Security Council emphasized that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Birani, and called on the Government of Qumar and the rebel groups to resume talks rapidly without preconditions and negotiate in good faith to speedily reach agreement.

As of August, 2007, the UNMIQ mission has deployed roughly all of the projected 2,500 civilian and police staff in its mandate. The African Union Mission in Birani (AMIB) has deployed some 12,500 troops for the projected peacekeeping force of 25,000.



UNMIQ Peacekeepers on the outskirts of Lani city market.

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## Questions and Answers

### What is UNMIQ?

UNMIQ is the acronym for the United Nations Mission in Qumar. UNMIQ has been mandated by the UN Security Council to monitor and support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Qumar, which was signed by the Government of Qumar and the Qumar Revolutionary Front on 9 January 2007. UNMIQ is also tasked with providing political and logistical support to the African Union Mission in Birani (AMIB).

### What is the relationship between UNMIQ and other UN actors in Qumar?

All UN agencies and programmes are working towards similar goals to the benefit of the Qumarese people. While each UN agency and programme has its own internal organizational structure and different operations, UNMIQ will coordinate all the activities of the UN system in Qumar.

### What is the link between UNMIQ and AMIB?

While UNMIQ coordinates all of the UN actors in Qumar, it shares hierarchic command of the AMIB peacekeeping force with the African Union (AU), a military force whose *raison d'être* is to support the political mission of UNMIQ in accordance with its mandate. The mixed architecture is typically referred to as a 'hybrid' peacekeeping force, as there are also non-AU states contributing troops to the AMIB force.

### How can civil society contact UNMIQ?

UNMIQ can be contacted at the following telephone number: +(249) 187 086 000 (operator) UNMIQ can also be contacted by email at: [ecomment-pio@un.org](mailto:ecomment-pio@un.org)

### Will UNMIQ be successful?

Each UN peacekeeping operation has its own mandate and its outcome depends on the work and the willingness of the member states participating in it, as well as that of local counterparts. The success of the United Nations in Qumar will depend on the same factors.

### Who are UNMIQ's police officers and where do they come from?

The police officers are seconded to UNMIQ from various United Nations member states and are usually attached for duties in the mission for one year.

### Will UNMIQ police officers be able to arrest people, guide traffic or solve crimes?

No. UN police officers will have no powers as police; for the same reason they will not carry weapons. Ordinary police duties will remain the responsibility of the Qumarese police.

### Will UNMIQ police officers conduct patrols?

Yes. They will patrol with local police and alone in order to observe how the local police and community interact with each other.

### Will UNMIQ police officers be involved in crowd control or public order events?

They will sometimes attend such events as observers but will not be involved in the policing of them.

### How can I get a job with UNMIQ?

Paramount in employment in the United Nations is securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Vacancies are issued in the newspapers and are posted on the websites of UN agencies.

Applicants must submit their applications by sending a CV or preferably a completed UN Personal History Form (known as a P-11). Applicants can also send their CVs and P-11s electronically to the following email: [UNMIQ-recruitment@un.org](mailto:UNMIQ-recruitment@un.org). Check our recruitment page for more details.

### How important is it to have a fair balance of National and International staff at UNMIQ, and why is it so?

The United Nations puts high importance on recruiting staff from as wide a geographical and gender basis as possible. Along these lines, it is important to have a fair balance of all components of staff.

National staff not only bring technical and substantive expertise to the mission, but also local culture, knowledge and language.

Given that the peace agreement is for and by the Qumarese, the majority of the available posts are dedicated to National staff.

International staff bring with them extensive peacekeeping and technical knowledge, and act as coaches and trainers to National staff in many instances, and hand over many of their tasks gradually as the mission matures.

In UNMIQ, 70% of the posts are dedicated to National Staff, and a third of all professional posts are for National Professional Officers.