

## Timeline: NZDF (New Zealand Defence Force) Peacekeeping and Peace Making Operations

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### 1945: United Nations (UN) is formed

Peace keeping is not part of the UN's initial charter. Due to the growing tensions between the Communist Bloc and the Western Powers, it was decided, following the Korean War, that peace keeping was a legal way to circumvent the veto of anyone regarding armed intervention.

### 1951: India-Pakistan

Context: As the British prepared to withdraw the British Raj in the immediate post-war period (following negotiation from the 1930s), they were keenly aware of rising levels of violence between the Hindu majority and the Muslim minority in India. There had been thousands of religiously motivated killings across the country within a matter of weeks.

To put an end to the violence before Indian independence was granted, the British negotiated with Islamic and Hindu leaders and politicians to form two nations, separating India from the Islamic nation of Pakistan. Pakistan was located in the predominantly Islamic North Western and Far Eastern portions (Bangladesh) of the Raj. At midnight on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1947 the formation of both nations took place, displacing between ten and twenty million people. Now the Muslim population had a nation of their own and a government to provide them with safety which couldn't be guaranteed in India.

In October of 1947, Muslim citizens of the Princely State of Kashmir rose up to prevent Kashmir from joining India. Pakistani militia forces invaded to assist, triggering the Maharaja Hari Singh's call to India for aid. This was provided on condition Kashmir joined India. The conflict soon bogged down and ended in 1949 with inconclusive results which remains a source of tension to this day.

NZDF: In 1951 New Zealand offered troops for a military intervention to prevent armed conflict from breaking out. While this offer was denied, New Zealand officers were permitted to join the UN military observation unit in both Pakistan and India as unarmed observers.



India and Pakistan

## 1951: Israel-Palestine

Context: The Balfour Declaration (1917), detailed Britain's support for a Jewish state in Palestine after the end of the First World War but Britain did not feel there was a strong enough Jewish population in Palestine to form it. During the opening stages of the Nazi's persecution of Germany and Austria's Jewish populations saw thousands flee to Palestine and buy up land to build communities.

During the war, Jewish volunteers were trained in the regular British Army and also in Commando and special forces units.

The Palestinian leadership were friendly to the Nazis, and the British, desperate to avoid a civil war sparking, attempted to stem the tide of Jewish refugees before the Second World War broke out. Once the war was over though, thousands of refugees, survivors of the death camps, flooded into Palestine. Pressure grew from this community for Britain to honour on its promises of an independent Jewish State.

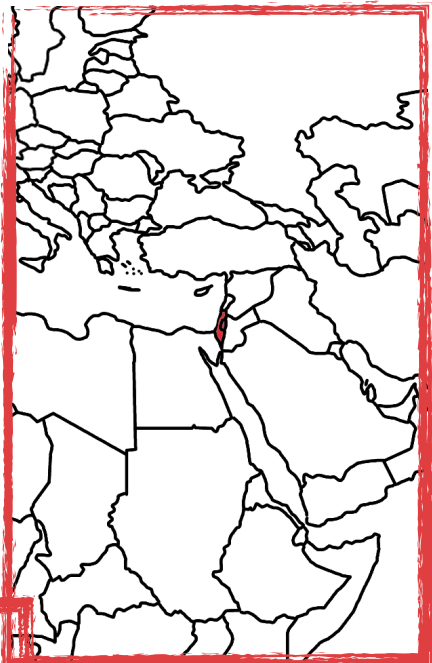
As the British attempted to negotiate the creation of the state, Jewish groups formed and began launching terrorist attacks on British Forces, including the infamous bombing of the King David Hotel. Simultaneously, Palestinian terrorist groups began attacking Jewish settlements. This sparked revenge attacks by armed farmers, which led to numerous massacres on both sides.

Realising the situation could not be resolved peacefully by them alone, the British prepared to withdraw their forces and resigned the situation to the UN to provide peace to the region. Ultimately the British proposal for the partition of Israel and Palestine was approved by the UN.

Jerusalem was placed under UN control to ensure its protection as the centre of three of the world's dominant religions. This was accepted by the Jewish leadership but rejected by the Arab leaders, stating that no partition was acceptable. There were doubts about Arab promises of the protection of Jews, and Jewish citizens were also engaged in violence, so the partition was forced through.

In 1948 British forces withdrew. The first Arab-Israeli war broke out in the same year when several Arab nations "intervened" in Palestine and were defeated by Israeli forces.

NZDF: in 1951 NZ sent military officers to assist the UN in supporting and keeping the cease-fire between Israel and its neighbours. NZDF was stationed in the Golan Heights along the Israeli-Syrian border.



Israel and Palestine

## 1979: Rhodesia

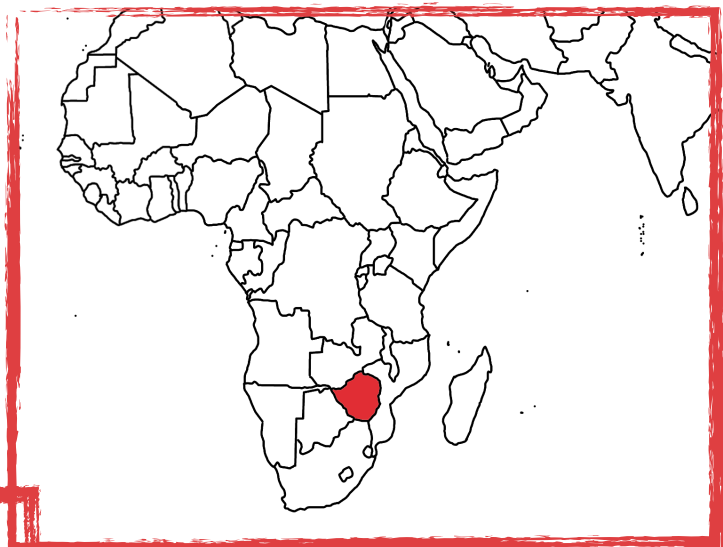
Context: Britain declared that its former African territories were to be granted independence under democratic majority rule in 1960. Rhodesian settlers were fearful of the potential for the racial violence which had beset the Congo following its declaration of independence the same year.

This tension caused Rhodesia to declare (with support from South Africa and Portugal) its independence from Britain in 1965, under the rule of a settler minority.

This blatant refusal to adopt the open democracy ordered by Britain resulted in the formation of two nationalistic militia forces. These two groups rapidly turned on each other due to tribal differences and personal clashes between their respective leaderships. This three-way conflict resulted in what has been commonly referred to as the “Bush War”.

The war dissolved into a stalemate and the settler government eventually opened elections to the local population. Britain refused to acknowledge the new government and facilitated the Lancaster House agreement in 1979 between both nationalist groups and the new Zimbabwe government. As part of the agreement, Zimbabwe would return to British control for a period during which further elections could be held and the nationalist militias could return to society. Once the elections were concluded, Zimbabwe would be returned to independence.

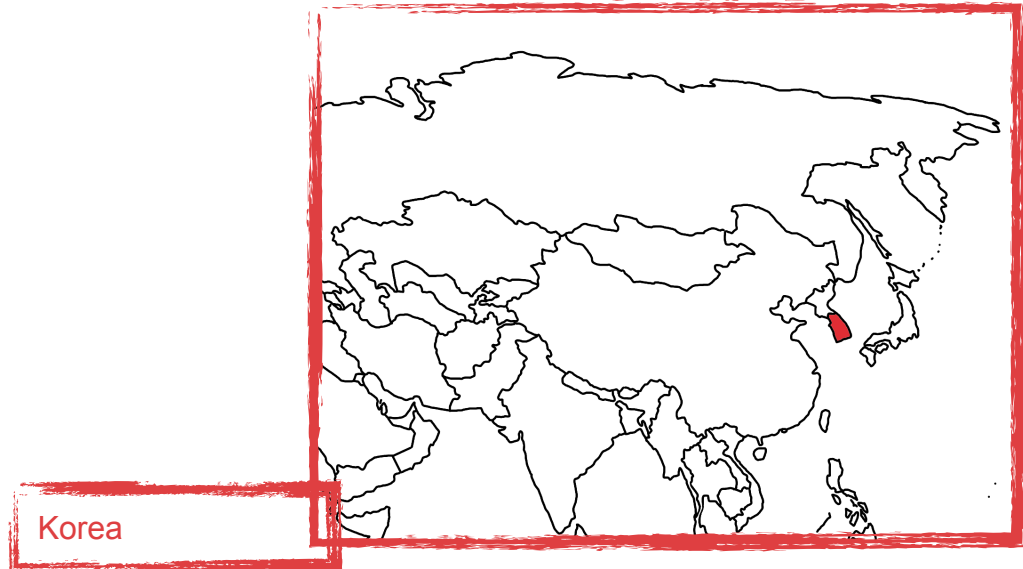
NZDF: NZ sent 75 officers and men, under the overall command of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force, to supervise the implementation of the Lancaster House Agreement. Their mission was to observe the consolidation of militia forces in 16 locations across the country and ensure the British mandated democratic elections were carried out without interference. Once the government of Robert Mugabe was affirmed, all Commonwealth forces withdrew.



Rhodesia

### 1953: Korea

New Zealand's military intervention in Korea, despite being under the UN mandate, does not count as either Peacekeeping or Peace Making due to the intent of defeating and overrunning North Korean forces and territory.



### 1981: Sinai

Context: The first state visit by an Arab leader, Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, to Israel took place in 1977.

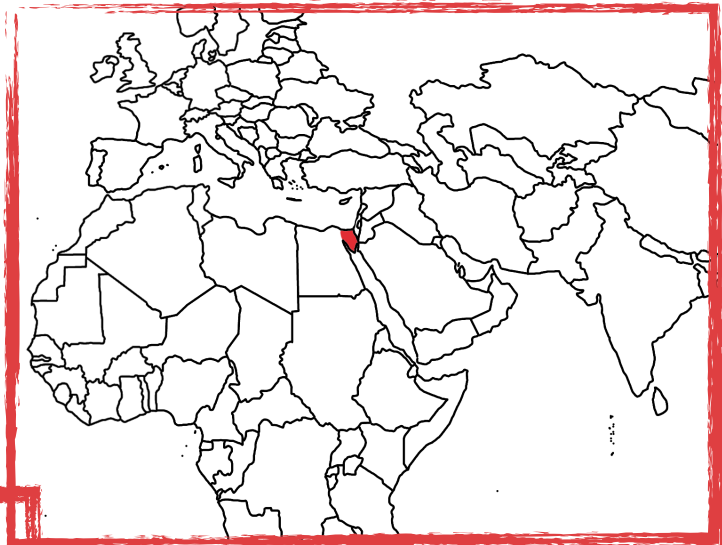
This was followed by sixteen months of negotiations before US (United States) President Jimmy Carter facilitated the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty in Washington.

Key points:

1. Egypt recognised Israel as a sovereign nation, ending the state of war which had existed between the two nations since 1948;
2. Israel withdrew its forces and civilians from the Sinai Peninsula (taken during the Six Day War and not released due to the continued state of war);
3. Both sides agreed to leave the peninsula as a demilitarised zone, while respecting the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba as international waters;
4. Egypt agreed to allow Israeli ships through the Suez Canal;
5. Egypt requested Israel withdraw from occupied Palestinian territories.

NZDF: Following the signing of the treaty, New Zealand committed forces to take part in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) group to enforce the peace between Israel and Egypt. This force has been stationed in the Sinai ever since, and is still in operation.

In 1986 the ANZUS Security Treaty was suspended by the US after NZ banned their nuclear-powered ships from entering NZ ports. Sinai was, for a time, New Zealand's only military-to-military contact with the United States.



Sinai

### 1990: Iraq

Context: The Gulf War was staged by coalition forces, led by the US against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait following disputes about oil pricing and production.

NZDF: Over 119 NZ Naval and Airforce personnel were committed in support of the coalition forces. They ensured that training and supplies were constantly maintained.

Additionally, NZ SAS (Special Air Services) and UN specialists supported Weapons of Mass Destruction investigations throughout Iraq in 1995 to guarantee the cataloguing and destruction of any WMDs or bio/chemical weapons located.



Iraq

## 1992: Cambodia

Context: During the 1970s the democratically elected Cambodian government was overthrown by the communist Khmer Rouge who were supported by the North Vietnamese and Chinese. During their reign from 1975-79, their social engineering, collectivisation policies, self-sufficiency policies as well as their own purges, torture and genocide of minorities accounted for 25% of Cambodia's total population. Despite this, they received extensive support from China and recognition from the international community.

In 1979 Vietnam invaded, crushing the Khmer forces and driving them into Thailand who saw the Khmer Rouge as a buffer against the communist Vietnamese forces and the puppet government they had installed in Cambodia. Thailand allowed the Khmer Rouge to wage a war of terror against rural communities which sparked reprisals resulting in atrocities being committed by both sides.

Following the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, the United Nations began running Cambodia and facilitated democratic elections. The local authorities accused the UN of disarming local militias while failing to take any meaningful steps to disarm the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge was finally ended as a meaningful threat by the re-established monarchy in 1993, following a general amnesty which saw thousands of members surrender, with the last members and leadership refusing to surrender until 1999.

NZDF: NZ sent a 97 strong force to assist the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Their mission was to support reconstruction efforts and mine clearing operations, while overseeing the correct implementation of democratic elections and ensuring the keeping of the peace. This mission also strengthened ties with Australian military forces.



Cambodia

## 1992: Yugoslavia

Context: After WW1 Yugoslavia was formed from former territories of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the nation of Serbia, and was formally recognised by the international community in 1922 in Paris.

When Italian and German Forces invaded in 1941, the armed forces of Yugoslavia were in disarray (the capital city Belgrade was captured by ten Waffen SS motorcycles scouts who accepted the surrender of several thousand Yugoslavian troops). Following the collapse of the government and the evacuation of the monarchy, a largely communist partisan force formed an underground government of the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia (recognised as the legitimate government by King Peter II, the last King of Yugoslavia, in 1944).

After the war, several Italian territories were handed to the new Yugoslavian government under General Josip Broz Tito who was able to keep the nation together under a totalitarian regime. Despite the regime's communist title, it refused to bend the knee to Moscow, resulting in Stalin ordering numerous unsuccessful attempts on Tito's life.

Tito died in 1980, and an economic crash and political crisis soon followed. The numerous federal states which made up Yugoslavia, (the Socialist Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia as well as the minor states of Vojvodina and Kosovo) fought with extreme violence between various ethnic groups as well as the states themselves, leading to the fragmentation of Yugoslavia.

NZDF: The UN requested NZ contribute to the international effort, particularly with regard to the distribution of humanitarian aid. This resulted in nine military observers being dispatched. As the violence sharply escalated in 1993, New Zealand sent 250 infantry personnel to enforce the protection of civilian populations. These troops were withdrawn in 1996 following the signing of the Dayton Accords but observers and support personnel remained with the UN observation unit until well into the 2000's.

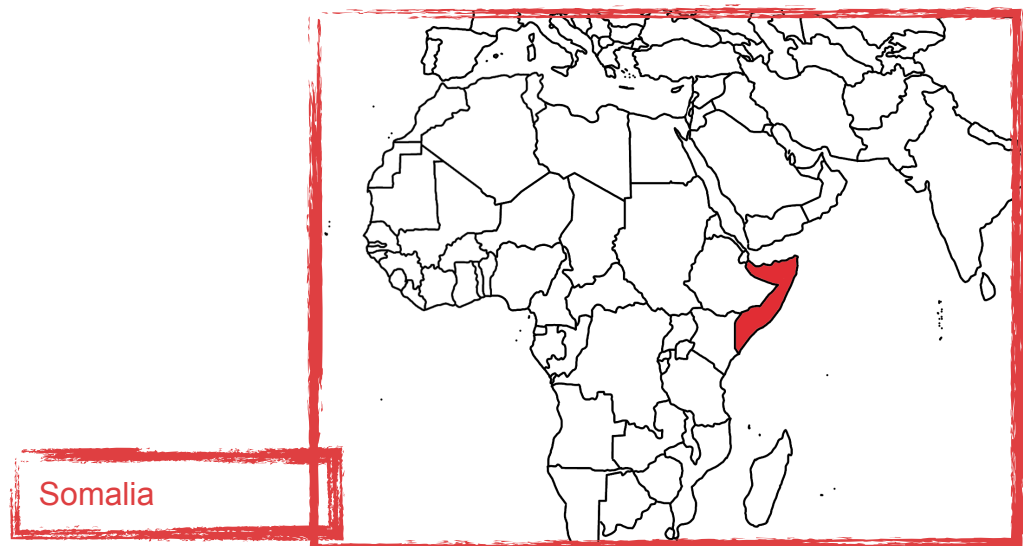


Yugoslavia

## 1992: Somalia

Context: Between 1988 and 1990, Somali Government forces were beset by numerous tribal and religiously based rebel groups and in 1992 the country had suffered a complete breakdown in law and order resulting in the arrival of the UN observation force in July 1992. This was followed by peace keeping forces and the declaration of Somalia as a failed state.

NZDF: In 1992 NZ observers and military personnel were sent to Somalia to support humanitarian efforts. The sheer scale of the violence meant our troops were incapable of protecting humanitarian efforts to an appropriate level, resulting in NZ troops coming under the overall command of the American-led military effort. Most of our troops were withdrawn in 1994 but NZ maintains a military advisor in Kenya who as part of their duties frequently visits and reviews the situation in Somalia.



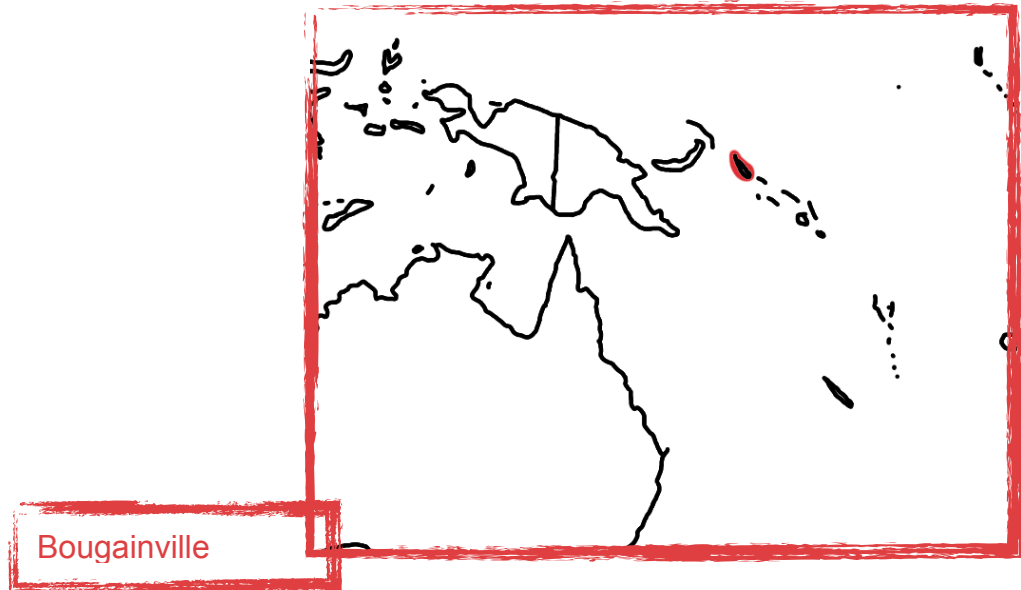
## 1997: Bougainville

Context: Between 1989 and 1997 an extensive secessionist movement grew in Bougainville, attempting to gain independence from Papua New Guinea. This was countered with punitive actions by the New Guinea government and pro-government militias. This included a full blockade of Bougainville denying them even basic medical supplies. The resulting counter attacks left up to ten thousand dead from violence and preventable diseases, and tens of thousands homeless.

New Zealand's political efforts were largely unsuccessful until the signing of the Burnham Truce Agreement. Part of the terms of the agreement was that a Truce Monitoring Group (TMG) would serve on Bougainville until the violence had ended.

NZDF: NZ dispatched 250 unarmed soldiers to Bougainville along with Australian, Fijian and ni-Vanuatu civilian and military personnel. With peace keeping, there were also rebuilding efforts launched. The bulk of New Zealand troops were withdrawn in 1998 when the TMG was replaced with the Australian-led Peace Monitoring Group

which oversaw the disarming of the local militias. In 2001 the Bougainville Peace Agreement was signed, bringing an end to the situation.

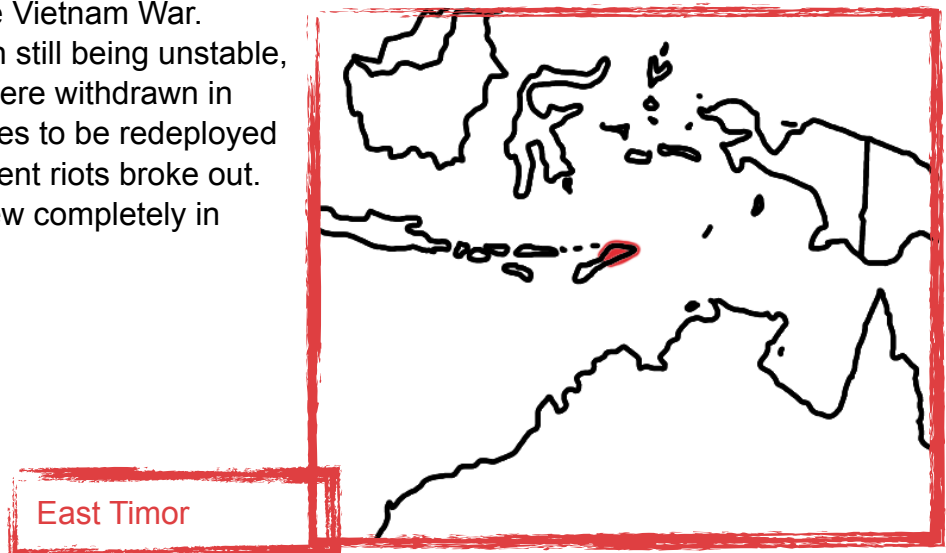


### 1999: East Timor

Context: In September 1999, following an overwhelming referendum vote for East Timor to leave Indonesia, pro-Indonesian militias started a campaign of terror, killing thousands and sowing confusion and panic throughout the island. That same year, the United Nations called for an international peace keeping force to be dispatched, led by the Australians.

NZDF: By October that year, over one thousand New Zealand troops were stationed in East Timor, including a battalion of infantry, as well as air transport and helicopter support, and three Royal New Zealand Navy vessels. NZ troops and police were given responsibility to patrol the highly dangerous southern East Timor/Indonesian border centred around the town of Suai. During the deployment one New Zealand soldier was killed by pro-Indonesian militias. This was New Zealand's first combat casualty since the Vietnam War.

Despite the nation still being unstable, most NZ troops were withdrawn in 2002 only for forces to be redeployed in 2006 when violent riots broke out. NZ troops withdrew completely in 2012.



## 2000: Solomon Islands

Context: Between 1998 and 2000, inter-tribal and inter-community violence in the Solomon Islands drastically increased, leading to the displacement of at least 40,000 people and the deaths of over 100.

As the situation worsened, the Solomon Island's government found itself overwhelmed and requested aid from the international community. In 2000 the Townsville Peace Agreement was signed which called for an International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT) to supervise the voluntary disarmament of the local population. NZ military and police personnel were in this team and held positions as high as the deputy commander. Despite their best efforts, the attempts to collect significant amounts of firearms from the local population was a failure, as was the mission to address the causes of the violence. Violence did eventually decrease, leading to the withdrawal of the IPMT in 2002.

NZDF: In 2003, there was a resurgence of violence. Despite the Solomon government's requests to the UN for assistance, Australian and New Zealand police and military forces were sent under the auspices of the Pacific Island Forum without UN approval. The mission was known as the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). Within a year of their arrival, law and order had been re-established and 3,700 weapons had been seized and destroyed. New Zealand personnel were not completely withdrawn until 2017 owing to the tensions within the Solomon Island's communities.

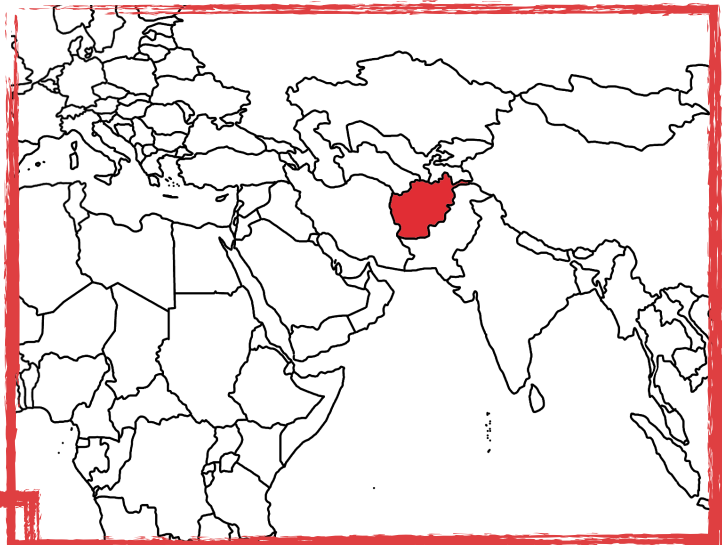


## 2001: Afghanistan

Context: In the wake of the American invasion of Afghanistan following the 9/11 terrorist attack and the deposing of the fundamentalist Taliban government, the UN established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The objective of this mission was

- to establish a functioning democratic government;
- infrastructure rebuilding;
- peace keeping and ensuring the safety of the civilian population;
- the training of Afghan police and military forces, while at the same time rooting out any pockets of Taliban resistance.

NZDF: New Zealand Defence Force personnel had several roles during their tenure in Afghanistan. These roles included patrolling in the Bamyán Province, provincial reconstruction, and training Afghan forces. SAS forces were deployed to the region to assist with the anti-Taliban campaign. NZ police also operated in Afghanistan in a training and mentoring role. In total 10 NZDF personnel lost their lives during the 20 year deployment to Afghanistan (eight in combat). The last NZDF personnel were withdrawn in 2021 shortly before the British and American withdrawal commenced in earnest.



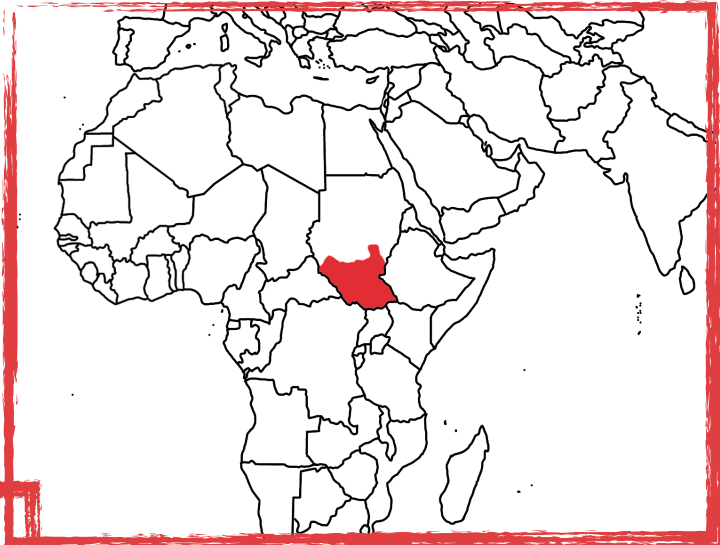
Afghanistan

## 2005: South Sudan

Context: Years of civil war culminated in the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Act between the government of the Sudan and the South Sudan People's Liberation Movement, The United Nations Mission in the Sudan was founded, consisting of civilian rebuilding specialists, military and police personnel. The objective was ensuring the peace was not breached by either side and that rebuilding efforts could commence.

NZDF: New Zealand contributed a five-man team to support the UN leadership in the Sudan. Despite New Zealand's non-combat contribution, there is still serious threat

of violence with over 21 UN staff being killed between 2005 and 2021. There have also been extensive human rights abuses inflicted by militias. One example is the 2014 attack on a refugee centre when local Dinka tribe members claimed to be visiting the centre to bring aid, but opened fire on the largely Nuer tribe refugees in the camp, killing 48 and wounding over 100. Ten of the attackers were killed when UN troops fought back and drove them out of the camp. The situation is still extremely volatile as of 2021.



South Sudan

### 2015: Iraq

Context: ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), also known as Daesh is a militant group. Following the rise of ISIS within several nations in the Middle East, an international coalition was formed to coordinate national defences in the region, and combat ISIS.

NZDF: NZ troops were committed to Iraq in multiple roles, particularly in command and intelligence roles as well as assisting other coalition forces in the training of over 47,000 Iraqi Security Forces at camp Taji. As of 2021, 9 NZ soldiers are stationed in Iraq in command and training roles until 2022.



Iraq

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