

Peace
Support
operations

V2

NZP, n.d.[c]

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Timor Leste - Operation Tuitua

New Zealand police officers were deployed to the region, at the request of the Timorese government, to support the local police force (PNTL) in the capital Dili.

The deployment of NZPOL follows years of civil unrest in Timor Leste since 1999. In 2005, the UN reached an agreement to prepare the country for independence and to

Nine months later, however, a serious rift developed between the military resulting in 600 members being sacked in support of the sacked soldiers turned violent forces fired into crowds. Five people died and

The NZ police contingent is currently working in the area of Becora, east of Dili to restore order to the country. It is currently making the transition from a military 'green' led operation to a 'blue' police led operation.

General tasks

After the April 2006 riots, New Zealand police joined the International Assistance Force (IAF), which contains members from the Royal Malaysian Police, Australian Federal Police, Australian Defence Force, NZ Defence Force and Portugal's paramilitary police to undertake the following tasks -

- crime prevention and community safety
- investigations and operations
- training and development
- administration, oversight and strategy including financial, human resource and logistics and asset management.

Timeline

- **1999** - NZ Police joins the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor (UNTAET) to help prepare Timor for independence.
- **2001** - NZ Police withdraw from East Timor after the UNTAET operation comes to an end.
- **May 2002** - East Timor becomes an independent nation under President Xanana Gusmao. It is re-named Timor Leste.
- **2005** - The UN reduces numbers in the region.
- **2006** - NZ Police are deployed to Timor Leste following riots in the capital of Dili.

Related sites

- [Current peacekeeping operations](#) - United Nations
- [Timor-Leste](#) - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- [Timor Leste](#) - New Zealand Defence Force

peacekeeping

As at date of publication
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Leader of the first Timor-Leste NZ Police Contingent, Grant O'Fee donates a soccer ball to a group of children.

[Map of Timor Leste](#)

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