



UN praises Indian women peacekeepers

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UN has extended the term of Indian women peacekeepers in strife-torn Liberia for six months praising their role in the West African nation.

"The UN has lauded the performance of women troopers of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Liberia and requested for extension of their stay, which has been approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs," IANS new agency quoted a senior Indian official D.C. Dey as saying in New Delhi.

"After completion of the extended stay, we will be sending a new team to Liberia depending on the requirement there," Dey added.

A group of 125 women personnel of the CRPF, on a request by the United Nations, had left for the Liberian capital of Monrovia in January for six months under a UN peacekeeping mission, the first such all-female mission from India.

The troopers led by Commandant Seema Dhundiya were sent to maintain law and order, check civil disorder, and protect the lives of citizens in the Liberian capital.

Apart from restoring peace, the contingent was also deployed to train and educate the local police.

According to a senior defense official, the women troopers carried out more than 40 operations within a span of five months.

"The force arrested 30 people and recovered huge caches of weapons and fake currency within days of its deployment," the official said.

"In April, a team comprising 23 officers busted a drug hideout and seized a huge consignment of cocaine and opium," he said.

Liberia recently entered a new democratic phase and for the first time the country has an elected woman president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

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