

Impact of Private Military Security Contractors on Global Security

Country:Ukraine(Ambassador)

Committee:GA 1:DISEC

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INTRODUCION

Private military security companies are private business entities that provide military and/or security services, irrespective of how they describe themselves. Military and security services include, in particular, armed guarding and protection of persons and objects, such as convoys, buildings and other places; maintenance and operation of weapons systems; prisoner detention; and advice to or training of local forces and security personnel.

PMCs have some operational advantages, in particular they are able to:

- quickly and covertly deploy and relocate;

- less contained by bureaucratic control procedures and are faster decision-makers;

- rapidly increase combat capabilities without significant expenses;

- perform combat and non-combat missions without involvement of armed forces.

This enables governments to use PMCs for performing a variety of tasks, including special missions. In addition to solely military advantages, PMCs also have preferences in political context.

Application of PMCs allows to conceal direct participation of the state of origin in armed conflict, which became especially apparent in the hybrid war of Russia against Ukraine.

A problem of deploying PMCs military personnel on the territories of other countries, is that it can be done without agreeing it with international institutions. PMC’s dislocation and participation in warfare in the conflict zone doesn’t usually have a strong public response, unlike with conventional armed forces.

Relevent International Documents

The Montreux Document:

The Montreux Document is an agreement between signature countries obligations regarding private military and security companies in war zones. It was ratified in Montreux, Switzerland, in September 2008. The document lists some 70 recommendations for good state practices such as verifying companies track record, examining procedures used to vet staff, correct prosecution when breaches of law occur, and ensure compliance and personnel training with international humanitarian and human rights law.

Its full name is 'The Montreux Document on Pertinent International Legal Obligations and Good Practices for States related to Operations of Private Military and Security Companies during Armed Conflict of 17 September 2008. It provides contracting states, home states, and territorial states, with a restatement of their international legal obligations and a series of ‘good practices’ to use in interacting with the industry.

Several provisions also provide legal obligations incumbent on private security companies themselves. Importantly, the focus of the document is primarily on times of armed conflict but the principles are expressly relevant to non-armed conflict situations as well. It is a non-binding, non-legal document in that it neither creates nor alters legal obligations, but merely articulates existing requirements pertinent to private security operations.

Using private military companies in modern world indicates the necessity for regulation of this matter at an international level. We became the eyewitnesses of active participation of private military companies in countering international piracy and participation in conflict areas in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and other hot spots of the world.

Unfortunately, Ukraine has its own experience related to PMCs. It concerns to the use of military formations by Russia during occupation of the Crimean peninsula and armed aggression in the east of Ukraine.

In many countries’ legislation stipulating the activity of private military companies is incomplete.

At the same time, some countries establish private military companies without any legal basis at all. Despite the illegal status of PMCs in Russia, such companies de-facto exist and effectively act in Kremlin’s interests, in particular against Ukraine. Some of these formations disguise themselves as public organizations or military-patriotic clubs.

Up until recently, private military companies have been considered as non-government contractors providing professional consulting, assisting and security services.

Yet, Moscow has been employing PMCs as an instrument for providing plausible deniability, economically and politically sustainable military influence abroad. Over the last years, Russia has brought this practice to a new level, demonstrating that they can carry out offensive missions and actually build a backbone of an occupation army

Current State of Military Power in Russo Ukrainian Conflict

With a total population of 141 million, Russia's total military personnel is 3 million 569 thousand, and the number of active soldiers is 1 million 14 thousand.

The total military personnel of Ukraine, which has a population of approximately 44 million, is 1 million 245 thousand, and the number of active soldiers is 255 thousand.

The difference in the number of active personnel between the two countries is 759 thousand in favor of Russia.

The number of reserve personnel in Russia is two million. Ukraine's reserve personnel is 900 thousand.

In terms of paramilitary power, Russia is at the level of 555 thousand and Ukraine at the level of 90 thousand.

Russia's defense spending is 42 billion 149 million dollars.

Ukraine's defense budget is 9 billion 600 million dollars.

 Amid a gut-wrenching war in Ukraine, US and European private contractors say they are increasingly eying opportunities, ranging from 'extraction' missions to helping with logistics.

But the demand for paid security workers - many of them former soldiers with ability to fight and kill - in the midst of a war leaves plenty of room for mistakes, and the potential for bedlam.