

Country: Iraq

Committee: Disarmament and International Security

Topic: Impact of Private Military Security Contractors on Global Security

The US military intervention in Iraq in the year 2003 led to a new and important debates in international relations. The benefits and harmful effects of private military and security companies (PMSCs) and their contracted personnel after 2003 made a rise to new discussions about US intervention and the concept of security in general. The economic, humanitarian and political costs of the US between Iraq increased every single year. The economic cost of Iraq war in year 2008 was around 197 billion dollars, while the of US troops in the country increased to 161,783 in the same year (2008). In 2008 63% of US public opinion regarded the military intervention in Iraq to be wrong. The increasing economic, humanitarian and political costs of the US during the 2003 period have made the externalization of the burdens of this war significant, and the PMSC's (private military and security companies) and their contracted personnel have become prominent in this process. The Bush administration tried to externalize the rising costs of the war by deploying an increasing number of contracted personnel in Iraq.

Thanks to the PMSC's (private military and security companies) a large number of contracted personnel were able to find a job in Iraq thereby reducing the cost, and contractor personnel became the second largest group within the coalition forces. Moreover, with the increasing number of foreign and Iraqi contractors, the US could lower their casualties and in this way, the Bush administration externalizing the economic and humanitarian burdens of the war, the US administration tried to limit the reaction of the US public.

Moreover limited congress control over the contracted personnel also helped to externalize the political costs for the Bush administration. Although the Obama and Trump administrations have avoided costly military interventions, the PMSC (private military and security companies) during these times have continued to protect US interests in Iraq. After the Bush administration, the contractors replaced the US forces in Iraq and they still operating the country.