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Country: Israel

Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee

Issue: Impact of Private Military Security Contractors on Global Security

Private military security contractors as known as PMCs have a significant amount of impact on security. These companies usually consist of ex-military personnel and specialized professionals, which offer a range of security-related services to the government, international organizations, and private entities. In the recent years, PMSCs multiplies and raised controversy on international security. PMSCs have been heavily involved in conflict zones and military tension. They have played a role in peacekeeping operations, counterinsurgency efforts, and post-conflict reconstruction. For example; in the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, PMSCs played a significant role in supporting military operations, providing security services, and logistics support. PMSCs are not merely providing bodies and direct combat services, they also sell services such as intelligence, surveillance and cyber security. While their presence can provide immediate security solutions, concerns arise regarding their accountability, transparency, and adherence to international humanitarian law. Instances of misconduct and human rights abuses by PMSCs have raised questions about their impact on the rule of law and human security. (1) PMSCs have had positive effects on Israel's security landscape. PMSCs have been utilized by the Israeli government and private entities to enhance their security capabilities. These contractors often possess specialized skills and knowledge gained from their military or law enforcement backgrounds, which can supplement existing security forces. Therefore, the Israeli government rejects the use of private military security contractors unless they are ethical.

Several efforts have been implied in the past to get ahead of the issues concerning PMSCs; such as lack of transparency and manslaughter. For the solution of the issue, Montreux document have been proposed. The Montreux Document is the result of an international process launched by the Government of Switzerland and the ICRC. It is a document intended to promote respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law whenever private military and security companies are present in armed conflicts. (2) The document provides a blueprint for governments to effectively regulate PMSCs. It highlights the responsibilities of three principal types of states: Contracting states (countries that hire PMSCs), Territorial states (countries on whose territory PMSCs operate), and Home states (countries in which PMSCs are headquartered or based). (3) As well as the document, International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (ICoC) have been created. It is aimed directly at private security companies. ICoC is a voluntary set of standards and principles that aims to promote responsible and accountable conduct by private security companies. The ICoC outlines guidelines and expectations for private security service providers in areas such as human rights, international humanitarian law, use of force, training of personnel, and transparency. It encourages them to respect human rights, operate in compliance with applicable laws, and establish mechanisms for addressing complaints and grievances. ICoC aims to imply respect for human rights, legal compliance, restraint in the use of force and properly selected personnel. (4)

Israel has implemented regulations to govern the activities of PMSCs operating within its authority. The Israeli Security Services Law of 1986 sets out provisions for licensing and oversight of security companies, including PMSCs. These regulations aim to ensure accountability, professional standards, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Israel has employed PMSCs in various capacities to enhance its security capabilities. PMSCs have been contracted by the Israeli government and private entities for services such as security protection, intelligence support, training, and logistics assistance. Their involvement has been seen as a means to strengthen security infrastructure and address specific security needs. Israel, like other countries, has faced controversies and concerns related to the activities of PMSCs. Incidents involving PMSC personnel accused of misconduct or human rights abuses have prompted debates about oversight, transparency, and adherence to international law. These controversies have raised awareness of the need for proper regulation, accountability, and ethical conduct within the private security industry. Overall, Israel recognizes the potential benefits of PMSCs in bolstering security capabilities, but it also acknowledges the importance of addressing potential risks and ensuring responsible and lawful conduct by PMSCs operating within its jurisdiction.

A possible solution for the PMSC issue can be strengthening oversight and regulations by requiring private bodies to be licensed and registered, having passed standards for training and qualifications. By regulating the actions taken by PMSCs the risks of violation of human rights will be avoided. Legal processes will take place in any kind of infraction of the rules set beforehand.

1. <https://ti-defence.org/checking-the-rise-of-shadow-armies/>
2. <https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/0996-montreux-document-private-military-and-security-companies>
3. <https://www.montreuxdocument.org/about/montreux-document.html>
4. <https://observatoire-securite-privee.org/en/content/international-code-conduct-private-security-service-providers-icoc#:~:text=Service%20Providers%20(ICoC)-,The%20International%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20for%20Private%20Security%20Service%20Providers,the%20interests%20of%20their%20clients>.

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