Committee: DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee

Country: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Delegate: Mert Büyükdeğerli

Agenda: Regulating the Use of Private Military and International Security Companies

Agenda Item: Regulating the Use of Private Military and International Security Companies (PMSCs)

Topic Background:

Private Military and International Security Companies (PMSCs) are private business entites that provide military and security services. These companies contract with the states or governments that need some army power, equipment, transportation or other services. Contracting states generally profit by PMSCs’ high technologies and they are mostly more advantageous.

The main problem is the lack of the needed laws and conflict between the host states, home states and contracting states. International communities has signed some laws about that. Two of them are Geneva Conventions and Mercenary Convention those are generally includes atricles for merceneries and causes ambiguity for PMSCs. Another one is Current Limitations but we cannot say it’s binding at all, besides it has some gray zones. The Montreux, which includes articles for PMSCs but while it’s a good guide, it has no legal validity.

Past Actions:

The United States has tried various ways to deal with the risks and weaknesses of PMSCs. The result of discussing and meetings about PMSCs is Montreux Document. It’s the only official document among all the conventions, contractions and documents that includes laws for PMSCs as it needed to be. This document was supported by over 50 countries in 2008. Unfortunately it’s a non-binding document for the states, beside it’s restrictive about armament and authorities of PMSCs (That may be a good fact for Algeria for some reasons).

Algeria’s Part:

As it comes to Algeria, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria was terrorized by various terrorism organs in different situations. In the 1990s, use of the PMSCs for security was not allowed according to law. Because government relied on it’s own security forces like DRS also thinked that permitting private companies will undermine national sovereign. Despite that laws, Black Decade occured between 1991 – 2002 and Algeria’s national army and security forces couldn’t defend the gas facilites nicely. After the civil war, use of PMSCs allowed by laws, later most of gas facilites contracted with PMSCs.

The biggest diasaster occured in 2013. A group of armed militans that called themself “Masked Brigade” has attacked to one of the most important gas facilities, In Amenas Gas Project. Owner of the project is BP was contracted with Stirling Group – a PMSC related to United Kingdom- to enhance the security on area. Unlikely, Stirling Group staff was unarmed because of the restrictions in Algeria’s law. Furthermore Algeria’s army that named ANP wasn’t there on time. Due to these factors, 40 people died and more than 800 people was taken hostage. Furthermore in Algeria PMSCs caused some victimizations, too. We know a few cases of PMSCs about arbitrary detention and phsyical violence. In the lights of the points above, Algeria understood some important facts. Prohibition of PMSCs’ armament causes dangerous gap in security, intervention of government forces and PMSCs forces cannot be coordinated at all, authorities of PMSCs are not coherent for terrorist attacks, sometimes PMSCs use their authority to harm innocent people.

Possible Solutions:

So, our target is to customize the Algeria’s laws and enhance needed security with PMSCs. According to that, we are planning to draft a new law that includes facts about PMSCs and their coordination with Algerian army. This law includes the conditions of taking security response of a comapany. With this law, we are planning to assign special inspection groups to PMSC forces, so security gaps will lack, communication and coordination between Algeria’s army and private companies will stiffen. In addition to this, we are aiming to remake the Montreux Document and providing it to become a binding document between all the states. Lastly, it’s needed to discuss with United Nations for laws’ conflict between the states. A great inclusive law of private security companies may come into the force.

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