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.

See also Mercenaries [1]; Direct Participation in Hostilities [2];


The Issue of Mercenaries (Part D.) [6]

ICRC, The Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts (Part B.) [7]

Private Military Security Companies [8]


Switzerland, The End of Private Armies [13]

USA, Al-Shimari v. CACI Premier Technology, Inc. [14]


**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES**

**Suggested readings:**


MACDONALD Avril, “The Legal Status of Military and Security Subcontractors”,


“Symposium: Private Military Contractors and International Law” (with


University Centre for International Humanitarian Law, Expert Meeting on Private Military Contractors: Status and State Responsibility for their Actions, Report, Geneva, 2005, online:

http://www.adh-geneve.ch/pdfs/2rapport_compagnies_privees.pdf


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/private-military-and-security-companies-pmscs

Links
[1] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/mercenaries