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];

OUTLINE

Chapter 5, VII. 6. Civilianization of armed conflicts, a) PMSCs [3]

DOCUMENT


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]


South Sudan, Activities of Oil Companies [16]

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Suggested readings:


COCKAYNE James, “Regulating Private Military and Security Companies: the Content, Negotiation, Weaknesses and Promise of the Montreux Document”, in *Journal of Conflict & Security Law*


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 [17]


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

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