

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CONFRONTING THE PRIVATIZATION OF WAR AND SECURITY

Challenges, Impacts and Strategies to Ensure Human Security Considering the Increasing Role of Private Military & Security Companies in Armed Conflicts, Occupation and Homeland Security Contexts



Venue:

Universitat de Barcelona, Edifici Històric, Aula Capella, Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585

Date/time:

- Open sessions: November 22nd 2018, from 9:00h to 18:30h
- Working Sessions [Closed-Door Meeting, Upon Request]: November 23rd from 9:00h to 15:00h

About the conference

The International Conference **Confronting the Privatization of War and Security**, held in Barcelona on November 22nd-23rd 2018, aims to raise awareness to the increased participation of Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) in conflict and homeland security settings.

Currently, citizens around the globe are facing an increasingly complex international scenario where business interests and politicking are convoluting modern warfare, enabling the entry of privately held corporations with increased firepower and highly specialized training into conflict. Based on the proliferation and fragmentation of non-state armed actors, these corporations involved in war and conflict settings have capitalized on [in]security as a new way of business.

Considering its potential externalities, it is urgent to promote joint research, to raise public awareness and to advance effective advocacy work on the implications that the privatization of war and security can have on the democratic control of security policies and overall respect and protection of human rights worldwide.

Goals of the conference:

1. To analyze, identify and discuss challenges, limitations, influence and impact of growing role of PMSCs in armed conflicts, occupation and homeland security contexts, while identifying key alternatives and strategies to ensure human security, justice and prevention of corporate-related human rights abuses;
2. To build new narrative on public security based on the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms through the collaboration of scholars and academia, civil society organizations, human rights defenders and people affected by violence in conflict zones;
3. To develop and create an international and multidisciplinary hub to limit the privatization of war and security with the aim of advancing research agendas, raise awareness, integration of advocacy work through the participation of civil society organizations, working groups, platforms, specialized researchers and human rights defenders and their consolidated networks

We address these sessions to international civil society organizations and their respective networks, working groups and task forces focused on business and human rights; national and international members of academia; think tanks and practitioners dealing on issues in security, peace and conflict; as well as students and the general public interested in the process of privatization of war and security, armed conflicts, occupation and homeland security contexts.

Agenda

November 22nd 2018

Day 1 – OPEN SESSIONS: Analyzing perspectives, consequences and strategies to ensure human security

9.00 – Registration

9.30 – 10:00 Inauguration and Welcome

- Representative of Barcelona Council [TBC]
- Mr. Xavier López, Director of the Solidarity Foundation of the University of Barcelona
- Mr. Felipe Daza, Co-director of NOVACT
- Mr. Mark Suhail Samander, Corporate Policy and Research Analyst at Al-Haq Palestine

10:00 – 11.30 Session I: The Phenomenon of Privatization of War and Security - State of the Art, Challenges and Limitations.

Moderator: Mr. Kristian Herbolzheimer, Director of the International Catalan Institute for Peace [ICIP]

- The Concept of “Modern Wars” and the Participation of Military and Security Actors
Dr. Christina Schori Liang, Senior Programme Advisor at Geneva Center Security Policy [GCSP]
- Legal and Political Implications of Outsourcing Military and Security Services
Dr. Helena Torroja, Professor of Public International law at University of Barcelona and Center of International Studies

- Challenges and limitaitons of regulatory framework: Transparncy and accountability in the case of the Internal Security Fund of EU
Ms. Estela Casajuana, Independent Researcher at Profundo

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 14.00 Session II: Presence and Impact of Private Military and Security Actors in Conflict and Occupation Zones in the Mediterranean region.

Moderator: Ms. Leticia Barrios, Shock Monitor Coordinator and member of NOVACT

- The Impact of PMSCs in Rule of Law and Stabilization Process in Iraq
Mr. Krmanj Othman, Senior Legal Advisor, Independent Commission for Human Rights, Iraqi Kurdistan
- Use of PMSCs by Israel in the Occupation of East Jerusalem
Mr. Mark Suhail Samander, Corporate Policy and Research Analyst at Al-Haq, Palestine
- Warlords and PMSCs in Libya
Mr. Javier Martin Rodríguez, Journalist at Press Agency EFE
- The Complicity of PMSCs in the Plundering of Natural Resources in Western Sahara
Mr. Lahcen Dalil, Director and researcher at Association for the Monitoring of Resources and the Protection of Environment in Western Sahara [AMRPEWS]

14.00 – 15.00 Lunch

15.00 – 17.00 Session III: The Increasing Role of Private Military and Security Companies in Homeland Security Contexts.

Moderator: Mr. Eduard Martínez, Responsible of advocacy action at Amnesty International Catalonia

- Transformation and human rights' violations by PMSCs in Homeland Security

Ms. Ainhoa Ruiz, Researcher at Centre Delas Estudis per la Pau

- The impact of the security-industrial complex on the internal security policy of European Union. The case of the surveillance of travel.
Mr. Chris Jones, Researcher at Statewatch
- Privatization of border controls and prisons in Europe
Mr. Dariush Sokolov, Corporate Watch and member of the European Network of Corporate Observatories [ENCO]
- Illegal Expropriation of Houses by Security Contractors in Catalonia
Media representative at La Directa

17.00 – 17.15 Pause

17.15 – 18.15 Session IV: Strategies and Alternatives to Confront the Privatization of War and Security and Ensure Human Security

Moderator: Mr. Jordi Palou-Loverdos, Vice President of NOVACT

- Observing PMSCs in Conflict Zones, “Shock Monitor”
Mr. John Andrew Carter Jr and Mr. Carlos Díaz Bodoque, Researchers at Shock Monitor and members of NOVACT
- Effective Advocacy Work: The case of G4S in the United Kingdom
Ms. Ryvka Barnard, Senior campaign officer at War on Want
- European Networks to monitor and advocate for the control of transnational companies
Ms. Lina María González, Coordinator of the Observatory of Human Rights and Business in the Mediterranean Region – [ODHE] and member of NOVACT.

18.15 – 18.30 Conclusions

Mr. Felipe Daza, Co-director of NOVACT

END OF SESSIONS DAY 1

November 23rd 2018

Day 2 – CLOSED SESSIONS: Lay the foundations for the creation of an international hub to confront the privatization of war and security

Contact and registration:

- For more information: www.novact.org
- Open sessions [Day 1]: Please confirm your participation to leticia@novact.org and +34935513292.
- Working sessions [Closed-door meeting, day 2]: If you are interested, please request participation stating name, organization and interest to leticia@novact.org

Biographies

Lahcen Dalil has a master's degree in Political Science. He is a human rights defender and President of the Association for Monitoring Resources and for Environment Protection in Western Sahara located in Laayoune [Western Sahara]

Javier Martín Rodríguez is chief executive in Northern Africa for the press agency EFE. He's graduated from arabic philosophy at Complutense University and from hebrew philosophy at Salamanca University. Within his 22 years as a journalist in the Northern Africa region, he has covered many wars: Iraq [2003], Lebanon [2006], Libya [2011], Syria [2012] and Gaza [2014], as well as the green revolution in Iran [2009]. In addition he has been the permanent correspondent on Egypt, Iran, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Argelia and Libya.

Ainhoa Ruiz PhD candidate with a thesis on militarization of the borders by the Jaume I University. She is a researcher at the Center Delàs for Peace Studies, author of the reports: “Trade in arms and conflicts. Analysis of European exports to countries in armed conflict” [Center Delàs, 2017], “European arms that foster armed conflicts. Conflicts that cause refugees to flee” [Center Delàs, 2017]. Her research focuses on militarism, securitization and arms trade.

Krmanj Othman A professional Trainer / Legal Researcher, on Human Rights with experience in civil society work, peace studies, anti-corruption, rule of law and training in multi-cultural and post-conflict societies. Holds an MA in Peacekeeping Management –International law by the University of Torino, member of KRG High Committee for ISIS crimes documentation and Senior Legal Adviser of Kurdistan Independent Commission for Human Rights.

Mark Samander is a Corporate Policy and Research Analyst at the Legal Research and Advocacy Department at Al-Haq. The focus of his work is on the role of corporations in situations of armed conflict and occupation, including by collecting and analyzing business operations within this context, as well as engaging with investors and shareholders. Mark holds an undergraduate degree in International Relations

Dr. Lina María González is a historian at the National University of Colombia and holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Barcelona, with the support of the Catalan Institute for Peace. Her work analyzed the dynamics of paramilitary violence in Colombia and the privatization of the use of force and security by non-state agents. Currently, at Novact, she coordinates public procurement projects and the ODHE / Shock Monitor with emphasis on the geographic area of the Mashreq.

Estela Casajuana is a researcher working at the intersection between security and migration. She is an expert on EU funding for border management and migration policies. Estela has an LLM in International Human Rights Law from Essex University. During her career, Estela has advised NGOs, journalists, international organizations and governments.

Dr. Ryvka Barnard is senior campaigns officer at War on want where she campaigns against human rights abuses associated with the growing power of the military and security industry, with a special focus on the UK-Israel arms trade. She writes frequently on the topic in IndyVoices, Middle East Eye and has appeared on the BBC and other broadcast channels discussing these issues. Ryvka has a PhD in Middle Eastern Studies from New York University where she specialised in the politics of tourism development in the occupied West Bank

Chris Jones is a researcher at the civil liberties organisation Statewatch, where he has worked since 2010. His work examines policing, migration, military and security issues.

John Andrew Carter Jr. is a PhD candidate in Political Science and International Security at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, his thesis focuses on analyzing the role of military and private security companies in the “Triángulo Norte” [Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador]. In 2014, John Andrew graduated from the Croft Institute for International Studies at the University of Mississippi [United States] and in 2016 received a Master’s degree in International Relations from IBEI [Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals]. Since January 2017 he has been a researcher at the Shock Monitor Observatory, created by NOVACT.

Dariusz Sokolov is a researcher with the London-based research collective Corporate Watch, a not-for-profit co-operative providing critical information on the social and environmental impacts of corporations and capitalism. Since 2008 one of its main research areas has been the border regime and the companies that profit from it. Our focus areas have included the arms trade and the role of private security companies in areas including Palestine.

Carlos Díaz earned a Bachelor in History and a Bachelor in Criminology by the Universitat of Barcelona in 2010. He pursued a Master in International Relations focused on Security and Development in 2016. He is a Shock Monitor Researcher, focused on MENA region. He is a PhD candidate at Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona focused on Terrorism and Human Security issues. He has published several articles on Private Military Security Companies [PMSC’s], Armament companies and Human Rights.

Dr Christina Schori Liang began her career at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies [AICGS] in Washington D.C., and in 1996, moved to the Geneva Centre for Security Policy [GCSP]. In 2013-2016 she became Director of the New Issues in Security Course [NISC]. She is now leading the terrorism and organised crime cluster at the GCSP. She regularly advises the UN Security Council’s 1267 Committee on global terrorist financing and has contributed to the 2015 and 2016 Global Terrorism Index on criminal-terrorist convergence and terrorist financing. Dr Liang obtained her BA in Political Science from Hope College, USA, and holds a DES [Master’s Degree] in International History and Politics and a PhD in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Helena Torroja. International public law teacher at the International law department at University of Barcelona. She obtained a PhD in law at UB [cum laude and extraordinary award] in 2001. She graduated in Law at UB in 1992. Since 2007 she is the Director of the International Studies Centre’s [UB-MAEC-La Caixa]. Since 2010 she works as an adviser for the United Nations working group on the use of mercenaries. From 2013 to 2014 she worked as a consultant for the OHCHR.

Jordi Palou graduated in Law [UB], he has a master in Penal Law and Law Science [UB], as well as master in Mediation and Conflict Resolution [URL]. He is a authorized lawyer by the International Penal Court [Den Haag] and is one of the first lawyers to use the universal justice principle. In the last

decade, he has found Aequitas, a conflict management centre that give support to people in positive conflict transformation through mediation, dialogue and coaching. Currently, he is currently in a public service position related to democratic memory and international justice principles.

Kristian Herbolzheimer: agronomist technical engineer from Universitat de Lleida, Herbolzheimer graduated in Peace Culture, from Escola de Cultura de la Pau [UAB] in 2001 and got a master in International Peace Building from Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies from Notre Dame University, United States [2009]. He has been the director of Escola de Cultura de la Pau program during seven years, since 2009 he lead the Peace Transition Program from Conciliation Resource, a London headquarter NGO that supports peace initiatives. He has been peace processes consultant in the Philipinnes, Basque Country and Colombia.

Felip Daza is NOVACT's co director and he has been coordinating the research about PMSCs impact on Afghanistan, Colombia, Irak and Palestine. He is the founder of the Shock Monitor Observatory- Observing the impact of war and security privatization and human rights. He is also a researcher at the Human Rights and Corporation Observatory in Mediterranean area [ODHE]. He contributed in the report "International Public Law and Human Right Violations from Private War and Security Corporations". He is graduated in Political Science [UPF] and Master on International Relations [UAB and CIDOB foundation].

Leticia Barrios Trullols, studied Political Science in the Autonomous University of Barcelona [UAB], holds a master in Development Cooperation by the Université Libre de Bruxelles [ULB] and a postgraduate diploma on Culture and Peace from Escola de Cultura i Pau. She has worked as a project manager and coordination associate for the United Nations in Brazil and Senegal, for Save the Children in Mauritania and for GIZ in Colombia. Currently she is coordinating the SHOCK MONITOR project and she is part of the Magreb team in NOVACT.

Xavier Lòpez is the founder of "Fundació Solidaritat UB", created in 1996 in order to provide Barcelona University with a solidarity space. Since then, their main objectives have been promoting social volunteering, creating data base in the Internet about peace and conflict, and promote cooperation projects.

Eduard Martínez graduated in Political Science, and has a Postgraduate degree from Escola de Cultura de Pau, he holds a Master on "Conflict, Security and Development" from Bradford University [United Kingdom]. Currently, he is the responsible of Institutional Relations at Amnesty International-Catalunya, from where he works to influence the decisions of Catalan authorities to improve human rights. Lately, he has focused on the role of the security forces and their respect to human rights.

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