



‘PRIVATIZATION OF SECURITY AND WARFARE AND IMPACTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS’

Public seminar co-hosted by the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre and the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination

Wednesday 21 March 2007, 13:00 to 14:30, Palais des Nations, Room XXIV, Geneva

Private security companies and human rights

The [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) is an independent, non-profit organization. Our website covers the human rights impacts (positive and negative) of 3600 companies in over 180 countries. Issues include discrimination, labour rights, security & conflict zones, killings, torture, displacement, poverty and development. The site is updated hourly and receives more than 1.5 million hits per month. Mary Robinson, former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, chairs our 80-member [International Advisory Network](#). The United Nations Global Compact, ILO, NGOs and universities have, at their request, linked their websites to our site. The Resource Centre has offices in London and California, and researchers in Hong Kong, South Africa and New York. For further information about the Resource Centre, see the [“Brief description”](#) section of our site.

Greetings. It is an honour for us to co-host this event together with the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries, which has taken a lead in giving attention to the human rights impacts of private security companies.

The organization I represent, the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, is an independent NGO whose Advisory Network is chaired by Mary Robinson. [Our website](#) draws attention to reports on the human rights impacts (positive and negative) of over 3600 companies worldwide. We are committed to encouraging private companies to respect human rights, avoid harm to people, and maximise their positive contribution to society. Hence our mandate relates well to the mandate of the Working Group, especially point (e) of the mandate:

(e) To monitor and study the effects of the activities of private companies offering military assistance, consultancy and security services on the international market on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly the right of peoples to self-determination, and to prepare draft international basic principles that encourage respect for human rights on the part of those companies in their activities.

As many of you know, security companies provide services for governments, for international agencies, and for other private and public companies operating in many industry sectors, such as oil and mining, apparel, food and beverage, transport, etc. all over the world. In some regions private security companies employ more people than any other private sector firms.

Cases tracked on our website:

We are pleased to be able to present to you some thoughts and information on the human rights record of private security companies. In addition, we have a section of our website devoted to the [UN Working Group on mercenaries](#), which includes relevant documents that the Working Group has published.

The annex to this presentation provides a list of materials with specific examples of alleged human rights abuses, and positive steps, by private security companies in various regions of the world. The materials referenced in the annex were published by NGOs, journalists, academics, trade unions, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and private security companies themselves. Our website contains links to all of these materials, reflecting a broad range of views.

Our online library currently provides information on at least 28 individual companies in our "[Security companies](#)" section, 47 companies in our "[Military/defence](#)" section, 43 companies in our "[Arms/Weapons](#)" section, and 3 companies in our "[Prison companies](#)" section.

We also have a section on the [Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights](#). The Voluntary Principles address some of the most pressing issues related to the relationships between businesses and private security companies providing services for them. The Principles are a voluntary scheme and as such have been criticised by some activists for being merely exhortative, and some of the participating companies have complained about the lack of implementation of the Principles by other participating companies (see [recent article by Peter Davis](#), politics editor of *Ethical Corporation*). Nevertheless, the Voluntary Principles can serve as a useful monitoring tool and prevention mechanism if implemented effectively in a company's operational guidelines and practices, especially if included in contractual agreements with host government agencies (see examples of Barrick Gold and BP in item # 15 in the annex), making them enforceable legal requirements for both parties.

Concerns:

Some multinational companies and governments outsource their security requirements to private security firms – in some cases this may be done partly to dilute the employer's accountability and to obscure public scrutiny of any negative human rights consequences of the security operations. It is important to guarantee that companies do not escape accountability when they outsource to security firms and human rights abuses emerge.

In this context, when we planned to draw attention on our website and in our Weekly Update to a September 2006 report describing in detail serious human rights abuses by three security firms in Angola, we contacted the five diamond companies that employed those security firms to seek a public response from them (as is our normal practice). This report was written by independent Angolan journalist Rafael Marques. It describes "profoundly sadistic" abuses by security firms employed by diamond companies in Cuango, Angola, including killings, beatings, sexual abuse and torture. In some cases victims were whipped or beaten with shovels, clubs and machetes. In other cases they were forced to carry out homosexual acts with members of their family. The victims were mostly artisanal miners. The five diamond companies that employed those security firms are headquartered in Angola, Brazil, Israel and the United States. All five eventually sent us responses to the allegations – the responses are posted on our website, alongside the report by Rafael Marques. If you read the responses you will see that some of the diamond companies do not specifically address the allegations of grave abuses by the security companies they employ. The most encouraging response was from Endiama, the Angolan state oil company, which said it recognised the need to investigate and stop the abuses. Rafael Marques issued rejoinders to some of the diamond company statements that he believes failed to provide an adequate response – his rejoinders are also posted on our website. A [two-page summary](#) of this case is available on our website (see item # 6 in the annex).

Private security companies sometimes target human rights and environmental activists who criticise or protest against the impacts of their parent companies' activities. This was exemplified by one of the cases that the Working Group saw in its recent visit to Peru regarding alleged harassment of environmental activists by a private security company (see item # 1 in the annex). Since these incidents tend to happen in weak governance zones, they often remain uninvestigated. Therefore increasing the accountability of private security companies is crucial when governments fail to protect their own citizens.

It is also important to note that our website draws attention to various cases in which private security firms have allegedly abused the labour rights of their own employees (see for example items # 7 & 8 in the annex). Reported abuses include denial of freedom of association, failure to pay a living wage, and forcing the guards to work long hours under difficult conditions. Labour rights are human rights and hence should be respected like any other fundamental right, but in this context these abuses are particularly worrisome, given that security guards have to deal with risky and sensitive situations. Harsh labour conditions and health and safety abuses against employees of security companies may cause harm not only to the guards themselves, but also to civilians that come into contact with the guards.

The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre website covers the human rights impacts of over 150 industry sectors. Perhaps no other industry sector faces more human rights challenges than the private security industry, given the nature of the work, the fact that its employees are often armed, and the fact that security firms often operate in areas where human rights abuses are prevalent. As a result, it is particularly important that private security firms understand their human rights responsibilities, adopt and operationalise human rights policies, provide human rights training to their managers and staff, and provide internal systems of accountability for misconduct. It is also important for governments, civil society and the international

community to closely monitor the conduct of private security companies, and to provide external systems of accountability.

Douglas Brooks, President of the International Peace Operations Association, an industry organization whose members include private security firms, recently said: “[...] effective accountability benefits the industry”, and “IPOA members providing services in Iraq have been calling for improved oversight and accountability.” (full statement [here](#)).

Melker Mabeck of the International Committee of the Red Cross has emphasised that private companies undertaking military tasks must also understand international humanitarian law. He notes that the ICRC engages in conversations with private security companies because “the recent increase in the outsourcing of military tasks has put more employees of PMCs/PSCs [private military and private security companies] into direct contact with people protected by international humanitarian law...[so] the ICRC seeks to ensure that PMCs/PSCs and their employees are aware of, and understand [international humanitarian law]...The companies have also accepted that they have obligations under IHL...The responsibility for educating and training PMC/PSC employees in the content and application of IHL lies primarily with the company itself and with the states who hire them.” (see item # 16 in the annex).

Positive steps:

A number of private security companies have adopted explicit human rights policies (for example [ArmorGroup](#), [Group 4 Securicor](#), and [Securitas](#)), and some have issued statements about their support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Voluntary Principles. Adopting such policies is an important step, and one hopes that other private security firms will do the same. Sir Geoffrey Chandler, founder of Amnesty International UK Business Group and former senior manager at Royal Dutch/Shell, said: “An explicit policy is essential so that society can measure performance against it”. After adopting such policies, the test is the extent to which these human rights commitments are implemented on the ground throughout a company’s operations.

In 2006 Securitas signed a [global labour rights agreement with UNI](#) (Union Network International) covering 225,000 workers worldwide. The agreement provides for regular global dialogue between unions and Securitas, and incorporates core labour rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It provides for practical assistance to unions in organising, including lists of employees and access to them.

Some private security companies have drawn attention to the importance of employees’ health and safety. For example, ArmorGroup issued a [position paper](#) in August 2006 recommending to all private security contractors a series of steps to train and prepare their employees and managers for “every contingency likely to be encountered by employees on deployed operations” and also to equip them with suitable clothing, communications and first aid materials.

Some military/security companies have taken positive steps by contributing to humanitarian efforts, for example following the Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina (see item # 9 in the annex).

Final remarks:

We would be glad to forward to the Working Group reports on the human rights impacts of private security companies when they become available, and we will continue to highlight on our website the important work being done by the Group.

We would like to point out that our work would not be possible without the excellent work that numerous NGOs, journalists and human rights defenders are carrying out on the ground. Our role is to provide their reports and articles to a wider international audience. We invite anyone working on these issues to send us copies of their statements and reports, so that we can consider linking to them from our website. We also invite private security firms and companies employing private security firms to send us information about any steps they are taking to promote respect for human rights, or to address alleged abuses.

Finally, if you have any comments or questions relating to my presentation and the cases in the annex, please do not hesitate to contact us via the contact details provided on our website. Thank you.

Annex

The following is a sample of the issues that we cover in our online library regarding private security companies and military & defense issues. Currently we cover over 28 individual companies in our "[Security companies](#)" section, 47 companies in our "[Military/defence](#)" section, 43 companies in our "[Arms/Weapons](#)" section, and 3 companies in our "[Prison companies](#)" section. We also have a general section called "[Security issues & conflict zones](#)."

Under each item we provide extracts from the original material. The full text of each item is available via the hyperlink and on our website.

We welcome receiving any comments on, or responses to, these items, as well as suggested additions.

LATIN AMERICA:

1. Allegations against Minera Yanacocha (owned by Newmont) regarding intimidation of environmental activists:

[Spies bedevil Peruvian environmental priest](#)

Catholic News, 12 Feb 2007

A Peruvian security firm has launched a campaign of spying and intimidation against environmental activists and priests...according to documents revealed by a local newspaper. Using the codename "Operation Devil", the Peruvian firm, C&G Investigaciones, spied on and filmed staff and sympathisers of the organisation Grufides, a [NGO] in...Cajamarca that promotes sustainable development...The firm reportedly handed over the results of the spying to the security firm Forza, which provides services to Yanacocha, a subsidiary of...Newmont Mining Corporation...Fr Arana...and his colleague attorney Mirtha Vasquez have been alerting the public to environmental damage caused by the Yanacocha mine for years...Forza...denied any link to "Operacion El Diablo" or to C&G Investigaciones...Last August, campesino Isidro Llanos was gunned down in clashes between the company [Yanacocha] and residents of the nearby town of Combayo, following the mine's announcement that it planned to expand operations in the area.

[Peru: Articles & statements relating to allegations of involvement by security guards working for Newmont's Yanacocha mine in "spying" & harrasment operation against local environmentalists - & Yanachocho's responses](#)

The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Yanacocha to respond to the allegations. This page includes the company's responses, which include the following statement: "Let us clearly state that we respect the human rights of all people, regardless of whether they are supporters or critics of our mining activities...[P]adre Arana's continued campaign alleging that Yanacocha is involved in an effort to eliminate opposition by murdering community leaders or environmental activists is highly irresponsible and absolutely false."

[Crónica de un reglaje al 'Diablo' \[Perú\]](#)

Edmundo Cruz, La República, 15 noviembre 2006

La captura de un agente de seguridad privada [Saldaña] en la ciudad de Cajamarca ha permitido destapar un vasto operativo de espionaje contra el movimiento popular en defensa de los derechos ambientales que lidera el sacerdote Marco Antonio Arana...[Las] autoridades procedieron a revisar a Saldaña. En su cámara de video encontraron una secuencia fílmica de los últimos movimientos del religioso y del personal de la ONG Grufides...El mismo Saldaña confesó que fue contratado por C & G Investigaciones, una empresa de seguridad...A Saldaña le incautaron un recibo de 1,000 dólares pagados... "por orden de Aldo Schwarz Cossu, gerente de operaciones de Forza S.A.", que da seguridad a Minera Yanacocha [parte de Newmont].

[Declaraciones de Yanacocha y Grufides](#)

Esta página incluye cartas de Yanacocha y Grufides enviadas al Centro de Recursos, en las que Yanacocha declara: "Permítanos expresar claramente que respetamos los derechos humanos de todas las personas, sin importar si son partidarios o críticos de nuestras actividades mineras...[L]a continua campaña del padre Arana aduciendo que Yanacocha se encuentra involucrada en un esfuerzo de eliminar la oposición asesinando líderes de la comunidad o activistas ambientalistas es altamente irresponsable y absolutamente falsa."

2. Killing of Dionisio Díaz, a labour rights activist in Honduras providing legal defense and representation for the labour rights of hundreds of security guards employed by 13 different private security companies:

[Dionisio Díaz García: May His Death Not Be in Vain \[Honduras\] Association for a more Just Society \[Honduras\], Dec 2006](#)

Dionisio Díaz García was known to many as the "lawyer of the poor" and known to all as one of the most decent, honest, friendly, dedicated human beings...He was murdered on the morning of Monday, December 4, apparently in retaliation for standing up for the rights of poor security guards in Honduras...[also refers to Delta Security Services and Service y Seguridad Técnica de Honduras (SETECH).]

[ES \[Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos\] Cidh pide medidas cautelares urgentes para personal de organismo de Derechos Humanos \[Honduras\]](#)

[La Prensa \[Honduras\], 21 diciembre 2006](#)

La Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Cidh, pidió hoy al Gobierno de Honduras la adopción de medidas urgentes a favor del personal de un organismo de derechos humanos que está siendo amenazado de muerte por su trabajo...la Asociación por una Sociedad más Justa, ASJ...trabaj[a] en favor del respeto de los derechos laborales de empleados y ex empleados de agencias privadas de seguridad...Según las denuncias de ASJ, por esta causa dos sicarios asesinaron a tiros el pasado 4 de diciembre al abogado Dionisio Díaz García...

3. Occidental Petroleum and AirScan in Colombia:

["A Colombian Village Caught in a Cross-Fire"](#)

[Los Angeles Times, 17 Mar 2002](#)

The Bombing of Santo Domingo...[i]n all, 11 adults and seven children died...on Dec. 13, 1998...But according to Colombian military court records, the U.S. government helped initiate military operations around Santo Domingo that day, and two private American companies helped plan and support them...Occidental Petroleum, which runs an oil complex 30 miles north of Santo Domingo, provided crucial assistance to the operation. It supplied, directly or through contractors, troop transportation, planning facilities and fuel to Colombian military aircraft, including the helicopter crew accused of dropping the bomb. AirScan Inc., a private U.S. company owned by former Air Force commandos, helped plan and provided surveillance for the attack around Santo Domingo using a high-tech monitoring plane...Company employees even suggested targets to the Colombian helicopter crew that dropped the bomb...AirScan officials deny involvement in the incident, saying their plane was used only to survey Occidental's oil pipeline, and the company is not accused of any illegal activity.

[Occidental Issues Statement Regarding Santo Domingo, Colombia Lawsuit](#)

[Oxy website, 24 Apr 2003](#)

...any suggestion that Occidental Petroleum was responsible in any way for the Santo Domingo tragedy resulting from military action involving Colombian armed forces and elements of the terrorist group known by its Spanish acronym, FARC, is completely false. Occidental has not and does not provide lethal aid to Colombia's armed forces.

[Labor Rights Fund Hails Progress in Alien Tort Claims Act Suit Against Occidental Petroleum: US State Department's Response to Judge Gives Green Light to Human Rights Case](#)

[International Labor Rights Fund, 6 Apr 2004](#)

[\[DOC\] To what extent does a corporate-state security consensus undermine human rights? - Oil extraction in Arauca: Colombia, the United States and Occidental Petroleum](#)

[Annabel Short, Sep 2004](#)

The United States' military involvement in Arauca through its pipeline protection programme raises the question of the extent to which Occidental Petroleum...is fuelling the conflict there, and is responsible for/can be held accountable for violations of human rights in the vicinity of its operations. [also refers to Drummond, Coca-Cola, BP, Dole, Chiquita, AirScan]

MIDDLE EAST:

4. War on Want report on “Corporate Mercenaries”:

[Corporate Mercenaries](#)

War on Want, 30 Oct 2006

The British government today comes under attack for its growing use of mercenaries in conflict zones while failing to introduce legislation to tackle their human rights abuses. A new report launched today by War on Want reveals that no prosecutions have followed hundreds of accounts of personnel from private military and security firms committing abuses in Iraq. [refers to Aegis Defence Services, Sandline International, DSC (part of ArmorGroup).]

[\[PDF\] full report: "Corporate Mercenaries - The threat of private military and security companies"](#)

War on Want, 30 Oct 2006

The following pages examine the rapid expansion of private military and security companies (PMSCs), particularly as a result of the occupation of Iraq. As well as providing information on the activities of these companies, the report urges all readers to call on the UK government to introduce legislation as a matter of urgency in order to bring PMSCs under democratic control. [refers to Vinnell, Booz Allen Hamilton, SAIC, O’Gara, DynCorp, Alpha Firm, ArmorGroup, Silver Shadow, Intercon Security, Northbridge, Blackwater, Hart Group, Control Risks, Triple Canopy, Branch-Heritage, Military Professional Resources, Aegis Defence Services, Erinys International, AMEC, BHP Billiton, Anvil Mining, Siemens, De Beers, Texaco, Chevron, Schlumberger, ExxonMobil, Ranger Oil, BP, American Airlines, Shell, Airscan, L-3 Titan, CACI, DSC]

[\[PDF\] ArmorGroup International plc - Response to misleading War on Want report](#)

ArmorGroup

ArmorGroup International plc has strong reservations about the War on Want report titled “Corporate Mercenaries”, which it believes is derogatory, factually misleading and potentially damaging to the company...[T]he...report...[has] misleading or factually incorrect statements...about ArmorGroup...ArmorGroup adheres to a number of international codes of conduct covering the behaviour of the Group and its employees globally...

[If any of the other companies mentioned in the War on Want report wish to send the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre a response to the report, we will post any responses on our website, alongside the report.]

5. Torture in Iraq:

[The Forgotten Conspiracy - Corporate Torture in Iraq](#)

Ali Eteraz, in CounterPunch, 11 Oct 2006

In 2004, a major Philadelphia law firm, the Center For Constitutional Rights, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Chicago School of Law and...a group of lawyers in the United States brought a civil suit on behalf of Mr. Saleh and the hundreds of others Iraqi prisoners abused and tortured by American contractors working for CACI and Titan...The complaint also alleges that one of the private contractors raped a fourteen year old girl, and provides evidence that there may have been a rape room set up in the prison....

[CCR files lawsuit against private contractors for torture conspiracy](#)

Center for Constitutional Rights

Two U.S. corporations conspired with U.S. officials to humiliate, torture and abuse persons detained by U.S. authorities in Iraq according to a class action lawsuit filed June 9, 2004, by the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and the Philadelphia law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker and Rhoads. The suit, filed in federal court in San Diego, names as defendants the Titan Corporation of San Diego, California and CACI International of Arlington, Virginia and its subsidiaries, and three individuals who work for the companies.

[Torture Victims Sue U.S. Security Companies](#)

Emad Mekay, IPS, 10 Jun 2004

Lawyers for Iraqis tortured while in U.S. custody have sued two private security companies for allegedly abusing prisoners to extract information from them with the goal of winning more contracts

from the U.S. government... The suit...[is against] Titan Corporation...CACI International...that company's subsidiaries and three individuals who work for the firms.

[CACI in Iraq - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

CACI website

We have cooperated fully with every government investigation, and we made clear that we would not condone or tolerate illegal or inappropriate behavior by any employee when engaged in CACI business...As of April 30, 2006 more than two years after the initial reports of abuse, no current or former CACI employee has been indicted by the United States for misconduct in the treatment of detainees in Iraq.

[Statement Issued by Gene Ray, Titan's Chairman, President & CEO](#)

Titan 07 May 2004

...To clarify inaccuracies in a number of news media reports, Titan's role in Iraq is to serve as translators and interpreters for the U.S. Army. The company's contract is for linguists, not interrogators...Titan is committed to full cooperation with government investigations into these matters. Should evidence arise of unethical or illegal behavior, we will take appropriate action.

[Private Security Guards in Iraq Operate With Little Supervision](#)

T. Christian Miller, Los Angeles Times, 4 Dec 2005

Private security contractors have been involved in scores of shootings in Iraq, but none have been prosecuted despite findings in at least one fatal case that the men had not followed proper procedures, according to interviews and documents obtained by The Times... The contractors function in a legal gray area. Under an order issued by the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority that administered Iraq until June 2004, contractors suspected of wrongdoing are to be prosecuted in their home countries. The contractors have immunity from Iraqi courts and have so far not faced American prosecution...[refers to Blackwater]

AFRICA:

6. Security companies working for diamond joint-ventures in Angola:

[\[DOC\] Business & Human Rights Resource Centre highlights reported abuses in Angola's diamond industry and obtains company responses](#)

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, 18 Oct 2006

The report Operation Kissonde: The diamonds of humiliation and misery, by independent Angolan journalist Rafael Marques...describes "profoundly sadistic" abuses by security companies employed by diamond firms in Cuango, Angola, including killings, beatings, sexual abuse and torture...Eventually all five companies sent a response: ENDIAMA (Angola), ITM Mining (Angola), Lazare Kaplan International or LKI (USA), Lev Leviev (Israel), and Odebrecht (Brazil). Rafael Marques then issued rejoinders to LKI and to Odebrecht...LKI...says it is unaware of any problems at the premises its security personnel are assigned to...Odebrecht calls the accusations in the report "unfounded" and "unreliable," and contends that neither it nor SDM have "any record" of the alleged human rights abuses. In his follow-up, Marques asserts that in a meeting he held with representatives from Odebrecht and SDM, none of the attendees refuted the report's accounts of human rights abuses. Lev Leviev and ITM...both underscore the positive impact of their investment on Angola's development...Both companies stress that they do not condone any acts of violence against people. ENDIAMA promises to take action. [also refers to Sociedade de Desenvolvimento Mineiro (SDM, joint venture ENDIAMA & Odebrecht), Sociedade Mineira do Cuango (SMC, joint venture ITM Mining, ENDIAMA & Lumanhe), Sociedade Mineira Luminas (joint venture Lev Leviev, ENDIAMA & Twins Ltd.); security firms Alfa-5, Teleservice, K&P Mineira]

7. Labour abuses in South Africa:

[Guards stop work over abuse claims \[So. Africa\]](#)

Bonile Ngqiyaza, Star [So. Africa], 17 Nov 2005

About 700 security guards have descended on their bosses, calling for an end to "apartheid abuses" at their hands. They demanded yesterday that a director of Johannesburg-based Special Armed Services (SAS) be axed for torturing them with cattle prods and firing blanks in their faces... "These

guys are running the company as if it's 1985 in the old apartheid days," [former employee David Thomas] said yesterday... SAS official Robert Still has denied all accusations...

USA:

8. Group 4 Securicor and freedom of association:

[SEIU wins case: G4S subsidiary Wackenhut Violated Rights of IMF Workers Seeking to Form a Union according to latest ruling \[USA\]](#)

Union Network International, 15 Jan 2007

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled against Wackenhut [part of Group 4 Securicor] in a case involving security workers who sought to organize a union at the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC...The NLRB upheld an administrative law judge's finding that Wackenhut illegally intimidated and interrogated security officers Anderson Carter and Terry Purnell, who were leading an effort to encourage their co-workers to become members of Service Employees International Union.

["Our Employees"](#)

Group 4 Securicor website

We believe it is important for employees to be treated fairly and with dignity and respect...Communication and consultation with employees takes place on a wide range of issues. There are a wide variety of channels for communication...Our policy of equal opportunity ensures that decisions relating to the recruitment, development, promotion and training of individual employees are based solely on job requirements.

9. Northrop Grumman contribution to Katrina hurricane relief and to aid Tsunami victims:

[Companies, foundations, and individuals have given or pledged \\$169 million in Hurricane Relief \[USA\]](#)

M.J. Prest & Caroline Preston, Chronicle of Philanthropy [USA], 5 Sep 2005

[Northrop Grumman Will Provide Up to \\$1 Million to Aid Tsunami Victims in Southeast Asia](#)

Northrop Grumman, 18 Jan 2005

Northrop Grumman...plans to provide up to \$1 million to aid tsunami relief efforts in Southeast Asia [including]...through...the American Red Cross, providing water, ground logistics and family reunification; Habitat for Humanity International, for construction of shelter and repair to existing housing; and AmeriCares, delivering medicine, relief supplies and healthcare to those in need.

EUROPE:

10. Security firms involved in abuses against asylum seekers in UK:

[Security firms in deportations row \[UK\]](#)

Diane Taylor & Hugh Muir, Guardian [UK], 9 Apr 2005

Security firms involved in the deportation of failed asylum seekers are facing more and more claims of intimidation and assault...Campaigners who studied 35 complaints...revealed GSL [Global Solutions Ltd.] was involved in 30% of cases...A GSL spokeswoman said its staff were well trained and complaints should be viewed in context...

[GSL statement in response to BBC's "Asylum Undercover"](#)

GSL (Global Solutions Limited), 4 Apr 2005

11. ArmorGroup calls for increased regulation of the industry:

[\[PDF\] Regulation – an ArmorGroup perspective \(private security companies\)](#)

Christopher Beese, Director, ArmorGroup International Limited, Sep 2004

This paper is presented by ArmorGroup...as a statement of its position on the regulation of Private Security Companies ("PSCs") and Private Military Companies ("PMCs") that are based in the United

Kingdom and operate in areas of diminished law and order and civil strife around the world...Private Security Companies...have, or should have, a strong ethics code...Coalition demand for security services in Iraq post-conflict produced unprecedented growth in the private security market...UK-based companies have not been charged with a single incident relating to abuse of human rights...or any other "ethical error"...The public has a right to know what the industry does and the companies involved have an obligation to inform...ArmorGroup recommends...Fully transparent operating practices...An Ethics Policy defining limit of exploitation on assignment...and confirming compliance with international laws on human rights and co-operation with law enforcement bodies of the United Kingdom, host nation and international investigators...

ASIA:

12. Indonesia workers strike against Group 4 Securicor:

[Indonesia: Securicor Strikers Win Stratfor, 28 Jul 2006](#)

Union workers on strike from Securicor Indonesia won their dispute over severance pay July 28 after more than a year on strike. The dispute began April 25, 2005, over severance pay for workers fired during disagreements over transfers after Securicor merged with another company. Securicor agreed to pay severance to the fired workers, and charges filed against union leaders and members have been dropped.

OCEANIA:

13. Global Solutions Limited case: OECD Guidelines complaint & outcome regarding conditions in immigration detention centres in Australia (detention of children, detention of asylum seekers without charge or judicial review, human rights abuses in the detention centres):

[Detention centres meet NGO demands \[Australia\] Brotherhood of St Laurence \[Australia\], 20 Apr 2006](#)

Five non-government organisations (NGOs) have announced their success today in encouraging British-owned Global Solutions Ltd (GSL), which runs Australia's immigration detention centres, to implement significant changes to ensure they operate under international human rights standards. An international complaint to the OECD National Contact Points in the UK and Australia was made in June 2005 by the five NGOs...[which are] the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID), the Human Rights Council of Australia (HRCA), Children Out of Detention (ChilOut) and the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL).

GLOBAL:

14. International workers' union and Securitas sign global agreement referring to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

[UNI signs global agreement with Securitas Union Network International, Apr 2006](#)

A global agreement covering 225,000 workers worldwide has been signed with Swedish-based security company Securitas. The agreement incorporates core labour rights and the UN's Declaration of Human Rights. It provides for practical assistance to unions in organising, including lists of employees and access to them. [[Further details in UNI 26 Apr 2006 press release.](#)]

15. "Security of people and assets" – John Ruggie paper, and John O'Reilly's comments on it:

[\[PDF\] Security of People and Assets - Discussion paper](#)

"This paper was prepared for the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on business and human rights, Professor John Ruggie. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the Special Representative, but has been written to invite input." Aug 2006

For companies with capital-intensive activities or a major concentration of staff in areas of weak governance or conflict, physical security of staff, assets and the surrounding community can be the

most visible and challenging aspect of the relationship between business and human rights. Business activity can be of strategic importance to governments and insurgent groups and therefore become focal points of conflict, which companies, in turn, can exacerbate, be victims of, and help alleviate... (4) The increasing employment by governments and companies of private security personnel and the lack of regulation of that industry are also of growing concern. (5). This issue presents a major challenge for companies in terms of the degree of leverage that they have over other parties involved (what some might call a "spheres of influence" issue). Companies have control over their own staff, and can decide, for example, whether or not to arm their security guards and take disciplinary action for violation of their codes of conduct. **Companies can enforce contractual standards in their relationships with private security companies, but may have less control over the implementation of those standards.** With governments, companies can make their expectations clear, but they have little to no control over the deployment and conduct of state forces at company sites – and none over troops stationed miles away.

[Positive steps:] 13. Anglo American plc with the assistance of Control Risks Group has developed a detailed implementation guide for the VPs. Barrick Gold and BP have incorporated the VPs into contractual agreements with host government agencies (Barrick for the Porgera mine in Papua New Guinea, BP for the Tangguh and the Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan projects), making them legal requirements for both parties.

[\[DOC\] Comments on Discussion Paper on 'Security of People and Assets' \[addressed to Professor John Ruggie, UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights\]](#)
John O'Reilly, 8 Oct 2006

16. Comments by Melker Mabeck, ICRC:

[Private Military/Security Companies "Acknowledge Humanitarian Law Obligations"](#)
Intl. Committee of the Red Cross, 27 Nov 2006

Melker Mabeck coordinates the ICRC's efforts to promote respect for international humanitarian law by private military and security firms working in conflict zones. He talks about the contacts made with the companies and the states that hire them.