



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS**



**Use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination**

**Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/5**

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of States and the self-determination of peoples, as well as the need for scrupulous respect for the principle of the non-use of force or threat of the use of force in international relations as developed in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV)),

Recognizing that mercenaries are used for activities which violate these principles,

Alarmed at the continuing trend of unlawful international activities involving mercenaries in the perpetration of violent actions inimical to the constitutional order of States,

Concerned at the grave menace that the increasing activities of mercenaries represent in many parts of the world, in particular in Africa,

Gravely concerned at the loss of life, the damage to property and the negative effects on the economies of affected States, in the southern African region and elsewhere,

Taking note with appreciation of Economic and Social Council decision 1992/225 of 20 July 1992, by which the Council approved the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for three years to enable him to carry out further studies on the use of mercenaries and to make recommendations to the Commission accordingly,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1993/18), and in particular the concern expressed therein at the continuation of the activities of mercenaries in spite of Commission resolution 1992/6 of 21 February 1992,

1. Reaffirms that the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries should be considered as offences of grave concern to all States;
2. Urges all States to prevent mercenaries from using any part of their territory to destabilize any sovereign State;

3. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to consider taking early action to accede to or ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;
4. Requests the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on all further developments concerning the use of mercenaries, wherever this may occur.

[Adopted without a vote.]

29th meeting  
19 February 1993