

# PMSC Bulletin

Issue number 3 – 30 Oct 2012

## Private Military & Security Companies and their impacts on human rights: Recent developments

*The items included here are from March 2012 to October 2012.*

### 1. Key alleged abuses by PMSCs & concerns

- Guatemala: Private security company hired by Tahoe Resources accused of using violence against protesters at San Rafael mine (more information, including company response, available on our [special page](#)).
- Honduras: Human rights NGOs [denounce abuses by private security companies](#) hired by Corporación Dinant and Pepsi (*also in Spanish*).
- International: A Global Policy Forum report criticises UN's "dangerous" [growing use of private security firms](#), calls system "unaccountable" - UN says use of contractors appropriate if "due diligence" ensured. Includes responses from [DynCorp](#) & [G4S](#); Saracen Uganda did not respond.
- Iraq: [BBC investigation](#) says G4S was warned not to employ guard in Iraq days before he murdered 2 colleagues; victim's mother calls for G4S to be charged with corporate manslaughter. G4S responds.
- Ireland: Corrib gas protestors allegedly under [24-hour surveillance](#) by private security firm Integrated Risk Management Services (I-RMS); campaigners say this could amount to harassment. Includes statement by I-RMS.
- Israel & Occupied Palestinian Territories: Civil society organizations call for action against [G4S over role in Israeli jails](#) inside Israel and in West Bank. [G4S' update](#) on its operations there says it will exit a number of contracts "to ensure that our business practices remain in line with our own Business Ethics Policy".
- Nigeria: Activists concerned that Shell's increased security spending in Delta region [fuels human rights abuses](#); Shell responds in Guardian article.
  - Platform's [full report](#) says security contractors "benefitted" from spending; [Control Risks](#), [Erinys](#), and [G4S](#) responses included; Saladin declined to respond.
- Middle East: In the context of the "Arab spring", foreign military [contractors often support repressive govts.](#), says David Isenberg of *Huffington Post*.
- Philippines: Security guards working for TVI Resources [open fire on illegal miners](#) leaving 1 dead, 6 injured. Company says its guards fired in self-defence; Philippine army rejects company's claims.
- Uganda: [Police blame private security companies for increased crime](#) & allege firms recruit ex-convicts. National crime report says private security guards committed hundreds of crimes in 2011 including [dozens of murders, assaults, sexual assaults](#).
- USA: Govt. uses [private contractors to bypass intl. humanitarian laws](#), says Russian diplomat in reference to [Blackwater corruption and human rights cases](#).
- UK: G4S criticised by Chief Inspector of Prisons for [using "substantial force" against pregnant woman](#) while removing her from the country; G4S responds.
- Zambia: Security guard at China Nonferrous smelter [allegedly shot two 15 MCC workers](#) to death to "halt theft" - includes responses by China Nonferrous, 15 MCC.

## 2. Lawsuits against PMSCs

- [Lawsuit against Jorge Scientific security contractors](#) - drunk employees in Afghanistan were allegedly "careless with their guns, abused local staffers".
- US prosecutors build [new criminal case against former Blackwater security guards](#) alleging they wrongly killed Iraqi civilians, after US Supreme Court [rejects their appeal](#) to overturn ruling reinstating criminal charges against them over 2007 Baghdad shootings (our case profile is available [here](#)).
- Iraqi plaintiffs in [Abu Ghraib lawsuits](#) against L-3 reach confidential, out-of-court settlement; remaining Abu Ghraib lawsuit alleging CACI's involvement in Iraqis' torture revived by US federal appeals court.
- US court [denies DynCorp's request to withhold documents](#) in case alleging that coca crops fumigation flights over the Colombia-Ecuador border damaged residents' health & livelihoods (our case profile is available [here](#)).
- New case profiles on our Corporate Legal Accountability Portal related to lawsuits in US against private prison companies: [Esmor Correctional Services lawsuit \(re immigration detention facility in New Jersey\)](#) & [PA Child Care lawsuits \(re "kids for cash" scandal in Pennsylvania\)](#).
- USA: Security firm Quest Intelligence [sued over alleged pregnancy discrimination](#).

## 3. International initiatives & positive steps

- The Temporary Steering Committee (TSC) for the independent governance and oversight mechanism of the [Intl. Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers \(ICoC\)](#) is now discussing how to revise the Draft Charter in response to [stakeholder comments](#) and how to best develop an independent oversight mechanism.
  - The civil society members of the TSC have issued a [call for civil society input into the development of an oversight mechanism for the Intl. Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers](#).
  - As of 1 October 2012, [511 PMSCs](#) from 63 different countries had signed up to ICoC.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an [intl. framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight](#) of the activities of PMSCs convened in Geneva 13-17 August.
  - Working group [website](#) includes [submission](#) and [update](#) by UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries, submission by [Intl. Commission of Jurists](#), and [perspective of industry](#).
- UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries submits [report to the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council](#) on its recent activities; includes comments on the ICoC's Draft Charter of the oversight mechanism & launch of project to [conduct a survey of national regulatory frameworks on PMSCs](#) and analyse their effectiveness in protecting human rights.
- Intl. Stability Operations Association (ISOA), the US-based security industry association, [hosted a conference on "combating labour trafficking"](#) in collaboration with the American Bar Association in May 2012; ISOA reaffirmed that its membership "commits to battle human trafficking".
- [Workshop for extractive industry firms](#) on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Implementation Guidance Tools, including use of private security providers, held 9-11 October in Johannesburg; workshop organised by IPIECA (Intl. Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association) and ICMM (Intl. Council on Mining and Metals).
- [CACI announces](#) hiring record number of veterans within programme aiming to recruit veterans with disabilities.

#### 4. Regulatory and other developments

- [Iraq bans private security firms](#) from 12 oil fields developed by intl. companies as part of move to regulate & eventually ban private security.
- [New website](#) on private military & security industry covering regulatory efforts [launched](#) by Sié Chéou-Kang Center for Intl. Security and Diplomacy (University of Denver), in partnership with Geneva-based Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).
- Six more companies pass Security Association for the Maritime Industry's intl. [private maritime security company certification programme](#), which includes reference to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and the Montreux Document.
- [New resource](#) in Spanish: “*Principios Voluntarios de Seguridad y Derechos Humanos: Guía Orientativa de Implementación*” (Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Implementation Guidance Tools) released in August. Previous English version available [here](#).
- [Seminar](#) on regulation of PMSCs to be held in Krakow, Poland, 31 October.

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