World Research of Political Science Journal
An International Journal

http://dx.doi.org/10.18576 /WRPSJ/040101

Security and Military Companies in Conflict Areas

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Received: 14 May. 2021; Revised: 30 May. 2021; Accepted: 1 June. 2021.
Published online: 15 June 2021.

Abstract: The paper discusses the scope of domain of security and military companies, and the impact of their presence on the stability and security of societies and countries through examining the cases of Azeri-Armenian conflict and the conflict in Libya. It concludes that it is likely that the private security market in the region will grow at strong rates in the coming period, especially in light of the escalating political and security pressures in the region.
Keywords: Security and military companies - Azeri-Armenian conflict – Libya - Mercenaries

1 Introduction

For decades, the issue of security and the monopolization of the state on the elements of power remained among the obvious issues that the state was keen to achieve. After special international and regional circumstances related to the nature of the international system such as the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the spread of globalization, and the spread of the phenomenon of "privatization of security", security and military companies have emerged with their mercenaries in the recent decades in various conflict areas around the world.

The credit for this is due to the use of private armies by countries and international intelligence services in managing their conflict with each other, whether the conflict was regional or international.

2 Research Question and Purpose

The previously mentioned situation raises several questions about what the security and military companies are, what areas of work they include, and the impact of their presence on the stability and security of societies and countries.

The paper seeks to answer these questions by reviewing some recent models of these cases, most notably the Azeri-Armenian conflict and the conflict in Libya. This paper is divided into five sections followed by a conclusion.

Firstly: Definition and types of security and military companies

According to the United Nations definition, security companies are "organizations based on the legislation of a State Party to provide on a paid basis military or security services through people or and legal entities operating with Special license and including military services to services related to military actions such as combat operations, strategic planning, intelligence, logistical support, training, technical support, etc. As for the security services, they include armed guarding of property and people, activating the application of security measures, and activating the application of security and informatics and other activities that include the use of technical means

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that are not harmful to people or the environment to protect the legitimate interests and rights of their customers".1
The concept becomes clearer when reviewing the tasks performed by the companies. For example, the tasks of providing protection were the first tasks assigned to an American security company. In 1975, the US administration gave the "Vinyl" security company the tasks of training the Saudi Royal Guard to protect oil wells. The United States also relies on its security companies to protect its officials in conflict areas. The types of companies that provide security and military services can be divided. Companies that specialize in the security field can provide defense services, consultation, training, logistical and transportation services, and demining. Military companies can provide logistical and technical support, provide military advice, carry out field missions, and collect and analyze data and intelligence information. As for the types of security and military companies, there are companies that specialize in providing protection and security services and various guard services and they are called "Private Security Contractor". These companies, of course, do not participate in combat operations. There are other military and security companies "Private Military Security Contractor", which specialize in providing logistical support, carrying out combat operations, reconnaissance missions and military interrogations and other armed operational support tasks in conflict areas[2]. In general, these companies seek profit, especially because they have a commercial registry and an administrative structure, in addition to the fact that their owners are legal persons with independent personalities. These companies are based on legal legislation from a state that has an interest that it defines and seeks to implement within its vital and strategic scope and any field in which it considers a service to its national security. Accordingly, the most prominent features and objectives of companies and their feasibility can be extracted, including[3]:

- The companies are distinguished by providing its military services and advice during wars and conflicts. The services they provide include logistical, intelligence, technical and training support.
- Contributing to the implementation of operations and activities outside the laws and charters entrusted to them, whether by the national state or the international community, which means carrying out military coups to change governments that refuse to submit without publicly engaging in such illegal behavior.
- Carrying out operations that qualify as "crimes" and assassinations planned by a particular state that the latter fears to do in public, due to the violations of international law and humanitarian standards.
- Employing security and military companies as a protection mechanism for countries under the control of major powers, as these companies protect the officials of these countries.
- Relying on private security and military companies is a basic strategy that has reduced many of the burdens of national armies.
- The international and regional powers have found in the work of these companies what we can call "Large Business and Interest". The nationalities of these companies vary, there are American companies such as "BLACKWATER" or "XE Services". It is one of the most prominent private military companies in the United States founded in 1997 according to US laws that allow the establishment of factories and private military companies. The company "Group 4 Securic" is a British multinational security services company, founded in 2004. It is described as the largest private army in the world, and recently the Iranian public prosecutor accused it of assassinating the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, "Qassem Soleimani" in early January 2020. "Dyncorp" company, founded in 1946, is one of the largest private security companies in the world. Its revenue in 2010 was estimated at $4 billion. It is also part of the International Peace Operations Association, which represents the interests of the major players in peacemaking, stability and humanitarian operations in conflict areas of the world. There are Russian companies such as "Wagner" and "R.S.B" and other Chinese security companies such as "Dingtai Anyuan" company for defense and international security, which undertakes a number of security works in Iraq. The Chinese company "DY" protects the Chinese Petroleum Company in Sudan. In addition to this, there are companies that are accounted for by some regional powers, such as the Turkish company "SADAT". As well as the Israeli companies that are active in this field such as "Modi'in Ezrach", "T&M", "Moked Matara", and the military company "Benni Tal"[4].

Secondly: The most prominent factors of the spread of security and military companies and their employees.

Despite the emergence of the role and professionalism of the military establishment during the twentieth century, the reliance on

[1] "Private Security Companies," Political Encyclopedia, accessed October 5, 2020, available Link to: https://political-encyclopedia.org
[2] Abdel Nasser Al-Ayed, Rashid Al-Hourani, "The Growth of Military and Security Companies in the Middle East," Jisr Newspaper E-mail, on April 19, 2020, available at the following link: https://www.jesrpress.com/
[3] Ibid
[4] Dr. Ahmed Alo, "Private Military and Security Companies: Long Arms for Various Missions," Lebanese Army Magazine, Issue 369, March 2016, available at: https://www.lebarmy.gov.lb/ar/content/

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security companies has increased. With the end of the Cold War and the spread of ethnic conflicts and civil wars, that era witnessed a steady increase in the number of companies and the nature of their work. As the matter has evolved to extend to the traditional areas of influence of the state in the security and military sphere.

These companies are now carrying out tasks that were considered at the heart of the official military establishment's work. For example, during (1994-2002), the Pentagon signed 3,061 contracts for private security companies with a value of $300 billion[1]. This situation raises many questions about what conditions helped in the development of the phenomenon of private armies, which evolved to operate under legal cover known as private security companies. What is the nature of its employees? What is the legal situation that the international law dealt with?

In general, the victory of the Western liberal model over Eastern socialism and the dissolution of the Soviet Union led the United States to seek hegemony and global influence until it became the only party that seeks to generalize the Western model, including its social, political and economic aspects. The tendency of states to reduce their economic, social and military mission has greatly contributed to the spread of the phenomenon of privatization of security, increasing the number of companies that provide protection and defense services.

In addition, the phenomenon of failed states has spread due to the failure of governments to achieve security and stability, which resulted in the spread of terrorist groups and criminal organizations, or because of the spread of arms, and the increase in the number of countries and companies that produce arms, as well as non-state actors spending on national armies. This happened with "Shell International company", which provided financial support to the Nigerian army and police to provide them with protection, and the demobilization of the armies provided a great opportunity for former military personnel and trainers to offer their services for affiliation.

As for security companies or joining criminal organizations that increased the spread of armed militias and mercenaries is what actually happened after the occupation of Iraq and the dissolution of the Iraqi army, which was considered one of the strongest armies in the Middle East at the time. In explanation of this, some believe that the privatization of security and the intervention of private security companies in times of armed conflicts and wars is the result of a change in the nature of war itself where the spread of wars in their advanced generations, especially the asymmetric ones, and the subsequent increase in the frequency of armed conflicts of various kinds, as well as the emergence of new job demands.

This happens through the use of mutual political employment between the two parties, the government, and the military and security company, coordination and intervention in armed conflicts takes place. As a result, the government or the state achieves its political and military gains in the region. The companies also seek to achieve the greatest profitable benefit and perhaps economic feasibility as well. The two parties can also share the natural resources in that region[2].

Accordingly, some believe that the intervention of private security companies is a “necessity” from the realistic interest side, thanks to their ability to control security at the heart of the armed conflict. The active parties in an armed conflict tend to recruit the largest number of these companies, which provides ease for the state to evade any crimes or inhumane practices that have been committed. On the other hand, the state affects the conflict in an official way that achieves its interest. This increases the confidence of these companies in themselves, their services and their jobs in a way that tempts the parties of conflict to intervene or profit, until they started marketing their jobs in a way that tempts the parties of conflict to rely on them in managing wars[3].

On the other hand, security and military companies can be considered as a thrust point for the national armies that wage wars, especially as they adopt an intrusive approach that includes tracking and stalking the enemy and evacuating civilians or nationals of those countries. For example, the US intelligence services dealt with "Blackwater" Company in Iraq and Afghanistan to track and prosecute Al-Qaeda and Taliban elements. They can destroy the infrastructure of the enemy party, prevent humanitarian aid from reaching sensitive and dangerous places, hit oil sites that are under the control of terrorists, as happened during the Syrian conflict. On the other hand, the situation could deteriorate significantly, especially if its members were directly targeted or attacked while performing their duties. Consequently, it will directly intervene to protect itself, which will result in an increase in the frequency of intervention and a worsening of the situation.

Due to the wave of instability in the Middle East, especially the Arab countries, after the wave of Arab protests in 2011 and the spread of armed groups in the largest terrorist wave witnessed by the region and the whole world, these companies were entrusted with carrying out other tasks supported by two main elements. The first is "to increase government demand for its security services, such as securing tourist facilities, airports, and oil production sites, in an attempt to benefit from the high human and technical capabilities that these companies have". The second is “the demand of a number of international powers to sign contracts with private companies to secure their interests in the Middle East, especially in countries of armed conflict” in a move by which international powers are trying to avoid conflict or direct military intervention with the governments of those countries, which is the pattern favored by China recently,

[1] Ibid.

[2] Saleh Jamal Muhammad, “The Role of Private Security Companies in Interfering in Armed Conflicts and Violations of Human Rights,” Journal of Political Science, Issue 6, January 2017, available at the following link: https://www.de.democraticac/wp/de.democraticac D8%AB%D8%A7%Dog%D8%A%D8%B3%D8%D8%A9- 2018.pdf

[3] Ibid.

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especially in areas with which it has economic interests in the African continent in particular[1].

As a result of the conditions of instability in the Middle East, several tasks have been developed for these companies, such as protecting the **reconstruction operations** from any potential risks from terrorist organizations and **the tasks of securing refugee camps**, as many European governments relied on private security companies to carry out many of the tasks that were undertaken by the police. In 2015, the Austrian government signed a contract with the Swiss private security company "ORS" to manage refugee camps on its territory, the same company that runs refugee centers in Switzerland[2].

On the other hand, **training tasks are among the most important tasks** that countries that face a security flaw or total chaos when the number of their security and military forces is reduced, can rely on to carry out them as happened in Syria in 2013, President Bashar al-Assad issued Decree No. 55, granting licenses to private security and protection services companies, and their activity has compensated to a large extent for the shortage in the number of police forces and has contributed to providing protection for businessmen and their facilities. It has also reduced the increase in the crime rate, kidnappings and extortion to which businessmen were increasingly exposed in recent years. In addition, Iraq has hired security companies to train the Popular Mobilization militia to confront ISIS as part of the terrorist war in 2014[3].

In the same context, it is possible to monitor the activity of armed groups, which are classified in some countries as terrorist groups, exploiting the names of local security companies to deal with international companies for the supply of weapons and equipment. There were reports that the Houthi group in Yemen exploited the accounts of the local Yemeni security company "Yemen Army" to deal with international security companies to supply military equipment where the Houthi militia changed the board of directors of the "Yemen Army" company and changed its commercial registry and placed it under the supervision of one of its leaders. Then, the company was exploited in its activity to bring in weapons and equipment, especially during the period when the Trump administration imposed sanctions on Iran[4].

Thirdly: The United Nations and the activity of mercenaries and security and military companies

The term "mercenaries" was not a new term, as history tells us that the use of violence by private parties was the norm before the twentieth century until the emergence of national armies as a modern professional institution. The presence of security and military companies was not new, as it has been known since ancient times that international commercial companies own private armies and fleets to protect their trade and interests around the world. For example, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, the Dutch India Corporation owned 104 ships and 25,000 armed men, and the conflict between it and the British company has increased to the point of forcing Britain to limit its business in India[5].

The nature of the work of the affiliates and employees of these companies imposes a great controversy, so can those who belong to these companies be considered "mercenaries"? or not?

This description defines the complementary humanitarian protocol issued to the Geneva Convention of 1949, where the mercenary is defined as[6]:

- Any person especially recruited locally or abroad to fight in an armed conflict.
- Takes a direct part in hostilities.
- a person who is motivated to take part in hostilities, has a desire to achieve personal gain, and an effort is made to him by a party to the conflict, promising material compensation in excess of what is promised or paid to combatants of similar ranks and positions in the armed forces of that party.
- A person who is not a member of the armed forces of a Party to the conflict.
- A person who is not sent on official mission by a State not a party to the conflict as a member of its armed forces.

Because of the repeated international condemnations of the nature of the work of mercenaries and the bad reputation of the nature of their tasks, the security and military companies always seek to deny the suspicion of making mercenaries from them, and to confirm that they are companies that operate according to the law. However, the organizational form of these companies often raises doubts, and some see these companies as nothing but a natural extension and development of the work of the old mercenaries, while others see that

[1] "Qualitative Roles: New Tasks for Private Security Firms in the Middle East", Future Center for Political Studies The Strategy, dated May 9, 2017, available at the following link:- https://futureuae.com/ar

[2] Ibid.

[3] Manhal Barish, "Private Security Companies in Syria: C Agents at the Service of the Regime," Freedom website, dated July 30, 2020, available at: https://horrya.net/archives/127663

[4] "Security Companies Exploited by Al-Houthi to Buy Arms and Armored Vehicles," Al-Watan Yemeni newspaper, dated January 19, 2021, available at https://www.alwatan.com.sa/article/1066623

[5] Hassan Al-Hajj Ali Ahmed, "Privatization of Security: The Growing Role of Military and Security Companies", Emirates Center for Strategic Studies 12, No., 123, 1st Edition, p. 28, available at the following link: www. content/uploads/2007/07/Strategic123.pdf

[6] Saleh Jamal Muhammad, aforementioned reference, p. 334.

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there is a clear difference between the work of mercenaries and the work of private companies, which have become like other companies operating in the market. Therefore, international initiatives came to try to set a specific framework for the nature of security and military companies and to try to differentiate between who is a mercenary from others. The African Treaty on Combating Mercenary Activity in 1972 is one of the first initiatives to establish a legal definition of mercenaries[1].

During its 60th session, the Human Rights Committee sought to amend the definition of the mercenary and the nature of his work and to put in place an agreement against mercenary activity. It also sought to draw up a memorandum to determine the behavior of security and military companies, but their attempts were not at a satisfactory level due to the low turnout of international and regional powers to sign the agreement. It is the duty of any country that has ratified the United Nations and Organization of African Unity Conventions against Mercenaries, or either of them, to prosecute and punish mercenaries.

The low turnout of countries to sign or ratify the agreement is largely due to several reasons related to the involvement of the international forces themselves with these companies, whether in carrying out the tasks entrusted to them internally or externally. Also related to this is the conflicting role of the United Nations itself, in terms of its reliance on the armed forces of its member states to form its peacekeeping forces and carry out the tasks related to it[2].

This often happens in situations where the state parties to the conflict themselves may be unwilling or unable to provide peacekeeping personnel from regular sources. The option of relying on security companies is therefore largely appropriate.

In the same context, international law has established a framework to address the situation of workers in those companies, where the employees of private military and security companies are considered "civilians" unless they join the armed forces of one of the countries or entrust them with combat missions for the benefit of an organized armed group belonging to a party to the conflict. Accordingly, they may not be targeted and are protected against attacks unless they participate directly in hostilities. If the employees of those companies carry out work worthy of the level of direct participation in hostilities, they lose protection from attacks during this participation. They may be prosecuted if they are captured for participating in hostilities, even if they have not committed any violations of international humanitarian law. The protection of military bases, the collection of military tactical information and the operation of weapons systems in combat are vivid examples of direct participation in any hostilities. The only legal effect of being a mercenary from the point of view of humanitarian law is that a mercenary is not entitled to the status of a prisoner of war when participating in an international armed conflict, but he is entitled to adequate conditions of detention and to a fair trial[3].

On the other hand, the Montreux Document came as one of the outcomes of the "Swiss Initiative" approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008, which is considered the basic document that regulates the work of security and military companies so that it sets standards and practices that are not binding on these companies, i.e., customary rules under humanitarian law.

In general, the observer of the activities of these companies reaches the conviction that there is a clear intentionality on the part of the international and regional powers associated with interests with these companies to protect them from being subjected to legal accountability and to provide an international legal cover to protect their activity, which explains the low turnout of the number of countries that signed or ratified the UN Convention to combat mercenary activity.

Fourthly: Security and military companies and mercenaries in the heart of the conflict areas (Libya, Qarabagh as an example)

Since the complexity of the situation in Libya and the increasing division between East and West, each party has relied on its relations with regional and international powers to strengthen its influence and areas of control, which has harmed the security and stability of Libyans, and thus Libya has become a hotbed for all kinds of local and international terrorism. The Russian side, which did not hesitate to send Russian fighters and transfer them from Syria to Libya, is part of Moscow's quest to maximize the size of its role and influence in the Libyan file. Press reports spoke of the presence of Russian fighters affiliated with two private Russian security companies participating in the war operations in Syria, "Moran" and "Shit", in addition to Syrian fighters cooperating with the Russian forces in Syria, to join other Russian fighters affiliated with the "Wagner" company[4]. The tasks of "demining" from an industrial facility near the city of Benghazi in eastern Libya that were previously under the control of "ISIS" were assigned to the Russian security company "RSB", in February 2017[5]. Despite Moscow's repeated denials of its relations with these companies, the reality of events predicted something else, especially after Putin signed legislation on Law 53 on military and compulsory service in Russia authorizing the use of Russian mercenary forces all over the world to serve the goals of Russian foreign policy, and legally pave the way for

[1] The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, Memorandum of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, 60th Floor, dated August 17, 2005, p. 11, available at the following link: file:///C:/Users/M1/Downloads/A_60_263- AR.pdf

[2] Ibid.

[3] "International Humanitarian Law and Private Military and Security Companies", the official website of the Red Cross, dated August 15, 2012, available at the following link: https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/faq/pmsc-faq-150908.htm

[4] Mercenaries from Russian security companies arrive from Syria to Libya funded by emasc, Emirates Center for Studies and Media on January 6, 2020, available at the following link: http://emasc-uae.com/news/view/16739

[5] "Qualitative Roles: New Tasks for Private Security Companies in the Middle East", aforementioned reference. https://futureuae.com/ar-7%22

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expanding operations Russian army with private military companies[1].

It is clear that Russia is seeking a long-term presence, not only in Libya, but in the Middle East in general and North Africa in particular. Russia's return to the Middle East has taken two tracks, the first is energy diplomacy and the other is weapon diplomacy. The last has been achieved thanks to the direct Russian military intervention in the conflict areas through the presence of private security companies that operate in various forms under the control of the Russian security and military services, which are also scheduled to continue their presence in Libya even after the end of military operations to then take over the task of securing the oil crescent areas, reconstruction operations, and perhaps also the tasks of training the Libyan military forces, and demining.

On the other hand, the eastern Libyan government headed by Fayez al-Sarraj "at that time" used Turkey to supply the forces of the internationally recognized government. It quickly legitimized its presence in Libya by signing a maritime and commercial agreement and a military security agreement. Accordingly, the Turkish Parliament agreed to allow the Turkish army to carry out military operations outside Turkey in Libya, and in fact, Ankara sent a group of Syrian militias and mercenaries to transport them by air via the airline of the former Libyan terrorist, a member of the Libyan Fighting Group "Abdul Hakim Belhaj" - after the fall of the Gaddafi regime. He owns a private airline - from the Syrian-Turkish border and areas under the control of the Turkish army to Libya for $2,000, and the Erdogan regime was not satisfied with transporting Syrians only, while there were reports of 2,500 Tunisian members of the Islamic State who are within the organization's factions camped in Syrian territory[2].

In this context, the activity of the Turkish military company "Sadat" can be monitored, which provided military advice and military and logistical support to the Libyan Government of National Accord, especially during the battle of Tripoli, which was one of the most prominent results of the withdrawal of "Haftar" forces from the main axes of the Libyan capital and their retreat to their places of stationing. In the same context, accusations came from several international powers of the activities of the Turkish company, "SADAT". Russia submitted a memorandum to the United Nations accusing the company of carrying out activities that destabilize countries. Other reports indicated that "SADAT" was involved in training fighters and mercenaries from Chechnya and Tajikistan for the benefit of extremist Sunni Islamist groups, which It was revealed by the Russian authorities during their investigation in 2015 with about 900 people who were traveling to fight in Syria and Iraq, and found that 25% had links with the company[3].

The activity of the Turkish company "Sadat" can be explained by looking at its website, in which it has registered that one of its most prominent goals is to strengthen the position of the Islamic world by providing security services for the so-called "Islamic Alliance" and achieving self-sufficiency on the security level and not being subordinate to Western countries with Crusader ideology, This is what some see as a reflection of an Islamic political orientation in its connotations and objectives, which opens the door to explaining the relations of the Turkish company, "SADAT", with the most prominent terrorist and armed groups in Syria, especially "ISIS" and "Al-Qaeda"[4].

Sadat's feasibility was not limited to serving Erdogan's regime's goals abroad only, but many reports indicate the company's activity and responsibilities for the most prominent operations to kill civilians and soldiers during the 2016 coup and the subsequent appointment of "Adnan Tanrverdi," the company's president, to the position of advisor on Erdogan's security and military affairs. The danger of the "SADAT" and companies like it is to include an ideological element within the requirements of employment and work with them. This increases its danger, as the person associated with it becomes a psychological, ideological and military prepared element, whether it is a state or an extremist organization that carries out terrorist operations or any party with which it is linked ideologically and pragmatically with personal interests.

As for the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, the conflict was renewed once again after long decades between "Yerevan" and "Baku." Since the 1994 agreement and the Minsk International Group, the situation has been settled, as the Armenian-majority Karabakh region – located within the borders of Azerbaijan – has settled on autonomy, while the Nakhichevan region has "with The Muslim Azeri majority is also self-governing - located within the borders of Armenia. Since the conflict renewed in July 2020, Ankara has announced its full support for "Baku", militarily and politically, and this support can be monitored through the statements of Turkish officials and the Turkish Foreign Ministry as well. The Turkish statements included readiness to provide all kinds of support to Azerbaijan, even military intervention if the latter requested it[5].

The Turkish-Azerbaijani rapprochement can be explained by several factors related to the geopolitical importance, energy projects, joint defense cooperation, and the growing economic and military relations between the two parties. Therefore, it can be noted that the

[1] Fadia Fadda, "Conscription Legislation in Russia, the Use of Mercenaries and the Privatization of Military Action," Harmon Center for Studies, April 4, 2014, available at the following link: https://harmoon.org/

[2] Turkey sends hundreds of Tunisian extremists to fight in Libya," Middle East Online, dated July 17, 2020, available at the link: https://middle-east-online.com/

[3] Sharaf Shaaban, "The Secretaries of Erdogan's Revolutionary Guards," Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Turkish Affairs magazine, No. 13, June 2020, p. 66.

[4] Ibid

[5] The Nagorno-Karabakh Crisis: Conflict Dynamics, Its Prospects, and Implications Arabic", The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Qatar, dated October 2020, p.2.

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Azerbaijani authorities support the Turkish positions in the various conflict areas, whether in Syria, Iraq, Libya or even the recent eastern Mediterranean gas conflict[1].

The Azerbaijani support for Turkey was matched by Turkish support for the Azerbaijani positions, especially in the region of Karabakh. This support was not hidden from the active international and regional forces, which condemned the Turkish role at the time. Turkey intervenes militarily in the battles on the side of Azerbaijan by transferring "thousands of mercenaries and terrorists from the areas occupied by the Turks in northern Syria". Meanwhile, the Russian President expressed his "grave concern about the background of information received regarding the involvement of fighters of illegal armed groups from the Middle East in the hostilities"[2].

Russia has repeatedly expressed its dissatisfaction with Turkey's actions, especially in an area that concerns its national security and its traditional regional influence. Indeed, Armenia and Moscow have extensive strategic and defense cooperation relations, but the Russian position has been characterized by a "balance" due to Moscow's interests with the Azerbaijani and Armenian sides. The Russian side remains the most powerful side in the conflict, which has played a major role in settling the crisis later[3].

In contrast to the Armenian accusations against Ankara, the Turkish Foreign Ministry denied any accusations regarding the transfer of terrorists and mercenaries from the conflict areas in Libya and Syria to the Nagorno-Karabakh region, but the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has documented the arrival of 850 mercenaries from the areas controlled by Turkish forces in northern Syria to Turkey. They flew from there to the disputed area. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights clarifies that “the majority of the fighters belong to the Turkmen component and owe their allegiance to Ankara”. While the specialist in the affairs of terrorist groups, "Ayman al-Timi," mentions that they are a mixture of old opposition fighters or new recruits of young people, and some of them have previously received Western support during the years of the Syrian conflict. The mercenaries of Ankara fought under the banner of 3 armed factions, "Sultan Murad", "Suleiman Shah", and "Liwa al-Muntasir Ballah", in addition to fighters from other factions who volunteered individually. On the other hand, the Azerbaijani authorities accused the Armenian government of using Armenian mercenaries and bringing them to the lands of the disputed region. Azerbaijan responded to its accusation of receiving Turkish military support and using Syrian fighters, accusing Yerevan of using Armenian “mercenaries” while fighting. The Azerbaijani president said, “We see that the Armenian side is trying to bring mercenaries of Armenian origin to fight against Azerbaijan. He added that "the Armenians from Syria and Lebanon are currently deployed in Armenia, and they are on the side of the Armenian armed forces that are fighting against Azerbaijan," which was also trusted by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, as he reported that several hundred Armenians from Syria went to Armenia to participate in the fighting, which was denied by an Armenian official in northern Syria.

Fifthly: The effect of the phenomenon of mercenaries and security and military companies on the stability of the modern state.

It is clear from the previous presentation that the subversive and colonial role played by these companies and their employees, despite what was raised about their importance and their role in providing an auxiliary role to the state in carrying out some of its security and military tasks, the reality has already proven that they are used to carry out dirty operations, either to overthrow the regime, paralyze economic life, or to terrorize civilians, or to prevent the people from exercising their right to self-determination. Interrogation and torture tasks are part of the major powers that international powers exploit to achieve their interests. This was clearly evident in the roles of companies in Africa, such as the conflict in Sierra Leone and the conflict in the Republic of the Congo and others in chaotic areas, the spread of armed terrorist groups, the weakness of state sovereignty, and the reduction of its influence, which in the end is in favor of these companies, and will not tolerate any form of prejudice interests in those areas.

3 Conclusions

If the continuity of the conflict in a region is in its interest, then you can expect it to continue, and if the companies see their interest in calming the situation for a certain period, then you can expect that immediately, which means that the pragmatic interests side will prevail over the ideal ethical side in their dealings, and then we can conclude that the activity of these companies and their employees is nothing but a new method to demolish modern states and means to prolong conflicts to achieve malicious international goals.

Finally, in light of the growing phenomenon of privatization of security, the growing roles of security companies, and the continuation of the conditions of instability that hit several vital regions, most notably the Middle East. It is likely that the private security market in the region will grow at strong rates in the coming period, especially in light of the escalating political and security pressures in the region.

[1] Ibid.

[2] “Who are the foreign fighters in the battles of Karabakh?”, The Independent Arabic newspaper, dated October 3, 2020, available at the following link: https://www.independentarabia.com/

[3] “Russia: We know that there are Syrian mercenaries in Nagorno-Karabakh,” Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper, dated October 20, 2020, available at the following link: https://aawsat.com

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