

The United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries warned Tuesday of an alarming resurgence of the use of mercenaries in armed conflict –“often in new and novel ways”. The expert panel also noted in a report* to the UN General Assembly that the growing activities of private military and security companies raise numerous human rights challenges, and called for international regulation.

“Recent events in Africa clearly demonstrate that the problems posed by mercenaries are still a live issue,” said Ms. Faiza Patel, who currently heads the Working Group. “Mercenaries pose a threat not only to security, but also to human rights and potentially to the right of peoples to self-determination. It is crucial that States cooperate to eliminate this phenomenon.”

Traditionally, ‘mercenaries’ are understood to be soldiers hired to fight in an armed conflict or to overthrow a Government. In contrast, during some recent conflicts, Governments have used foreign fighters against their own populations.

In Côte d’Ivoire there is considerable evidence that the government used some 4,500 Liberian mercenaries to avoid the results of a democratic election at the end of 2010. In Libya, foreign fighters’ involvement in the repression of peaceful demonstrations was reported earlier this year. Such mercenaries were allegedly recruited from neighbouring African countries and Eastern Europe. (...)

The article:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=11558&LangID=E>

More about:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Mercenaries/WGMercenaries/Pages/WGMercenariesIndex.aspx>

Basic information:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercenary>

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Sull'argomento:

<http://www.greenreport.it/new/index.php?page=default&id=13084>

http://www.university.it/ultimora/vedi_rubrica.php?NEWS=ADN20111104123710.xml

<http://www.sancara.org/2010/10/mercenari-il-secondo-mestiere-piu.html>

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I signori delle guerre:

http://www.altreconomia.it/site/fr_raggruppamento_detail.php?intId=7

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Da leggere:

http://www.odoya.it/index.php?main_page=product_book_info&products_id=578