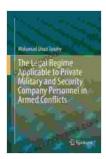
# The Legal Regime Applicable To Private Military And Security Company Personnel

Private military and security companies (PMSCs) have become increasingly common in recent years, providing a range of services to governments and other entities around the world. These services include security consulting, training, risk assessment, and armed protection. The use of PMSCs has raised a number of legal challenges and controversies, however, due to the complex legal regime that governs their activities.



The Legal Regime Applicable to Private Military and Security Company Personnel in Armed Conflicts

by Max Hennessy	
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#### The International Legal Framework

The international legal framework governing the use of PMSCs is complex and fragmented. There is no single treaty or convention that specifically addresses the issue of PMSCs. However, a number of international legal instruments are relevant to the use of PMSCs, including the Geneva Conventions, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. These instruments provide general principles of international law that can be applied to the use of PMSCs, such as the principle of distinction, the principle of proportionality, and the obligation to respect human rights.

#### **Domestic Laws**

In addition to the international legal framework, there are a number of domestic laws that regulate the use of PMSCs. These laws vary from country to country, but they typically include provisions on licensing, registration, and regulation of PMSCs. Some countries also have specific laws that govern the use of PMSCs in armed conflict. For example, the United States has the Private Security Contractor Reform Act of 2009, which regulates the use of PMSCs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### **Industry Codes of Conduct**

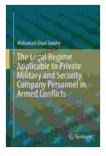
In addition to the international legal framework and domestic laws, there are a number of industry codes of conduct that have been developed to regulate the use of PMSCs. These codes of conduct are typically developed by industry associations and professional organizations. They provide guidance to PMSCs on how to operate in a responsible and ethical manner. For example, the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers was developed by the International Code of Conduct Association. This code of conduct sets out a number of principles that PMSCs should follow, such as the principle of respect for human rights, the principle of proportionality, and the principle of accountability.

## Legal Challenges and Controversies

The use of PMSCs has raised a number of legal challenges and controversies. One of the most significant challenges is the issue of immunity from prosecution. PMSCs are often contracted by governments and other entities to provide security services in areas where there is armed conflict. In some cases, PMSCs have been accused of committing human rights abuses. However, PMSCs often claim that they are immune from prosecution because they are not государственными служащими. This issue has been the subject of a number of legal cases and debates.

Another challenge is the potential for human rights abuses by PMSCs. PMSCs are often armed and have the authority to use force. This raises the potential for human rights abuses, such as unlawful killings, torture, and arbitrary detention. PMSCs have been accused of committing human rights abuses in a number of countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, and Colombia.

The legal regime applicable to private military and security company personnel is complex and fragmented. There is no single treaty or convention that specifically addresses the issue of PMSCs. However, a number of international legal instruments, domestic laws, and industry codes of conduct are relevant to the use of PMSCs. These instruments provide general principles of international law that can be applied to the use of PMSCs, such as the principle of distinction, the principle of proportionality, and the obligation to respect human rights. Despite the existence of these legal frameworks, the use of PMSCs has raised a number of legal challenges and controversies, such as the issue of immunity from prosecution and the potential for human rights abuses. These challenges and controversies are likely to continue as the use of PMSCs becomes more common.



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