

**Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights
and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination**

PANEL ON “FOREIGN FIGHTERS AND NEW FORMS OF MERCENARISM”

Thursday 14 April, 10:00 – 13:00

Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

10:00 – 10:10 Opening remarks by Ms. Elzbieta Karska, Chair of the Working Group

The evolution of mercenarism

10:10 – 10:15 Introduction and facilitation by Mr. Gabor Rona, Working Group member

Discussion to cover, *inter alia*:

- How has mercenarism evolved?
- What conditions give rise to changes in mercenarism?

10:15 – 10:25 Professor Sarah Percy, University of Queensland, and author of
“Mercenaries: The History of a Norm in International Relations” by Videolink

10:25 – 10:35 Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean and Professor of Law at the National
University of Singapore, co-editor of “From Mercenaries to Market”

10:35 – 11:00 **Open for discussion**

Motivations among foreign fighters and mercenaries

11:00 – 11:05 Introduction and facilitation by Mr. Saeed Mokbil, Working Group member

Discussion to cover, *inter alia*:

- What core criteria allow us to identify mercenaries?
- Do these criteria, notably motivation, apply to today’s foreign fighters?

11:05 – 11:15 Mr. Jose del Prado, former member of the Working Group on mercenaries

11:15 – 11:25 Mr. Aaron Y. Zelin, Richard Borow fellow at The Washington Institute

11:25 – 12:00 **Open for discussion**

Implications for accountability and remedy

12:00 – 12:05 Introduction and facilitation by Mr. Anton Katz, Working Group member

Discussion to cover, *inter alia*:

- What does the classification of mercenarism mean for accountability?
- What does the classification of mercenarism mean for access to remedy for victims or related human rights violations?

12:05 – 12:15 Professor Haykel Ben Mahfoudh, Faculty of Law, Political and Social Sciences, University of Carthage, Tunisia

12:15 – 12:25 Ms. Sandra Krähenmann Research Fellow, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

12:25 – 12:45 Open for discussion

12:45 – 12:55 Summary and wrap-up by Ms. Patricia Arias, Working Group member

12:55 – 13:00 Final remarks and thanks by Ms. Karska, Working Group Chair