

WAR CRIMINALS FOR HIRE

The Role and Accountability of Mercenaries in Modern Armed Conflict



Wednesday, 20 September, 2023



10.00 AM - 11.00 AM



Room XXV, Palais des Nations

The panelists will discuss the role played by mercenary groups in international and non-international armed conflicts in recent years. The event will seek to highlight the gaps in holding these actors and their backers to account, and the challenges that practitioners have encountered in curbing mercenary activities and responding to the suffering they have caused.

Finally, the panelists will recommend ways forward to operationalize and/or strengthen the framework for responding to mercenary activities, including options for combatting the impunity that mercenary forces have enjoyed through the pursuit of accountability.

The focus of discussions will be on various regions including Syria, Central African Republic, Mali, and Ukraine.

OPENING AND CLOSING REMARKS



Mr. Chris Kwaja

Member of the UN Working Group
on the use of mercenaries

MODERATOR



Antonia Mulvey

Executive Director,
Legal Action Worldwide

SPEAKERS



Mohammad Al Abdallah

Syrians for Accountability
and Justice



Jelena Aparac

Head of Advocacy, Policy, and
Research, Legal Action Worldwide,
Former member and Chair
Rapporteur of the UN Working
Group on the use of mercenaries



Dmitry Gurin

Legal Advisor, European Prison
Litigation Network



Yousuf Syed Khan

Senior Lawyer, Global
Rights Compliance



Dr. Mikiko Otani

Member, UN Committee on
the Rights of the Child