



The Privatization of Wars

Sources: "The Privatization of 'Obama's War'" by Michael Winship, CommonDreams.org, June 6, 2009; "Obama has 250,000 'Contractors' in Iraq and Afghan Wars, Increases Number of Mercenaries" by Jeremy Scahill, @Rebel Reports, June 1, 2009



Do you know that the U.S. has been outsourcing warfare by hiring 250,000 "contractors" in the Iraq and Afghan wars?

These private contractors are mercenaries. The mercenary army makes up approximately half of the U.S. forces fighting in the two countries, and the contractor number is rising.

A couple of years ago, Blackwater executive Joseph Schmitz said, **"The U.S. could pull back the military footprint. And there would then be more of a need for private contractors to go in."**

That is exactly what has been happening. According to new Pentagon statistics, in the second quarter of this year, there has been a **23% increase** in the number of private security contractors working for the Pentagon in Iraq and a **29% hike** in Afghanistan.

In the contractor "State of the Union" released by Department of Defense (DOD), it notes that **the deployment size of both military personnel and DOD civilians are "fixed by law,"** but points out that **the number of contractors is "size unfixed,"** meaning no limit to the number of contractors that can be deployed in the war zone. The contractors behave above the law. For example, Halliburton, for which Dick Cheney used to be the CEO, was audited for overbilling, bribery and other violations of the law. Blackwater was accused of murder of Iraqi civilians.

So our government intricately links corporate profits to an escalation of warfare and **makes it profitable for companies to participate in endless wars, paid for by U.S. taxpayers.**



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