



## **ArmorGroup International plc Response to misleading War on Want report**

ArmorGroup International plc has strong reservations about the War on Want report titled "Corporate Mercenaries", which it believes is derogatory, factually misleading and potentially damaging to the company. ArmorGroup also notes that War on Want has joined what is now a sophisticated debate very late and with a report which adds nothing, drawing upon the writings of others who have in many cases been shown to be wrong in detail and who have in some cases issued letters of retraction in response to protest.

ArmorGroup requests those reading the War on Want report to be aware of the following misleading or factually incorrect statements made about ArmorGroup in the report:

### **ArmorGroup is not considered a 'mercenary' grouping by any responsible pressure group, national or international authority.**

P4. The use of ArmorGroup's name in such close proximity to comment on contractors in Chechnya is scurrilous and inappropriate.

P4. Israeli firm Silver Shadow has not worked with or assisted Defence Systems Limited.

P8. The Enrique Ballesteros report referred to in the report was challenged and a retraction issued by the United Nations to ArmorGroup on 8 December 1999.

P8. DSL/DSC/ArmorGroup was implicated with extreme elements, as part of an attempt to discredit ArmorGroup. The District Attorney of the Human Rights Unit of the Department of Public Prosecutions in Bogotá, Colombia cleared ArmorGroup, to the satisfaction of human rights groups, on 14 December 1999.

P9. DSL/DSC/ArmorGroup trained Colombian police in safe handling of firearms to reduce the number of accidental discharges than more than once threatened the life of client engineers. Counter-insurgency training was not delivered.

P20. Sir Malcolm Rifkind and Stephen Kappes were appointed directors of ArmorGroup because of their relevant knowledge and sound approach to ethical practice. They have at no time been asked or encouraged to 'influence' the award of contracts.

Furthermore ArmorGroup adheres to a number of international codes of conduct covering the behaviour of the Group and its employees globally, including:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948;
- Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, 1994;
- US Foreign and Corrupt Practices Act, 1997;
- UK/US Government's Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, 2000;
- UK Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act, 2001.

ArmorGroup also has a stringent ethics policy in place to ensure its employees act at all times within the relevant international and local legal and humanitarian frameworks. These procedures are reinforced by the:

- submission of its ethics policy to NGOs and the UK's Foreign & Commonwealth Office for their input;
- introduction of a Quality Management System accredited to ISO 9001:2000;
- listing on the London Stock Exchange, with the additional governance and regulatory oversight that brings.

ArmorGroup has not only developed its own ethical and regulatory infrastructure but has also been fundamentally involved in the development of those same structures for the PSC industry through:

- providing advice to government regulatory initiatives in the UK, US, Belgium and Switzerland;
- advising academics and international humanitarian organisations on the development of global Standard Operating Procedures;
- developing and disseminating, in September 2004, the PSC industry's first call on the UK Government for regulation of the industry;
- funding and intellectual support to the establishment of the (UK) British Association of Private Security Companies, the (US) International Peace Operations Association and equivalents in Afghanistan and Iraq.

ArmorGroup strongly believes its ethical and regulatory activities over the last 25 years have helped raise industry standards to levels which are now widely acknowledged to be suitable for purpose and acceptable to educated observers. The Group will continue to be at the forefront of these activities wherever it operates.