

with a focus on human rights in Asia and Africa, foreign policies, international relations theory, and the international political economy. My thesis is focussing on human rights in Canadian foreign policy with respect to internal conflicts in Africa.

Christopher Spearin, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia

A Private Security Panacea? A Response to Mean Times on Securing the Humanitarian Space

Abstract

The *Mean Times* report asserts that humanitarians should rely on private security companies (PSCs) to provide for the security of humanitarians and/or their operations which, despite the growing need, state militaries and international peacekeeping forces are increasingly unable or unwilling to provide. But does the potential exist for PSCs to take the place of public security providers? Can PSCs secure the "humanitarian space"? The paper argues that while PSCs have been seemingly proficient in recent tasks, the industry to date as a whole does not have the requisite organizational structure, material capacity, or legitimacy. The paper also asserts that in the long term, while PSCs might arguably solve some security concerns for humanitarians, they raise a host of other problems. Namely, PSC/humanitarian interaction might 1) limit the provision of humanitarian assistance on the basis of cost; 2) subject humanitarians to the financial demands and business pursuits of PSCs and; 3) provide an excuse for other parties to free themselves from humanitarian obligations and to disengage from the search for political solutions to the root causes of humanitarian crises. In sum, the private security option, while having some beneficial aspects, is not a panacea for humanitarians due to its unique effects on securing the humanitarian space and its consequent impact on the humanitarian ethic.

Biography

Initially from Burlington, Ontario, Chris now lives in Vancouver where he is a doctoral student in the Political Science Department at the University of British Columbia. Earlier in his post-secondary studies, he received a B.A.Sc. from McMaster University and a M.A. from the Norman Paterson School for International Affairs at Carleton University. While his current work concerns the growing trend towards the privatization of security, he has, in recent years, written reports on nuclear proliferation for the Department of National Defence and the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria. When not conducting research or leading tutorials, Chris guides tour groups in Western Europe, Russia, and the Canadian Arctic as a tour director for Horizon Holidays of Canada.

Sarah Tarry, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Sleeping with the "Enemy?" Government Funding of NGOs in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Abstract

An implication of the New Policy Agenda is the development of stronger linkages between NGOs and official aid agencies as a result of increased donor funds. Many observers in