

# Join Clearwater - Stop Blackwater and all mercenary armies!

When Clearwater started its campaign, Blackwater was not yet under scrutiny and had not attained the notoriety it has today. Help us stop the out-of-control growth of these corporations who depend on war and the continuation of war and conflict to feed their bottom lines.

Blackwater employs private armies throughout the world, including Iraq, Afghanistan, New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina and now along our border with Mexico and in Central America. Investigative reporter and author Jeremy Scahill describes Blackwater as "a politically connected private army" that "has in effect declared its forces above the law" and has won nearly \$1 billion in noncovert government contracts, many of them no-bid arrangements. Its 7,000 acre Moyock, North Carolina headquarters is the world's largest private military base. The company continues to expand, however, recently opening another training facility in Illinois, planning a large facility in California.

Opening in Illinois in late March 2007, Blackwater faces opposition from Clearwater, an ad hoc group of individuals and peace, faith-based and environmental groups who want to shut Blackwater down in Illinois and in the U.S.

## What You Can Do:

**Support Pending Legislation - State and Federal. Get your Senators & Representatives and to sign on as co-sponsors to these important bills.**

### HR 897, "The Iraq and Afghanistan Contractors Sunshine Act.

To require the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Interior, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide to Congress copies and descriptions of contracts and task orders in excess of \$5,000,000 for work to be performed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sponsor: Rep Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-9]

### H.AMDT.838 to H.R.2740

Amendment requires the Department of Justice to report a list of charges that have been brought against contractors and contract employees in Iraq and Afghanistan; and a description of the legal actions taken by the United States government against contractors and contract employees in Iraq and Afghanistan as a result of a criminal charge or criminal investigation.

Sponsor: Rep Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-9]

### H.R. 3649

To require mercenary training to be conducted only on Federal Government property.

Sponsor: Bob Filner [CA-51]

### H.R. 4102 - Stop Outsourcing Security Act

To phase out the use of private military contractors.

Sponsor: Ms. Schakowsky (For herself, Mr. Mcgovern, Mr. Filner, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Allen, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Rahall, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Grijalva, And Mr. Stark)

### S.B. 2398 - Stop Outsourcing Security Act

Mirrors HR 4102

Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

### S.B. 674 - Transparency and Accountability in Military and Security Contracting Act of 2007'

To require accountability and enhanced congressional oversight for personnel performing private security functions under Federal contracts, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Barack Obama. Co-sponsors: Conrad, Durbin, Kerry, Whitehouse

*(for legislation in Illinois House see other side)*

Go to our website for full text of the bills.

For more information contact  
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**NoPrivateArmies.org**



# Bill in the Illinois House of Representatives

## H.B. 5700 - Limitations on Private Military Contractors Act

HB 5700 establishes as public policy that private military contractors should not receive state funding or support in Illinois. The bill sets 3 important limitations on their function and use:

- (1) No state funds may be used to contract with or purchase services from private military contractors for training of law enforcement or security guards.
- (2) No military weapons or explosives may be used by private military contractors in Illinois except on secured U.S. military bases or regulated facilities.
- (3) No personnel trained by private military contractors may be used to patrol, guard, control, contain or arrest any Illinois resident.

Sponsor: Rep. Julie Hamos

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## Fact Sheet on Military Contractors

### **What is a private military contractor?**

A private military contractor is a corporation, firm or other private business entity that recruits and trains individuals in the techniques of arms and armaments. Such a company trains its individual contractors to use a wide range of weapons from pistols to rocket launchers, and also teaches techniques of attack, capture, and interrogation.

The phenomenon of private military contractors is relatively new, but they are growing rapidly in number, size, wealth and power. They can hire themselves out to our own government, to other governments, to corporations and to individuals. Between 1994 and 2002, U.S.-based private military contractors received more than 3,000 contracts worth over \$300 billion from the U.S. Department of Defense. Currently over 800,000 contractors have security clearances at 11,000 government facilities. The UN Working Group on Mercenaries established by the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights in 2005 reports that approximately 50,000 individual private military contractors are working in Iraq.

One of the largest and most powerful is Blackwater Worldwide, which boasts a database of 21,000 individual contractors. Blackwater's federal contracts from 2001 through 2006 totaled over \$1 billion. Blackwater charges the U.S. government \$1,222 per day for services of an individual private military contractor -- the equivalent of \$445,000 per year, over six times more than the cost of an equivalent U.S. soldier.

### **Are there private military contractors in Illinois?**

Blackwater Worldwide operates a training camp in Jo Daviess County, Illinois. Blackwater Worldwide claims to be training only law enforcement and military personnel at the Jo Daviess County site. However, a July 2007 Chicago Tribune article reports that they are also training private individuals who do not have connections to law enforcement nor the military. The training courses offered at the Illinois training site by Blackwater are not certified by the State of Illinois. On the Jo Daviess site there is possibly the largest stockpile of weapons and ammunition in private hands in the state of Illinois.

### **Why should Illinois put limitations on private military contractors?**

As of now, private military contractors are completely unregulated, and therefore operate in a legal gray zone that leaves the door for abuses wide open. A Government Accountability Office report released in December 2006 described how the U.S. military had no effective system of oversight and that "officials were unable to determine how many contractors were deployed to bases in Iraq."

As a privatized military industry becomes a reality in the 21st century, it opens a series of troubling questions for democracy, for ethics, for management, for law, for human rights, and for national and international security. Questions remain whether a privatized military, in the hands of private corporations, puts more emphasis on bottom-line profit than on peace-making.

Until private military contractors are regulated by the federal government, states are left to create reasonable limitations as a matter of public policy.

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**The videos, "Blackwater Invades Illinois - Vol. 1 and Vol. 2" have been produced by Raising Kane Productions. Contact Mike Barr at [agitcam@yahoo.com](mailto:agitcam@yahoo.com) for information or link to them on YouTube through our website [www.NoPrivateArmies.org](http://www.NoPrivateArmies.org).**