

From Words to Deeds
**A Study of Armed Non-State
Actors' Practice and Interpretation
of International Humanitarian and
Human Rights Norms**

Research and Policy Conclusions

Annyssa Bellal
Pascal Bongard
Ezequiel Heffes



**UK Research
and Innovation**

**GENEVA
ACADEMY**

Académie de droit international
humanitaire et de droits humains
Academy of International
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights



Introduction

- **Comprehensive analysis on ANSAs' practice and interpretation of 10 key humanitarian norms**
- **Objectives:** to increase understanding of ANSAs' behavior and inform humanitarian engagement strategies
- **Methodology:** document analysis, semi-structured interviews with ANSAs and relevant stakeholders, and desk review of literature

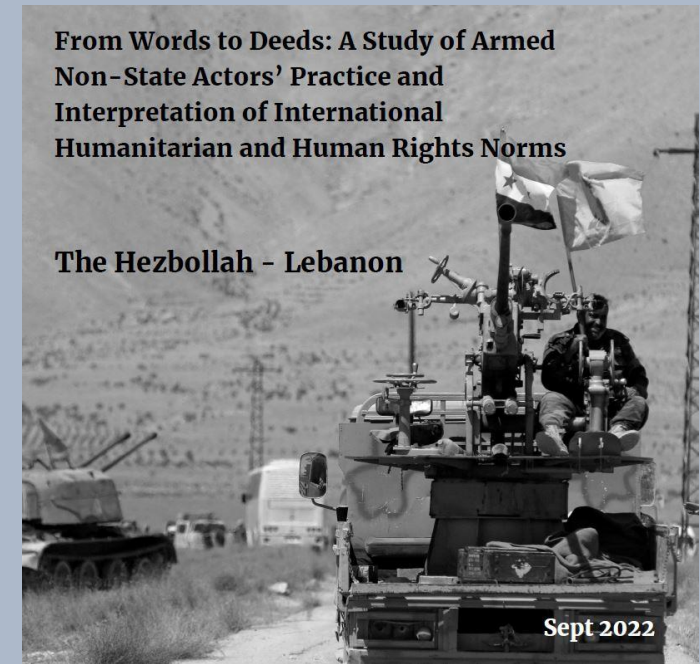
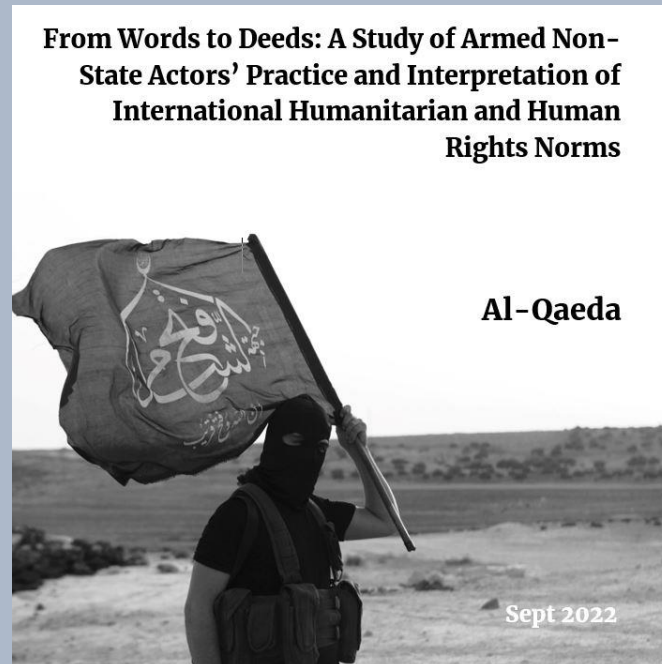
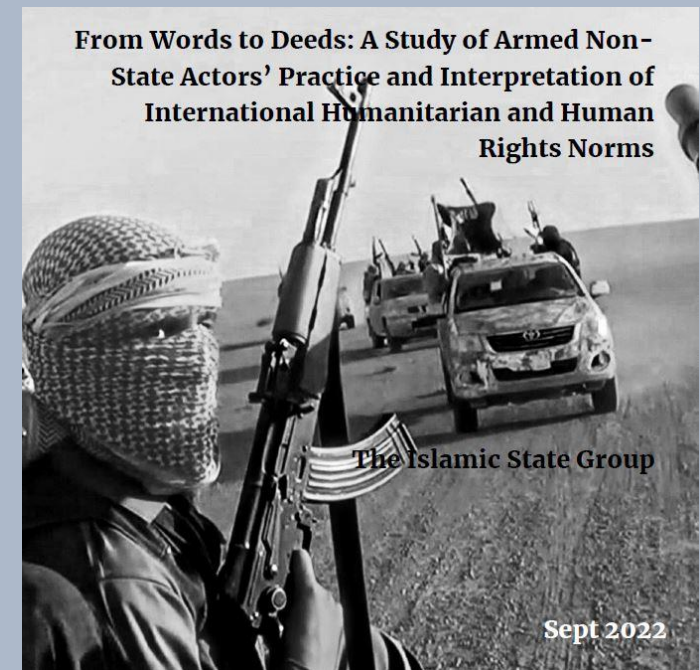
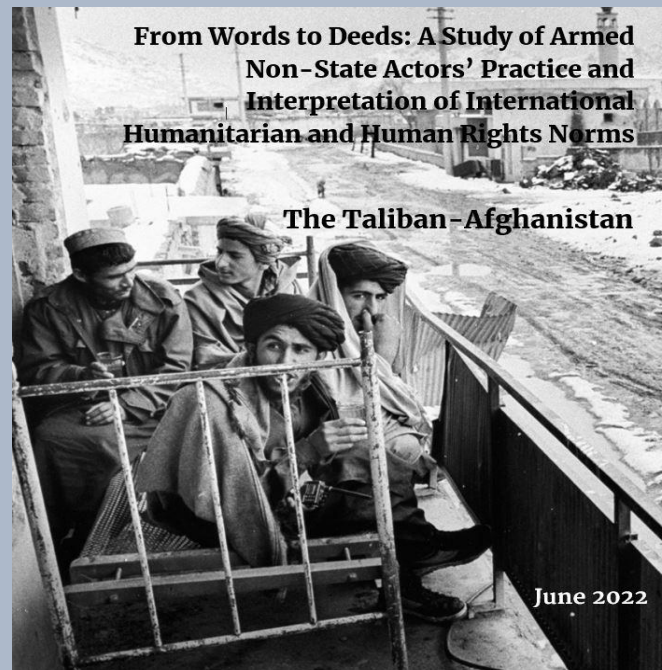
A circular inset image of a sign. The sign has English text at the top and Arabic calligraphy below. The English text reads: "ORDER PROMULGATING A CODE OF CONDUCT REGULATING THE AFFAIRS OF THE BANGSAMORO ISLAMIC ARMED FORCES, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS, AND OTHER RELATED PURPOSES".

ORDER PROMULGATING A CODE
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AND OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

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The case studies

- 1-The Taliban
- 2-ISg
- 3-Al Qaeda
- 4-Hezbollah



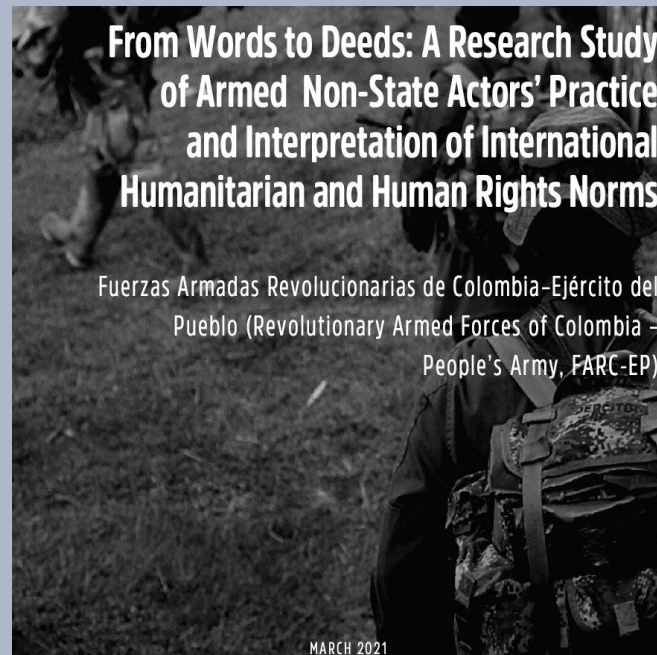
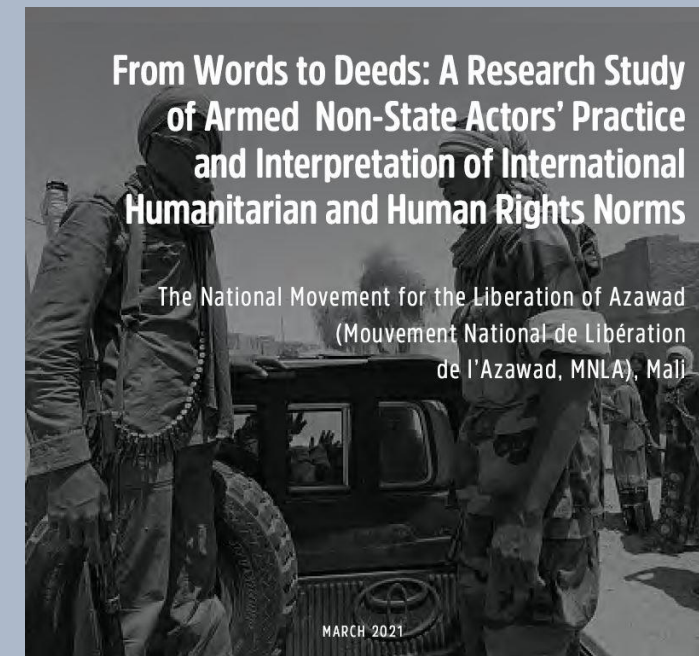
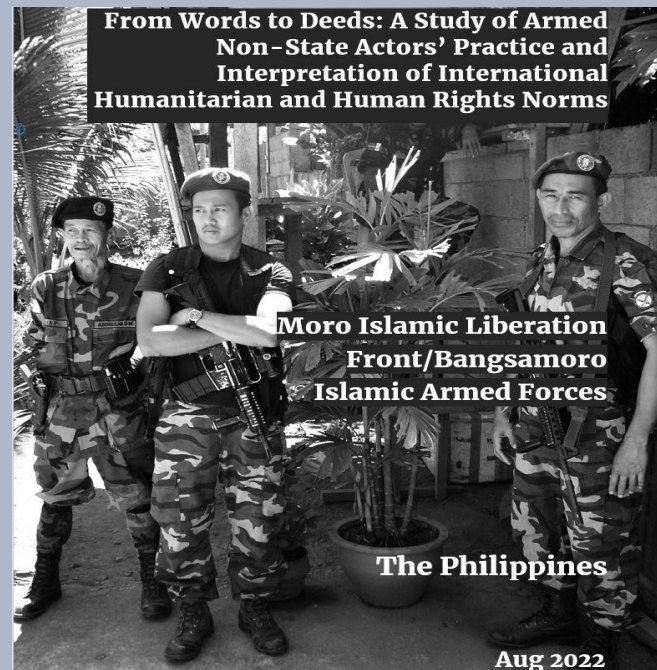
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The case studies

1-MILF/BIAF

2-MNLA

3-FARC-EP



4-Research and interviews on APCLS, SDF/AANES, KNU/KNLA and Somaliland

Comparative analysis

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Companion website and database

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HOME THE PROJECT TEAM AND PARTNERS ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS **DATABASE** PUBLICATIONS NEWS AND EVENTS CONTACT

DOCUMENTS DATABASE

Thematic Country / Territory Armed non-State Actor Type of document

Keywords


To the Militants of FARC-EP and ELN
Internal rules and regulations for the FARC-EP fighters

 [View document](#)

Thematics	Conduct of Hostilities
Type of document	General Order
Keywords	disciplinary provisions
Country / Territory	Colombia

Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia—Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP)


Announcement on Minors in the Conflict
Announcement of the FARC-EP on the plight, problems and rights of children in conflict

 [View document](#)

Thematics	Conduct of Hostilities
Type of document	Communication/Declaration
Keywords	children in war
Country / Territory	Colombia

Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia—Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP)

Communication of the South Bloc and Recommendations to the Civilian Population
Unilateral declaration of the FARC-EP on the conduct of hostilities

 [View document](#)

Thematics	Conduct of Hostilities
Type of document	Communication/Declaration
Keywords	civilians in war, disciplinary provisions

A few insights on some thematic



Key Points on the protection of civilians from attacks

Many ANSAs,
including
'islamist ANSAs',
have adopted
'policies' on the
the norm

No definition of 'who is
a civilian'
Different interpretation

Not precise
understanding of
the rule

Attacks on
persons otherwise
protected

Structure and capacity

'revenge killings'

'Law and order'
functions

Interesting practice

Investigative
mecanismos

Some Relevant Conclusions

**Many ANSAs agree with core
norms**

**Need to distinguish between
'islamist' ANSAs**

**Considering more
involvement in law or
policy making (EWIPA; AV
mines; Proportionality,
duty to investigate...)**

Key Points on Child Recruitment and Use in Hostilities

**Different
positions among
ANSAs**

Straight-18 policy

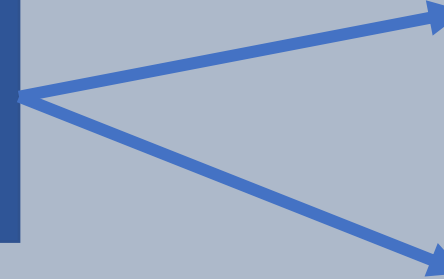
15-years standard

Unspecified age

Practice change

**Compliance
challenges**

**Consistent
violations of IHL**



Some Relevant Conclusions

Many ANSAs have gone further to their strict obligations under IHL

Policy shifts have been driven in part by reputational concerns and during peace talks

Sustained engagement by humanitarian actors is key

Key Points on Detention and Administration of Justice by ANSAs

Several ANSAs have regulated their activities in the realms of detention and administration of justice

ANSAs & Detention

Two “groups” of ANSAs

POWs and Armed Opposition Movements

ANSAs & Administration of Justice

All ANSAs administer justice

Challenges related to capacity

Some Relevant Conclusions

Engagement with ANSAs on certain thematic areas may be perceived as more acceptable than others (child protection vs. detention/administration of justice)

There are some correlation between the types of ANSAs proposed and their potential capacity to implement IHL norms.

Potential capacity ≠ actual compliance

It is key to mobilize actors of influence

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Thank you for your
attention!