SMALL ARMS, LIGHT WEAPONS, AND AMMUNITION TRANSFERS - HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PREVENT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ATROCITIES?

Human Target – International Congress on Social and Health Effects of the Global Arms Trade
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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
THE PROBLEM: TOP 6 EXPORTERS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS (2002-2012)

Source SIPRI 2013: Conventional major weapons (e.g. main battle tanks, fighter aircraft, war ships, artillery, missiles, and others) SPRI statistics don’t include small arms, light weapons, and ammunition.
THE PROBLEM: COMPLEXITY OF GLOBAL ARMS TRANSFERS

arms export → shipment → arms import

transit

commercial exports
- weapon systems
- ammunition
- parts/components
- repair
- combat enhancement
- consulting/training
- licenced production
- delivery of manufacturing facilities

governmental military aid
- arms
- training/advice

financing / indemnity bonds

brokering
Arms Transfers – too many weapons in wrong hands

Armed conflicts and irresponsible arms transfers contribute to the destruction of millions of lives and livelihoods across the world.

At least 60% of human rights violations documented by Amnesty International in a 10-year structured sample involved the use of small arms and light weapons.

Thousands of women and girls are sexually abused at gunpoint or become victims of mass rape in conflict.

Violent conflict and arms transfers threaten the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.
THE PROBLEM
Small Arms, light weapons and ammunition

AK-47/74 (Russia) - 70-100 million
M-16 (USA) - 7 million
G3 (Germany) - 7 million
FAL (Belgium) - 5-7 million
THE PROBLEM: GERMAN EXPORT LICENCES FOR SMALL ARMS

German military small arms export licences to third countries 2007-2011 aggregated numbers – submachine guns, assault rifles, machine guns

BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR SALW AND AMMUNITION TRANSFER CONTROLS

Voluntary transparency instruments
• UN Register of Conventional Arms

Voluntary control instruments
• POA to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
• International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)
• Wassenaar Arrangement

Legally binding control instruments
• National firearms law
• National export control legislation
• Regional arms transfer regulations, e.g. EU Common Position

International treaties and conventions
• Firearms Protocoll
• Arms Trade Treaty
FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND ROBUST ATT - LET’S ASSEMBLE THE PUZZLE!

1. ATT adopted
2. Signature
3. Implementation
4. To force
5. Ratification
6. National Law
7. Amendments
FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND ROBUST ATT
HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARMS TRANSFER CONTROLS

• Immediate signature and ratification of the ATT - international campaign for rapid ratification by 50 states and more to bring into force the ATT

• Effective implementation of the ATT provisions in the signatory states as soon as possible

• Integration of countries that abstained in UNGA decision

• Optimization of the ATT
HIGHEST NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARMS TRANSFER CONTROLS

- Consistent arms export legislation with a legally-binding human rights clause for all arms transfers, including dual-use goods
- Full transparency on all arms transfers including dual-use goods and military/police training
- Mandatory accountability on the application of human rights criterion for arms export licenses
- Involvement of parliament in arms export decisions
- Improved control of deliveries, shipments, and end use/final destination
VITAL ROLE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY: CONTINUOUS PUBLIC MOBILISATION AND ADVOCACY