

small arms survey 2014

women and guns

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FOREWORD

Last year was highly significant for conventional arms control because of the adoption of the historic Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). It is the first-ever global, legally binding regulation of the conventional arms trade negotiated within the United Nations.

The ATT sets robust standards against which arms transfer decisions must be assessed. Well over half of UN member states have already signed the ATT, but we should not rest until all states have done so.

One of the most impressive outcomes of the ATT negotiations was the successful inclusion of small arms under its scope, and the fact that the treaty also covers the trade in ammunition. It clearly prohibits exports of arms and ammunition that would violate Security Council arms embargoes or that could be used against civilians and in the commission of serious violations of international law.

Moreover, the ATT requires states to regulate arms brokering, to take measures to prevent diversion of weaponry, and to assess the risk that exports of arms and ammunition would be used in the commission of grave violations of international humanitarian law or human rights law. All these provisions are particularly relevant for the issue of small arms.

Another 'first' with respect to the development of global norms was last year's Security Council Resolution 2117 on the issue of small arms. Its adoption reflects the widespread conviction that effectively dealing with conflict and post-conflict settings requires a specific focus on improving small arms control measures.

The theme of this year's *Survey* is aptly chosen. UN arms control processes are increasingly converging with the women, peace, and security agenda established by UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related instruments. Language on gender-based violence and on women's participation in the promotion of peace and security can be found in the ATT, the outcome document of the UN Programme of Action's Second Review Conference (2012), and the above-mentioned Security Council resolution.

Moreover, the two resolutions adopted by the Security Council on women, peace, and security in 2013 mention the provisions of the ATT that exporting states parties take into account the risk of conventional arms or items being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children. One of these resolutions urges member states and United Nations entities to ensure women's full and meaningful participation in efforts to combat and eradicate the illicit transfer and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

Such convergence between previously compartmentalized topics is important because, for too long, women and girls were pictured solely as victims of armed conflict and domestic violence, not as the key actors for change that they are. It will be critical, as the 2014 *Survey* also points out, that this 'enabling' language actually assist women in becoming full and meaningful participants in the international peace and security agenda.

In words and images, the *Small Arms Survey 2014*, with its usual analytical rigour, helps us understand the latest developments—and future possibilities—in arms control, peace, and security. I have no hesitation recommending it to all those interested in these vital topics.

—**Angela Kane**

United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

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ABOUT THE SMALL ARMS SURVEY

The Small Arms Survey is an independent research project located at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Established in 1999, the project is supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and current or recent contributions from the Governments of Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as from the European Union. The Survey is grateful for past support received from the Governments of Canada, France, Spain, and Sweden. The Survey also wishes to acknowledge the financial assistance it has received over the years from foundations and many bodies within the UN system.

The objectives of the Small Arms Survey are: to be the principal source of public information on all aspects of small arms and armed violence; to serve as a resource centre for governments, policy-makers, researchers, and activists; to monitor national and international initiatives (governmental and non-governmental) on small arms; to support efforts to address the effects of small arms proliferation and misuse; and to act as a clearinghouse for the sharing of information and the dissemination of best practices. The Survey also sponsors field research and information-gathering efforts, especially in affected states and regions. The project has an international staff with expertise in security studies, political science, law, economics, development studies, sociology, and criminology, and collaborates with a network of researchers, partner institutions, non-governmental organizations, and governments in more than 50 countries.

NOTES TO READERS

Abbreviations: Lists of abbreviations can be found at the end of each chapter.

Chapter cross-referencing: Chapter cross-references are fully capitalized in brackets throughout the book. One example appears in Chapter 6: 'In fact, the many ammunition samples that bear no correspondence with authorized trade data underline the lack of such a correlation, emphasizing the need for in-depth research to determine the origins of ammunition found in conflict environments (WEAPONS TRACING).'

Exchange rates: All monetary values are expressed in current US dollars (USD). When other currencies are also cited, unless otherwise indicated, they are converted to USD using the 365-day average exchange rate for the period 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013.

Small Arms Survey: The plain text—Small Arms Survey—is used to indicate the overall project and its activities, while the italicized version—*Small Arms Survey*—refers to the publication. The *Survey*, appearing italicized, relates generally to past and future editions.

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A soldier from an all-female unit of Indian UN peacekeepers patrols a street in Monrovia, Liberia, April 2007.
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