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Small Arms Survey 2002: Counting the Human Cost



The Small Arms Survey

The 2002 edition of the *Small Arms Survey*, subtitled 'Counting the Human Cost' includes new and updated information and analysis on global small arms production, stockpiles and legal and illicit transfers, and a review of international, regional and national measures to address the issue of small arms proliferation.

New issues covered in the 2002 edition include:

- the humanitarian dimensions of small arms availability and proliferation;
- a survey of small arms collection and destruction programmes; and
- a detailed analysis of the outcome of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects.

The *Small Arms Survey* is produced annually by a team of researchers based at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and a worldwide network of local researchers. Its blend of information and analysis makes it an indispensable resource for diplomats, policy-makers, governmental officials and non-governmental organizations.

According to **Kofi Annan**, Secretary-General of the United Nations:

'The first edition of the yearbook, the *Small Arms Survey 2001: Profiling the Problem* was widely praised by diplomats, government officials and activists as a valuable resource and for the part it played in raising global awareness of the many dimensions of small arms issues. I commend this current edition to the widest possible readership. Only with accurate information and sound analysis will the international community be able to formulate the policies, and carry out the measures, equal to the challenges presented by small arms.'

Key Findings

- More than 1,000 companies in at least 98 countries worldwide are involved in some aspect of the production of small arms and/or ammunition.
- The global small arms market is dominated by only 13 countries.
- There are at least 639 million firearms in the world today, of which 59% are legally held by civilians.
- Civilians purchase more than 80% of all the firearms that are currently manufactured worldwide each year.
- More than 20 countries now provide official statistics on their annual small arms exports.
- The largest small arms exporters, by value, are the US and the Russian Federation.
- Small arms availability and use can contribute to a range of humanitarian effects, including forced displacement, and declining access to basic needs.
- Small arms can contribute to an increase in the scale and pace of killing.
- False end-use documentation is often used to evade UN arms embargoes, and divert arms to the illicit market.
- More than four million small arms have been eliminated from the global stockpile in the last decade as a result of various weapons collection and destruction programmes.

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