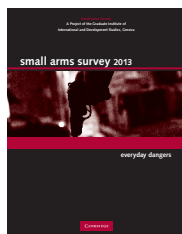


Small Arms Survey 2013

EVERYDAY DANGERS



The *Small Arms Survey 2013* explores the many faces of armed violence outside the context of armed conflict. Chapters on the use of firearms in intimate partner violence, the evolution of gangs in Nicaragua, Italian organized crime groups, and trends in armed violence in South Africa describe the dynamics and effects of gun violence in the home and on the street. The 'weapons and markets' section zeroes in on the use of specific weapons by particular armed actors, such as drug-trafficking organizations and insurgents. It includes chapters on the prices of arms and ammunition at illicit markets in Lebanon, Pakistan, and Somalia; illicit weapons recovered in Mexico and the Philippines; and the impacts of improvised explosive devices on civilians. Chapters on the Second Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action and the ammunition demilitarization industry round out the 2013 volume.

The *Small Arms Survey* is produced annually by a team of researchers based in Geneva, Switzerland, and a worldwide network of local researchers. Policy-makers, diplomats, and non-governmental organizations have come to value it as a vital resource for topical analysis of small arms-related issues and armed violence reduction strategies.

Praise for the 2013 *Survey* from Ronald K. Noble, Secretary General of INTERPOL:

'Evidence-based research provided by the *Small Arms Survey 2013* can help us better understand the problem of violent crime involving the use of firearms. I invite all those organizations, authorities, and services tasked with preventing and combating crime worldwide to draw full benefit from this new edition of the *Survey*.'

Key findings

Guns and intimate partner violence (IPV)

- While the majority of the victims and perpetrators of firearms-related homicides are male, many more women than men are killed, injured, and intimidated by firearms in the context of IPV.
- In countries with high levels of firearm violence, the risk that IPV against women will involve firearms is higher than elsewhere.
- The risk of lethal IPV for women, as well as injury and intimidation, is increased by the presence of guns in the home, including work-related guns.
- Withdrawal of gun rights following IPV incidents and the use of risk assessments for intimate partner homicide may help prevent subsequent violence, but only if cases are reported, which only a small minority are.
- Promising strategies to reduce gun-related IPV include stricter civilian gun possession regulations, broader prevention policies that raise awareness of the dangers of firearms in intimate partner settings, and interventions to change cultural attitudes to guns in relation to certain concepts of masculinity.

Gang evolution in Nicaragua

- The spread and shape of Nicaraguan gangs (known as *pandillas*) in the post-cold war period is linked to the aftermath of the 1980s Contra war, including the demobilization of conscripted youths. Subsequently, the gangs institutionalized through processes of local territorialization, and their development has not been linear or progressive.
- Gangs in different urban neighbourhoods can develop unique evolutionary dynamics that affect their use of firearms and resulting violence levels. These change over time due to both internal and external factors, such as the varying availability of weapons and ammunition and the presence of other armed actors.
- Manufactured firearms were more common in the 1990s than in the following decade, when home-made weapons became more widespread, to the extent that they are now the principal type of firearm associated with gangs.

Mafia violence in Italy

- Organized crime groups tend to make 'economical' use of violence, and deliberate killings are typically the last resort, although the approach varies by group.
- The Camorra group, historically rooted in Naples and surrounding areas, is responsible for almost half (48 per cent) of all mafia homicides documented in Italy over the period 1992–2010. A greater availability of firearms in the region, a stronger presence of organized crime members, and recurrent conflicts among clans may partly explain the group's predominance in violence.

- Mafia homicides declined by some 43 per cent from 2007 to 2010. Analysts suggest that organized crime groups have entered a submersion phase, moving further into legal markets in which the use of violence and firearms is increasingly counterproductive to business operations.
- Most mafia clans maintain their own arsenals of collectively held firearms, with selected members in charge of procuring, storing, maintaining, and distributing firearms in response to requests or circumstances.
- The level of sophistication and the variety of firearms among mafia clans have increased since the 1970s. Most *mafiosi* (mafia members) currently rely on machine guns, revolvers, pistols, and AK-pattern assault rifles, although they even use World War II-era firearms or modified toy guns.
- Mafia groups procure firearms through robberies as well as in exchange for drugs and other illicit commodities.
- Criminal groups in the former Yugoslavia, Albania, and other Eastern European countries are key sources of firearms for Italian organized crime groups.

Violent land conflict in Africa

- Almost every armed conflict in Africa has had a land dimension to it, but very few are concerned solely with land issues.
- Violent land conflict in Africa—including resource conflicts, communal clashes, and social conflicts—has resulted in tens of thousands of direct conflict deaths and the displacement of hundreds of thousands over the past decade.
- Land disputes are most volatile, and at highest risk of violence, when grievances are high, security is threatened, mechanisms for adjudication are absent, and violence entrepreneurs are able to mobilize aggrieved populations.

Armed violence in South Africa

- Since 1994, homicide rates in South Africa have remained among the highest in the world despite a consistent decline.
- There appears to be a positive correlation between the partial implementation of the Firearms Control Act of 2000 and a reduction in firearm homicides. Better implementation of the law could further reduce levels of firearm homicides.
- Despite stated commitments and a legal obligation to address armed violence, the South African Police Service still faces serious challenges related to reforming its own practices, including police use of force and firearms.
- While inequality may be viewed as an important driver of armed violence in South Africa, national policies to address and reduce levels of inequality have shown only modest results.

The 2012 Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action (PoA)

- The Review Conference outcome is forward-looking, setting out a series of measures intended to bolster implementation of the PoA and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) during the next six-year meeting cycle.
- While the Review Conference text draws on the conclusions of preceding PoA meetings, overall it has little to say about ‘progress made’ in PoA and ITI implementation, reflecting the lack of formal monitoring tools.
- The Review Conference outcome raises the possibility of increased attention to longer-term trends in small arms proliferation and misuse, including the related question of PoA and ITI effectiveness.

Authorized small arms transfers

- In 2010 the top exporters of small arms and light weapons (those with annual exports of at least USD 100 million), according to available customs data, were (in descending order) the United States, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Switzerland, Israel, Austria, the Russian Federation, South Korea, Sweden, Belgium, and Spain.
- In 2010 the top importers of small arms and light weapons (those with annual imports of at least USD 100 million), according to available customs data, were (in descending order) the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, South Korea, France, and Thailand.
- The 2013 edition of the Barometer identifies Switzerland, Romania, and Serbia as the most transparent of the major exporters, and Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as the least transparent.

Ammunition demilitarization

- The demilitarization industry is currently centred in Western Europe and the United States. It operates under standard competitive tendering rules.
- Aside from the United States, where a few contractors struggle to reduce the massive conventional ammunition stockpile, many NATO nations’ industrial facilities have underutilized demilitarization capacity.
- Cluster munitions, especially multiple-launch rocket system rockets, still account for a significant part of the demilitarization activity in the United States and Western Europe.
- The costs involved in transporting and demilitarizing large quantities of ammunition can be significant and are a heavy financial burden on any ministry of defence.

- There is currently no common international or European standard, legislation, or compliance mechanism that specifically addresses ammunition demilitarization by commercial contractors.
- In countries where industrial demilitarization is less developed and contractors do not meet prevailing safety standards, the potential for accidents is much higher during industrial processes.

Improvised explosive devices

- IEDs killed and injured at least 13,000 civilians in 44 countries in 2011, according to open-source reporting. The actual toll is probably higher and more research is needed to assess the overall impact that IEDs have on communities, development, and governance.
- Globally, the ratio of non-fatal civilian IED injuries to deaths was approximately 3:1 in 2011.
- The vast majority of civilian IED casualties occurred in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan in 2011.
- It is possible to make it harder for militants to source the materials most commonly used to make the large IEDs that are responsible for the majority of civilian casualties, but such measures are difficult to implement, especially in the worst-affected countries.
- Militant Sunni Islamist groups are responsible for the overwhelming majority of civilian casualties inflicted in IED attacks. This is largely attributable to their use of large IEDs and indiscriminate tactics.

Arms and ammunition at illicit markets

- Within each surveyed location—Lebanon, Pakistan, and Somalia—the prices of arms and ammunition generally exhibited similar trend lines.
- Ammunition prices in Lebanon were strongly correlated with reported conflict casualties in neighbouring Syria.
- Behind the generic ‘Kalashnikov’ label hides a variety of models with very different price tags. When different Kalashnikov variants are available, those chambered for the 7.62 × 39 mm cartridge are much less expensive than models that use the more recent 5.45 × 39 mm round.

Illicit weapons in Mexico and the Philippines

- Armed groups in Mexico and the Philippines have acquired few, if any, technologically sophisticated light weapons, such as portable missiles.
- Nearly 90 per cent of illicit rifles seized in the Philippines were US-designed models.
- Despite their vast wealth, cartels in Mexico do not possess the full array of light weapons available to governments and some state-sponsored armed groups.
- Data suggests that some firearms identified as ‘weapons of choice’ of drug traffickers in Mexico are not as widespread as commonly assumed. These include .50-calibre rifles and 5.7 mm × 28 mm pistols, which combined account for fewer than 1 per cent of all seized firearms studied.

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