



Issue: Civilians' Rights of Gun Ownership

Committee: Disarmament

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<https://twitter.com/MomsDemand/status/1561130214343819266>(AP: Rich Pedroncelli)

*"Over the last two decades, more school-aged children have died from guns than on-duty police officers and active-duty military combined. Think about that: more kids than on-duty cops killed by guns, more kids than soldiers killed by guns." -Joe Biden, 2022.*

## Introduction

More and more nations have recently been debating giving access to firearms for civilians and according them the right to hold and own small arms and light weapons. More than 175 of the world's countries allow their citizens to own regulated firearms varying from countries to countries. For instance, Mexico, Guatemala and the United States made gun ownership a part of constitutional right. However, as 85% of the global circulation of firearms to civilians in 2017, the safety of the world's population is questioned by the United Nations.

Indeed, this right often leads to gun violence which violates the fundamental right to life; Therefore states have to take measures to protect people from gun violence (to avoid threatening this right). However if a state refuses to adequately control the way private individuals use firearms, this would incite other nations to act upon international human rights laws to protect the right to life as well as security of person. Indeed school shootings in America and accidents for instance happen very often because of this right and therefore need to be prevented.

In addition, firearm violence by civilians creates impacts on a strong socio-economic scale as its concentration is in mostly low income urban neighbourhoods with high levels of crime, including trafficking such as illicit drugs, incompetent policing or policing that doesn't reach international standards on human rights and law enforcement, and lack or minimum access to public services.

## Definitions of key terms

Arms: weapons and equipment used to kill and injure people.

A civilian: an individual who is not a member of the police nor the armed forces.

Small arms: weapons designed for individual use. They are usually at the lower end of the calibre spectrum (4.6–40 or 66 mm). They include handguns (self-loading pistols and revolvers) and shoulder arms (rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns and light machine guns, and grenade launchers).

Light weapons: weapons designed for use by two or three persons serving as a crew, although some may be carried and used by a single person. Light weapons include heavy machine guns, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems and portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems.

Gun violence: violence committed with the use of a firearm.

## General overview

### **Gun Violence:**

On a global scale, more than 500 people die every day from gun violence. It also causes 44% of all homicides. Between 2012 and 2016, there were 1.4 million firearm-related deaths globally and an estimated 2,000 people are injured by gunshots every single day. Furthermore, millions of people suffer the severe and long-term psychological effects that gun violence (or the threat of gun violence) brings to individuals, families and their wider community.

More over, the majority of victims and perpetrators are young men, but women are particularly at risk of firearms violence perpetrated by an intimate partner. Sexual violence can also be facilitated by firearms.

### **Small Arms Market:**

There are 8 million new small arms and up to 15 billion rounds of ammunition produced each year. Small arms encompass various types of firearms such as pistol, shotgun, revolver, rifle, and other related systems. Sports events, hunting activities, as well as self-defence are the conspicuous application areas of firearms and it is expected to be lucrative opportunity in the upcoming years. Governments across the globe have introduced regulations and rules for small arms solution acquisition and usage activities. Growth in adoption of small arm solutions in sport events and increase in requirements of small arms for self-defence applications are crucial factors that support growth for small arms across the globe.

The global small arms market was valued at \$8.39 billion in 2020, and is projected to reach \$13.75 billion by 2030. North America was the highest revenue contributor, accounting for \$3.33 billion in 2020, and is estimated to reach \$5.81 billion by 2030. However, strict small

arms ownership regulations restrain the market growth. Rise in participation for shooting competitions across the world is expected to fuel growth of the global small arms market during the forecast period

Recently, the world has witnessed an upward trend in wars and conflicts across numerous nations. Recent political upheaval that happened in Afghanistan in August 2021 has brought the country in a permanent state of chaos. Rise in terrorist attacks and violent conflicts in the country are expected to lead to more unfavorable instances across neighboring nations in the future. Currently, there are numerous ongoing wars and minor conflicts in several countries globally, most of which are in the Middle East, North West Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa, and a major ongoing drug-war in Mexico as well as the war in Ukraine. Nations across the world are buying arms and ammunitions to counter the terrorism, block the entry of enemy soldiers, and curb anti-national activities. Such factors are anticipated to propel growth of the global small arms market during the forecast period.

Additionally, arms industry was expected to witness steady growth in 2020; however, owing to the adverse impact of the widespread COVID-19 pandemic, it experienced a significant decline in the supply of firearms for sports and law enforcement applications. Major factors for decline in the small arms market are disruptions in manufacturing and supply chains across the globe. The major risk factors of the small arms market participants are regulatory & policy changes, dependency on labor, working capital management, and liquidity & solvency management. Majority of developing facilities of small arms have been shut down during the pandemic, owing to commute restrictions, workforce unavailability, and supply chain disturbance. Private and commercial security industries were one of the

most severely affected industries by the pandemic and observed a decline of investments initially.

## Major actors

- **Brazil** has 72% of killings committed by firearms. Brazil leads the world in number of firearm deaths and ranks sixth by country in rate of firearm deaths per 100,000 people.
- **China** is ranked as one of the major firearm manufacturers and major player in the global arms trade in the world. China was the fifth largest arms exporter in the world from 2010 to 2020 behind **the United States, Russia, France, and Germany**.
- **Japan** has an extremely rare gun violence tendency. In 2018, Japan, a country of 125 million people, only reported nine deaths from firearms -- compared with 39,740 that year in the United States. In 2019, the rate of deaths from gun violence in Japan was around one per 5 million people. It also had the lowest number of guns per capita among the MEDCs.
- **Russia** is the world's second largest weapons exporter, 20 % of global arms sales and \$15 billion per year in revenue.
- in **South Africa**, firearms are the most commonly used weapons to commit murder and other violent crimes, such as carjacking and house robberies.

- **USA's** ratio of 120.5 firearms per 100 residents, up from 88 per 100 in 2011, far surpasses that of other countries around the world. National ownership rates vary from about 120.5 firearms for every 100 residents in the United States to less than 1 firearm for every 100 residents in countries like Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, and several Pacific island states.

The landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) regulates the international trade in conventional arms from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships and is established by the United Nations.

## **Questions to consider & reflect on**

- Does my country allow citizens to carry arms? If yes, is there any restrictions?
- Are there separate laws in my country regarding different types of arms?
- How many victims does gun violence create every year in my country ?
- How many civilians own a gun in my country?
- What do we gain/lose when allowing citizens to carry arms?
- What do we gain/lose when forbid citizens to carry arms?
- Did my country sign/ratified United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects ?
- Who will I be in an alliance with during the debate?

-Who will I be in a disagreement with during the debate?

## Appendix

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