

Illegal Arms Trafficking

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Preface

The purpose of this report is to inform people about the illegal arms trade, which occurs all over the world and causes violence and destruction. This report mainly focuses on small arms (pistols, assault rifles, shotguns, rifles, machine guns etc.) because they are “small and relatively cheap, easy to pass on, smuggle, hide, steal, capture from an enemy or buy over the counter” (Burrows, 24). That means small arms can be found in every country and they are extremely difficult to monitor because there are so many of them. An example of this is the AK-47, in which between 50 and 80 million copies have been manufactured around the world. (Craig Glenday et.al, 197) Other types of weapons that can be smuggled are artillery, rockets, bombs, missiles etc. These however, are more difficult to smuggle because of their size, therefore they are not as widespread as small arms.

Legitimacy

The smuggling of weapons is a global issue because they could be used to supply violent groups such as terrorists and gangs. Smuggled weapons can also be used by homicidal people. Many weapons, such as the AK-47, are left over from ex-Soviet Union countries during the Cold War. They have been produced in the millions. However, small arms that have been smuggled are not just old weapons from the Cold War; millions of new weapons have been produced and many have found their way on the black market. These weapons cause harm to people all over the globe as mentioned, "More than 600 million small arms and light weapons are estimated to be in circulation worldwide. They are directly responsible for the deaths of more than 300,000 people through armed conflict, homicides, and suicides." (Florquin, 1)

Smuggled weapons that have been bought on the black market have been used in armed conflicts, terrorism, homicide, and even suicide. Many countries such as Canada and Great Britain have strict regulations about gun control which should reduce the amount of gun related violence in these countries. They do not eliminate the gun related violence, but they do reduce the threat. The firearms could be illegally smuggled into these countries and sold on the black market.

Most small arms are produced legally and very small percentages are illegally produced. There are thousands of companies in approximately 90 countries that produce small arms and ammunition. They are mostly manufactured in Asian countries such as China (Florquin, 1). However, many of these arms and munitions have leaked onto the black market, where they can be purchased at a relatively low price.

Arms trafficking can occur locally (such someone purchasing a pistol from a local dealer) or it can occur internationally (such as terrorists purchasing weapons from corrupt companies or armies). “Corruption, battlefield seizure, and stockpile mismanagement divert weapons from the legal to the illicit market” (Florquin, 1). These small arms can be sold for a very low price such as a few hundred dollars and they can be sold to a wide variety of people. These illegal weapons can be purchased by terrorist groups, corrupt militaries and police forces, and even homicidal people. Some illegal weapons can be purchased for non-violent past times such as hunting.

There are many ways in which these weapons can end up in different countries. Some weapons are hidden in crates onboard cargo ships, some are disassembled, smuggled into another country, then reassembled, or they can be

hidden in packages containing items such as grain. The illegal arms trade has been known to generate several hundred million dollars across the world. This means that thousands of weapons are being sold illegally every year.

Summary

Sources that have been used for this report include various articles, websites, essays, interviews, and books. The sources cover a wide area of topics such as some background to the illicit arms trade, illicit arms trade and smuggling in specific countries, policies on gun control, and specific costs of the legal and illicit arms trade. Other sources that have been used identify the origins of certain firearms such as the Thompson or the AK-47. They mention the country (or countries) that manufactured them and armies, militias, or groups that have used or still use those weapons. Other topics that have been researched for this report include terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda or the PIRA (Provisional Irish Republican Army) and their connection to the illicit arms trade and weapons trafficking.

Background

Arms trafficking has been known to occur all over the world throughout the twentieth century. The twentieth century saw many improvements in weapons such as the introduction of rocket powered missiles, weapons of mass destruction, fighter aircraft, tanks, long range artillery, and countless more. Over the years people have found ways to acquire these weapons such as robbing military armouries, scavenging battlefields, and even selling weapons they had already possessed. During WWI, many weapons such as single barrelled machine guns were mass produced from 1914 until 1918. In 1918, WWI came to an end and the survivors went back home after four long years of vicious trench warfare. The end of the war never stopped the arms industries from producing their weapons. Perhaps one of the most famous sub-machineguns in existence, the M1919 Thompson, was created in 1919 as the name suggests. The weapon went through various changes during the twenties and the US military and the British military both put various models into service. The Thompson, also known as the "Tommy Gun", wasn't just for military use; it was also sold to civilians. During the twenties, members of the Irish Republican Army came to America and purchased many Thompsons. The intent of the purchased weapons was to help supply the IRA (Irish Republican Army) during the Irish War of Independence. Most of the

illegally purchased Thompsons were found, however a small amount was smuggled out of the country and used for the war (Hart, 187). The Thompson was not just used by Irish patriots, however; they were used heavily by the mafia and other organised crime groups. The Thompson was used heavily by gangsters before, during, and after WWII (187).

After WWII in 1947, one of the most famous and most notorious firearms was created, the Kalashnikov AK-47. The AK-47 is an assault rifle invented in the Soviet Union in 1947. It was mass produced by the Soviets, and virtually every communist country adopted it into service. It is a very reliable weapon because of its power, durability, and low cost. The AK-47 is one of the oldest weapons still in service. During the Cold War, an extremely high number of AK-47's were made. There are roughly 80 million copies today, more than any other type of firearm (Glenday et. al, 197) The AK-47 is a favourite for militaries of developing countries, terrorists, and even gangsters. The AK-47 is a very cheap weapon and it can be easily purchased on the black market. The AK-47 has been used in most wars since the 40's such as The Korean War, The Vietnam War, The Gulf War, and used in the War on Terror (mostly by insurgents) in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, the AK-47 can be found in almost every country around the world and is a favourite for smugglers. There are countless other types of small arms being

smuggled around the world, but these are the most recognised around the world to be used by gangsters, criminals, and third world militaries.

From the 1960's to the 1990's the Provisional Irish Republican Army (which originated from the Irish Republican Army) were fighting for the freedom of Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom (Moloney, 246). The PIRA started out poorly equipped during the struggle until they found WWII weapons such as the Thompson left over from the original IRA (Taylor, 52). A famous PIRA smuggler named George Harrison started to traffic illicit weapons from the United States from the 1950's to the 1980's. He and a few other PIRA members started to traffic approximately 3000 weapons such as AR-18's from the United States. These weapons went to direct use by the PIRA (Rebel, 1). Harrison stated that he "got everything we could lay our hands on and sent them to Ireland. It wasn't easy, you had to rely on people coming over." (Rebel, 1). Harrison and other PIRA members were later caught by the FBI in 1981, smuggling the weapons to Northern Ireland in the United States. The charges were dropped however, because the defence accused the CIA with helping Harrison and the others smuggle weapons into Ireland (1).

Religious Factors

Several religious factors can affect the illicit arms trade. There are many religious beliefs that exist in which the people who practice it are pacifists. Pacifism is the belief in not using violence or fighting in war (however there are some exceptions). Some pacifist faiths include Amish, Buddhism, Mennonite, and Oomoto as well as many more. Many members of these faiths are prohibited from joining the military or using violence for solving problems. The Amish “reject involvement with the military or warfare. They believe that Amish must never resort to violence or take up arms in war.” (Robinson, 1). These religions oppose the illicit arms trade because weapons are mainly designed to kill others and they are not monitored on the black market. Some faiths such as Amish oppose the use of modern technology such as cars, televisions, radios etc. Firearms are included in this case because they are considered modern.

Some religious extremists support the idea of arms trafficking because it can supply an extremist or terrorist group. An example of this is the Islamic terrorists such as Al-Qaeda or the Taliban. The radical terrorists believe they can achieve salvation through violence. This is not the belief of the Islamic religion, just the extremists that use terror to get what they want. The terrorists can

acquire weapons to supply their organizations from the black market because the weapons are relatively cheap and hard to track.

Who is in Control of Arms Trafficking?

The illicit arms trade occurs all over the world, so it is difficult to say who exactly is in charge. Government agencies are trying to prevent arms trafficking, but since this trade occurs all over the world, it is difficult to monitor. The people who have direct control over the illicit arms trade are the people who are participating in it. This is shown by the person (or people) selling the weapons. The supplier of the weapons controls who gets the arms and they determine the cost. The supplier and the people who purchase the weapons can benefit from the deal. The supplier gets paid a large amount of money and the buyer gets what they wanted.

The people participating in the illicit arms trade have the most control over it. This should not be the case. The police and other law enforcement agencies

should be in control and should attempt to reduce the trade. However, due to the discreet nature of the illicit arms trade, law enforcement agencies cannot control the illicit trade.

More people should monitor the illicit arms trade because the weapons are most often used in violent cases. An example of weapons being imported into another country is Mexico. Many assault rifles are being trafficked into Mexico because hardly any vehicles are thoroughly examined as they go into Mexico from the US. The US used to have a ban on owning assault rifles; however, this has been lifted (Ryan, 1). This has resulted in assault rifles being smuggled into Mexico. If this ban was renewed in the US, it would reduce the amount of assault rifles coming into Mexico significantly (Idea, 1). This statement shows that banning the ownership of certain weapons can reduce the flow of weapons being smuggled into another country drastically.

Many arms are discreetly smuggled into other countries without detection. However, on many occasions they are detected by authorities and the smuggler(s) is usually arrested. One example of an attempt at smuggling arms was when a ship was unloading cargo in Philadelphia on November 18th, 2002. The operators of the ship claimed they were unloading wood from Asia that was worth about

\$75,000. It turned out that the ship was not from Asia but it was from Liberia which is in Africa. The company that was supposed to be exporting the wood had been involved with arms trafficking. (Tuzin, 1) An expert on arms trafficking named Johan Peleman gave a speech saying “Many of those we could identify as being arms traffickers were also involved in the timber business.” (Kistner, 1) This speech shows how discreetly arms traffickers smuggle weapons around the world and how they could use false identities to hide what they are really shipping.

Case Study One- Columbia

Columbia may be a relatively small third world country in South America, but it is well known for its violence. It has one of the highest homicide rates due to the armed conflicts that occur and claim approximately 3000 lives per year. (Rosen, 1) Many of these armed conflicts occur with smuggled weapons. Some of these weapons have made their way from the United States according to this statement by Nick Rosen;

Colombian arms dealers in the United States on tourist visas purchased assault rifles in Miami shops, packed them in bubble wrap and sent them home on cargo

flights, listed as machinery parts. Their destination: guerrillas trying to overthrow the South American country's elected government. (Rosen, 1)

The guerrillas that are being referred to could be FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) or ELN (National Liberation Army). Both groups have committed violent acts with firearms and opposed the government. (Kistner, 1)

There are countless reports of illegally acquired firearms being confiscated by Colombian authorities such as a shipment of 31 assault rifles, and a rocket launcher from Nicaragua. They were intended for sale to FARC members in Colombia. (Rosen, 1) This is an example of how weapons can easily be smuggled into Colombia. It is considered to be easy because of the numerous rainforests to the south, mountains to the west, the Pacific Ocean to the northwest, and the Caribbean Sea to the northeast. All of these terrains and seas can be hard to monitor because of the vast distances they cover. Since the border is difficult to monitor (which significantly lowers the effectiveness of border control), small arms pour in. The majority are smuggled in small amounts such as small bundles of potatoes with a rifle hidden inside. Over time, these add up and eventually thousands of small arms are smuggled in. In 1994, approximately 23,000 illegally acquired firearms were confiscated in Colombia. In 2000, approximately 42,000

illegally acquired firearms were found by Colombian authorities. It is believed that there is more than ten times the amount of illegal firearms entering Colombia. (Rosen, 1)

But where could all these weapons be going? One possible answer is the illicit sales of firearms are supplying guerrilla forces participating in the Colombian Civil War. Today the civil war mainly focuses on the illicit drug trade. The drug trade provides guerrilla groups such as FARC with the funds to run their operations and purchase illicit weapons. The FARC have used these weapons to help kidnap, and terrorize Colombian citizens that support the current government. They have also taken action against religious leaders and people in FARC controlled areas are forbidden to express their religion. (Harper, 1) Without the illicit arms, the FARC wouldn't be nearly as powerful as they are now.

What possible solutions are there?

There are many possible solutions to help reduce the amount of weapons being illegally acquired by guerrilla fighters in Colombia. One possible solution that can help reduce the amount of trafficked weapons entering Colombia should actually occur outside of the country. It must occur in the United States. Scott Pickett who is a member of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and

Explosives stated that there were approximately 200 million firearms in the United States that can be purchased. (Pickett, 1) One possible solution to help out Colombia is a new policy of gun control in the United States. Putting a ban on privately owned automatic weapons could drastically reduce the amount of firearms being smuggled into Columbia and many other countries, since the United States is a very large exporter of weapons. If this ban were in place, guerrilla groups such as FARC would have to find weapons in other countries. No more guerrilla members could walk into a Miami gun shop, buy firearms, and ship them to Colombia via cargo plane.

Other solutions that have been proposed were peace talks with FARC leaders. Former Colombian president Andres Pastrana tried to negotiate peace with the FARC. He offered to give the FARC a “demilitarized zone” with approximately 120,000 residents. However, the FARC do not comply with peace talks and they still oppose the government and continue their violence. However, they have released many people they have kidnapped. (Harper, 1) Had the FARC accepted the peace negotiation, they wouldn’t need to have arms smuggled into Colombia to support their guerrilla warfare and therefore, the amount of deaths due to these illegal weapons would have decreased.

Another possible solution that could combat the illicit arms trade in Columbia was proposed by Colonel Alberto Ruiz of Colombia's judicial police force. He believes that sharing intelligence with other countries about weapons trafficking can benefit Colombia. He thinks that if countries share information they have about potential arms traffickers, they can reduce the amount of illicit weapons entering Colombia (Rosen, 1). Colonel Ruiz stated that "most illegal arms begin as legal arms." His statement is true because the arms can be purchased from a legitimate source but as soon as they are smuggled or sold illegally they become illicit.

Case Study 2- South Africa

Many people know that the majority of Africa is poverty stricken and violence thrives in many countries in the continent. South Africa is not a stranger to violence and the illicit arms trade. South Africa's crime has greatly increased over the years such as: murder (increased 61% since 1989), armed robbery (increased 119% since 1989), and rape (increased 80% since 1989). (Beri, 1-2) These are not the only issues South Africa faces, the illicit arms trade thrives within the country. Experts estimate that there are roughly eight million illegal

firearms flowing through South Africa and roughly four million licensed legitimate firearms. One major problem is that many of these legitimate firearms are being reported missing. (1) To give a brief overview of the amounts of weapons being smuggled, twelve years ago, there were approximately 480 crime syndicates and 112 of them were involved in smuggling small arms. (2) This statistic shows that the illicit arms trade was huge in South Africa.

Where did these arms come from? The majority of the arms that are being smuggled around the world are old Cold War weapons mostly from the former Soviet Union. After the Soviet Union collapsed in the early nineties, a huge stockpile of excess weapons managed to flood the black market. This has also applied to the South African markets. After the Soviet Union collapsed, Eastern European countries (which were mass producing firearms drastically) reduced the amount of firearms being produced. Another step that was taken by governments in Eastern Europe was destroying excess arms. However, they were unsuccessful at destroying all excess weapons (Berman, 3). This allows for many firearms to be trafficked all over the world.

What solutions have been proposed?

Since the illicit arms trade is highly active in South Africa, many steps to help reduce the amount of illicit firearms have been acted and suggested. One of these acts was known as Operation Rollerball which occurred sixteen years ago. Operation Rollerball was a secret operation launched by the South African National Defence Force that intended to raid the ANC (African National Congress) guerrillas' arms caches. After the operation was completed, reports came out stating that 123 firearms, over 900 grenades, and over 300 landmines have been captured. (Beri, 5)

Other possible solutions that were mentioned included the South African government's responsibility to destroy excess weapons. It was reported that in 1997, over 20 tons of firearms that were worth approximately \$300,000 (US) were destroyed. (International Relations & Cooperation, 1) The government had also mentioned the possibility of firearms control. They stated that in 1999, they destroyed any firearms that were obsolete or any confiscated semi-automatic firearm that had a bullet diameter less than 12.7 mm (.50 calibre), and that they wanted to destroy all surplus firearms. (1)

On September 11, 2001, Al-Qaeda terrorists attacked the World Trade Centre buildings and killed thousands of people. This caused the United States and other members of the UN to fight the “War on Terrorism.” The Taliban and Al-Qaeda terrorist groups operate in Middle Eastern countries such as Iraq. The illicit arms trade exists in Iraq but it is not only limited to the terrorists operating there. Anyone can be involved in the illicit arms trade providing they can pay for the weapon or supply it. These weapons do not have to be new, however; there have been some weapons that are left over from the Ottoman Empire in 1918 (Stohl, 1) These weapons as well as many other WWII, and Cold War era firearms can be purchased for a relatively cheap price on the black market, which could cause the amount of illicit firearms in a country to increase dramatically because many people can afford them. Not only do the civilians have access to regular firearms on the black market, they can also purchase RPG’s (rocket propelled grenades), grenades, and bombs. These can be acquired from three main sources: looted from the government during the Gulf War in 1991, weapons from Iran provided to Shia rebels and weapons from the Iraqi government (led by Saddam Hussein during the Gulf War)(1).

An Attempted Solution

When George W. Bush was president of the United States, he stated that no arms that would support terrorists would be sold. (Kozyulin, 3) This included ammunition but it didn't stop the illicit arms trade in Iraq. The reason Bush said no more arms would be sold to suspected terrorists was due to a situation that occurred in the eighties. The US sold weapons to fighters in Afghanistan during the Soviet Invasion. These weapons are now used against the peacekeepers today (Aslam, 1). The prices for weapons on the black market vary from weapon to weapon in Iraq. For example, an AK-47 could cost \$120-\$250, a shotgun could cost \$100, and a good pistol could cost roughly \$800 on the black market. The ammunition for these weapons on the black market is extremely cheap, around 25 cents per round (Stohl, 1). This is a major issue for Iraq because the cheap weapons and ammo could very easily end up in the wrong hands and many lives could be at stake. If they end up in insurgent hands, the weapon could be used against UN peacekeepers.

Illicit Arms Trade in Canada

Canada is a developed nation with many policies and security options. At the current moment, Canada has a strict regulation on gun control. No one can

privately own fully automatic weapons because they are prohibited. In order to possess a firearm in Canada you must: pass a firearms safety test, register your firearm, carry the appropriate licence (non-restricted, restricted, or in rare occasions, prohibited licence), and submit the serial number of the firearm. (Canadian Law, 1) These are just a few of the requirements to possess a non-restricted or restricted firearm in Canada.

These policies are considered very strict compared to many other countries. They also make it harder to illegally traffic firearms in Canada mainly because all firearms that a Canadian citizen owns must be registered, and if someone is caught illegally possessing a firearm they can be charged. However, the illicit arms trade is not absent in Canada and there is still violence caused by firearms in Canada. Most illegal arms are smuggled into Canada from the United States mainly because the two countries border each other. Most of these smuggled weapons are pistols (Bidel, 3). Most of the weapons that are seized at the border belong to US residents, mostly for their own protection, not for illegal sale (4). Many firearms in Canada that are smuggled are not smuggled in one unit. The firearm (mainly pistols) are disassembled and often shipped to different areas sometimes through the postal system. This makes up the smaller percentage of trafficked arms. The majority are mostly found at the border usually in hidden

components of cars or on the actual person (RCMP, 1). Many firearms find themselves on the Canadian black market. Firearms have been reported stolen all across Canada. Some people do not register their firearms and others deactivate their registration but still manage to keep the firearm (1). These eventually find their way onto the Canadian black market and may contribute to the few violent acts caused by firearms.

Organizations against the Illicit Arms Trade

There are many international government organizations that oppose the illicit arms trade such as INTERPOL (International Criminal Police Organization), the World Health Organization, International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and many more. Along with these organizations federal governments try to combat the illicit arms trade.

According to their website, “INTERPOL is the world’s largest international police organization.” (INTERPOL, 1) Their job is to fight international crime and help support the national police forces of countries through cooperation (INTERPOL, 1). They oppose the illicit arms trade because it is an international crime and it can threaten countless lives. They have combated the illicit arms

trade by gathering information about the illicit weapons and they have also confiscated some. They operate all over the world by working together and sharing information with police forces all over the world. INTERPOL mainly focuses on international crimes and the smuggling of weapons which is defined as an international crime (1). They have worked with the cooperation of many police forces to help combat the illicit arms trade. The governments of countries combat the illicit arms trade by confiscating illicit arms, arrest members involved in the trade, and destroy excess arms (as mentioned with the South African government). They also place laws and restrictions on possessing firearms such as the registration of all firearms (as mentioned with Canada's firearms policy) in order to help combat both the illicit trade and violence related to firearms.

Possible Solutions

There are many possible solutions that could have or have been tried to help combat the illicit arms trade. Some countries like Canada have made strict laws surrounding firearms possession. This makes it harder to illegally traffic weapons because (in Canada's case) the weapons have to be registered and the person with the firearm needs the proper licence and training. Many

governments have been known to destroy excess weapons such as South Africa and Ukraine. The destruction of these weapons guarantees that they will not end up on the black market and into the wrong hands. These actions seem to have a slightly positive outlook but they won't be too much of a help. They won't be of too much help because there are already hundreds of millions of firearms on the black market right now and they are constantly on the move. One of the only real solutions that would cripple the illicit arms trade would be prohibiting the private use of firearms. This concept seems like a good idea because the amount of violence due to privately owned firearms will diminish; however, it would not happen because there is a huge amount of money made in the legitimate arms trade. The United States alone exports hundreds of billions of dollars in manufactured weapons. (Burrows, 68) No matter how dangerous the illicit arms trade is, it will never stop because there is too much money to be made in legitimate business that the losses don't seem to be worth losing all of the money.

Conclusion

The illicit arms trade and the smuggling of illicit firearms are a huge issue facing the world today. Millions of deaths are contributed to firearms. In the United States alone there are thousands of deaths due to firearms. This includes homicides and suicides. The amount of deaths in the United States due to firearms is approximately six times more than in Canada (Dauvergne et. al, 1). Many of the firearms used in the homicides can be illicit.

In Colombia, the illicit arms trade and weapons trafficking are two huge issues that the country faces as shown by the amount of illicit weapons that have been confiscated by the police and Colombian military (Rosen, 1). Colombia also has revolutionary groups that have used illicit firearms to combat the government. Solutions such as border control are very difficult to use because of Colombia's geographical location is beneficial to arms smugglers.

In South Africa, the crime rates are considerably high as shown by the 400 or more crime syndicates and the fact that a quarter of those syndicates are involved in the illicit arms trade (Beri, 1-2). Millions of weapons are flowing through South Africa and even though the government has made a policy on trying to confiscate and destroy the excess weapons, they are not 100% successful (5).

Iraq has an issue facing terrorism and many terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda, are involved in the trade. The trade has thrived in Iraq and the weapons on the market can be considerably old and cheap (Stohl, 1). The United States has made it clear that they were not going to provide arms to any suspected terrorist groups because they do not want the weapons to be used against them (Kozyulin, 3). This did not make a large difference because there are still many other countries that the terrorists can get their weapons and ammunition from.

There are organizations that try to stop the illicit arms trade and weapons trafficking such as INTERPOL and various police forces. Their presence has reduced the amount of weapons being smuggled but they have not and probably never can stop the illicit trade. The best way to combat the illicit arms trade is ban all privately owned firearms and destroy any excessive weapons that the military own. This will not happen anytime soon because the ban must be world wide and that would cost governments a huge amount of money. After all, there is billions of dollars to be made in the arms trade (Burrows, 68). A world wide ban would lose a large amount of money in the arms trade which would be devastating to the economy. The bottom line of the arms trade both licit and illicit is money. Many believe that money can provide people with power. Purchasing weapons on the black market would defiantly give someone the power to ruin a person's life.

Since the arms trade is worth so much money, a world wide ban would not be worth the cost and therefore, the illicit trade can still exist. As David Gilmour from the band Pink Floyd said in the song Money, "Money is the root of all evil today".

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Appendices



An AK-47 assault rifle



A Thompson sub-machine gun

Source : http://k9zw.files.wordpress.com/2008/01/thompson_machinegun.jpg



An AR-18 Assault Rifle

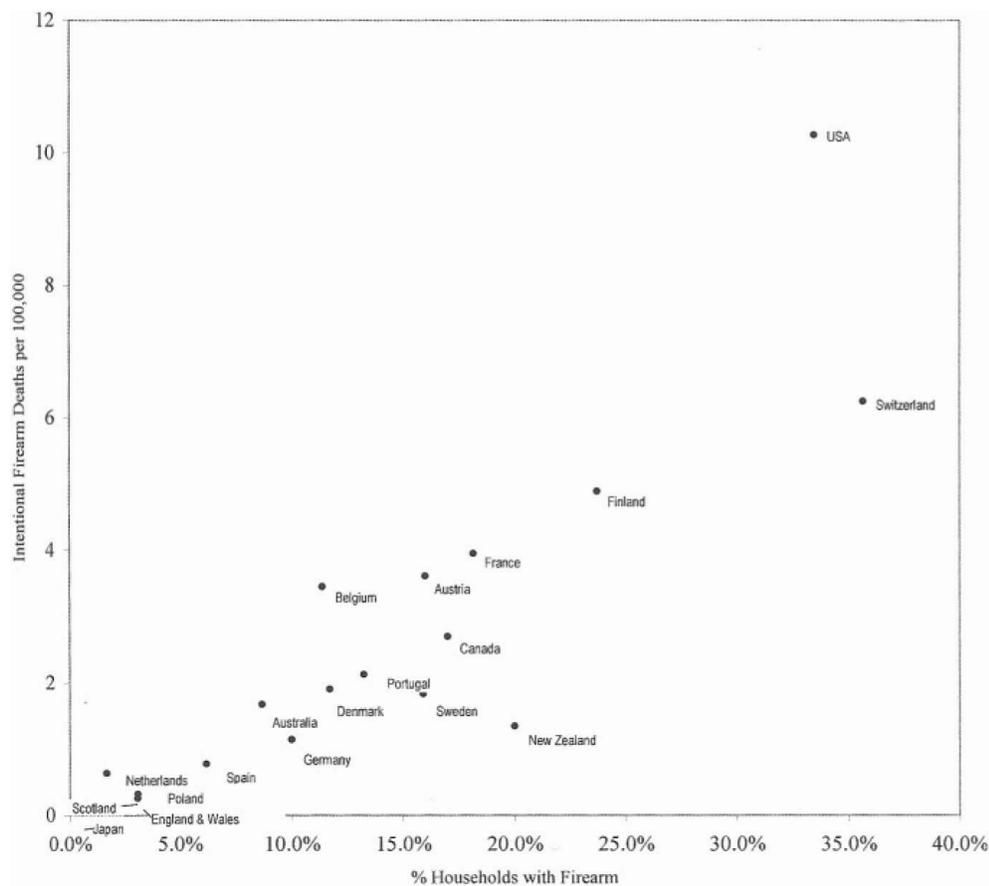
Source: <http://www.gunslot.com/files/gunslot/images/61269.jpg>



Provisional Irish Republican Army members (note the one on the left is holding an AR-18) source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:IRA_Volunteers_1979.JPG



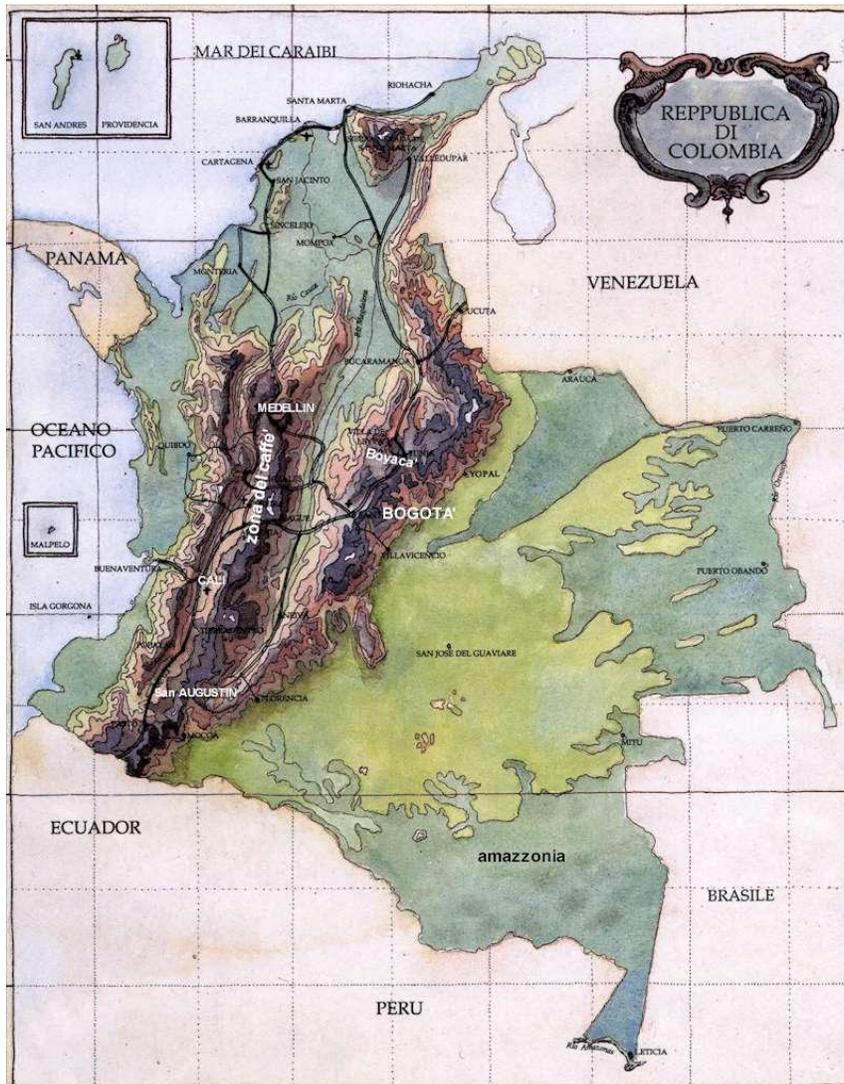
Confiscated weapons Source:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gun_pyre_in_Uhuru_Gardens,_Nairobi.jpg



Source: *Global Firearm Deaths* (Toronto: Small Arms/Firearms Education and Research Network, 2005), www.ryerson.ca/SAFER-Net/issues/globalfirearmdeaths.html; also United Nations (UN), *The Eighth International Crime Victims Survey, 2000*. Prepared by the Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, 2003, <http://www.unicri.it/wwd/analysis/icvs/data.php>.

This chart shows the comparison of firearms related deaths including homicide and suicide. Note that the US has the most deaths caused by firearms.

Source: <http://www.gun-control-network.org/GF01.htm>



Map of Colombia showing the terrain. Source <http://www.discovercolombia.com/img/Terrain%20Map.jpg>