

Preface

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children... This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

(Former U.S. President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a speech on April 16, 1953)

This quote represents how every dollar spent on arms and every dollar gained could be used towards a greater cause or even to stop the corruption.

Throughout the world there are many countries dealing with murder and constant devastation due to illegal arms trade. The illegal arms trade fuels guerilla armies with weapons. These weapons are then used in killing innocent people all in the name of power, control and sometimes God. Armed conflict is a leading cause of poverty and death in developing countries.¹ For example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, violent conflict is considered responsible for about four million deaths since 1998.² The leaders of these organizations seek contractual agreements with developed nations, such as the United States, to obtain illegal arms to pursue violence like the example above. Power nations

¹ DellaVigna, Stefano . "Detecting Illegal Arms Trade." *Illegal Arms Trade*. N.p., 7 Dec. 2009. Web. 1 Apr. 2011. <elsa.berkeley.edu/~sdellavi/w

² IBID.

pray on these organizations to keep their own economy going. Overall, the desire for more weapons results in more corruption within these countries. The arms trade is contributes to the misuse of foreign aid in developing countries. The organizations in these countries use aid money to buy weapons to destroy their own people.

Developed nations are fueling wars in third world countries that create murder, devastation, and loss- all in the name of profit. Countries are not worrying about the stain left on human rights but rather the economic boost that comes from countries in conflict. The arms trade is becoming a major cause of human rights abuse with some governments spending more on military expenditure than on social development, communications, infrastructure, and health combined.³

While every nation has the right and the need to ensure its security, in these changing times, arms requirements and procurements may need to change too⁴. Countries such as the United States and Russia need to rethink their desire for economic growth and if is it really that important to take advantage of other countries wars just to gain an economic boost. Arms trade is a business that deals with corruption, conflict, and human rights violations that increases every year.⁵ Each year 45- 60 billion dollars of arms trade agreements are made with

³ DellaVigna, Stefano . "Detecting Illegal Arms Trade." *Illegal Arms Trade*. N.p., 7 Dec. 2009. Web. 1 Apr. 2011. <elsa.berkeley.edu/~sdellavi/w

⁴ Shah, Anup. "Arms Trade €”a major cause of suffering a Global Issue." *Global Issues : social, political, economic and environmental issues that affect us all €”* *Global Issues*. N.p., 7 Nov. 2010. Web. 6 Mar. 2011. <<http://www.globalissues.org/issue/73/arms-trade-a-major-cause-of-suffering>>.

⁵ IBID

75 percent going to developing countries.⁶ This is creating catastrophic events among these countries. The genocide in Rwanda can be linked to arms trade, through supply by brokers and shippers in Britain, South Africa and France, working with collaborators in Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Egypt, Italy, the Seychelles and the former Zaire (now DR Congo/DRC) ⁷. If arms trade corruption is not solved soon the wars are going to escalate and result in many unneeded deaths. Governments have tried to suppress arms trade but it is continuing to exploit the demand of rebel groups and local militia. This is an ongoing problem because there will always be issues within countries requiring arms. Arms trade is a vicious ongoing cycle.

⁶ IBID

⁷ Burrows, Gideon. "The Arms Trade by Gideon Burrows." *Third World Traveler, third world, United States foreign policy, alternative media, travel*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Mar. 2011.
<<http://www.thirdworldtraveler>

Summary

This report contains examples of many elements of arms trade corruption and the effects it has in developing countries. It looks into the deals created, an expert in the field, the control of power and the religious aspects on why countries need these arms. It focuses on three major case studies. These case studies include Somalia, Iran, and Colombia. Canada is researched in this paper as well about how it is affected by this global issue. Different cultural views of the problem are examined and they help to explain why the arms trade problem is a global one. Most sources of research used for this paper were found over the Internet using online databases such as SIRS, online magazines, established financial reports, and online newspaper articles from the Washington Post, Telegraphy and LA Times. Books on this topic found at the library of academic institution Innisdale Secondary school were taken into consideration during the research process. The research and purpose of this report is to cover all aspects of arms trade corruption and the effects it has on the world.

Background

Arms trade has always existed through history as long as war and armed conflict have existed. Past kings have reflected the concept that whoever has the most weapons is the most powerful ruler. Examples of this theory in practice can be found in the British Empire during the Medieval Ages, and also in a more modern example like the Cold War with the United States and Russia. World War II was when the ability to prosecute war depended on the developing industrial capacity to produce "small arms."⁸ During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union provided conventional weapons for their respective client states fighting "proxy" wars.⁹ The countries with the military-industrial economies that have stimulated France, China, Germany, the UK, Italy, Ukraine, and Israel compete in the lucrative worldwide business of weapons export.¹⁰ In 2002 these nine weapons selling countries exported \$14.8 billion in conventional weapons to the rest of the world¹¹. Forty percent of this staggering amount of weaponry flows from Russia.¹² The USA, UK, and France earned more in small arms sales

⁸ Arendshorst, Tom. "Small Arms Trade." *Beyond Intractability - More Constructive Approaches to Destructive Conflict*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2011.
<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/small_arms/?nid=5053>.

⁹ Arendshorst, Tom. "Small Arms Trade." *Beyond Intractability - More Constructive Approaches to Destructive Conflict*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2011.
<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/small_arms/?nid=5053>.

¹⁰ Arendshorst, Tom. "Small Arms Trade." *Beyond Intractability - More Constructive Approaches to Destructive Conflict*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2011.
<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/small_arms/?nid=5053>.

¹¹ IBID.

¹² IBID.

to developing countries in 1998-2001 than they gave in aid. ¹³

Arms merchants and supporters of civil conflicts are easily available to move funds instantly and secretly behind the screens of small states specializing in such banking services, thanks to the deregulated economic globalization.¹⁴ Weapons procurers are similarly enabled to operate with impunity, even when supplying arms illegally to the perpetrators of humanitarian crimes and [genocides](#). Even when legal "controls" are in effect, sales and movement of small weapons to parties in conflict can proceed undisturbed. The illegal arms trade is estimated at more than \$1 billion per year. ¹⁵ Conflict entrepreneurs, weapons manufacturers like Springfield Amory, gunrunners, merchant middlemen, and the weapons users themselves profit both from the supply of weapons in protracted conflict. This is now occurring in developing nations with local militia and guerilla forces trying to acquire more weapons than the opposition. Throughout history there has always been corruption with arms trade but now in present day where it has reached a point where the collateral damage has grown and it can result in mass murder in mere seconds, illegal arms trade has become a worldwide issue that has murdered thousands.

Super powers like the United States have been known to exploit civil wars for profit. This is evident in history from the Sierra Leone civil war in 1996- 1999.

This was between government soldiers and rebel forces fighting over control of

¹³ IBID.

¹⁴ Arendshorst, Tom. "Small Arms Trade." *Beyond Intractability - More Constructive Approaches to Destructive Conflict*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2011. <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/small_arms/?nid=5053>.

¹⁵ IBID.

the country. An important aspect of this conflict was the struggle over the vast diamond resource in the country. This war left over 50,000 people dead, with the only real "gain" being 10 billion dollars of illegal blood diamonds crossing over to America and England. The profits acquired from blood diamond sales just fueled the production of arms.¹⁶ Devastations like this occur all over the world, where super powers take advantage of the desperate state of developing countries and use them for their valuable resources. Another country similar to this situation would be Saudi Arabia and its oil reserves.

In history, Somalia is a country that has been devastated by arms trade and the dealings that have occurred. It is one of the most heavily armed cities in the world and weapons that can be bought at street markets by whoever has money. The arms in the markets are illegal arms that the United Nations and the United States are selling to local soldiers who in turn are selling them on the black market. With the embargo on weapons trade in Somalia , a system has been created that allows the black market to become more powerful.

Evidence from the United States court indicates that an Israeli man was suspected of attempting to obtain assault weapons and sell them to the government in Somalia. These arms were being used to create chaos and murder causing many deaths creating more devastation for a country that could use just a little bit less.

There are many examples in the world showing that arms trade corruption

¹⁶ Watson, Mark. "Sierra Leone - Another African Diamond War." *Watson's Web*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2011. <<http://www.markswatson.com/>

has become an aspect where the arms are not just being used to create genocides and revolutions. It has become a problem that has grown to a point where it is world wide and people in developing countries can not make peace because the rebel armies are creating threats and killing many people with illegal arms. This is not just occurring in Somalia, but in Afghanistan and parts all over the world. These illegal arms are responsible for about 500, 000 deaths a year and the cause of millions of injuries.¹⁷ The arms that are being traded are very small and portable, therefore it is easy to get across borders and without anybody knowing, making their way to dictators and warlords. They can be flown in directly or dropped from planes, packed into waterproof sacks and attached to the bottom of boats, or brought in by foot or truck. This means there are many options to transport these weapons. There are many ways to obtain weapons in the United States because they are also stolen from legal and illegal civilian owners. This small-scale burglary provides 500,000 weapons to the black market every year.¹⁸

It is frightening to see that the soldiers of developing nations are often willing to sell their weapons for cash. This is extremely common in places where the military are poorly paid or haven't been paid at all. According to the UN's 2005 Human Development Report, the insecurity linked to armed conflict remains "one of the greatest obstacles to human development, and is both a

¹⁷ "IRIN Africa | SOMALIA: Illegal arms continue to fuel factional fighting | Somalia | Conflict ." *IRIN • humanitarian news and analysis from Africa, Asia and the Middle East - updated daily* . N.p., 11 May 2011. Web. 2 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=59003>>.

¹⁸ Shah, Anup. "Arms Trade €"a major cause of suffering a Global Issue." *Global Issues : social, political, economic and environmental issues that affect us all* €" *Global Issues*. N.p., 7 Nov. 2010. Web. 6 Mar. 2011. <<http://www.globalissues.org/issue/73/arms-trade-a-major-cause-of-suffering>>.

cause and consequence to mass poverty."¹⁹ Arms trade has progressed to a worldwide issue creating many catastrophic alterations in the lives of people. Illegal arms are kept to a very minimal media level and it is not a well-known issue but it is an issue that requires more attention.

The Expert

¹⁹ Kayel, James. "The illegal arms trade | The Casual Truth." *The Casual Truth*. N.p., 1 Nov. 2010. Web. 4 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.thecasualtruth.com/story/illegal-arms-trade>>.

Gideon Burrows is an internationalist that as spent years learning and understanding the arms trade. His novel "The No-Nonsense guide The Arms Trade" talks about the corruption and where all the money is going. He as allowed insight on what is actually happening with in the Arms Trade and the corruption that occurs. Also, he explains how much devastation can come of it- infacr he refers to it as the "business of death". He has not made any major contributions to the issue, as there really is not much a single individual can do to stop this worldwide issue. There will always be a black market and weapons will always be sold in this world. Society has reached the stage where weapons are peace but also destruction. It is not possible to have one or the other because they are both always involved.

His analysis throughout his book is very detailed and powerful. It has many charts showing the difference in countries that export, import and use illegal arms. Also, it shows the impacts illegal arms have on the world, by showing numbers of refugees displaced by armed conflict and also how many people have died in certain conflicts powered by arms. His only solutions were to get involved in anti-arms trade campaigns but it will not completely solve the problem. The black market will always exist and right now in developing countries, the black markets for arms are huge and cannot really be shut down. People think it is a simple solution to kill the person in charge but that is not a simple solution at all. Dictatorships will just end up finding a more cruel, devastating replacement so really there is no solution to illegal arms trade. It is a

worldwide issue killing millions over years and now it has reached its peak where developing countries are becoming the most armed countries in the world.

Therefore Gideon Burrows being an expert in this field feels that this issue is horrific and needs to be stopped. The age has been reached where money and economic growth is over valuing human rights and destroying families. This issue is intertwined with many as it causes child soldiers, and human trafficking which are ways to pay for the arms. Militia and guerilla forces are exploiting human rights in order to pay for illegal arms.

Gideon Burrows says, "How do we contain a beast that is being fed by the world?" and until that question is seriously considered, arms trade will be a pivotal part of armed conflict.

Role in Power

Many people can have control in the illegal arms trade. The power can belong to the rebels, the government of the country, the countries and operations supplying the arms, or the countries trying to stop illegal arms trade. Currently in present day the countries and operations supplying the arms have the power and control. If the supply of arms stops, then there are no arms to purchase. This could then result in a decrease in death, as there are no arms to fire. The most powerful countries in the world benefit the most from the trade.

In 1989- 1998 the United States provided over \$227 million in weapons and training to African military forces and of this \$111 million dollars went to governments that have been directly or indirectly involved in the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Oman, Angola, Burundi, Chad, Namibia, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.²⁰ This allows the fact that countries like the United States are using their strong economy to provide sanction to countries involved in internal conflict. By doing this the country will be in debt forever. This is caused because the amount given is impossible to pay back, forever holding them bound to the United States.

The United States and Russia combined control 58 percent of all arms trade deals in the world. With, the United States controlling 40 percent and Russia 18 percent. The United States sells approximately 46 percent to developing nations, while Russia sells about 96 percent With many countries following Russia's lead as the leading arms firms in virtually every major arms-producing country have

²⁰ Burrows, Gideon. *No-nonsense guide to the arms trade* . Oxford: New Internationalist Publications ;, 2002. Print.

been implicated, including reputable firms from most respectable countries and bribes been paid only to buyers in the Third World. Roughly 2.5 billion dollars are paid in bribes every year for arms trade contracts all over the world.²¹ The gain may be outstanding in surplus, but is it really worth it to risk thousands of lives for a cause that just revolves around money? Even though it is said that the money makes it to the people and the arms are doing good all around the world, in reality the weapons are finding their way to terrorist operations and guerilla armies around the world.

The control may also belong to the United Nations. The UN is actively placing embargoes that target only the arms sector; these are less likely to harm the victims of warfare unlike general trade sanctions. They do this often to create an embargo state on countries with a reputation of being high corruption countries. They are more likely to play a role in illegal arms trade, and hence benefit from the increase in hostilities. Companies in low-corruption countries are more likely to engage in legal arms trade, and are hurt by increases in hostilities. Therefore the power can be under the UN has they make restrictions of the Illicit arms and prove "smart sanctions" to prevent the problem from occurring.

From this you can see how the power can flocculate between the corrupt super powers like the United States and Russia to the UN who is trying to stop the devastation that is occurring. It is clear that even with embargos the illicit

²¹ Shah, Anup. "Arms Trade €"a major cause of suffering a Global Issue." *Global Issues : social, political, economic and environmental issues that affect us all â€*" *Global Issues*. N.p., 7 Nov. 2010. Web. 6 Mar. 2011. <<http://www.globalissues.org/issue/73/arms-trade-a-major-cause-of-suffering>>.

arms still make their way into the country, and still create a world of constant war. Its hard to think that hundreds die everyday but thanks to the corrupt countries this is an occurrence that his common. Ultimately the role of power for the corruption of arms trade is the countries supplying the weapons. With, them ultimately control whether weapons should enter the country.

How Religion and Spiritual Views

One may think that in the 21st century religious wars do not happen. It's assumed that the days of crusades where people were ready to die in defence of their beliefs have disappeared.²² However, the toleration has become the religion of modern times, along with the need for money and greed. This had now ensured a more brutal battle fought with small arms and explosives.

In November of 2008, over 380 Christians and Muslims were killed in religious upheaval in central Nigeria. In that conflict 10,000 people were forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in the jungle or in safer regions of the country.²³ According to the media, the clashes erupted after a predominantly Christian party won the local elections, defeating its archrival supported by the Muslim community.²⁴ Each camp accused the other of rigging the results. Religious differences soon ensued. Fire was set to churches and mosques alike as politicians of both parties hoped to build their position through the conflict. However, religious clashes in Nigeria are nothing new. The country's population of almost 150 million people is almost evenly divided between Muslims and Christians. Approximately as many as 2,000 people have been killed in religious clashes in Nigeria since 2001.²⁵ This is frightening because when time progresses, so does the conflict. With, a conflict like this progressing, and illicit arms trade growing, you can see the devastation waiting to occur.

According to a poll published by British newspapers in July, one in three

²² Wasilewski, Krzys. "Religious Wars Still Kill." *Daily News from the news experts at NewsBlaze*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2011. <<http://newsblaze.com/story/20>

²³ IBID

²⁴ IBID

²⁵ IBID

Muslim students in Great Britain find it justifiable to kill in the name of religion.²⁶

The poll only confirmed what had been known for a long time, which is the uncontrolled influx of hate between the Islamic and Muslim people has developed a home-grown extremism of hate in Asia and Africa.²⁷ Sadly these wars of religion are not settling down and even worse the popular illicit arms in these countries is not making the situation any better.

Countries like Saudi Arabia are using propaganda to convince the citizens to join guerilla revolutionaries. They do this by saying you are proving yourself worthy to their god. This is evident in Saudi Arabia as they use Allah as a purpose for people to risk their life and serve in the name of the all "glorious god". But really in reality, what kind of god asks their people to blow them self up and murder hundreds? It doesn't make any sense and the leaders are just using Allah as a puppet master to require the necessary personal.²⁸ This is a powerful religious view in Arab countries, by showing your worthy to Allah means great respect for you and your family. It then reaches a point where the religion becomes an aggressive power and used to kill. This happens on an everyday basis, as recent articles from a suicide bomber killing 23 in Afghanistan's southeast on May 29th, 2011.²⁹ Therefore, when does religion keep the beliefs of

²⁶ Wasilewski, Krzys. "Religious Wars Still Kill." *Daily News from the news experts at NewsBlaze*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2011. <<http://newsblaze.com/story/20>

²⁷ IBID

²⁸ Jansen, Richard. "Two Religious Wars 400 Years Apart." *Lamar.ColoState.EDU*. N.p., 25 Jan. 2007. Web. 17 Mar. 2011. <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~grjan/two_religious_wars.html>.

²⁹ Alert, Net. "Suicide bomber kills 20 in Afghanistan's southeast - AlertNet." *Thomson Reuters Foundation Homepage - Trust.org*. N.p., 28 Mar. 2011. Web. 11 Mar. 2011. <<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/suicide-bomber-kills-20-in-afghanistans-southeast/>>.

purity and truth, when it is being used for deception?

Religion is domestic everywhere, it is normal to find people fighting in the name of god and saying they are fighting for his holiness. Arms trade comes into play when people are fighting for their god and need arms to do so. This results in mass murder because their view may leave the population with the choice "believe our ways or die." This is a common aspect as religion is power and if you control it, you control the people. It provides a sense of peace while there is chaos all around. If illegal arms were put to a stop then this wouldn't occur. There then isn't a force to pressure them to believe the concepts of the groups. With arms trade comes devastation, with religion comes power, if you control both, you control the people.

Case Study #1 Arms Trade in Somalia

The United Nations states that illegal-weapons trade is the causes of increased cross-border crime to such an extent that it threatens the attempts at national reconciliation from the conflicts in Central Africa.³⁰ The most extreme example of this is the country of Somalia. This country is one of the most heavily armed in the world with this reality that worsens uncontrollably on a daily basis. The weapons are creating havoc, as they destroy all attempts to improve education, health care, and human rights. Components that are crucial to the development of any emerging state.

The violence and increase in weapons happened in December of 2006 when the Islamic Courts Union was driven out.³¹ Even despite the 15-year arms embargo imposed by the United Nations, the violence continues to climb, with at least 130 dead in the latest fighting in the Somali capital. This is an everyday occurrence in the city of Mogadishu as there are thousands of weapons going through the countries capital. A United Nations report revealed that arms and other military material flow into Somalia is "like a river".³² Violence has consumed the streets of the infamously violent capital city of Mogadishu, Somalia continues to expect packages of ammunition, weapons, and cash that are arriving from the United States as part of an attempt to help the country's flailing Transitional

³⁰ VOA News. "UN:Illegal Arms Trade Fuels Central African Conflicts." *VOAnews.com*. N.p., 22 Mar. 2010. Web. 30 Mar. 2011. <www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/central/Illegal-Arms-Trade-Fuels-Central-African-Conflicts-88828077.html>.

³¹ IBID

³²¹² " IRIN Africa | SOMALIA: Illegal arms continue to fuel factional fighting | Somalia | Conflict ." *IRIN • humanitarian news and analysis from Africa, Asia and the Middle East - updated daily* . N.p., 11 May 2011. Web. 2 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=59003>>.

Federal Government (TFG) collapse.³³ This has created corruption within the country as soldiers receiving the weapons are using them to sell on the black market to either guerrilla forces or local militia groups. Since the government soldiers are selling their arms to the guerrilla armies, it is just a transition of weapons that will kill and murder.

From the illegal arms trade it has created a modern day problem that use to exist in the 19th century. This issue is of the Somali pirates. It has been a threat to [international shipping](#) since the [second phase](#) of the [Somali Civil War](#) in the early 21st century. Piracy off the coast of [Somalia](#) is caused in part by illegal fishing and the dumping of [toxic waste](#) in Somali waters by foreign vessels. According to Somali fishermen, it severely constrained the ability of locals to earn a living and forced many to turn to piracy instead."¹⁴ This has caused kidnappings and the rape of international shipping's products. It's caused increases in shipping costs and impeded the delivery of food aid shipments. Just over 70 percent of the local coastal communities in Somali "strongly support the piracy as a form of national defence of the country's territorial waters. The pirates believe they are protecting their fishing grounds and exacting justice and compensation for the marine resources stolen. This is then fuelled by the illegal arms trade, with every raid is another dollar gained for illegal arms dealers. But not all of this is their fault as since the Somali civil war there hasn't be effective coast guard work. It has led to Somali to take that and use it to protect their

³³ IBID

¹⁴ "Piracy in Somalia - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Mar. 2011. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy_in_Somalia>.

waters. This is clearly an issue as of December 11, 2010; Somali pirates were holding at least 35 ships with more than 650 hostages.³⁴

The religion in Somali is Islam. However it doesn't have a big role on why they are fighting a war because they are strictly for survival. Somali's are fighting to make a point to the world that they will fight back and will reclaim what has been taken from them, and the sense it is either kill or be killed in the country of Somali.

There have been many attempts to stop the arms trade in Somali but all have been unsuccessful. An example of this is where the UN put an embargo on Somali. Thinking that they were going to make it better, in result they made it worse as they have found more ways to get weapons. Somalia's Transitional Federal Government launched a security crackdown in April to disarm Mogadishu, but efforts to confiscate weapons have yet to bring peace or stability to the ravaged African nation.¹⁵ The US has tried to block off the equivalent of a square block in the streets of the countries capital in June of 2007, to prevent anyone from coming or going dealing illicit arms. They would knock down doors and confiscate a hundred or so weapons, but Intel showed that there were thousands of weapons in that area alone.¹⁶ As Gideon Burrows says "how do you

³⁴ "AfrobeatRadio » Blog Archive » Media day aboard Spanish war ship MV CANARIAS in the Mombasa Port ." *AfrobeatRadio* . N.p., 13 Feb. 2011. Web. 17 Mar. 2011. <<http://afrobeatradio.net/2011/02/13/media-day-aboard-spanish-war-ship-mv-canarias-in-the-mombasa-port/>>.

¹⁵ ¹¹ Miller, Josh, and Online NewsHour. "Somali Government Works to Stem Booming Illegal Arms Trade | Online NewsHour | June 7, 2007 | PBS." *PBS: Public Broadcasting Service*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Apr. 2011. <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/africa/somalia/arms.html>.

¹⁶ ¹¹ Miller, Josh, and Online NewsHour. "Somali Government Works to Stem Booming Illegal Arms Trade | Online NewsHour | June 7, 2007 | PBS." *PBS: Public Broadcasting Service*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Apr. 2011. <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/africa/somalia/arms.html>.

stop the business of death, when their will always be wars and with wars comes weapons. You can't stop weapons to come through to countries that need them." They are now instead of carrying the weapons with them but are wrapping them in plastic bags and burying it in the sand. This is a tactic where the weapons are lost to anybody trying to find them, other than the perpetrator.

Following the collapse of Somalia's military government in 1992, the UN Security Council passed resolutions banning arms sales to the country and establishing a committee to monitor implementation of the embargo.³⁵ This then caused the illicit arms trade in Somalia to exist. This illegal trafficking is fuelling the bloody armed conflict in the Horn of Africa, which has been wracked by a civil war since 1991, and is aiding rampant piracy off the Somali coast.¹⁷

Therefore, with a failed embargo put in place and the increase of weapons and violence in this country, it has reached a point where developed countries are just taking advantage of the distress and making money. Our world has now reached a state, where they have forgotten the value of life and replaced it with the value of money, through countries like the United States. The United States has cheapened life itself but fuelling conflicts in Somalia, with thousands dying every year.

Case Study # 2 Weapons in Iran

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¹⁷ Couturier, Herve. "UN: Arms embargo on Somalia constantly broken." *Mail & Guardian Online*. N.p., 20 Dec. 2008. Web. 4 Jan. 2011. <mg.co.za/article/2008-12-20-un-arms-embargo-on-somalia-constantly-broken>.

In 2005, Russia surpassed the United States as the developing world's leader in arms deals. But Russia has increased military shipments to anti-U.S. states like Iran. Russia's arms relationship with Iran further complicates efforts to impose punitive sanctions against Iran for its alleged pursuit of nuclear weapons.²¹ This develops a struggle for the arms embargo set on Iran to stay strong. It has reached an imposed threat of a developing nation increasing its nuclear arsenal. Yet the relationship that Iran has with Russia has now progressed into something more impressive.

After the fall of the Shah in 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran sought to secure itself by purchasing conventional arms mainly from China, North Korea, and, despite harsh relations, the Soviet Union.¹⁸ In 1989, following the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Moscow and Tehran negotiated their first major arms deal.³⁶ Relations soon improved. By the end of the 1990s, once Iran's cooperation with North Korea had slowed, Russia emerged as Iran's main supplier of conventional arms. Between 1995 and 2000, Russia suspended its advanced weapons trade with Iran as part of a voluntary agreement with the United States. However, the value of arms agreements between Iran and Russia sky-rocketed from \$300 million in 1998 and 2001 to \$1.7 billion between 2002

²² "Russia-Iran Arms Trade - Council on Foreign Relations." *Council on Foreign Relations*. N.p., 1 Nov. 2006. Web. 1 Feb. 2011. <<http://www.cfr.org/iran/russia-iran-arms-trade/p11869>>.

¹⁸ "Russia-Iran Arms Trade - Council on Foreign Relations." *Council on Foreign Relations*. N.p., 1 Nov. 2006. Web. 1 Feb. 2011. <<http://www.cfr.org/iran/russia-iran-arms-trade/p11869>>.

³⁶ IBID

and 2005, fuelling terrorist operations and crimes against humanity.³⁷ With this, it is clear that the corruption exists, and how agreements between countries can be ignored, for another to prosper economically.

Through present day it is not only weapons from Russia that are being imported into Iran. There is a constant smuggle of weapons from countries like North Korea and Yemen for terrorist groups and government officials.³⁸ These incidents of smuggling are part of a long string of arms shipments originating in Iran and destined for terrorist organizations worldwide. In October 2010, Nigerian authorities in the port of Lagos intercepted an arms consignment from Iran, apparently destined for Gambia.¹⁹ The consignment included rockets and grenades hidden in containers of building materials, reportedly accompanied by members of the Quds Force, the key arm through which Iran supports terrorist groups abroad. Recently it has happened again as inspectors from the United Arab Emirates quickly swarmed the ship and uncovered a truck-size container packed with small arms made in [North Korea](#). However concealed deeper in the ship was hundreds of crates containing military hardware, and explosive components for thousands of short-range rockets.²⁰ Now over time progresses the threat gets more serious. It has now been seen, in Iran showing growth in its nuclear arsenal and distributing it around the world to various supported

³⁷ IBID

³⁸ IBID

¹⁹ "Right Truth: Global Iranian Arms Smuggling to Terrorists Continues by Sea, Air and Land ." *Right Truth*. N.p., 16 Mar. 2011. Web. 10 Jan. 2011. <http://righttruth.typepad.com/right_truth/2011/03/global-iranian-arms-smuggling-to-terrorists-continues-by-sea-air-and-land.html>.

²⁰ Warrick, Joby. "Arms smuggling heightens fears Iran may be building arsenal - washingtonpost.com." *The Washington Post: National, World & D.C. Area News and Headlines - The Washington Post*. N.p., 3 Dec. 2009. Web. 10 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/02/>>

terrorist groups. This now poses an international threat, from unstable terrorist groups fueled by anger and hatred having the ability to use a nuclear arsenal. Now, not only terrorist groups but Iran as well is increasing their nuclear quantity. According to the Washington post, "Iran is now ramping up efforts to arm itself and anti-[Israel](#) militias in the Middle East. Israeli officials have now warned that they may use force to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons."²¹ This is now creating a war not only between religions of Islam and Muslim but is creating a world war with supported groups of terrorism all over the world receiving care packages of weapons.

Even when a law is passed in 2007, where Iran is banned from the purchase or export of weapons, it still seems to occur. It makes you wonder if laws actually mean something. Constantly countries go around them and ignore them for their own personal profit. Clearly the sanction placed on Iran was unsuccessful and is progressed to a point where illicit arms and constant smuggling is the new tactic. Not only is it wrong to go above the law but also now threats of nuclear terrorist operations are available, all around the world. From a war of religions, to a war of hate toward western society, arms trade has allowed countries like Iran to provide unstable terrorist groups all over the world (Venezuela, India, China, European Union, even Canada) with the weapons needed to cause mass destruction.³⁹ Therefore, a worldwide issue that poses an

²¹ Warrick, Joby. "Arms smuggling heightens fears Iran may be building arsenal - washingtonpost.com." *The Washington Post: National, World & D.C. Area News and Headlines - The Washington Post*. N.p., 3 Dec. 2009. Web. 10 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/02/>

³⁹ IBID

international threat that's needs to be taken seriously, with everybody's life now is in danger.

Case Study # 3 Columbia and Weapons

The illicit trade of small arms has become a major global security threat.

This is clear in Colombia where criminal gangs, left-wing guerrillas, and right-wing paramilitaries smuggle tens of millions of dollars in dangerous weapons.

⁴⁰These weapons not only pose a threat to Colombia's stability but also that of nearby countries and the United States.²³ The illegal arms in Columbia fuel conflict, the conflict creates the profits, which fuels just about everything else.

Colombia has one of the highest homicide rates in the world. Currently 33 per 100,000 people are killed by murder.⁴¹ Overwhelming the majority of those killings was by firearms. Crime in the public has surpassed the view for war as a cause of violent deaths. Their society, their everyday life is a constant war within it self. A constant will for survival, never knowing if you're going to see tomorrow.

"The whole country is covered with arms. I've made the effort to get away from the world of guns, but it's a problem for the whole country." This was a quote provided by a Columbian man who wanted to stay unknown for his own safety.⁴² This quote explains that illegal arms are like a plague. It will just keep expanding until the point where it dies. It provides that insight of explaining the fact it is everywhere and once it's in, it stays.

⁴⁰ Erlich, Reese. "Blood, Drugs, and Guns: Arms Trafficking Fuels Chaos -- United Nations and 21st Century Security -- The Stanley Foundation." *The Stanley Foundation*. N.p., 1 Jan. 2006. Web. 10 Jan. 2011. <<http://vps.stanleyfoundation.or>

²³ Erlich, Reese. "Blood, Drugs, and Guns: Arms Trafficking Fuels Chaos -- United Nations and 21st Century Security -- The Stanley Foundation." *The Stanley Foundation*. N.p., 1 Jan. 2006. Web. 10 Jan. 2011. <<http://vps.stanleyfoundation.or>

⁴¹ IBID

⁴² IBID

There are an estimated 3 million illegal small arms in this country of 43 million people. It creates mass murder and an everyday scare for civilians. Drug cartels and political insurgents import the most weapons, and the guns are frequently traded for cocaine. Not only are their illegal arms in this country but they are being used for drugs as well. When linked, this arms and cocaine racket is not only a problem for Colombia but also a security threat for Latin America and the United States. It poses a problem because of the constant drug trafficking and the murder throughout Latin America and the US because of the need for drugs. Firearms protect drugs, which is provided through illegal arms trade, causing large gangs to get a hold of dangerous weapons, causing national murder.

Most Colombians who die from bullets do not die through indiscriminate violence. Rather, the firearms be used in the "professional" exercise of violence, their being used to kill innocent people with families to create a fear among the citizens. Colombia is currently experiencing a series of situations in which firearms play a decisive role. Those engaged in the domestic armed conflict and in drug trafficking, as well as the highly specialized criminal groups, base their operational capacity and their power, on firearms. During the year 2005, there were 17,331 homicides in Colombia, of which 70% (12,055) were committed with firearms.²⁵ The total homicide rate per hundred thousand inhabitants for that year was 39. The rate for homicides with firearms was 26. Both of these

²⁵ Columbia Work Team, United Nations. "VIOLENCE, CRIME AND ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFICKING IN COLOMBIA." *United Nations*. N.p., n.d. Web. 4 Apr. 2011. <www.unodc.org/pdf/Colombia_

rates attract international attention because they are extremely high. All caused by the illicit trade of arms and the constant need for them. Most countries in Europe or Asia, and even North America's rate are 2 homicides per hundred thousand. Therefore, compared to Columbia it is significantly higher.

Furthermore, the delinquency and criminal violence in Columbia is due to the fact of the popular illegal arms trade and that gun regulations are being ignored. Columbia has a very strict gun control policies. The policies are just ignored and smugglers just get an increased amount of popularity. This creates devastation, and loss for many innocent lives. With drugs and illegal arms, Columbia is at a state of no return, where the devastation is horrid and will continue to be so if a solution doesn't be put in place. Although there has been several municipalities implemented to reduce gun violence, there is no national plan. A growing number of mayors are joining victims' groups, human rights organizations and researchers in calling for comprehensive national action to reduce the proliferation of small arms.²⁶ Therefore a country compelled by drugs and illegal arms, is a country that is filled with blood shed and tears.

Role of International Organizations

International organizations play an important role in some aspects of illegal arms trade. United Nations is by far the largest organization trying to end the illegal movement of weapons.

²⁶ Columbia Work Team, United Nations. "VIOLENCE, CRIME AND ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFICKING IN COLOMBIA." *United Nations*. N.p., n.d. Web. 4 Apr. 2011. <www.unodc.org/pdf/Colombia

The United Nations is actively involved in trying to control arms and disarmament within countries. UN's founders hoped that the maintenance of international peace and security would lead to the control and eventual reduction of weapons. ¹⁹Therefore the Charter empowers the General Assembly to consider principles for arms control and disarmament and to make recommendations to member states and the Security Council. The Charter also gives the Security Council the responsibility to formulate plans for arms control and disarmament. Although the goal of arms control and disarmament has proved elusive, the UN has facilitated the negotiation of several multilateral arms control treaties. They have also put embargos on countries like Somali so they cannot import weapons. However, it has just made the problem even worse as now the black market as exploded and there is a constant battle of smugglers.

The organization Control Arms is a global civil society alliance campaigning for a "bulletproof" Arms Trade Treaty that will protect lives and livelihoods. ²⁰A "bulletproof" Arms Trade Treaty means an international legally binding agreement that will stop transfers of arms and ammunitions that fuel conflict, poverty and serious violations of human rights, and international humanitarian law. In 2003, the Control Arms Campaign was launched and has since gathered support for the Arms Trade Treaty from over a million people worldwide. In 2006, Control Arms handed over a global petition called "Million Faces" to the UN

¹⁹ Mingst, Karen. "United Nations (UN) (international organization) :: Arms control and disarmament -- Britannica Online Encyclopedia." *Encyclopedia - Britannica Online Encyclopedia*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Apr. 2011. <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/616264/United-Nations-UN/225022/Arms-control-and-disarmament>>

²⁰ "Control Arms." *Welcome to controlarms.org :: Control Arms Campaign*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Apr. 2011. <<http://www.controlarms.org/abo>>

Secretary General Kofi Annan. In December 2006, 153 governments finally voted at the United Nations to start work on developing a global Arms Trade Treaty. Momentum for the treaty has been building ever since. In 2009 the UN General Assembly launched a time frame for the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty. Hopefully this organization will prevent the arms in the developing countries because it's just a discretion of everything that could be good in countries that deal with conflict.

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories. They campaign to end abuses of human rights. They are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by membership and public donations.⁴³

Today, there are no global standards controlling the international trade in conventional arms to help protect human rights. Most governments continue to allow the irresponsible trade in weapons, munitions and other military and policing equipment. It then inflicts misery and carnage on people in many countries. Every year hundreds of thousands of people are killed, injured, raped and forced to flee their homes as a result of armed violence. Amnesty International's research shows that the majority of grave human rights abuses are committed using small arms, light weapons and other military and policing

⁴³ "Who We Are | Amnesty International." *Amnesty International | Working to Protect Human Rights*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2011. <<http://www.amnesty.org/en/who-we-are>>.

equipment.⁴⁴

In order to help stop irresponsible arms transferring globally, Amnesty International has joined with Oxfam and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA.) They did this to set up the Control Arms campaign. The Control Arms campaign calls for a global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that would establish strict rules for the international transfer of arms, and hold irresponsible arms suppliers and dealers to account.⁴⁵ The world can join the Control Arms campaign, so that citizens of the world can be a part of a demanding strong and robust ATT that will have proper rules against illicit arms. It is to help save lives, protect livelihoods and prevent further grave abuses of human rights.

Therefore, being limited options you can join, you can take part in the ones that are enforcing the right cause. If people around the world take notice, organizations like the ones above, will be able to make a difference.

Canada Case Study- Bringing it Home

In the Global market Canadian arms sales to the Third World jumped more than 40 per cent in 1994 to reach an all-time high.⁴⁶ While other weapon suppliers experienced a drop in Third World shipments, during 1994 Canada

⁴⁴ "Who We Are | Amnesty International." *Amnesty International | Working to Protect Human Rights*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2011. <<http://www.amnesty.org/en/who-we-are>>.

⁴⁵ IBID

⁴⁶ McKie, David. "Canada's arms sales to the Middle East - Inside Politics." *CBC.ca - Canadian News Sports Entertainment Kids Docs Radio TV*. N.p., 4 Mar. 2011. Web. 11 Mar. 2011. <<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/inside-politics-blog/2011/03/canadas-arms-sales-to-the-middle-east.html>>.

boosted its military sales to its largest Third World buyer. Significantly increasing its sales to several Pacific countries, and improved in 1993 to about three quarters of its developing country customers. Meanwhile, the 1994 record of Canadian arms sales to human rights violators or countries in conflict did not improve, and Canadian weapons continued to reach repressive regimes and embattled governments in spite of government guidelines designed to restrict such shipments. During a period when Canada was also increasing resources and personnel for peacekeeping missions, the 1994 arms export report, proves other wise because in the same year increased export of arms were going to powerful corrupt regimes.⁴⁷

While we might like to think of ourselves as peacekeepers, the truth is that Canada houses a thriving military goods industry that exports large amounts of small arms. While the companies that make up this industry are dutifully reporting to the federal government, the last time the feds reported to Parliament on our weapons trade was in 2002. This is where the selling of illegal arms took place. It is found that around 500 companies in Canada are making defence and security products and that between 2000 and 2007, Canada exported US\$3.6 billion in military goods, making us the sixth largest weapons exporter in the world.²⁹ Between 2007 and 2009, Canadian companies exported

⁴⁷ McKie, David. "Canadian arms sales 2007-09 top \$1.4B - Canada - CBC News." *CBC.ca - Canadian News Sports Entertainment Kids Docs Radio TV*. N.p., 11 Mar. 2011. Web. 11 May 2011. <<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2011/03/11/pol-arms-sales.html>>.

²⁹ McKie, David. "Canadian arms sales 2007-09 top \$1.4B - Canada - CBC News." *CBC.ca - Canadian News Sports Entertainment Kids Docs Radio TV*. N.p., 11 Mar. 2011. Web. 11 May 2011. <<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2011/03/11/pol-arms-sales.html>>.

about \$1.4-billion in arms with the United Kingdom, Australia and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia being the focus of the exports, as it caused an interest in where the arms were going, because of Saudi Arabia's reputation of terrorists.

When you look at what's happening in the Middle East and North Africa, where we have totalitarian regimes who are using arms, planes, guns, tear gas, water cannons, against their population, just to develop fear and worry in their peoples eyes, it suggests why the regimes have those resources in the first place. It's important that Canadians know what kind of exports we've been sending to regimes in these countries.³⁰ According to CBC news, "between 2007 and 2009, sales to Saudi Arabia alone totalled about \$80 million. During the same time period, Canada also sold arms to other Middle Eastern countries including Tunisia (\$971,822), Lebanon (\$1,468,952), Algeria (\$9,235,132) and Libya (\$86,682)."³¹ Therefore, with impressive arms trade exports, Canada plays a role in the illicit arms trade, when trading with countries that have embargos put in place.

We are known as a nation who is peace keeping and for human rights. We put on an act where we have organizations like The Small Arms Working Group (SAWG), trying to prevent small arms in conflict struck countries. But really we are one of the countries placing the arms in the countries, being an accomplice in the murder, rape, and the constant devastation that occurs.

³⁰ IBID

³¹ IBID

Canada is not how it portrays it self to the world. We are becoming a country of skewed values, caring more about economics then the value of human life.

Possible Solutions

Possible solutions to solve illegal arms trade vary from simple ideas to more complex concepts.

A solution to end illegal arms trade involves putting embargos, stricter polices on weapon sales, and trying to disarm countries. The advantage to this

concept is that these policies allow the government to have a stricter more controlled country. This allows the people to feel safe because they don't think that the import of arms is going to enter and harm the country. However, it has been proven in cases of Somalia and Iran that it just creates a more dangerous and violent way of transporting weapons through developing countries. It creates the need for smuggling, an act in which people will die or be imprisoned for life if caught. These repercussions create more hate towards the Western society leaving the opportunity for terrorism and vicious attacks against the West. Therefore putting an embargo on a country will trigger events that cause devastation and the development of a black market.

Another option would be to ban the international sale of weapons going towards countries with conflict. It may limit the amount of weapons being sold within the country. After these bans are imposed, there would be smuggling attempts requiring more authority officials to monitor illegal behaviour such as this. Africa is full of illegal arms caused by smugglers all over and by local military selling their weapons to make money. If international sales involvement stopped, then gradually the weapons would disappear. This solution becomes hard to implement for economic reasons mainly. Countries thrive on weapons. If you take away the trade and the routes to do so then the weapons have no way in getting to the conflicts. However, this may cause other countries to start sneaking weapons across borders, creating a more violent way to get the weapons. Also, previous suppliers of weapons would attempt to still sell illegally;

companies like arms suppliers are too wealthy to give up their money like that. Also, it could cause the guerrilla militia to move elsewhere and start a new revolution, expanding the conflict despite the efforts to contain it. In the end, policies that are meant to decrease arms trade in developing countries will in fact not stop it at all. It will simply lead to more behind the scene sales from major suppliers. The large sums of money associated with the arms trade make it a hard industry to just stop with a few bans.

Pierre Elliot Trudeau and the War Measures Act he set in place in Canada in the 1970s could inspire another solution option. Anybody in developing countries who has a gun will be arrested and thrown in jail until proven innocent. Eventually, it will create a fear amongst people and slowly decrease operations like drug cartels. It would do this by limiting the personal and weapons along with it. When arrested the weapons would be confiscated and exported to a country where they would be remodelled as harmless. There would be less conflict because there is the fear that to go to jail you would lose your life and your family and face the tortures of a jail sentence in the developing world. Even if fear is put in place though, it may cause riots against the police and war between guerrilla armies and the countries. Most of the guerrilla armies are egotistical and feel if backed in a corner they need to prove their leadership and excellence. Revolution, mass murder or burning of national and historical buildings are all potential results of actions though riots of guerrilla armies that have happened in the past. Eventually with this solution, the fear can destroy

gangs and guerrilla armies and limit weapons but may result in upset and revolution.

Two examples of countries that export and produce a lot of weapons are the United States and Russia. A quota is put in place on the amount of arms that a country can manufacture and sell in a year. If the quota is surpassed, then the weapons are confiscated and destroyed. It would mostly target the countries that are selling large amounts to developing countries with conflict, for example France. If a quota were instigated, then the large amounts of weapons sold would be decreased. Conflicts would then diminish from the lack of arms. This may then create smaller countries to get involved in the dealings, using their relationships with super powers to require the weapons needed to export. It would allow more corruption to grow through out the world with illegal arms being transplanted in every nation near conflict struck countries. For example the case involving Iran and Russia shows that there is a common occurrence involving the United States to stop selling arms as well as limiting the arms agreements with Russia. This caused Iran to seek help from other countries like North Korea, China, and Yemen. By obtaining help from other countries, this provided a constant flow of illegal arms into Iran. Therefore, with arms policies in place, it allowed the conflict countries to find new ways in acquiring arms to fuel their fight against humanity.

A plausible solution could be to do nothing and try to let the conflicts die

down allowing the need for weapons to deplete. However, if we do nothing it may cause the conflicts to go unnoticed and just let them grow at an unsteady rate. Already there is a lot of murder and death caused by illicit arms and if we do nothing it could allow the numbers of death to grow. The devastation could reach a point where it could be unbearable. By doing nothing it would allow guerrilla armies and cruel dictators to get more confident creating a false sense of reality, thinking what they are doing is justified. Through superpowers not noticing, it would increase the growth of confidence and would allow the opposition to kill, rape, pillage, and devastate more often than usual. Therefore by doing nothing conflicts will not die down, only get worse, with more weapons needed creating a sense of destruction for countries that have been at war for centuries.

The only solution to the problem of illegal arms is to stop the conflict within the countries it self. It is the only solution because when there are no conflicts, there is no need for weapons. War is a common occurrence for developing countries, as they are usually unstable and in a constant revolution. These revolutions require many weapons with the need to out arm the opposition. This is proven in the country of Somalia being one of the most armed developing nations in the world. When explored it was evident the country was at a constant war with their government. They use piracy of foreign cargo ships to get the necessary money to survive and purchase arms. The need for weapons has become an addiction where countries like Somali feel the need to

rely on the illegal act of arms trade. Solutions like putting an embargo, or gun restrictions are not enough because you cannot stop a war of hate. To diminish the conflicts within the countries could be to capture the leaders and put them on fair trial. Some may say this is unreasonable. However, the leaders make their presence known, therefore won't be hard to find. Others say to assassinate the leaders of conflict, but eventually an even more egotistical follower will take his place and use the death of their leader for a reason of revenge. But capturing the leader and putting him on trial, allowing him to face his people may result in the death of the conflict. The people of the country then know their leader as faded and the conflict will not pursue. This is because the person who started the belief of the cause has now been captured, embarrassed and imprisoned for life. Therefore erasing the conflict in the country is the best option because when you take away the corruption within the country, you take away the arms.

Arms trade is a global issue that causes murder and devastation everyday. Countries in conflict are fighting for their lives and the world needs to take notice and act on it. This is a problem that needs to be resolved and given more attention to, or the issue will manifest it self into a bigger problem. A world that strives on being peaceful and against violence shouldn't provide acts of corruption and deception just to make money.

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