

Forum: Security Council
Issue: The regulation of International Arms Corporations
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Introduction

Recently, weapons and various kinds of arms became world widely known and accessible. In the past, any kinds of weapons were only provided to certain people and only made in certain factories and corporations. However, as the world developed, weapons were created by any countries, anywhere and were even on sale for any human beings. The only thing the consuming company has to do when buying the product was to sign the contract provided by an International Arms Corporation (IAC). When anything is widely known and easily accessible, it becomes an issue to keep them in order. It is important to keep transcriptions for weapons because it makes it much easier for people to track down the weapons.

The arms industry is a global industry responsible for the manufacturing, sales of a variety kinds of weapons and the military technology. International arms corporations not only sell the weapons to different countries for different purposes, they would also sell their arms to civilians. Selling to civilians is the primary cause of many criminal cases. The research proves that the arms trade is becoming a big business that each year that, around \$40-60 billion worth of arms trades are agreed. Around 75% of these arms would be for the More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs). The sales of arms trades are increasing each year which leads the United Nations (UN) to bring the attention toward the issue about arms corporations and how this serious issue should be controlled.

With this complicated topic, the debates held for this issue would be able to further investigate about issues such as arms trade, over spending in arms, and its impact on the civilians. Not only is finding the cause of this issue important, but also figuring out the other side effects and finding an effective and plausible solution.

Definition of Key Terms

International Arms Corporations (IACs)

As mentioned in the introduction, International Arms Corporations (IACs) mostly deal with the trading and sales of both small and light arms, and large arms too. They are industries that earn their profit by huge amounts; around \$50 billion in yearly profits.

Arms dealers

Arms dealers would produce and provide arms for the armed forces of states and civilians. They would agree on a contract with the state or civilian to proceed their trading or sales of arms. Even though being an arms dealer is not illegal in certain countries, it is mostly known as a bad job to do since there are a lot of troubles with the job.

Illegal arms trade

Illegal arms trade is when a human being does an illegal weapon trading. The trading is not approved by the government and there are risks that the individual has to take, such as being in prison up to 20 years or worse, death penalty.

Small arms

Small arms are firearms designed for individual uses. They include handguns, rifles, carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles, and light machine guns and others. They are portable but still brings serious damage to the person if they are shot by it because by being shot with it, it would create a fire wound (gunshot wound) and lead to serious death and injuries. The important factor here is that the weapons mostly end up on the terrorist's hand which is not safe.

Light weapons

Light weapons are crew-served machine guns and high-explosive projectile weapons. In other words, these are weapons that normal people cannot get. They are usually used in war situations and other situations similar to that. Legally, they are only acceptable for military training, during the war, or any government approved event. The uncontrolled selling of light weapons would let the citizens to have the weapon too.

Arms trafficking

Arms trafficking is also known as gunrunning. It is the illegal trading in or smuggling of contraband weapons or ammunition. Ammunitions are shells and missiles for light weapons. Around \$100 billion dollars are spent each year for arms trafficking alone.

Legal Transfers

This is when the official trading of arms that are approved by the government. This trade is done by government officials and follows the two nations' law or policy while the government actively participates too. This transfer becomes illegal when it is done for the individual's profit not for a country's. When the dealer authorizes the import and the export of the arms.

General Overview

Over Spending in Arms

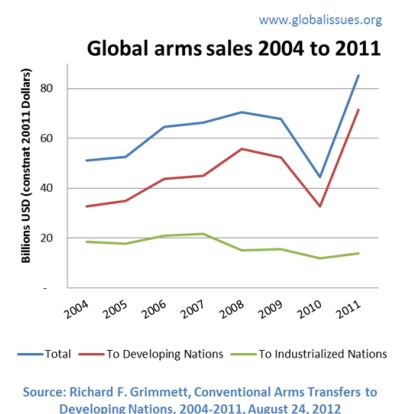
The world uses more than \$1 trillion annually on military, close to the money spent during Cold War. The Military Balance, stated that arms procurement is normally 20-30% of their military, the main portion is usually on operations, maintenance and personnel. Around 40 to 50 billion dollars are in actual sales with signed contracts. Each year, around 30 to 35 billion dollars are made in actual sales through signing a contract or agreeing to a certain agreement. Past few years, the yearly sales of arms have rose up to around 50 to 60 billion dollars although the global financial crisis has slowly begun to feel in arms sales. With all these weapons worth billions and billions of dollars going back and forth, the issue at hand gives huge impact to diverse areas. Not just the violence within the world but this issue affects the citizens too. Even though billions of moneys are spent on arms, citizens are suffering with hunger and poverty.

Terrorism

Weapons are the most obvious reasons why terrorists would appear. In order to stop the terrorist from causing further damage or serious issues, the government should stop arms trading. Stopping arms trading would slowly lead for the terrorists to have lack of weapons which also means there would be less dreadful events that's going to happen. An example could be the group of terrorists called ISIS. ISIS is one of the terrorist groups that slaughters more than 2 million people every time they terror a country. By stopping the international arms trafficking, ISIS would not have accessibility to further weapons and eventually lose their power – which comes from the weapon they have in their hand.

Global arms trade

From the graph, it is clearly noticeable that the global arms sales from 2004 to 2011 has increased steady comparing to the year 2004 and 2011. This graph clearly proves the fact that too much money is spent on arms sales globally. It also supports the idea that regulating the international arms trade would decrease the number of terrorists taking over the power with weapons.



Caption 1: The Change of Global Arms Trade (2004 - 2011)

Effect on citizens

It is surely hard to make connections between civilians and weapon trading; however, the impact of arms on civilians is indeed large. Every day, up to 2,000 people die from armed violence. Countless of innocent

civilians are dying just because of certain group of people or an individual have arms from trading and sales. To prevent this damage toward citizens, one's country should regulate the sales of arms corporation.

Death of innocent civilians

“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.” - Dwight D. Eisenhower

In the world there are around 2 million people who are suffering to find a safe place to stay. Yet, there are still more weapons flooding into the countries just for the purpose of winning the war. Weapons from MEDCs are continuously imported to Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) during war or any time they are necessary. If describing this situation in a literacy feature, it can be called a “slippery slope”, the more weapons there are, the more violence there would be in the country. The more violence there are in the country, the more people would have to leave the country or else, they would be killed by the deadly weapons. The citizens would flee because they have the mindset as if they are eventually going to die if they do not leave the country. In the beginning, the civilians were able to run away to different countries; however, their story is different now. Countries where they use to flee to wouldn't accept anymore refugees. So, they would either have to stay in their country or take more risk to run away to a country that is farther then where they could have fled to before. The problem with running away to a safe country further away is that the cost to get to the country is not affordable to many families in the country.

Economic and financial issues to face

When the country signs a contract or an agreement to do the arms trading, they would need huge amounts of money as mentioned above. But all the money wouldn't be provided from the government itself. The citizens would be forced to support the government by paying more tax. With more tax required from the government, the civilians would have to go through more struggles in their financial and economic areas. People who were originally in a state of poverty would have to suffer more in order to pay all the tax. For example, a family in poverty has a income of \$100 each month. If the government originally required the family to pay \$10 of tax out of their income, the government now would ask the family to pay \$30 of tax just to buys more weapons for the war when the family could use the money for more food or education for the kids. Collecting taxes from citizens to buys arms are not a wise chose for any government to make.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

This is a treaty that regulates the international trade in controversial weapons. It entered into force on 24th December 2014. As of today, 97 states have ratified the treaty and there are still 41 states that signed the treaty but have not ratified it. The reason is whether the country does not want regulations with their weapon usage or they do not fit the conditions to join it.

Resolution 2220 (2015)

In this resolution, the solutions provided approach the issue by taking smaller steps rather than taking bigger steps. In other words, the issue of regulating international arms trade has become a huge issue that it is mostly impossible to solve the issue at once. Therefore, the resolution tries to make diverse approach to the issue by trying to decrease the international arms trafficking. Keeping in mind that these approaches would have less risk towards any countries. Some of the clauses on this resolution introduce solutions such as monitoring the use of weapons and distributing the responsibility of monitoring them.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
2005	International Tracing Instrument (ITI) was adopted to make sure countries were keeping track of weapons
December 18 th , 2006	The idea of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was introduced
2009	The idea of terrorists was included in the ATT resolution by Ósacr Arias
April 2 nd , 2013	UN General Assembly adopted the resolution to create ATT
December 24 th , 2014	ATT entered into force

Possible Solutions

The solutions for this issue may vary. However, to point out some major solutions to it, the problem of this issue at hand is that it is not known well in the public. It sure would be a huge change if we made the public get interested in this topic and raise the public awareness through ways such as, putting up posters, advertising in social media, or providing talks for the public. Another problem of this issue as a whole is that there is no official recording of the trades or contracts. There is no one recording the amount of sales and the contracts they sign. With recordings of these, the individual in hand with the weapons would not be able to commit violent crimes with the arms. Another solution could be to enforce stronger laws to reduce the amount of international arms trade.

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