



INDIA UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY WORK 2006 - 2012

6 years of Indian Civil Society Efforts for a United Nations
Arms Trade Treaty



**Control Arms
Foundation of India**

Working to make disarmament
meaningful to people's lives

India and the Arms Trade Treaty

India is a victim of gun violence that when added up equals mass destruction. In India alone, 12 people die from armed violence everyday. Around 58,000 Indians died due to armed violence in the last 15 years. The highest casualties have been reported from India's Northeast and Jammu & Kashmir and now in Mumbai, Maharashtra with the several bomb blasts which killed and injured many people. If the death, injury and disability resulting from small arms were categorized as a disease, we would view it as an epidemic. The reason for such death and destruction comes from armed conflicts, insurgencies, communal violence, inter-personal rivalries and criminal activities but the method and instrument remains the same: Violence from weapons results not only in death and maiming but creates victims of entire families and communities. It leads to human insecurity, tensions and threats between groups of individuals and states and add to human rights abuses as it is happening in India.

Impact of SALW on India

The presence and use of large numbers of SALW impact India's security, polity, society and economy in a number of adverse ways. Many parts of India from the North East, Jammu & Kashmir and the Maoist dominated 'Naxal belt' that covers almost a third of India have low intensity/ asymmetrical conflicts. These are areas where insurgents, militants and armed militia face the state police and Para Military. Citizens and non combatants are caught in the cross fire where homes and workplaces become battlefields. Small arms and light weapons that are increasingly sophisticated are the obvious and ideal choice for these proxy wars.

The uses of illicit weapons have a divisive for India's polity, where according to the United Nations sources possesses 40 million firearms many illegal. In many areas and cities like Delhi or Mumbai, or parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, gun violence is part of criminal activity and used as a solution to resolving interpersonal conflicts, land and commercial disputes. The illegal trade and possession of small arms is linked to a number of illegal activities and intersects with other forms of trafficking including that of women and children and narcotics. Clearly, every aspect of the illegal arms business is nasty and dangerous. Sections of India's polity have criminal nexus and access to illicit arms that are put to divisive uses.

The illicit trade and proliferation of SALW impact the Indian economy directly and indirectly. Economic activities decline in areas of conflicts. Insurgents get a say in the control of natural resources, oil pipelines and have a parallel system of tax extraction. The conflicts in and around India provide immense possibilities

for the gun runners because degenerated insurgencies use every possible illegal means from extortion, kidnapping, banditry, smuggling to acquire these weapons. The small arms trade like that of trade in narcotics generates vast amounts of unaccountable cash. This cash is attractive enough to sustain conflicts and encourage a continuation of illicit trades. Of course, there are also numerous illegal arms factories and sources within India as well. The demand and supply for small arms is thus self sustaining and international arms trade treaty is the only way out of this spiral. This cash also manages political clout and helps prevent a consensus on an international treaty.

By its own admission and official records, India is unable to control the production, import, distribution and use of small arms. This is not just India's problem, but an international one. There is no coordinated mechanism, criteria or norms that can be applied to arms exporters or importers. This is unusual, because with WTO there are trade norms for the music industry or even fruits and vegetables. WTO came out of the political and

Origin of Arms Trade Treaty: Nobel Peace Laureates Initiative

We come from different nations with varied histories, and in the past, the world has honored each of our struggles for peace and justice with the Nobel Prize for Peace. Today, we speak as one to voice our common concern regarding the destructive effects of the unregulated arms trade. Together, we have written an International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers, which, once adopted by all arms-selling nations, will benefit all humanity, nationalities, ethnicities, and religions.

- New York, May 1997

Signed by following Nobel Laureates:

Oscar Arias Sánchez, His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, Ellie Wiesel, Betty Williams, Gururaj Mutalik (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War), José Ramos-Horta, Susan Waltz (Amnesty International), Donald Gann (American Friends Service Committee)

The start of an initiative:

In October of 1995, Dr. Oscar Arias called upon a group of his fellow Nobel Peace Laureates to promote an international campaign to establish such an agreement. Together, they drafted the Nobel Peace Laureates International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers. A declaratory instrument intended as a challenge to the international community, the Code of Conduct laid down a stringent set of principles that ought to condition all arms export decisions: respect for human rights, humanitarian law, sustainable development and peaceful coexistence.

The initiative was publicly launched at a ceremony in New York City in May of 1997. Based upon the Code of Conduct principles, today this initiative is known as the Arms Trade Treaty, and currently carries the endorsement of over twenty individuals and organisations honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize.

How would an ATT work?

The ATT would require states to adopt and implement national mechanisms requiring the express authorization of international transfers of arms. The ATT would prohibit the transfer of arms that could be used to seriously violate internationally established standards of human rights, international humanitarian law and non-aggression. The ATT would require exporting states to take into account the effect that transferred weapon could have on sustainable development, regional peace and security, or the commission of violent crimes.

An Arms Trade Treaty would be binding

The adoptions of international declarations, guidelines, or other voluntary measures are important achievements, and are well worth pursuing. However, experience has shown that in the long run, they do not have the same moral or standard-setting force as do legal instruments. For this reason, such measures must be seen as steps in a longer process, a process that will eventually lead to a binding international agreement.

An Arms Trade Treaty would be universal

Some countries and regions have taken very encouraging steps toward controlling the arms trade and preventing the flow of weapons to abusers. These steps are extremely important and are to be commended. However, because of the international nature of the arms trade, weapons that are cut off from one state can continue to flow from another. For this reason it is crucial that these initiatives be complimented by the development of a global instrument that will ensure that the controls imposed by one state or region are not undermined by another state or region.

The Arms Trade Treaty would be comprehensive

The ATT's principal objective requires states to authorize arms transfers and to set out core, minimum export criteria for use in this process, thereby bringing states into line with their obligations under international law and preventing the most egregious transfers. But the ATT is also conceived of as a framework agreement, which allows more complex or controversial aspects of the arms trade to be treated in subsequent protocols. The ultimate goal is to establish a comprehensive system that will enable states to effectively control all facets of the international weapons trade.

CONTROL ARMS FOUNDATION OF INDIA

Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI), formerly known as India Working Group on Arms Control (IWGAC) was established on 10th September 2004 in New Delhi by a group of concerned citizens from diverse backgrounds from different parts of India who are committed to finding solutions to ending ongoing armed violence caused by small arms, light weapons and Improvised Electronic Device (SALWIEDS) proliferation that is going on within the region. CAFI is registered as an all India society and it was founded on the belief that lasting peace and humanitarian security can be achieved with the curbing the massive proliferation of SALWIEDS and the call for least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources as enshrined in article 26 of the United Nations Charter. And CAFI truly believes that women can lead to bring about that change. CAFI plans to fill the void that has been existing in Indian civil society regarding informed debates and discussion on conventional disarmament to bring about lasting peace in the country and region. CAFI believes that the fulfilment of Millenium Development Goals can be achieved if the issue of armed violence and poverty reduction is addressed.

Control Arms Foundation of India have been organising a number of event on Arms Trade Treaty since the last six years. The following are the sequence of some of the event organised in several states of India.

Several National consultations took place in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) Maharastra, Gauhati and Imphal on United Nation Arms Trade Treaty. Research work started from 2006 till the filing of report.



Siman Chandrajini with picture of her sons shot dead in 2000.

She is supported by CAFI & MWGSN

India, Sustainable Development and Arms Trade Treaty, India International Centre, New Delhi Saturday, July 12, 2008



Participants of the Event



Dignitaries at the conference

Global Day of Action and Panel Discussion on United Nation's Process for an International Arms Trade Treaty, 13 September 2008 at India International Centre, New Delhi



Participants of the Event



Dignitaries at the conference

Warfare or Welfare? Disarmament for Peace and Development - Alternative Civil Society Action during Aero India 2009 arms exhibition in Bangalore from February 10 to 12, 2009



Warefare or Welfare? Protests against the Aero India 2009 arms exhibition in Bangalore

Inauguration of "A Farewell to Arms - An Exhibition Documenting the Human Cost of Arms Proliferation & Urgent Call to Support UN Process for an International Arms Trade Treaty" on 20 September 2009 in the Habitat Centre, New Delhi



Chief Guest and eminent photographer Raghu Rai



Participants of inauguration of the photo-exhibition "A Farewell to Arms" on 20 September 2009 in New Delhi

17 April 2009, Book launch on "India and Arms Trade Treaty". Published by Indian Research Press.



Indian Civil Society Campaigns on Arms Trade Treaty at DefExpo 2010 - Delhi Disarmament Events on 14 and 15 February 2010



Youth calling for an ATT, Jantar Mantar



Susmit Bose and Band composed songs for an ATT

7 August, 2010 Second consultative conclave of women from Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace



Participants of the Event



Dignitaries at the conference

Global Day of Action on Military Spending, 12 April 2011 Vigil and Drumming Event held at India Gate



Global Day of Action on Military Spending

8th Briefing Session for Parliamentarians' on the theme, "Rising Armed Violence in India: Need to address this through disarmament and United Nations Arms Treaty Negotiations - 15th Dec 2011 New Delhi



Participants of the Event



Parliamentarians at the conference

LIST OF MEDIA COVERAGE OF CAFI EVENTS

Civil Society organization call on Indian Government to support the United Nations process for an International Arms Trade Treaty
New Delhi, 25 September 2009:

Source: Epao http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.Press_Release.Press_Release_2009.PR_CAFI_20090925

Raghu Rai inaugurates - A Farewell to Arms
Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI)
New Delhi, 18 September 09:

Source: Epao http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.Press_Release.Press_Release_2009.PR_CAFI_20090922

Historic consensus at the United Nations on International Arms Trade Treaty

PR from Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI)

Source: Epao http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.Press_Release.Press_Release_2009.PR_CAFI_20090722

MWGSN observes Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence in Manipur

PR from Manipur Women Gun Survivor's Network (MWGSN)

Source: Epao http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.Press_Release.Press_Release_2009.PR_MWGSN_20090617

Book on India and Arms Trade Treaty released in New Delhi

Source: Newstrack India

<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/89162>

Inter-Faith Meeting on United Nations Process for an Arms Trade Treaty in New Delhi

Source: Epao http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.Press_Release.Press_Release_2009.PR_CAFI_20090911

Briefing Session for Indian Parliamentarians on the United Nations
Process for an Arms Trade Treaty

PR from CAFI (Control Arms Foundation of India)

New Delhi, 1 December:

Source: Epao http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.Press_Release.Press_Release_2009.PR_CAFI_20091201

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
- Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI) -

New Delhi 18, November, 2010:

Source: Epao http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.Press_Release.Press_Release_2010.PR_CAFI_20101118

Indian Parliamentarians Call for an International Arms Trade Treaty

New Delhi, August 19, 2010

Source: Epao http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.Press_Release.Press_Release_2010.PR_CAFI_20100819

Press Invite Indian Parliamentarians Call for an International Arms
Trade Treaty

Source: Kangla Online <http://kanglaonline.com/2010/08/press-invite-indian-parliamentarians-call-for-an-international-arms-trade-treaty/>

Crafting Human Security: Preparatory Meeting on 2 March, 2011

Source: Epao http://e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.Press_Release.Press_Release_2011.PR_Crafting_Human_Security_CAFI_20110301

Manipur 'gun widows' call for end to violence

www.telegraphindia.com/1110618/jsp/northeast/story_14126459.jsp

AWARDS



Manipur Women Gun Survivor Network awarded best Humanitarian Initiative of the year 2010 at Women Leaders in India Conference held in Delhi.



CAFI Founding Secretary General Ms Binalakshmi Nepram was awarded Sean MacBride Peace

Prize for 2010 on 23 September 2010 at Nobel Peace Centre, Oslo, Norway.



Secretary General of Control Arms Foundation of India and Founder Manipur

Women Gun Survivors Network, received the CNN IBN Real Heroes Award in Mumbai, 17th August 2011



M W G S N receives CNN IBN Indian of the Year Award 2011 - Special Achievement Award

Films by CAFI



Story by MWGSN



Gunning for Control



We shall find our peace

Books by CAFI



India & Arms Trade Treaty, 2009



Women surviving Conflict zone



Comic book on Arms Trade Treaty



Banglore & Delhi Disarmament Conference, 2009/2010

Posters/ T- Shirts by CAFI



Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI) was established on 10 September 2004 by a group of concerned citizens on the strong belief that lasting peace and security can be achieved in India and South Asia. CAFI is committed to find solutions to end armed conflicts and violence in the region caused by unregulated proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

CAFI initiates informed debates and discussion on all issues regarding the use of force, disarmament and security. CAFI calls for the least diversion of the world's human and economic resources for armaments to establish and maintain peace as enshrined in article 26 of the United Nations Charter. CAFI firmly believes that the UN Millennium Development Goals can be achieved if the menace of armed violence and the need for poverty reduction are jointly addressed. Therefore, CAFI closely relates disarmament and development issues as a true manifestation of human security.

For more information, please contact:



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Cover picture: Bullets being displayed at Army Head Quarters in Srinagar after a huge dump of Ammunition from forest of Gurez. Photo: Javeed Shah.