

Forum: Disarmament & International Security Committee (GA1)
Issue: Promoting Small Arms Control in the Private Security Sector
Student Officer: Christy Gnoth
Position: Co-Chair



Personal Introduction

Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Christy Gnoth, and I'm a 15-year-old student attending the 10th grade at the German School of Athens. It is my utmost honour to serve as one of your Co-Chairs in the Disarmament & International Security Committee (GA1) of the 8th ACG Model United Nations Conference.

I would like to begin by welcoming you to the 8th ACG Model United Nations Conference and congratulating you for getting involved in MUN's fascinating world, particularly in the GA1, a very intriguing committee with much to provide you.

Undoubtedly, MUN offers us all a great set of skills that will lead us throughout our lives, such as public speaking, leadership, diplomatic abilities, and teamwork dynamics. Our critical thinking skills develop rapidly by actively participating in MUN conferences. We are faced with complicated issues in the modern world that ought to be tackled immediately. Thus, our knowledge expands immediately. Nevertheless, MUN is not just about the academic advantages. We are given the opportunity to forge new friendships with individuals from around the world and exchange various points of view on ongoing issues, making this experience incredibly exciting!

This year's GA1 session revolves around two topics of paramount importance, one of them being "Promoting Small Arms Control in the Private Security Sector". This study guide aims to thoroughly examine this significant issue and assist you in the best way possible during your research. However, I advise you to conduct your own research and not to solely rely on this study guide. In that way, you will be able to gain more insight into your country's point of view. If you experience any difficulties or need guidance, feel free to contact me at any time via email: christy.gnoth@gmail.com.

I cannot wait to meet you all in March!

Topic Introduction

The Private Security Sector (PSC) refers to an industry, in which protective services are carried out by private companies in every corner of the globe. These services incorporate “physical security, surveillance, access control, alarm monitoring”¹ and more. Individuals employed in the private security sector conduct operations using small arms, portable firearms, including guns, pistols and rifles. These ought to be licensed and checked regularly, so as to prevent violence, instability and human rights violations, resulting from the unethical utilization of small arms.

With controversies arising dramatically, promoting the management of small arms is essential. Their widespread availability within the Private Security sector ought to be limited promptly, in order to effectively prevent the aforementioned risks, such as illegal trafficking and the misuse of firearms. To do so, laws and regulations must be strengthened, promoting accountability within the PSC. Though, determining the level of control over small arms is a complex and multifaceted issue. Needless to say it must be appropriate, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all individuals, but also allowing employees in that sector to carry out their work accordingly.

“Promoting Small Arms Control in the Private Security Sector” can be definitely linked to this year’s conference theme, namely “Balancing Infinite Opportunities”. To be more clear, due to the alarmingly increasing need for security in conflict areas, the PSC has been constantly expanding throughout the years. This industry has infinite room to grow, with endless notions needing to be implemented. Though, small arms misuse and violence come with the vast growth of the PSC. In order to balance the public’s safety with security requirements, stricter gun laws must be reinforced.

Definition of Key Terms

Small arm

“Small arms, often referred to as firearms or guns, are man-portable lethal weapons for individual use that can expel or launch a shot, bullet, or projectile by action of explosive. They include both handguns (revolvers and self-loading pistols, and long guns, namely rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles, and light machine guns, as well as their parts, components, and ammunition.”²

¹ *Private Security Industry* – Van Leeuwen Law Firm. (n.d.). <https://vanleeuwenlawfirm.eu/en/capabilities/solutions/private-security-industry/>

² Overton, I. (2021, July 21). *What is a small arm?* AOAV. <https://aoav.org.uk/2016/what-is-a-small-arm/>

Private Security

“Refers to the security and protective services provided by private companies and individuals to protect people, property, and assets from various threats, which can supplement or replace the services provided by public law enforcement agencies”.³

Arms Control

“Arms control is the broadest of the three terms and generally refers to mutually agreed upon restraints or controls (usually between states) on the development, production, stockpiling, proliferation, deployment and use of troops, small arms, conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction”⁴

Regulation

“Regulation, in government, is a rule or mechanism that limits, steers, or otherwise controls social behaviour. In the field of public policy, regulation refers to the promulgation of targeted rules, typically accompanied by some authoritative mechanism for monitoring and enforcing compliance.”⁵

License

“A licence is a personal right granted to a person to do something upon immovable property of the grantor and does not amount to the creation of interest in the property itself.”⁶

Background Information

Development of the Private Security Industry

Security has been a fundamental part of society since many centuries ago. Individuals of authority, from Pharaohs in Ancient Egypt to emperors in Ancient Rome, were in serious need for safety.

³ private security | Definition. (2023, March 13). Doc’s Things and Stuff. <https://docmckee.com/cj/docs-criminal-justice-glossary/private-security-definition/>

⁴ Nato. (n.d.). Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in NATO. NATO. https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_48895.htm

⁵ Woll, C. (2024, November 13). Regulation | Definitions, theoretical Approaches, & Facts. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/regulation>

⁶ Kanchi. (2015, April 30). Definition of license and granting of license - Academike. Academike. <https://www.lawctopus.com/academike/definition-license/>

Bodyguards, just like today, protected their employer's properties, families, and prevented attacks from occurring. It was a privilege of the aristocratic and noble upper-class. In this day and age, anyone who can afford a security officer is able to hire one. Depending on the security service, according to the website 'Bark', "the average cost of hiring a private security staff in the year 2024 may range from 35\$-50\$ per hour"⁷. Bodyguards offer various services and may utilize small arms and weapons, in order to carry out their work accordingly. Especially when ensuring the safety of a very important person (VIP), firearms are part and parcel of the job.

The Private Security Sector (PSC) was founded in the year 1850 in Chicago, Illinois, by Allan Pinkerton as the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. Their main clients were railroad operators, frequently falling prey to robbed passengers and goods. During that period, in the mid 1800s, local law-enforcement was incapable of solving the crimes, due to lack of expertise and equipment. Thus, the railroad operators could not rely on the authorities and slowly turned to Allan Pinkerton's private company, which provided the victims with hired agents. Due to these collaborations, the company gained international recognition, paving the way for private security firms all around the globe. Contrary to today's security officers, agents from the 19th century had a more extensive function, which did not only include in-depth crime investigations, but also crucial security and safety advice.

In recent years, the PSC has evolved dramatically. Specifically, the industry gained momentum in the year 2010. As of now, according to Fortune Business Insight, the global private security market is worth "235.37 billion US dollars" and is expected to grow "exhibiting the 5.7% compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) to reach 385.32 billion by the year 2023"⁸.

The role of Small Arms in the Private Security sector

Undoubtedly, private security companies offer various services of protection, with security guards being either armed, carrying a small arm, or being unarmed. Armed bodyguards are commonly employed by VIPs, such as political figures or prominent celebrities, so as to ensure their safety and well-being. Armed security personnel are of paramount importance, because they offer an exceptionally higher level of protection, than unarmed one's. To be more clear, the visible presence of an armed security guard discourages potential criminals from engaging in an unlawful act. Moreover, they are

⁷ *How much does security cost 2024 | Price of security services | Bark.* (2024, February 22). Bark.com. <https://www.bark.com/en/us/security-guards/security-hire-pricing/>

⁸ *Private Security Market Size, share, growth | Forecast [2032].* (n.d.). <https://www.fortunebusinessinsights.com/private-security-market-108283>

trained to quickly react to sudden life or death scenarios, such as terrorist attacks, assassinations, etc. and mitigate dangers, in order to protect their employers. Furthermore, they support law enforcement, working by their sides, especially in high-risk areas, where it cannot be present at all times.

Private Security personnel must necessarily undergo a series of extensive and professional training sessions, so as to utilize a small weapon safely in cases of violence, threat or any other criminal activity. Bodyguards are taught how to safely handle a small arm, in order to ensure that they can effectively maintain control in challenging and pressuring situations. They must know how to carefully load and unload a rifle. Even if a small arm malfunctions, Private Security personnel must be able to swiftly combat the issue. Additionally, throughout training, they are put into hazardous scenarios, where they have to protect their customers. Their quick decision making skills are effectively put to the test, such as target identification and precise shooting skills. Lastly, bodyguards need to fully understand ethical guidelines connected to the use of small arms. They are only allowed to utilize their small arms in hazardous environments and only when extremely necessary.

Risks and challenges

Misuse and abuse of small arms

Although the utilization of small arms in the private security sector ensures the safety and well-being of the protected individual, their misuse and abuse are far too common. According to the UN Press, the life of around “260.000 people” were taken in the year 2021 due to firearms, “45% of whom were violent deaths”⁹.

These recent figures represent global concerns on the unethical and irresponsible utilization of small arms. Their widespread use poses a serious threat to human rights. By breaching humanitarian laws, small arms can fuel environments of fear and suppression, especially in civil wars. If they fall into the wrong hands, either due to inadequate regulations or improper utilization, they can be used to cause immense harm to our society, by increasing criminal activity, such as human trafficking, armed robberies and terrorism. Specifically, in countries with extensive small arms availability, insufficient regulations and lack of law

⁹ *In Day-long Debate, Speakers in Security Council Wrestle with Impacts of Illicit Small Arms, Light Weapons as Both ‘Source and Symptom’ of Violent Conflict | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.* (2023, December 15). <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15533.doc.htm>

enforcement, such as conflict zones, criminality has been rising dramatically, exacerbating already fragile infrastructure.

In the Private Security Sector, this problem is even more complex. Bodyguards in charge of protecting very important figures, may always find themselves in situations of stress and pressure. In some cases, they are prone to wrongly evaluating situations and being unable to control themselves, due to the widespread lack of fundamental training. Specifically, in the private security sector, bodyguards may feel the urge to use firearms with unnecessary force in non life threatening situations. This overreaction may result in violence and goes to show that not every security guard is trained enough to overlook and assess certain circumstances precisely. Furthermore, such an escalation can lead to lack of accountability. Thus, tracking firearms can be challenging and it may be difficult to investigate instances where force was applied unnecessarily.

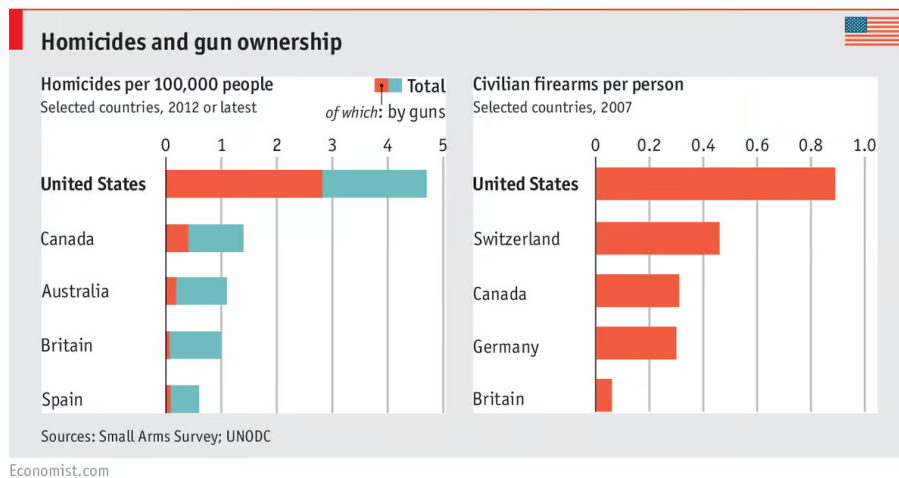


Figure 1: Homicides and gun ownership¹⁰

Lack of Training

One of the most immense concerns of the misuse of small arms in the private security sector is the inadequate, insufficient training received by employees in the industry. Although many firms offer training options, it occurs too often that they are rather superficial than thoroughly explained. Due to that lack of expertise, some security guards make crucial mistakes that could negatively influence their employer’s health and well-being. For instance, without

¹⁰ The Economist. (2015, August 10). To keep and bear arms. *The Economist*. <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2015/08/10/to-keep-and-bear-arms>

proper experience in the field, employees may not be aware of how to properly store and use lethal weapons, resulting in the jeopardization of society.

As mentioned before, this could inevitably lead to a violent environment and the undermining of public trust. The Private Security Sector is responsible for keeping their customers safe. However, due to insufficient expertise in the field and the misuse of small arms, the public might start to fear the industry rather than feel protected by it. The public's point of view might contribute to a more polarized society.

Moreover, without the ability to grasp safety protocols accordingly, small arms can be mishandled and misused, leading from accidental shootings to fatality. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health Environment, as of the year 2020 “500 people die annually from unintentional shootings” in the U.S and “67% of accidental shootings are carried out by a handgun”¹¹.

Small Arms trafficking

The trafficking of small arms is a global issue that has had a detrimental effect on society. To be more clear, it fuels armed conflict and terrorism and results in violence and organized crime. It imposes a major threat, especially in areas where civil wars occur and the government is fragile. Illegal trafficking also results in the continuation of violent conflicts, as opposing parties utilize the illicit small arms to carry on with the prolonged human suffering and population relocation.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Brazil

Brazil is a crucial contributor to the question of promoting small arms control in the private security sector. In Brazil, civilian gun ownership is permitted for any citizen being at least 25 years old. Weapons have to be registered. Moreover, the country is particularly known for gun violence, indicating the necessity of control over weapons. Brazil's private security sector has been growing dramatically

¹¹*Unintentional firearm injuries* | Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. (n.d.). <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/unintentional-firearm-injuries>

over the past few years, namely “15-20% annually”¹². The PSC of Brazil offers armed protection to companies, businesses, well-off individuals and government institutions. Though, concerns have been voiced, regarding the proliferation and unethical utilization of small arms, as employees of the PSC are required to carry a small arm, in order to carry out their work correctly.

The country has made efforts to promote the control of small arms in the PSC. To be more clear, they have enforced stricter regulations, such as the Disarmament Act in 2003. This Law, (10,826/2003), created penalties for the illegal trafficking and acquisition of weapons. By enforcing these stricter regulations, gun and violence rates reduced effectively.

South Africa

South Africa plays a crucial role in the issue of promoting the control of small arms in the private security sector. It is of paramount importance to underline the fact that South Africa’s private security industry is one of the largest ones globally. “More than 2.5 million employees, such as security guards, and more than 10.380 companies”¹³ are registered in the industry, as of previous years. They offer armed and unarmed services. Due to the high rate of violence in South Africa, security guards are preferred to be armed, so as to carry out their work precisely. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as of the year 2022, South Africa placed 4th. In that country approximately 45,53 out of 100,000 individuals get killed¹⁴. Additionally, as Safeworld states, “firearms accounted for 42 percent of all murders in South Africa in 2020/2021”¹⁵. Thus, the amount of firearms utilized in the private security sector undoubtedly is concerning. Questions about the proliferation and potential misuse of small arms have been raised, especially by Non-governmental Organizations (NGO’s), “Gun free South Africa” for instance, advocating for tighter measures. Furthermore, the country has enacted several laws, so as to combat the issue, such as the Firearms Control Act, No.60 of 2000. It intends to establish a thorough and efficient system to control the use of weapons. Besides, it imposes strict restrictions on civilian gun ownership, including for private security companies. In

¹² *Brazil - Safety and security*. (2023, December 4). International Trade Administration | Trade.gov. <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/brazil-safety-and-security-0>

¹³ Wikipedia contributors. (2023, August 13). *Private security industry in South Africa*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_security_industry_in_South_Africa

¹⁴ Ford, A. C. & T. (2024, May 13). *South Africa’s frontline volunteer crime fighters*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cv2jlyl20lzo>

¹⁵ *Small arms and ammunition in South Africa*. (n.d.). Publications - Saferworld. <https://www.saferworld-global.org/resources/publications/1399-small-arms-and-ammunition-in-south-africa>

addition, South Africa has implemented the Private Security Industry Regulation Act 56 of 2001, which calls for the establishment of a regulatory body, in charge of the private security sector.

United Kingdom (UK)

The United Kingdom plays a vital role in the matter of promoting small arms control in the private security sector. Contrary to the United States with 120.5 guns per 100 residents, “the UK has a rate of 4.6 guns per 100 individuals, as of the year 2023”¹⁶. This major distinction underlines the stricter regulations concerning small arms. As mentioned before, in the UK, the utilization of small arms in the private security sector is strictly regulated by frameworks and policies. For instance, the Firearms act 1968 “is a UK act of Parliament”, controlling the use and ownership of weapons. Employees of the private security sector, who are authorized to possess a weapon, must necessarily undergo extensive training and be licensed, so as to prevent their unethical utilization. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), “the United Kingdom placed in 7th place, as one of the biggest arms exporters in the world”¹⁷. Though it adheres to strict regulations, these cannot be foolproof. Weapons, especially small arms could be bought by irresponsible buyers, exacerbating small arm proliferation.

United States of America (USA)

The United States of America , a federal republic, plays a vital role in the issue of promoting small arms control in the private security sector, mainly because they are one of the largest security services markets worldwide. According to Statista, as of the year 2023, “the market grew to a total size of almost 47.8 billion U.S dollars”.¹⁸ Despite the economic challenges set by the global pandemic COVID-19, “the industry was worth 260 million dollars more than it was in 2020”.¹⁹ Moreover, the number of security guards employed in the industry has risen in recent years to a total amount of “approximately 860.000 employees in the year 2023”.²⁰

¹⁶ Johncox, C. (2023, February 21). More guns than people in US: How easy is it to buy firearms in other countries? *WDIV*. <https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/national/2023/02/21/more-guns-than-people-in-us-how-easy-is-it-to-buy-firearms-in-other-countries/>

¹⁷(2024, March 5). *Top 10 largest arms exporters in the world [2024]* <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/top-10-largest-arms-exporters-in-the-world/>

¹⁸ Statista. (2024, May 15). *Market size of security services in the U.S. 2012-2023*. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/294206/revenue-of-security-services-in-the-us/>

¹⁹ Statista. (2024, May 15). *Market size of security services in the U.S. 2012-2023*. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/294206/revenue-of-security-services-in-the-us/>

²⁰ *IBISWorld - industry market research, reports, and statistics*. (n.d.). <https://www.ibisworld.com/industry-statistics/employment/security-services-united-states/>

Undoubtedly, the United States of America is significantly affected by the issue of promoting small arms control in the private security sector. To be more clear, in the U.S.A. , “it is legal to carry a concealed handgun in public in all 50 states”.²¹ According to the CEOWORLD magazine, as of the year 2024, “the U.S is the country with the highest gun ownership, with 120.5 guns per 100 individuals”.²² This deeply embedded gun culture of the U.S.A. unquestionably results in major challenges concerning the enactment and reinforcement of more restrictive firearm policies and frameworks, as well as the control of the dramatically rising gun possession. Moreover, the USA. is the world's largest arms trader, responsible for “41.7 percent international arms sales between the years 2019 and 2023”²³. Thus, its huge export of small arms can indirectly influence their availability in regions with weaker and unstable regulations, such as conflict zones.

World Bank

The World Bank is an international development organization founded in July of the year 1944. By providing loans to their poorer members, the World Bank advocates for the boost of their economies and higher standard of living. Although the World Bank does not have any direct control over the regulation of small arms in the private security sector, it supports efforts being made. In addition, the World Bank focuses on security and governance, when approaching the issue. It does acknowledge that unmonitored proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) can lead to an economically impeded development of a country and that it may lead to the act of jeopardizing the public safety of every civilian. The World Bank especially supports conflict zones and countries in war, as they are the most prone to the unethical utilization of small arms, by using trust funds, covering the immense costs associated with such work. Moreover, they stand for the closer monitoring of the private security sector and for the stricter regulations and measures to be taken in order to effectively address the proliferation of small arms in the PSC.

²¹ Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund. (2024, June 18). *Permitless Carry: Carrying a Concealed Gun in Public with No Permit and No Training*. Everytown Research & Policy.

<https://everytownresearch.org/report/permitless-carry-carrying-a-concealed-gun-in-public-with-no-permit-and-no-training/>

²² Banerjee, A. (2024, January 5). *Revealed: Countries with Highest Gun Ownership, 2024*. CEOWORLD Magazine.

<https://ceoworld.biz/2024/01/05/revealed-countries-with-highest-gun-ownership-2024/>

²³ Buchholz, K. (2024, March 13). The world's biggest arms exporters. *Statista Daily Data*.

<https://www.statista.com/chart/18417/global-weapons-exports/>

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an independent organization, “ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for people affected by armed conflict and other violence”²⁴, founded on the 17th February of the year 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland. Like the World Bank, the ICRC plays a crucial role in combating the issue of small arms control in the private security sector. The ICRC emphasizes that monitoring the proliferation of small arms is essential, especially in conflict or post-conflict zones. Their widespread availability could seriously harm and jeopardize the health of civilians, as they are often utilized in ways that harm the international humanitarian law.

Blocs Expected

Alliance 1

Controls Small Arms in the Private Security Sector more strictly, by prioritizing human rights and international, multilateral agreements. These countries believe that imposing such frameworks are the key to ensuring that small arms in the private industry are not misused and abused by any means. These countries have stern regulations themselves, regarding the distribution and trade of small arms. (ex. Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Norway, the Netherlands)

Alliance 2

Prioritizes national sovereignty and tends to resist international agreements that might limit their domestic autonomy. These countries are inclined towards being more flexible regarding the utilization of small arms and their frameworks, especially in the Private Security Sector. (e.g. China, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, The U.S.A., Israel, Egypt)

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
1850	Allan Pinkerton founded the Pinkerton National Detective Agency in Chicago, the first known private security company.

²⁴ *We are the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*. (2024, September 27). International Committee of the Red Cross. <https://www.icrc.org/en/we-are-international-committee-red-cross-icrc>

17th February 1863	Creation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), an international organization that seeks to protect civilians during armed conflicts and other wars.
August 1998	The International Action Network on small arms (IANSA) is created as a global, international network, “global movement against violence” ²⁵ , advocates for international control measures.
July 1944	The World Bank is founded, an international organization that provides loans to poorer countries. It seeks to boost their economies and their standard of living.
9th-20th July 2001	Member States adopted the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA).
6th December 2006	The UN General Assembly Resolution 61/89 was adopted, discussing the establishment of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).
3rd June 2013	Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is adopted, regulates international trade of conventional arms, seeks to prevent violation of human rights.
26th September 2013	The UN Security Council Resolution 2117 was adopted, discussing the illicit trafficking of small arms.

Relevant UN Resolutions, Treaties & Events

- UN General Assembly Resolution 61/89 (2006)
- UN Security Council Resolution 2117 (2013)
- Report of the Secretary General on small arms

²⁵ IANSA. (2023, April 5). *About us - IANSA*. <https://iansa.org/about-us/#:~:text=IANSA%20was%20created%20as%20an,Nations%20small%20arms%20disarmament%20process>.

- The International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its Aspects (PoA), is a global framework that was founded in the year 2001. It revolves around fighting the illegal trafficking of small arms and controlling its unethical utilisation and abuse, especially in conflict zones, destabilized regions and civilian populations. To be more exact, it seeks that all member states must implement comprehensive national laws in order to regulate the manufacture, distribution and utilization of SALW. Moreover, it promotes international cooperation. Member States must share information to control exports and imports of SALW. They are encouraged to register their arms transfers under international frameworks to improve their traceability. The PoA has had a mixed outcome since although it has effectively raised awareness about the proliferation of SALW on the global basis, regions, such as conflict zones, have been unable to effectively establish regulating laws on arms control, which due to weak governance and instability.

The Arms Trade Treaty

The Arms Trade Treaty was ratified on the 3rd June of 2013 and revolves around the regulation of international trade of conventional arms and seeks to prevent the violation of human rights. To be more exact, the Arms Trade Treaty demands all Member States that have ratified it to adopt fundamental regulations and approval procedures for the movement of weapons across international borders and submit an annual report, regarding arm's import and exports to a treaty secretariat. Furthermore, the Treaty encourages the establishment of common, international standards that must be fulfilled before the permission of weapon's exports. Additionally, the Treaty requires Member States to assess the safety of the arms exported, in order to prevent the undermining of society's safety and peace. Member States are responsible for preventing the misuse and abuse of weapons, especially small arms, such as the act of terrorism, violations of human rights or organized crime. Although the Arms Trade Treaty seeks to reduce the illicit trafficking of weapons and has the potential to, "its effectiveness is limited by state parties' violations of the Arms Trade Treaty".

Possible Solutions

Strengthening International Legal Treaties

Strengthening International Legal Treaties is of paramount importance when seeking to tackle the issue of promoting small arms control in the Private Security Sector. In the small arms trade, its role has been increasing dramatically. International Treaties can establish frameworks that control the legal possession and acquisition of small arms. Through these frameworks, countries can guarantee that the personnel and actors of the private security sector adhere to the set of requirements. It would effectively minimize the misuse and abuse of small arms and the illicit gun trafficking. Moreover, these Legal Treaties could expand frameworks, such as the Arms Trade Treaty. To be more exact, major arm exporters, like China and the US, have not ratified the treaty and expanding participation is vital.

Improve monitoring

Improving monitoring is of paramount importance in order to combat the pressing issue of promoting small arms control in the private security sector. The root causes must be tackled, namely the misuse and abuse of small arms as well as their illicit trafficking. To be more clear, tracking the utilisation and possession of firearms is of paramount importance. For instance, it should be mandatory for companies in the private security sector to register their guns and owners with the authorities. This practice would create a “database”, offering a greater overview of gun ownership. Within the companies the same application must be made. Though, stricter fines should be imposed, such as the cancellation of their operating licenses, if they are not able to adhere to better monitoring practices. Through stricter fines companies can be encouraged into applying more reliable monitoring methods.

Encouraging the use of non-lethal alternatives

Encouraging the use of non-lethal alternatives to firearms is a very effective, although complicated way of combating the issue of promoting small arms control in the private security sector. The dependency of private security personnel on firearms can be effectively reduced, still permitting them to perform their job correctly. Non-lethal alternatives include tasers, pepper spray, rubber bullets, electric stun guns and so on. Through the utilisation of such alternatives, the fatality rate can be effectively reduced. Unnecessary deaths can be circumvented. However, the PSC employees still must undergo extensive training sessions, in order to utilise them correctly.

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