



Topic Synopsis

1st DISC, Small Arms

I. Background of Topic

Sub-Saharan Africa is being supplied small arms by many countries such as Israel.

These trades are also accompanied with retired Israeli military personnel. Because of all the imports of small arms, small arms violence becomes a regular occurrence in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2003 the government started using Arab tribal militias to wage brutal counterinsurgency campaign. More than 2.5 million people have been forced to move out of their homes for refugee camps, but at the refugee camps the could not escape armed violence.

II. UN Involvement

This issue has always become a serious issue most notably after the break up of the Soviet Union in 1991, where the unregulated small arms of the now unemployed Soviet soldiers were sold, and millions of Ak-47s and RPG-7s were sold on the black market, which is still continuing onto this day. This influx of arms in recent years has made it incredibly easy for Warlords to obtain this low-grade weaponry, and therefore have power of locals. The most notable action that the UN has taken against this trade of weaponry is by passing the resolution for the "UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects," which helps stop this illegal trade of small arms. China, Cuba, India, Iran,



Israel, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States, have all spoken out against this program, and others like it, arguing that standards on a global level were enough to keep the small arms trade at a minimum, and the UN need not interfere in these matters. In December 2006 adopted a resolution on the illicit trade in small arms in all its aspects, emphasizing the importance of implementing the UN program of action. Recalling the program's follow-up mechanisms, the General Assembly decided that the next biennial meeting of states to consider its implementation would take place no later than 2008, where two more resolutions were passed, which attempted to create a coalition of experts to monitor this trade. This coalition has yet to be set up.

III. Possible Solutions

The United Nations Security Council directly addresses post-conflict management and peace building operations for their direct link with armed conflicts. Since the emergence of human security, the focus on people has increased the attention of the Security Council and of the General Assembly on the topic, to the point of creating in 2005, the Peace Building Commission, which is mandated directly to bring together all relative actors to marshal resources and to advise on the proposed strategies for post conflict peace building and recover; to help ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and sustained financial investment over the medium to long-term; to develop best practices on issues in collaboration with political, security, humanitarian and development actors¹. In practice, it is an independent body that receives requests for advice by various UN bodies such as the ECOSOC, the Security Council or the General Assembly.



IV. Bloc Positions:

1. Europe: will be for the abolishment for the trade of these arms, and will want to put an end to these black market dealings and trade with illegal smugglers.
2. Middle East: For the most part, will be neutral towards these solutions, as many governments are armed with similar weaponry as these African warlords, and can sell weapons to them.
3. Asia: Mostly neutral, or against
4. Latin America: Against the selling of these weapons, stands with Europe
5. All other areas vary.

V. Guided Questions

1. How does your country plan to effectively eradicate small arms trafficking?
2. How can we get the funds needed to eradicate small arms trafficking?
3. How can we get all nations to work together, including the nations not affected?
 4. Will we be able to effectively end this trading without interfering in these sovereignty, and if so, how?
 5. Will the leaders of these nations most deeply affected be willing to accept this aid from the UN?

Myerscough, Rhea. "Small Arms Continue to Inflict Damage in Sub-Saharan Africa." CDI - Center for Defense Information - Security Policy Research Organization. Center for Defence Information, Mar.-Apr. 2007. Web. 30 Oct. 2011.



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<http://www.cdi.org/program/document.cfm?documentid=3941>.

<http://www.armscontrol.org/print/2294>