



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Follow Up on the FCA and Related Matters..... by John Welch

The proposed changes earlier this year to the Firearms Control Act, which SAGA commented on, led to the Firearms Summit that took place in Parliament on 24-25 March. During this Summit attention was given to the proposed changes, and to crime and gun control in general. It was soon clear that politicians were searching for simplistic answers to complex problems, e.g. many were (and still are) of the opinion that if the lawful possession of firearms is restricted or even prohibited, the problem will be addressed. We have clearly indicated that this is not so and that crime will rather increase, given that the police are unable to protect citizens who then have to rely on their own devices. We also made a very strong case that law-abiding citizens have the right, if they so wish, to purchase, possess and use a firearm, for a lawful purpose.

Since the Summit, no further amendments to the proposed amendment bill have been presented. We do not know if government will continue with aspects like the ballistic testing and micro-dotting of all firearms. In our view it would be foolish to do so because it will not promote crime prevention or in any way contribute to the finding of lost or stolen firearms. It will also not contribute to the reduction of firearms possessed by criminals.

During the Summit problems in the Central Firearms Register were acknowledged. Not only politicians but also the Minister and Commissioner of Police indicated that the relationship between the state and private sector

needed to be addressed and that the solution should be jointly sought. This has led to regular meetings of interested stakeholders from the gun community, and negotiations have started with the police. The fact that a deputy National Commissioner acts as chairman of the meetings indicates that the police seem to be serious about the discussions. Since March this year several meetings have taken place, resulting in both positive and negative aspects. Although we have managed to identify real problems, we have found that the problems are not corrected. This has led to the police being confronted and solutions are sometimes merely being postponed. On the positive side, two task teams were established: one to set up a communication strategy and the second to identify and address the short- and medium-term problems at the CFR.

The first task team has drafted a strategy and hope to have it finalised at the meeting on 5 November. The second task team, with the help of SAGA & other firearm-related organizations (sports shooters, hunters, collectors, etc.), identified several problems. The proposed solutions, on which feedback was given during the meeting on 20 October, were not received well because they were simply a repetition of the legal requirements and do not indicate what the police intend to do to solve them. One of the problems is that of late applications for the renewal of firearm licenses. One would expect that, in light of this very real problem, the police would go

out of their way to find a solution but all they have done is send a circular to the stations stating with the statutory requirements for the renewal of licenses.

We believe that should a license renewal application be lodged during the 90 days before the license is due to expire, you should still be entitled to lodge the application, and that the police are obliged to accept the application. The circular does not address what the DFO has to do if the licence holder applies for the renewal after the expiry of their license. Although such a person is actually in the unlawful possession of a firearm, no help is offered to assist people in this situation.

I would like to make a serious appeal on behalf of SAGA, to all members to take note of the expiry date of each firearm license and to ensure that the renewal application is done more than 90 days before the due date. If such an application is done on time, the original license will remain valid even if the renewed license is not issued before the expiry date of the original license. Of course, all applicants must ensure that their renewal applications retain the status quo, in other words, that the motivation for the original application is still applicable.



Gebeure Rondom die Vuurwapen Wet.... deur John Welch

Die voorgestelde wysigings vroer hierdie jaar op die Wet op die Beheer van Vuurwapens waarop SAGA kommentaar gelewer het, het aanleiding gegee tot die Vuurwapen Spitsberaad wat op 24 en 25 Maart in die parlement plaasgevind het. Tydens hierdie spitsberaad is daar nie net aandag gegee aan die voorgestelde wysigings nie maar ook aan misdaad en vuurwapenbeheer in die algemeen. Dit was spoedig duidelik dat politici simplistiese antwoorde soek vir komplekse problem, bv. baie was (en is steeds) van mening dat indien die regmatige besit van vuurwapens beperk, of selfs verbied word, die probleem aangespreek is. Ons het egter duidelik uitgewys dat dit nie so maklik is nie en dat misdaad eerder sal toeneem aangesien die polisie nie in staat is om die burgers te beskerm nie en dat hulle dus op hul eie aangewese is om dit te doen. Ons het ook 'n baie sterk saak uitgemaak dat wetsgehoorsame burgers die reg het om, indien hul so sou verkies, vuurwapens aan te koop, te besit en gebruik vir regmatige doeleindes.

Sedert die spitsberaad is die wysigings op die voorgestelde wysigingswetsontwerp nog nie weer tot ons beskikking gestel nie. Ons weet gevolglik nie of die regering wil voortgaan met aspekte soos ballistiese toetse en mikrospikkeling van alle vuurwapens nie. Ons insiens is dat dit sou dwaas wees aangesien dit nie misdadbekamping sal bevorder en enigsins sal bydra tot die opspoor van gesteelde of verlore vuurwapens nie. Dit sal ook nie bydra tot die verminderende van vuurwapens in kriminele se besit nie. Tydens die spitsberaad is dikwels gemeld dat daar probleme is in die Sentrale Vuurwapenregister en dat stappe gedoen word om dit aan te spreek.

Nie net die politici nie maar ook die Minister en Kommissaris van Polisie het aangedui dat die verhouding tussen die staat- en privaatsektor aandag moet geniet en dat daar gesamentlik na oplossings gesoek moet word. Dit het daartoe aanleiding gegee dat vergaderings van belanghebbendes vanuit die vuurwapengemeenskap op 'n gereelde basis met die polisie begin onderhandel het. Dat die polisie oënskynlik ernstig is met die besprekings blyk uit die feit dat 'n adjunk Nasionale Kommissaris die Voorsitter van die vergaderings is. Sedert Maart vanjaar het verskeie vergaderings plaasgevind, en alhoewel daar verskeie positiewe aspekte is, is daar net so veel negatiewes. Alhoewel ons daarin slaag om die werklike probleme uit te wys vind ons dikwels dat die probleme nie reggestel word nie. Dit het daartoe gelei dat die polisie dikwels hieromtrent gekonfronteer is en dat die oplossings soms bloot uitgestel is. Wat positief is, is dat vanuit die vergaderings twee taakspanne aangestel is: een wat die kommunikasiestrategie moes opstel en die tweede wat die kort- en mediumtermyn problem in die vuurwapenregister moes identifiseer en aanspreek.

Die eerste taakspan het 'n strategie opgestel en dit sal hopenlik by die volgende vergaderings op 5 November afgehandel word. Die tweede taakspan het, met die hulp van SAGA en al die ander vuurwapenverwante organisasies (sportskuts, jagters, versamelaars en dies meer), verskeie probleme geïdentifiseer. Die voorgestelde voorgelê by die vergadering op 20 Oktober het nie werklik byval gevind nie aangesien dit bloot 'n herhaling van wetlike vereistes is en nie wat die polisie beoog om te doen om die probleme te elimineer nie. Een van die probleme

wat geopper is, is laat aansoeke om hernuwing van vuurwapenlisensies. Mens sou verwag dat, in die lig van die wesenlike probleem, die polisie uit hul pad sou gaan om 'n oplossing aan die hand te doen. Dit was egter nie die geval nie en al wat hul gedoen het was om 'n omsendskrywe na die stasies te stuur waarin gemeld word wat die statutêre vereistes vir hernuwing van lisensies is. Ons is egter van mening dat duidelik gemeld behoort te word of 'n lisensiehouer wat aansoek doen tydens die 90 dae voor die lisensie verval, steeds geregtig is om dit te doen en dat die polisie verplig is om die aansoek te aanvaar. Dit meld blykbaar ook nie wat gedoen staan, indien 'n lisensiehouer eers na verstryking van sy lisensie, sy hernuwingsaansoek indien nie. Alhoewel so 'n persoon eintlik dan in die onregmatige besit van 'n vuurwapen is, word niks gemeld om sodanige mense behulpsaam te wees nie.

Namens SAGA wil ek ten slotte 'n ernstige beroep doen op alle lede om deeglik kennis te neem van die vervaldatum van elke vuurwapenlisensie en te sorg dat die aansoek om hernuwing gedoen word nie korter as 90 dae voor die vervaldatum nie. Indien sodanige aansoek in tyd gedoen word bly die oorspronklike lisensie geldig selfs al word die nuwe lisensie nie uitgereik voor die vervaldatum nie. Uiteraard moet sodanige aansoekers toesien dat hul in die hernuwingsaansoeke bevestig dat die status quo gehandhaaf word, met ander woorde, dat die motiverig wat oorspronklik van toepassing was, steeds van toepassing is.

Top Psychiatrist's Stunning Announcement About Gun Violence

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/science-isnt-golden/201510/top-psychiatrists-stunning-announcement-about-gun-violence>

Oct 08, 2015

After each highly publicized gun violence incident, some lawmakers—whether with good intention, for political gain, or both—declare that we must have laws to keep guns out of the hands of people with mental illness. It is therefore stunning and profoundly important to note Sunday's blog post (link is external) from the American Psychiatric Association's president, Dr. Renee Binder.

As chief executive of the major lobby group that advocates for the interests of psychiatrists, Binder might have been expected to recommend an increase in psychiatric treatment for the mentally ill as a way to reduce gun violence. Amazingly, she not only did not make that recommendation, but she made the powerful—and well-documented—statement that people diagnosed with mental illness are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators of it and that most of the mentally ill will never commit acts of violence against others. Thus, to pass laws to prevent the mentally ill from owning guns is no way to reduce the frequency of murders. In fact, as Binder pointed out, "Stronger indicators of risk include a history of violent behavior, domestic violence, and drug or alcohol abuse."

Politicians on the Sunday morning news shows either failed to read Binder's essay or chose to ignore it and plowed right ahead, pushing for gun laws about the mentally ill. And on Monday morning, former Congressman Patrick Kennedy appeared on CBS, making an impassioned plea to prevent the mentally ill from owning guns and making the bold—and unfounded—assertion that such a step would have prevented the most recent mass shooting. It will be worth watching to see if over time, Binder's strong statement alters politicians' proposals. Today, Republican Presidential candidate Ben Carson made a similar plea.

Two important points shed further light on this matter. One arises from the fact that the primary way that "the mentally ill" are identified is by having been given psychiatric diagnoses, but a vast body of work over three decades has revealed psychiatric diagnostic categories to be constructed and applied with little or no scientific support, so attempts to divide the populace into "the mentally ill" and "everyone else"—and aim to pass laws affecting the former—make no sense.

The other relevant point is that the ballooning numbers of categories and subcategories that are called mental illnesses has led to the psychiatrizing of our society, the tendency of therapists, media people, the public, even some novelists to try to explain every aspect of human behavior as

caused by a mental illness. This often takes the form of, "Person X did Y, and the fact that they did Y proves that they are mentally ill, because Y (almost any action or expression) is a mental illness." Defense attorneys operating in a system that is often stacked against the accused, especially if the latter are poor or women or people of color, understandably try to get their clients diagnosed as mentally ill, hoping to argue that the psychiatric disorder is reason for a reduced sentence. As a result, a confounding factor we will increasingly need to consider is that an artificially created correlation between a diagnosis of mental illness and commission of a violent act will result, as anyone charged with an act of violence is increasingly likely to be labeled mentally ill. As that happens, it will unjustifiably become ammunition for those who want to base laws on the notion that "the mentally ill" are more dangerous than the rest of the populace.

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30 Year Birthday Update



Just a reminder that time is running short if you want to get your name into the draw for this beautiful handmade Stephen Mackrill knife.

For every new member you sign up (or every lapsed member you get to rejoin) before 15 December you will get one entry into the final quarterly draw for SAGA insignia and an entry into the **big draw!!**

Contact the office for more information or visit our website.

The Mackrill knife is a special skinning knife made of Bohler N690 steel, the blade has a satin finish and a brass bolster. The handle is made from tamboti wood with a brass name plaque inlaid into it. There is also a sheath made of kudu hide and the whole thing is presented in a beautiful custom box.

See www.mackrill.co.za for more on knives made by the Mackrills.

PRIZE WINNERS

Winners in our third quarter membership draw are:

First: Mr BJ Els (one of our founder members) who wins a hamper of 30 Year insignia (Patch, Beanie, Memory Stick, Knife and Long Sleeve Shirt) valued at R625

Second: Mr P Van Tour who wins a 30 Year commemorative Drimac Jacket valued at R430.

You gotta be in it to win it....
Sign up a new member today

SAGA INSIGNIA

Some of the special commemorative insignia is still available. Contact the office to order or order from our website. All prices include postage and packaging.

Cloth Patch

This specially designed cloth patch will replace our normal cloth patch during our 30th year. The simple laurels add a real touch of class and acknowledge this milestone in SAGA's history. The patch can be stitched or ironed on. Price: R25

Beanie

A warm SAGA green knitted beanie with matching tone "SAGA" embroidered on the front. Great for those chilly days on the shooting range, or in the hunting field. Easy to keep in your shooting bag or box and a good price too! One size fits all. Price: R50

Memory Stick

Something more useful would be hard to find. This 4Gb memory stick is laser engraved with SAGA 30 Year branding and comes in a handy plastic storage case with a lanyard. Perfect for everyday use. Price: R85

Biltong Knife

We now have stunning black-handled Victorinox Biltong Knives with a specially designed 30 Year logo tastefully etched onto the blade. If you have one of our normal red-handled Victorinox biltong knives then you will appreciate how useful and hardworking they are. These knives will replace our red-handled knives during our 30th year. Price: R165

Long Sleeve Shirts

A lot of members have asked for a long sleeve shirt and so here it is. In olive green, these ripstop fabric long sleeve shirts are made locally and have a toned 30 Year logo embroidered above the front left chest pocket. These shirts look good and will be well worn. Sizes available are: Medium to 4XL. Price: R300

Drimac Jacket

Drimac is a brand everyone knows and this jacket is our top-of-the range insignia item for the year. Quality you can be sure of, the jackets are a smart bottle green with a toned colour 30 Year logo embroidered on the front left chest. Sizes available are: Medium and Large. Price: R430

Our usual insignia will continue to be available but is not branded for the 30-year commemoration.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

United Nations General Assembly – First Committee

October 16, 2015

WFSA Statement by Mr Herbert Keusgen - President

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The World Forum on Shooting Activities is an ECOSOC NGO with 50 member associations representing hundreds of millions of law abiding civilian firearms owners.

Mr. Chairman it is unfortunate that the UN continues to ignore the legitimate rights of legal firearms owners. Our community of hunters, sport shooters and legal firearms owners is especially concerned about the direction of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). It is evident, from the conference in Cancun, that the ATT is becoming nothing more than a “small arms” treaty and those small arms will inappropriately include legal civilian arms.

Mr. Chairman, let me emphasize that the firearms I am referring to, legally owned civilian firearms, have nothing to do with the fully automatic military arms that were the original focus of the ATT. These legally possessed firearms are not the current weapons of war. They are tools for sports appreciated by millions and millions



of hunters and shooters or prized heritage arms preserved by collectors.

There already are extensive regulations for import and export of firearms and ammunition and these would be more than sufficient - if they were respected by all states.

Legally owned civilian firearms are not contributing to the conflicts the ATT should be concerned with. It is the illicit transfer of military arms that the UN should focus on, not on legally owned civilian firearms.

Mr. Chairman, we strongly recommend that civilian firearms not be part of the ATT or for that matter the Programme of Action.

Let me make another point concerning UN efforts for the regula-

tion of ammunition, especially marking and tracing. Based on my personal experience as a member of industry, I can say this simply can't be done. This is not a political statement but a technical truth. Accounting for an individual round of ammunition would be like tracing a grain of rice in the international market.

Our civilian firearms community is neither your opponent nor your enemy. We are law-abiding citizens, but we live in a world of rights and duties. We will defend our rights to possess firearms – but let us fulfill our duty to you with fruitful cooperation.

We are willing to support the United Nations in its efforts to prevent human right abuses with our expertise and experience, but we must be heard and not ignored.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

NOTE:

SAGA is a Voting Member of WFSA and has input on a number of issues.

See www.wfsa.net