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CNN Poll Offers Bad News for Gun Controllers, Anti-gun Candidates

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20150918/cnn-poll-offers-bad-news-for-gun-controllers-anti-gun-candidates>

Friday, September 18, 2015

Candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination – Hillary Clinton and Martin O'Malley – have spent significant effort in recent months trying to outdo one another on gun control by boasting about just how much they intend to trample upon our Second Amendment rights once in office. However, a new poll released this week from CNN and ORC International should give their campaign staffers pause, as it makes clear a majority of Americans staunchly support their Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Respondents were asked "In your view, do existing laws make it too easy for people to buy guns, too difficult, or are they about right?" Half of respondents (49%) thought laws were "about right." Certainly this is good news, but the revelation that is sure to give Michael Bloomberg and Everytown heartburn is that 10% responded that current laws make buying a gun "too difficult." Together, this means a strong majority (59%) of Americans are opposed to further restrictions on the Second Amendment.

Perhaps the reason a strong majority of Americans aren't in favor of more gun control is that they have realized the bankruptcy of the anti-gun advocates' proposals. The survey went on to ask "If gun control laws were changed so that more comprehensive background checks were put in place for all gun purchases, how likely do you think that they would... prevent those with mental health problems from buying guns." Respondents were offered the options of "extremely likely," "very likely," "somewhat likely," and "not at all likely." A majority (56%) answered that checks were not at all likely or only somewhat likely to prevent such sales.

The same question was also asked as to whether further background checks would prevent convicted criminals from buying guns; and those polled were even more skeptical. This time, 58% thought that checks were not at all likely or only somewhat likely to restrict these sales. Again, a majority of Americans are clearly on the pro-gun side of the equation.

These numbers shouldn't come as a surprise. The American public's attitude has been shifting in favor of gun rights, and against gun control, for more than two decades. Gallup's polling from 1990 through 2014 tells the story, revealing that support for



further restrictions on the sale of firearms has dropped by more than a third, while the desire to keep the laws the same or to make them less strict has exploded.

While we might question their prudence in touting radical gun controls in the face of such opposition, this, of course, doesn't mean we hope Clinton and O'Malley alter their tactics. In fact, we can thank them for being very clear about their anti-gun beliefs – along with their plans to scuttle the Second Amendment – so when it comes to the voting booth next fall, America's 100 million gun owners will know the score.



First Conference of State Parties to Arms Trade Treaty



WFSA have advised that the First Conference of State Parties to the ATT was held in Cancun (Mexico) on August 24-27, 2015.

President Herbert Keusgen (BVS), Mr. Frank Göpper (FWR), Mr. Klaus Gotzen (JSM) and Mr. Tom Mason (WFSA US Executive Secretary) attended the meeting on behalf of WFSA. Mr. James Baranowski (NRA), Mr. Thierry Jacobs (BWF), Mr. Rick Patterson (SAAMI) and Mrs. Julianne Versnel (SAF) also attended the event.

It was decided that the ATT Secretariat will be located in Geneva, who won the second ballot against Trinidad & Tobago after Vienna's decision to withdraw its candidacy (Votes: 35 Geneva, 32 Trinidad & Tobago).

The South African candidate was elected by consensus as Secretary-General of the ATT for a one year position renewable for a longer term.

Moreover, there were a lot of discussions on the issue of reporting and transparency. Following anti-gun NGOs recommendations, there was a proposal to report category by category: handgun, pistol, rifles, etc, thus promoting total transparency. The proposal was however rejected and everything is now optional.

Finally, it was interesting to notice how anti-gun NGO's are now using the ATT to push their ideas. However, one important point is that Control Arms failed in trying to lead all the NGOs attendance to meetings. It was in fact approved that everyone willing to attend ATT meetings is now free to do so if recognized by the UN. The second very important point is that after two days the industry succeeded in having an "official" seat in the meeting room and is no longer obliged to be mixed with other NGOs.

Working documents are available for download at the following link: <http://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/index.php/en/conference-of-states-parties/documents>

The next CSP meeting will be held in Geneva in 2016.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

SA Statement to ATT States of Parties Conference

Thank you, Mr President, It gives me great pleasure to address this First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) here in the beautiful city of Cancun on behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. I wish to use this opportunity to thank our hosts, the Government and people of Mexico, for the gracious hospitality extended to us. Our two countries and their respective regions have long shared the common vision and its related goals for peace, security, stability, democracy and development.

At the time of the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April 2013, my country underlined the fact that the ATT is an international instrument that fills a glaring gap that existed in the global conventional arms control system. It sets high norms and criteria that States will adhere to when considering arms transfers and will, therefore, also aim to prevent the illicit conventional arms trade.

Mr President, I am pleased to say that South Africa was actively involved in the ATT process and consistently supported the negotiation of an instrument that is as comprehensive as possible and one that would make a meaningful difference in the international legal arms trade. President Jacob Zuma signed the ATT on 25 September 2013 during the UN General Assembly and my Government deposited its instrument of ratification on 22 December 2014, just prior to the Entry into Force of the Treaty.

South Africa believes that the Treaty will, by regulating the legal trade in conventional weapons, seek to combat the illicit trade in these weapons, which exacerbates conflict and crime, especially in Africa. Its full and effective implementation will tangibly contribute to promoting international and regional peace,

security and stability, as well as to reduce human suffering, by addressing the scourge of armed violence, much too often directed at innocent women and children. The swift Entry into Force of the ATT and the large and growing number of States Parties to the Treaty bear testimony to the fact that many countries around the globe share this common aspiration.

Mr President, A number of important decisions will need to be taken at this First Conference of States Parties, directly related to the future implementation of this Treaty. It is my hope that we will be able to take this opportunity to make real progress of many of these procedural matters in order to pave the way for the further operationalization and universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Central to the success of the Treaty, is ensuring that it has a real effect in setting an international norm to which States adhere and in monitoring the global arms trade. In addition, the ATT's success will also depend on the effectiveness of the Treaty's Secretariat that will assist States Parties in the effective implementation of the Treaty. A strong Secretariat will be essential to ensure that the ATT will be able to deliver in making a meaningful difference in better regulating the global arms trade.

In view of the importance that South Africa attaches to the ATT Secretariat, the South African Government has nominated the Head of the South African National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC) Secretariat, Mr SD Dladla, as a candidate for the post

of Head of the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty, upon its establishment in terms of Article 18 of the ATT.

Mr Dladla's experience and in-depth knowledge of arms control issues at national, continental and international levels informs the decision to advance his candidature to head the ATT Secretariat. He has worked for over a decade on multilateral conventional arms control issues and has formed part of various South African delegations in negotiations and conferences in the arms control field. In view of Mr Dladla's extensive practical arms control experience and his suitability to head the future ATT Secretariat, my delegation would appreciate the support of delegations for his candidature for this important position.

Mr President, The central pillar of the ATT is premised on the requirement that prospective States Parties should establish, where they do not already exist, effective national conventional arms transfer control legislation, together with the requisite dedicated conventional arms control systems.

In this regard, South Africa's ratification of the ATT underscores my Government's continued and firm commitment to fulfil its international role as a responsible manufacturer, possessor and trader in conventional arms.

I thank you, Mr President.



Walmart Discontinues Selling America's Most Popular Rifle



Friday, August 28, 2015

Americans acquiring the most popular rifle in the country will now be doing so only from traditional firearm dealerships and full-service sporting goods stores, which—as it happens—typically have the most extensive selections of firearms and accessories from which to choose, and employees who support the Second Amendment and who can answer firearm questions with expertise.

Walmart said this week that it will no longer sell AR-15s and other “semi-automatic weapons,” and from now on will sell only the kinds of firearms used “by hunters and people who shoot sporting clays and things like that.” The Associated Press reports that Walmart claims its decision wasn’t political, but was rather because sales of the rifle have declined.

Whether Walmart’s decision is political or purely business-driven warrants consideration. *Time* reports that Walmart stopped selling guns in a third of its stores in 2006, and the *Huffington Post* reports that the chain now doesn’t sell guns in two-thirds of its stores, even though over that time frame Americans’ annual firearm purchases tripled.

In 2012, Walmart agreed to adopt gun sales policies urged by anti-gun crusader Michael Bloomberg, and severed its ties to the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, because of its support for Stand Your Ground laws.

In April, Walmart survived a lawsuit seeking to force the retailer to obtain approval from its board of directors before selling “high capacity assault weapons” and other “products that especially endanger public safety and well-being, risk impairing the company’s reputation, or offend the family and community values integral to the company’s brand.”

In July, the 300,000-member New York City Employees Retirement System passed a resolution related to divesting itself of its shares of Walmart and major firearm retailers Cabela’s and Dick’s Sporting Goods. The author of the resolution called on New York City’s four other pension funds to do the same. The five funds have \$300 million invested in Walmart alone.

The *Huffington Post* notes, the retailer’s decision to stop selling AR-15s “comes at a time when Walmart has been moving to a kinder, gentler image under new CEO Doug McMillon.”

Where Walmart’s claim that AR-15 sales are declining is concerned, we decided to find out for ourselves by contacting a couple of prominent AR-15 manufacturers. Daniel Defense told us that sales of their ARs have never been stronger. We’re not surprised, as the AR-15 has become the platform upon which the most widely used rifles for defense, marksmanship competitions, training and, increasingly, hunting are being made. Windham Weaponry told us that sales are currently tracking with its corporate projections.

Letitia James, Public Advocate for New York City and the instigator of the effort to divest the city’s pension funds of their investments in firearm retailers, said “If we want real change, we have to hit Walmart where it hurts: in their pocketbook.” That’s certainly something to think about, when deciding where to buy your next gun, scope, case of ammunition or other firearm-related accessories.

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20150828/walmart-discontinues-selling-americas-most-popular-rifle>

Board of Inquiry into the National Commissioner of the SAPS

22 September 2015

President Jacob Zuma has in terms of Sections 9(1) of the South Africa Police Service Act, 1995, established a Board of Inquiry into the allegations of misconduct by the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service, and/or her capacity to execute official duties efficiently.

The members of the Board of Inquiry are the following:

- * Judge Cornelis Johannes Claasen, Chairperson
- * Adv Bernard Sakhile Khuzwayo, member
- * Adv Anusha Rawjee, member

The Board of Inquiry shall inquire into whether:

- * the National Commissioner acting together with other leadership of the South African Police Service or alone, misled the Commission by concealing that it had made the decision to implement a "tactical option", taken at the National Management Forum (NMF) meeting on or about 15 August 2012;

- * the decision taken to implement the "tactical option" ought reasonably to have foreseen the tragic and catastrophic consequences which ensued;

- * the remarks by the National Commissioner at the SAPS parade on 17 August 2012 would have been understood to be an unqualified endorsement of the police action and thereby having the consequence of undermining, frustrating or otherwise impeding the work of the Commission;

- * the report prepared by the National Commissioner for the President of the Republic on the 16 August 2012 and the media statement subsequently issued on 17 August 2012, was deliberately amended to conceal the fact that there were two shooting incidents (Scene 1 and Scene 2), resulting in misleading the public that all the deaths had occurred at Scene 1 which arose out of members of SAPS having to defend themselves from an advancing mass;

- * the overall testimony by the National Commissioner at the Commission was in keeping with the

office which she holds and the discharge of her duties commensurate therewith.

President Zuma has furnished National Commissioner General Victoria Phiyega with the terms of reference of the Board of Inquiry following her request for further clarity with regards to the inquiry, and has in addition accorded General Phiyega a further opportunity to make representations by the 28th September as to why she should not be suspended pending the final determination of her fitness to hold office.

Media Statement from the Presidency

