



SAGA SNIPPETS

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The UN Arms Trade Treaty & its Effect on Civilian Firearm Ownership

By John Welch

The ordinary citizen may be aware of the United Nations' Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) only to the extent that it is newsworthy in the visual or printed media. The question, though, is what is the purpose of the ATT; what are the chances of achieving its objects; and what are the indirect consequences thereof?

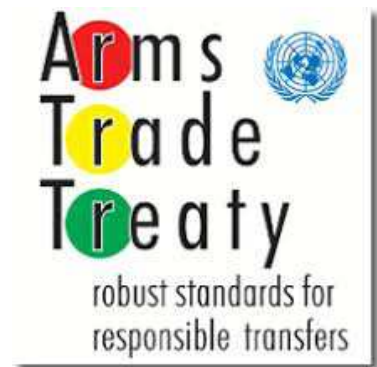
Originally the object was primarily to prevent the diversion of conventional weapons from the importing country, which is now encapsulated in article 1 of the ATT which describes the objects as to: (i) Establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating or improving the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms; (ii) Prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion; for the purpose of contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability, reducing human suffering, promoting cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms, thereby building confidence among States Parties.

The Fifth Conference of State Parties to the ATT (CSP5) was held on 26–30 August 2019 in Geneva (Switzerland). The meeting was attended by 106 States (88 State Parties, 15 Signatories, 3 Observers), and 39 Civil Society organizations. Following the decision to withdraw from the Treaty, the United States did not send a dele-

gation. The World Forum for Shooting Activities (WFSA), of which SAGA is a member of the Executive, was one of the civil organisations at the meeting.

While the Treaty currently has 105 States Parties, of which China and Russia are glaringly absent, but many of which are African states, it is significant that only South Africa submitted a report. In terms of imports, South Africa imported one armoured combat vehicle from Finland and four large-calibre artillery systems from Kenya (this is rather ironical bearing in mind that at one stage, not too long ago, the G5 artillery system and the Ratel fighting vehicle were comparable with the best in the world). The Finnish vehicle was an early production Badger infantry combat vehicle.

In addition, South Africa imported a substantial number (609) of sniper rifles from the UK and other bits and pieces from various other countries, including rifles, pistols and under-barrel grenade launchers. The following are of particular interest: Czechia exported 2 self-loading pistols to SA as well as 461 rifles and carbines; Italy supplied 5401 pistols; Turkey exported 2x 45 calibre Zig M1911 pistols and 4 930 semi-automatic small and light pistols, including 17x 9mm Zigana M16s to SA. Further, Sweden exported an undisclosed number of 84mm Carl Gustaf recoilless rifles to South Africa.



Since the ATT is applicable to conventional weapons, I find it particularly interesting that the UK reported on exporting 1x sporting rifle to Angola, 3x sporting rifles to Botswana, 2x sporting rifles to Ghana, 1x sporting rifle to Malawi, 2x sporting rifles to Namibia, 55x sporting rifles to South Africa and 25x sporting rifles to Zambia.

Since most member states were rather meticulous in submitting their reports, one does not know whether some African countries thought they could avoid scrutiny by not submitting reports? From the reports it appeared that Angola, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Uganda and some other central African states were the most prolific.



Continued....The UN Arms Trade Treaty

ic purchasers. It appears that Angola is beefing up its defence since its imports (from various countries) have been rather significant, among others, 6x 152mm 2S3 SP howitzers, 20x 122mm 2S1 SP howitzers, 4x 122mm BM-21 multiple launch rocket system and 4x 9P140 multiple launch rocket systems; 16 armoured combat vehicles with missile launchers (believed to be upgraded SA-6 surface-to-air missile systems); 55 revolvers and self-loading pistols; and 6x combat aircraft, most likely upgraded Su-30K Flanker fighters (the last of 12 on order had been delivered by the second quarter of 2019).

Despite the focus at this year's meeting being Gender Based Violence, the Treaty's financial situation was one of the main topics of discussion. The ATT is going bankrupt and is operating at a - \$415,498.37 deficit. This deficit will inevitably increase when the ATT will be obliged to refund almost all of the fees the U.S. has already paid for 2019. Additionally, Switzerland's in-kind contribution to the ATT ended this year, but they committed to renew (and even increase) their contributions at CSP5 to ensure the ATT remains funded through 2021 (247,000 Francs/year).

A subgroup was also established at CSP5 with the purpose of addressing shipment and trans-shipment issues. The mandate of this group will be further refined during the next Working Group meetings which will have to be monitored closely to ensure no attempts to interfere with the transportation of firearms for sports or hunting purposes are developed.

Another aspect that will have to be monitored very closely is one being sponsored by Amnesty International. In an attempt to hold industry/ manufacturers liable for the abuse or diversion of weapons by states, talks focussed on their being unable to hide behind export licenses and agreements.

Since the founding of the UN ATT, SAGA has warned that the door has been opened to abuse of powers. Rather than focussing its attention on peaceful co-existence amongst states, the UN adopted these measures to eventually expand its mandate to interference with states' sovereignty. The fact that the recent meeting took time to discuss gender-based violence and that countries reported on sporting rifles are examples hereof. In addition, the

fact that the world's major firearm and conventional weapons manufacturers, such as the USA, China and Russia, are not members, that they either expressly or tacitly control smaller manufacturers, that many states do not report and make no financial contributions and the fact that it is bankrupt, are clear indications that the ATT is doomed to failure.

Despite good intentions by the UN and world powers, and all laws to ban firearms from civilian ownership, the simple fact is that terrorists and criminals still obtain guns and other weapons to instil fear and perpetrate their evil deeds.

Governments must learn to trust those worthy of trust, thus forming partnerships with law abiding and responsible citizens. In such a relationship built on trust, citizens and government will stand together in combating terrorism and other crime. Firearm ownership is probably one of the heaviest regulated activities in South Africa - why not trust these predominantly responsible citizens to exercise their freedom and rights? Government may be surprised at the outcome.

Firearms Amnesty 2019

24 October 2019

On 23 October 2019 the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Police approved the Minister of Police's intention to declare a firearms amnesty with effect from 1 December 2019, for a 6-month period.

This application has been before the Portfolio Committee for at least two years, but because of dissatisfaction by parliamentarians about the safe storage of surrendered firearms and ammunition; the vetting of police officials who would deal with the amnesty; and the concerns about theft from and robbery of police stations; and the purpose of the amnesty, the committee did not previously want to approve the amnesty. Also, in the past, the parliamentarians were not happy with the notice of amnesty, nor with the conditions. What we at SAGA find somewhat strange is that it appears that again there was no amnesty notice before parliament. We are, accordingly, unsure as to the conditions of the amnesty.

Because we do not know whether firearm owners who had failed to renew their licenses under the current Firearms Control Act, No. 60 of 2000, would be allowed to simultaneously with the surrender of their "unlicensed" firearms, make application for a new license, we cannot properly advise members and the public as to their rights and what they should do.

In fact, in a media statement yesterday, the Portfolio Committee stated that: *"the committee has urged the ministry and the SAPS to consider a concession for people who were not able to renew their firearm licenses and allow them to utilise this period of amnesty to apply for the requisite license"*. Neither the Minister nor SAPS has yet responded to this statement.

The Portfolio Committee further stated that it *"urges all South Africans to take advantage of the amnesty and to surrender their firearms to the SAPS and actively to participate in efforts to remove firearms from our streets as a means to aid the fight against crime"*.

SAGA is particularly perturbed about the choice of words in this extract, since it creates the impression that the public must be disarmed and that licensed firearm owners are the cause of criminality. During the SAPS presentation in parliament the Major General stated very proudly that during the previous 2010 amnesty, more licensed firearms were in fact surrendered than unlicensed firearms. I would have thought there ought to be great joy if more unlicensed firearms, those mostly used by criminals, were surrendered.

This statement clearly shows that government wants to disarm the ordinary law-abiding citizen, those who know that the police cannot protect them, and those who believe their survival lies in their own hands. Crimes are predominantly committed with unlicensed firearms, many of which were lost by, or stolen from, the police, military and other state departments, firearms smuggled into the country or emanating from previous arms caches which have still not been declared and home-made firearms, with a small number stolen from licenced firearm owners.

The police informed parliament that all steps have been (and are being) taken to ensure that surrendered firearms and ammunition remain in safe custody and will be destroyed without delay, but the fact of the matter is that

they have indicated that in excess of 40 police stations will, because of security concerns, not be involved in the amnesty process at all. This is a sad reflection on the state of corruption and crime within the police service.

Although the police have maintained that there is no interdict against the Minister to declare an amnesty, what needs to be considered, is that GOSA obtained a temporary interdict against the police to ensure that the police may not take any action against those people who had failed to timeously apply for the renewal of their licenses, and as a result the National Commissioner had issued an instruction that no action must be taken against such people. This matter is currently pending and still needs to be dealt with in Court.

As soon as further detail and information becomes available about the amnesty conditions, SAGA will advise its members and the general public further.

SAGA promotes the responsible and safe possession and use of firearms for lawful purposes.

CZ-USA's Team of Teens + One Breaks Guinness World Record



<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/10/24/cz-usa-s-team-of-teens-plus-one-breaks-guinness-world-record/>

by Barbara Baird

Thursday, October 24, 2019

They came. They saw. They shattered. Within a few hours of starting, a team of five shooters – four teenagers and CZ-USA's shotgun product manager Dave Miller – broke the Guinness World Record of 4,602 clays in a 12-hour period. Twelve hours later, at 10:12 p.m., the team had broken 14,167 clays – as witnessed by two adjudicators from Guinness World Records.

CZ-USA hosted the event at the Powder Creek Shooting Park in Lenexa, Kansas. The company created a day that few involved will ever forget, set on October 12 (10-12) to introduce its new semi-auto hunting workhorse, the CZ 1012 shotgun in 12 gauge. Robust partnerships from the following companies set up the scenario for a cannot-fail event: Aguila Ammo (donating at least 20,000 shells), MEC Outdoors (400E Chandelé clay target machines), White Flyer Targets, Wild Hare Shooting Gear, Scholastic Clay Target Program, Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA), Risher Fitness Equipment and Powder Creek Shooting Park.

CZ used a two-part process to choose two young men and two young women from a large pool of youth competition shooters across the country this past summer. Athletes had to shoot a 50-target clay shooting challenge at either the SCTP Nationals or the AIM/Grand American for half of the score. The other 50 percent came from an essay, based on why the athlete deserved to be on this team. There were more than 280 entries.

The team set up in a line on individual moveable platforms, approximately 30 yards away from a wall in front of 10 MEC Outdoors throwers (each shooter had two dedicated machines that held 400 clays each). There were several back-up machines onsite, as well. After calling release of the clays, each shooter shot at four targets – thrown two at a time, twice, in an arc. If a shooter had to leave the line, he or she would not be able to return to the challenge. The 12-hour schedule included short breaks throughout the day, with snacks and drinks. More than 30 volunteers from the company and local shooting club aided in keeping the event flowing smoothly.

Dave Miller

Not only is Dave the shotgun product manager, but also he organizes special events for CZ-USA.

The evening before the event, he sat down with some members of the press and talked about the importance of the occasion and his team. "I could have chosen four guys from home who never miss a target ... and for what? With this event, we are showing to SCTP and AIM that we respect what they do. For these four kids, this will change their lives forever. ...I'm just happy to be the guy who helped to provide that."

Dave elaborated, "I was trying to find a way to break a record that meant something. All these people and companies that have supported CZ and me, I'm humbled by their participating and their ability to help. We've been working on this for over 10 months."

Dave set a Guinness World Record in May 2015 for the most sporting clay targets shot in one hour (3653 targets). He brings an impressive resume of championships and certifications, and is routinely featured on CZ-USA's "Gun Dog TV."

Levi Henrichs

Nineteen-year-old Levi Henrichs hails from Sibley, Iowa, attends Northwest Iowa Community College and shoots on its trap team. He talked to us about how he and his father set up a shooting team as a freshman in high school, with 30 kids on the team out of a school of 500 – including 7th and 8th grades. As a sophomore in high school, Levi earned an NRA Level 1 coaching qualification, and started working with new shooters. Levi works construction to support his shooting, and hopes to compete for an Olympic berth someday. "I believe the reason I'm here is because I've done everything I can to get here ... I work out, I eat clean and I work my butt off to get the money to pay for this stuff." He is attending college to be a design engineer, and would love to work in the gun industry someday. Already, he's working for a company that makes triggers and other firearm parts.

Jessica Strasser

Jessica Strasser has been shooting competitively for five years. At age 17, this Waterford, Wisconsin, teen started hunting pheasants and waterfowl with her family. Her relatives started a shooting team at her school, where she began shooting the clay sports. "I wasn't

Continued....Guinness World Record

very good, but it's just something I wanted to keep doing. ... All of the coaches are parent volunteers and they said, 'Keep going! You can do this!' And that kept me want to keep going and breaking more targets." Jessica has earned a long list of shooting awards at local, state and national levels and wants to further her shooting career in college someday. When she's not shooting, she can be found volunteering at her church for programs and at the local VFW.

Weston Zolck

Weston Zolck grew up deer hunting in the Herman, Nebraska, area. Family and friends started coaching him in trap when he was in the 6th grade. He is now 19, and a sophomore at Iowa Western Community College majoring in business. He also competes on the school shooting team, in national competitions and in his spare time, coaches younger shooters. "One thing that I've learned is that golf is huge for a mental game, so if you can look up some videos and articles on the mental game of golf, it will help." He stressed the adult aspect of the shooting sports, where youth must rely on adults to buy their equipment (guns and ammo), and to teach respect required for the safety aspects of the sport. "Growing up, I wasn't confident, but the coach at my college recruited not only to shoot, but also to help coach some of the teammates. ... Being able to be competitive, without being aggressive, is something I really like about the shooting sports."

Makayla Scott

The youngest qualifier at 16, Makayla Scott brings her West Virginia can-do attitude to the shooting sports. Makayla had tried all the "ball sports," and nothing fit. Her brother invited her to try the shooting sports at age 13 through a local 4-H club, and three years later, she is a Team CZ-USA shooting ambassador and a contender in the world of junior clays, including being the first West Virginian girl to qualify for the Junior Olympics in 2018. "After that, and when it clicked for me, my life changed," said Makayla. She started entering tournaments and making friends. She hopes to attend college on a shooting scholarship.

During the competition, the guns ran strong. Each competitor had six guns at his or her disposal. In fact, Wes shot one model throughout the day!

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

Dogs for Home Protection

by NRA Staff
Tuesday, October 22, 2019

A piercing shriek split the early summer morning, alerting everyone in the house. As we came running, we saw our dog Tippy, a Siberian husky/border collie cross, sitting calmly next to the screen door. At her feet lay a Saturday-edition newspaper. Just outside the screen door stood the paper-delivery girl, clutching her forearm. It was normal for her to crack the screen door and leave our paper there; unfortunately for her, this morning we'd accidentally left the "real" door ajar. Tippy had seen a strange hand enter her home, and in utter silence—without so much as a warning growl—she had bitten the paper-girl. Luckily, she had only nipped and released the young teen's arm and hadn't broken the skin. But that incident illustrated that although Tippy made a great pet, she wasn't necessarily an ideal home-defense dog.

One of the first pieces of advice you'll receive when you begin exploring your own home-defense strategy is to get a dog. It's perfectly good advice; although there's remarkably little out there in the way of scientific studies indicating just how much of a deterrent a dog is to a potential

home invader, it only stands to reason that most burglars don't want to be interrupted or bitten.

Even a tiny dog can make an incredible racket, raising the alarm in an otherwise sleeping household...even alerting neighbors if the homeowners aren't there. What's more, some of the smallest dogs can actually be remarkably aggressive. For example, dachshunds were originally bred for badger hunting and boast a strong prey drive and shockingly strong jaws (as anyone who's ever been bitten by a "wiener dog" can attest). So, for many people, any dog can certainly be part of their home-defense plan.

That said, some dog breeds—even working breeds—aren't ideal for defense. Take the example of our husky/border collie pet: Despite their size, strength and wild, lupine appearance, Siberian huskies tend to be both too quiet (huskies as a rule don't bark much) and too friendly to be very helpful when someone is trying to pick your front deadbolt. Border collies, although highly social and with a strong protective instinct developed through generations of breeding as shepherd

dogs, also tend to be very friendly towards people and not very vocal.

On the other hand, it's important to remember that even a dog you've chosen specifically to guard your home is going to be a part of your family. You need an animal that you can trust to be a companion to your family and to protect you. This is where it's crucial to seek expert advice, both for selecting a specific dog and for training that dog.

This shouldn't be an impulse purchase; finding your new family member should ideally be a process that incorporates research and listening to people who've devoted their lives to strengthening the ancient symbiosis between canine and human. It won't stop there, either: You and your dog will both need to work on your bond with ongoing training, even participating in specific sports that will help keep you both sharp.

Extracted from:

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/10/22/dogs-for-home-protection/>