



# SAGA SNIPPETS

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## SAGA Media Statement on Minister's Remarks



16 January 2020

SAGA condemns the irresponsible remarks made by the Minister of Police on 14 January 2020 at an occasion where a licensed firearms dealer elected to make use of the amnesty and surrendered almost 300 firearms and a few thousand rounds of ammunition.

The Minister showed his ignorance when he accused guns of causing violence while at the same time referring to proposed amendments to the Firearms Control Act, which, inter alia would restrict a person to owning not more than one firearm.

In fact, and not for the first time, the Minister disclosed his personal agenda (or is that the ANC's agenda?) by stating that he would prefer that private citizens should not own firearms at all. This is an unambiguous indication of the government's intention to disarm civilians. Further, this is a clear signal that the government pays mere lip-service to the constitutional rights of free and responsible citizens. Perhaps his advisors should tell the Minister that if guns cause crime, then pencils cause spelling mistakes and cameras cause pornography.

The Minister should further be informed that no politician who supports gun control should get armed protection paid for by those he tries to disarm. When the Minister referred to one firearm, did he have in mind one firearm for self-defence or one firearm for self-defence, sport shooting and hunting? It was not reported what he had in mind. Probably best so, because if he had self-defence firearms in mind, he should know that the current Act already restricts a person to a single self-defence firearm.

Towards the end of 2014 a draft amendment bill was published, which was then debated by pro- and anti-gun groups during a firearms summit in the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Police (PPCoP), March 2015. Following this debate the chairman of the PPCoP was critical towards the police and instructed them to present a revised version before the end of that year. This never happened, neither did it happen any of the following years, until an apparent draft bill was leaked during 2018. As this draft bill contained numerous objectionable provisions, a meeting was convened with the Civilian Secretariat of Police, who "ducked and dived" all questions. They did not have the decency to admit or deny whether the leaked bill was the one that was drafted by the Secretariat and presented to the Minister. If ever you thought the dark days of secrecy and dishonesty were something of the past – think again!

SAGA has stated ad nauseum that crime is committed by people who have no respect for the law. Currently they are lawless ... and they will continue to be lawless. Should firearms be removed from the hands of responsible citizens, they will all just be easier victims – victims who would be unable to defend themselves against violent criminals.

And then the Minister still has the audacity to state that only the military and the police should be armed. With a reaction time of more than 20 minutes on average throughout South Africa, this is no consolation. The lack of discipline; low productivity; and the high rate of criminality, including corruption, theft and loss of firearms, at all levels in the police service is a major contributing factor for the distrust that citizens have of the police.

SAGA believes that the Minister must focus his undivided attention on these matters rather than the law-abiding responsible citizen. The psychologically and physically prepared armed citizen remains the first responder to violent crime.



## Change to Firearms Amnesty

15 January 2020

Following the declaration of the firearms amnesty by the Minister of Police from 1 December 2019 until 31 May 2020, the National Hunting and Sport Shooting Association (NHSA or Natshoot) decided to contest the validity of the amnesty declaration, and, since only 14 days were granted during which a person who surrendered a firearm with an expired licence could apply for a new licence for such firearm, they further contended that the matter was considered urgent.

At yesterday's hearing in the North Gauteng High Court, the matter was settled out of court. NHSA agreed to withdraw the application and not to bring further action against the Minister regarding the amnesty, whilst the Minister (through his police officers and the State Attorney) agreed that an applicant for a firearm licence, whose competency certificate has lapsed, could simultaneously apply for a fresh competency certificate. This agreement by the police resulted in a change to their internal policy, which previously stated that an applicant for a firearm licence needed to be in possession of a valid competency certificate prior to applying for a licence. The parties further agreed to pay their own legal costs.

The Minister stated that: "When the amnesty period lapses in May, rest assured the law will be tough on those who persist on carrying guns that are not licenced."

SAGA has already pointed out that both the amnesty notice and the amnesty process were flawed. For instance, although the amnesty kicked in on 1 December 2019, the notice was purportedly signed on 28 August 2019; and, although the amnesty was approved by

parliament, the notice never was. However, since NHSA has now withdrawn their litigation, we must accept that the flawed process and notice are condoned. The only "protection" people with expired firearm licences currently have is the temporary interdict that GOSA obtained against the police. The police were granted permission to appeal this decision on the interdict to the Supreme Court of Appeal, however, they need to apply for condonation for the late submission of documents, and, even if granted, it is uncertain when the appeal will be heard. Should the appeal be upheld and the interdict set aside only after the amnesty has come to an end, people in possession of firearms with expired licences may find themselves in a serious predicament in that they may be arrested and charged for being in possession of unlicensed firearms.

People in possession of unwanted firearms with a licence under the old Act or in terms of the FCA with current and valid licences, have no problem since these could at any time be transferred to a licenced arms dealer.

SAGA advises that those who have failed to renew their firearm licences and wish to surrender a firearm with an expired licence with a view to applying for a fresh licence, must surrender the firearm and ammunition to any Designated Amnesty Official at a police station (excluding those mentioned in the amended annexure to the amnesty declaration), and immediately give notice of your intention to apply for a licence. Then within 14 days of the surrender of the firearm, you must apply for the competency and licence with the Designated Firearms Officer at the police district in which your home or business is situated.



SAGA further advises those who take advantage of the amnesty to make copies of all documents filled out and submitted; to obtain a receipt for the firearm(s) and ammunition; and to carefully photograph the firearm(s) and ammunition.

SAGA remains concerned about security measures at police stations and the regular theft, and loss of, firearms and ammunition from the police.

SAGA promotes a safe environment in which all people can live in peace and harmony and where law-abiding citizens can exercise all their rights and freedoms. However, because of the high rate of criminality in South Africa, free and responsible citizens have the right to defend themselves and others against all unlawful and violent attacks and to be armed if they choose to do so.

### Note:

If you are considering using the amnesty, please contact the SAGA office for more details.  
Email: [saga@saga.org.za](mailto:saga@saga.org.za)

## Self-Defense for the Aging Shooter

by Sheriff Jim Wilson  
Monday, January 13, 2020

A smart man once wrote, "Getting old ain't for sissies." As the years go by, we go through a lot of physical changes that affect just about everything that we are capable of doing. It can affect our ability to defend ourselves and, more importantly, aging often makes us look like we can't defend ourselves. As we age, regardless of our ability, we begin to look like easy victims to criminals.

An older person may have trouble with vision, agility, manual dexterity or even more serious problems. We can whine and feel sorry for ourselves, or we can get real and refuse to be a victim. The secret is to take a "Don't Give Up" attitude and find ways to adapt our personal defense plan to coincide with our ability.

I recently reviewed an actual shooting case in which a wheelchair-bound citizen answered a knock at his door only to find it burst open in his face. The attacker rushed him so hard that his wheelchair was knocked over. This citizen, however, had done some prior planning and worked out a way to keep a handgun fastened to his wheelchair. As the chair keeled over, the citizen got off one shot from his .410 revolver. That action brought the attack to an immediate, fatal ending for his attacker.

A person confined to a wheelchair may find that carrying his or her defensive handgun on their hip is no longer a good idea. Just like the citizen above, one may find ways to fasten one's handgun on the chair in such a location that it is quickly available. You might also switch to a cross-draw holster or a shoulder holster, both of

which are much more accessible to a seated person.

Many folks deal with loss of strength in their hands – from arthritis or other ailments. In some cases, it may be advisable for them to switch to a less powerful handgun, one in which the recoil is more manageable. It might be that racking the slide on their favorite auto pistol is becoming more and more difficult; in this case, they might give some thought to using a revolver or a semi-auto designed to be easier to manipulate for personal defense.

The key is to accept the things that we can't change while still finding ways to work around them. Often times, the help of a good defensive trainer will be of value. ...

The key is to realize that you may look like an easy victim to criminals...and then take steps to make sure reality doesn't match appearances. We don't give up; instead we keep training and finding ways to modify our personal defense plan just as we modify the rest of our lives.

Don't give up – get real. Refuse to be a victim.

Extracted from:  
<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2020/1/13/self-defense-for-the-aging-shooter/>



## Surprising Gun Facts from the SHOT Show

by Frank Miniter,  
Editor in Chief  
Friday, January 24, 2020

Only John Lott could kill a much-repeated “fact” so cleanly.

In 2018 it was widely reported that Americans own 46% of the world's civilian-owned firearms. This statistic came from the Small Arms Survey, a Geneva, Switzerland, based organization that calls itself “a global centre of excellence” that “generates evidence-based, impartial, and policy-relevant knowledge and analysis on small arms....” It says this just before stating: “Our main objective is to reduce the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their impacts.” This, of course, isn't really a declaration of impartiality, but is rather an announcement that they are an organization with a gun-control agenda.

Lott shot holes in this “fact” at a “research breakfast” this week held by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) at the Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade Show (SHOT Show) in Las Vegas.

“The Small Arms Survey is bunk,” said Lott, who is president and founder of the Crime Research Prevention Center. “I spent three years asking the Small Arms Survey for its research data. They never gave me the data they say they used to make the claim that Americans own more guns, per capita, than any other nation.”

Lott explained that the Small Arms Survey looks at the number of guns privately owned per capita. The trouble with this is that in many parts of the world governments technically own guns even



though they are in the possession of private individuals.

“In 2007, a large percentage of the Swiss male population had military-issued weapons in their homes, but those weren't counted in this total,” said Lott. “Also, while most people have guns in Israel, the guns are technically owned by the government. People can be in possession of a gun for 50 years in Israel. If you look at the gun possession rate rather than the private gun ownership rate, both Israel and Switzerland clearly have higher gun possession rates in 2007 than the U.S.”

Lott doesn't have the resources to do a worldwide study on civilian gun ownership, so he doesn't have a competing statistic. It also might seem like only a fine point that Americans actually might not have the most civilian guns per capita. It is, however, telling that the Small Arms Survey chose to present its statistics in a way that makes the U.S. seem like an outlier, as many mainstream-media outlets used this and other statistics to claim that Americans' guns make the U.S. more dangerous than any other developed nations.

Lott, for example, next tackled the claim that more mass-murder events (attacks in which four or

more people are killed) have occurred in the U.S. than in other developed nations. He also pointed out that the researcher behind that statistic, Adam Lankford, has repeatedly declined to even share the research data he claims to have gathered from 171 nations—places that speak many different languages and that likely only report murders in regional newspapers.

Specifically, Lankford claimed that the U.S. had 31% of public mass murderers despite the fact that the U.S. has less than 5% of the world's population. Lankford's study also reported that, between 1966 and 2012, some 90 mass murderers struck in the U.S., while just 202 mass-murder attacks occurred across the rest of world.

Lott did his own study and found that Lankford massively undercounted mass-murder events in other nations. Lott found 1,448 such attacks outside the U.S. during just the last 15 years of the period Lankford said he studied.

“Regardless, many in the mainstream media didn't question Lankford's data, as it fit into their narrative that Americans' guns are a problem,” said Lott.

Lott said this after Mark Duda, with Responsive Management, and Rob Southwick, with Southwick Associates, presented survey numbers and more on the gun industry, and after the NSSF's Jim Curcuruto talked about the new NSSF program “Gun Owners Care”, an initiative designed to help gun owners to effectively respond to those who are

**Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets**



## Continued...Surprising Gun Facts from the SHOT Show

opposed to our Second Amendment freedoms.

The overall point made by these three researchers is that “words matter” and the gun-control movement is aggressively trying to control the language used, as, by controlling the language, they can control the conversation. The political term “assault weapon” was an early use of this tactic; more recently, the gun-control movement has supplanted the term “gun control” with “gun safety.”

Lott added that, yes, we must push back against their appropriation of the language, but just as importantly, we must expose the

dishonest data they are pushing on the American public.

Meanwhile, as is the case every year, much of the conversation at the SHOT Show is not about gun rights—though the battles over our rights is a topic here. Rather, the conversations at SHOT are mostly about all the new firearms and associated products being introduced.

[https://  
www.americas1stfreedom.org/  
articles/2020/1/24/surprising-gun-  
facts-from-the-shot-show/](https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2020/1/24/surprising-gun-facts-from-the-shot-show/)

## Record Background Checks in 2019

### Record Background Checks in 2019 Indicate Increasing Gun Purchases (USA)

by Mel Dixon

Sunday, January 19, 2020

Gun purchases in 2019 exceeded all other years on record since 1998, according to the number of background checks.

The total number of background checks for 2019 was about 28.4 million—nearly the population of Texas. This is about 3% higher than the previous record of 27.5 million in 2016.

Background checks for every month during 2019 (except February and March) increased over the prior year. High numbers seen on Black Friday made gun sellers hopeful for the holidays, and indeed, December was the

second-highest month on record for background checks.

The number of background checks performed by the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) does not equate exactly to the number of gun purchases. This is because in most places only one background check would be required for a person purchasing multiple guns and the checks also are run for concealed-handgun permits and renewals in many states. However, the NICS numbers are still used as one of the few metrics available to gauge gun-buying activity.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) regularly analyzes the NICS statistics to remove background checks that are unlikely to represent gun purchases. The NSSF sets the estimated number of firearms purchases

for 2019 at about 13.2 million, a small increase over the prior year, but not beating its estimate for 2016.

The previous record number of background checks in 2016 was largely attributed to it being an election year in which Hillary Clinton made restricting Second Amendment rights a significant part of her platform. The Democratic candidates for 2020 also have made it clear they favor further restrictions on gun rights, so firearms sales for this election cycle may continue trending upward in response.

[https://  
www.americas1stfreedom.org/  
articles/2020/1/19/record-  
background-checks-in-2019-  
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purchases/](https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2020/1/19/record-background-checks-in-2019-indicate-increasing-gun-purchases/)