

# UNLIREC Newsletter

## *Andean States*

### Peru delivers specialized training on firearms and ammunition control with technical support from UNLIREC

The Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – in its role as President of the National Commission against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CONATIAF) - organized a “Specialized Workshop on Firearms and Ammunition: Mechanisms and Control Measures” on 26 August 2013 in Peru’s capital city, Lima.



The main purpose of the workshop was to engage in focused dialogue with CONATIAF members concerning implementation of the obligations found in the different international firearms instruments.

At the request of CONATIAF, UNLIREC delivered presentations on the definitions and classifications of firearms,

ammunition and explosives according to the United Nations system, and addressed the key provisions found in the international instruments regarding the marking of firearms and ammunition.

UNLIREC’s “Technical Guidelines for the Marking of Small Arms and Ammunition” formed the basis of conversation for debate among authorities on marking issues. The guide is a tool aimed at facilitating the standardization of firearms and ammunition marking practices in the Latin American and Caribbean region. This technical guide is based on the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the best practices of States in the region. The main advantages of marking firearms is to facilitate tracing, exchange information, improve firearms control and stockpile management, as well as to strengthen regional and international cooperation to control the legal trade and combat illicit trafficking. In short, marking is one of the most effective measures to combat firearms proliferation and engage in investigations dealing with firearms trafficking and their unlawful use.

Authorities from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the CONATIAF, as well as legal

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representatives attended the one-day workshop. The different working groups of CONATIAF will follow up on advancing and strengthening the implementation of the

instruments and their obligations with a view to limiting the harmful impact illicit firearms trafficking has on public safety and security.

## *Caribbean States*

### UNLIREC and Suriname join forces to counter illicit firearms trafficking



Personnel from the Security Assistance Department (BBS), Suriname Armed Forces (SAF), Police (KPS), Customs and Prisons (DZ) are trained in the operation of the hydraulic shears donated by UNLIREC to the Government of Suriname.

On 02 August 2013, UNLIREC officially handed over a set of hydraulic shears to the Government of Suriname for the destruction of small arms, as well as a Small Arms Ammunition Burning Tank (SAABT) for the destruction of small arms ammunition and explosives. Both of these pieces of equipment were provided to Suriname with a view to ensuring permanent indigenous capacity for regular destruction of weapons and ammunition.

From 31 July to 02 August, 27 persons from the Security Assistance

Department, Suriname Armed Forces, Police, and Customs and Prisons were trained on the operation and maintenance of the hydraulic shears, resulting in the destruction of more than 50 surplus and obsolete firearms, parts and components.

These specialized destruction tools complement the delivery of 40 padlocks and metal hasps provided by UNLIREC to national authorities for enhancing the security of strategic stockpile facilities, thus contributing to preventing theft, loss and diversion of firearms and ammunition

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to illicit actors. Both sets of equipment will bolster Suriname's ability to combat illicit trafficking in firearms and reduce and prevent armed violence.

UNLIREC will be returning to Suriname in October 2013 to conduct training on the use of the SAABT and to support further destruction of surplus, obsolete and seized weapons, ammunition and explosives.

The donation of this equipment and technical assistance forms part of a wider UNLIREC programme for firearms destruction and stockpile management support to Caribbean States aimed at combating illicit trafficking by reducing the risk of theft and diversion from government holdings of firearms, ammunition and explosives. The activities carried out were made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of the United States of America.

### UNLIREC technical expertise and assistance sought in regional small arms forums

UNLIREC's technical expertise and guidance were sought throughout the trimester by numerous partner organizations throughout Central America, the Caribbean, Andean region and continental Europe to participate in regional debates ranging from armed violence and civilian private security to the non-proliferation of biological and toxin weapons.

share its in-house technical expertise on private security at an expert meeting with academics and governmental experts. UNLIREC's added value focused on its knowledge of normative regional experiences on the regulation of private security companies and its familiarity with relevant standards on combating illicit arms trafficking as found in the various international instruments on the matter.



To spearhead UNLIREC's participation, it crossed the Atlantic Ocean to join its partner organization, the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in Austria, to

UNLIREC then went on to share its conceptual proposal of a typology for better understanding the phenomenon of illicit arms trafficking at the Ninth Meeting of the Observatory on Organized Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean in Peru organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Organization. UNLIREC based its intervention on its accumulated experience in delivering training activities and providing technical assistance to States in the region, as well as in the provisions found in the relevant international instruments.

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The Central American Integration System (SICA), together with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), called on UNLIREC to contribute to the Central American dialogue on small arms interdictions held in El Salvador within the context of implementing SICA's Security Strategy. UNLIREC's interventions during this three-day workshop focused on the specific challenges faced by this sub-region in combating arms proliferation and the UNLIREC products available to States in combating this scourge, including support in the destruction of weapons, improving stockpile security and safety, and hands-on legal assistance. This region serves as a transit corridor for illicit trafficking and is home to some of the highest homicide rates in the world.



Source: Crime Stoppers 2013

The 34th Annual Crime Stoppers International Conference in Barbados also benefitted from UNLIREC's knowledge of small arms control measures at the national level and armed violence

reduction efforts at the local level, including citizen security interventions, such as community policing. This renowned forum brought together a wide array of practitioners from Crime Stoppers delegates to law enforcement partners and other stakeholders from around the world to probe into security-related issues of international importance.

Finally, UNLIREC walked governmental officials through the provisions found in the Convention on Biological Weapons at a national workshop on chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in Peru organized by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Production. UNLIREC highlighted the prohibitions found in the Convention, recommendations at the national level for its implementation, the sanction process, and the need to exchange information on scientific and technological advances in the field of biological agents for pacific means.

UNLIREC stands ready to continue to share its regional expertise and technical know-how with both partners and Member States alike in the collective effort to achieve a heightened degree of security and peace in Latin America and the Caribbean through disarmament measures.

***"Our times demand a new definition of leadership – global leadership. They demand a new constellation of international cooperation – governments, civil society and the private sector, working together for a collective global good."***

***- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon***

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## Central American States

### UNLIREC delivers specialized course for legal practitioners on combating impunity in illicit firearms trafficking cases in the Dominican Republic

UNLIREC, in cooperation with the National School for the Public Ministry of the Dominican Republic, delivered a specialized course for legal practitioners on techniques for combating impunity in illicit firearms trafficking cases. This four-day intense course was carried out in Dominican Republic's capital from 16-19 September 2013.



With the goal of strengthening the operational capabilities of judges, prosecutors, investigative police and representatives from the National Institute of Forensic Science, UNLIREC led the training of 25 legal practitioners on how to combat illicit firearms trafficking through the reduction of impunity and strengthen the coordination, communication and

cooperation of all relevant legal practitioners working in this area.

The course was conducted by international instructors and national experts who delivered material on the definition and classification of firearms, munitions and explosives; measures to reduce armed violence; international instruments and national regulatory frameworks; inter-institutional and international cooperation; and handling of the crime scene, as well as forensic ballistics. With the goal of applying the knowledge acquired, the participants concluded the training course with a practical exercise consisting of processing a mock case of illicit firearms trafficking. The practical exercise highlighted how the efficient handling of a crime scene, respect for the chain of custody, inter-institutional and international cooperation tools and resources, and a suitable criminal legal framework constitute essential elements to combating impunity in the fight against illicit trafficking.

This course forms part of an overall sub-regional assistance package that UNLIREC offers to Caribbean States, which initiated in the Dominican Republic in 2010. This assistance is made possible thanks to the generous contribution from the United States Government.

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## UNLIREC promotes inter-institutional coordination to combat illicit firearms trafficking in the Dominican Republic



UNLIREC in collaboration with the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Interior and Police, held a seminar on Inter-Institutional Coordination Mechanisms to combat illicit firearms trafficking on 17 September 2013 in Santo Domingo.

The seminar brought together 16 representatives from different institutions including the Armed Forces Ministry, Ministry of Interior and Police, National Police, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Chamber of Deputies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Arms System, and the Directorate General of Customs. The event was chaired by the Deputy Ministers of Social Management and Public Security of the Ministry of Interior and Police, as well as UNLIREC representatives, and included the participation of representatives from the

Central American Programme on Small Arms Control (CASAC).

The seminar, which coincided with the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence, addressed issues closely related to the prevention and reduction of violence committed with firearms, as well as the national mechanisms aimed at coordinating inter-institutional efforts to tackle public safety challenges, such as armed violence and the illicit trafficking of firearms. Discussion focused on the gaps and difficulties in dealing with the scourge of illicit trafficking, while at the same time on good practices adopted in the region. Finally, this activity offered a platform for dialogue on reforming the current legal framework – a process currently under way – with a view to adopting a new firearms law.

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## In the Spotlight

### *UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane, Statement on the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence (16-21 September 2013)*

“Every minute someone dies from a gunshot. And the indirect consequences of this grueling statistic extend much further when one considers injuries, forced migration, revenues lost, and opportunities missed. One thing is certain: armed violence is profoundly impeding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Three-quarters of all guns in the world – that is more than half a billion weapons – are in the hands of civilians. The onus is on governments to adequately regulate and control this massive private ownership of weapons and bullets. Only sound legislation coupled with effective law enforcement can make everyone feel equally safe.

- Armed violence kills more than half a million people each year – including 66,000 women and girls. • 58 countries with high rates of lethal violence account for two-thirds of all violent deaths, and one-quarter of all violent deaths occur in just 14 countries, seven of which are in the Americas.
- Central and Southern Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America are the regions that exhibit the highest levels of lethal violence.

Controlling the illegal spread and curbing the misuse of guns have been important topics on the agenda of the United Nations. Since 2001, countries agreed to a Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons, its International Tracing Instrument, and a Firearms Protocol under the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. This year, an impressive step forward has been the adoption at the UN of the Arms Trade Treaty, which fully includes small arms and light weapons in its scope.

Setting international standards is vital. But the hardest work is done by those working in the line of fire: peacekeepers preventing a local conflict from flaring up, former gang members finding the courage to choose a new livelihood, citizens contributing to community policing, grass roots activists canvassing in challenging neighbourhoods.

The Global Week of Action against Gun Violence reminds us of all the further efforts that are needed to make this world a safer and more secure place to live in.

In less than two years, all countries of the United Nations will decide on the follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals. A lively discussion is under way. I am glad that the High-level Panel advising on the future goals has called for a “fundamental shift – to recognize peace and good governance as a core element of well-being.” These wise women and men highlighted that “effectively implementing small arms control is especially important.”

Indeed our joint endeavour to eradicate poverty throughout the globe will need to include a concrete, measurable goal on diminishing armed violence. It would finally fully bridge the realms of disarmament and development – areas which have been separated for far too long.

The Global Week of Action against Gun Violence will contribute to this important cause – so that people living in deprivation and fear can see a brighter, safer future ahead.”

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## UNLIREC supports national implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Mexico



The II Specialized Workshop on International Best Practices on Export Controls took place in Mexico City from 24-26 July 2013 to advance national implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The meeting was organized by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (OAS/CICTE) and the Government of Mexico, in collaboration with the United States Export Control and Related Border Security Program, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the UNSCR 1540 Committee.

The workshop gathered 40 specialists from the ministries of Economy, Industry and Trade, Foreign Affairs, Customs authorities, and other institutions with responsibilities in export control and the implementation of UNSCR 1540, with a view to strengthening Mexico's national

exports control system. The workshop served to share international best practices on export controls, exchange information and intelligence, engage in advanced risk analyses, and discuss options for licensing processes.

Building on the strong partnership between UNLIREC and the OAS, UNLIREC was invited as a feature speaker to contextualize progress made in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in the region. UNLIREC focused on the importance of international cooperation to effectively combat WMD proliferation, and the role played by UNODA in support of the UNSCR 1540 implementation. This workshop forms part of the activities that have been undertaken in support of Mexico's 1540 action plan, developed in collaboration with CICTE/OAS and UNODA.

## U.S. Department of State supports UNLIREC in the delivery of WMD-related assistance to Caribbean States

Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN) entered into an agreement with UNLIREC to conduct a series of activities in support of strengthening the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in Caribbean States

to be kick-started at end of 2013. This new contribution complements years of U.S. support to UNLIREC in the field of small arms control in the Caribbean sub-region focusing on stockpile management and weapons destruction.

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Resolution 1540 (2004) requires States to “refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.” The resolution also obligates States to adopt and enforce appropriate laws to this effect, as well as other effective measures to prevent the proliferation of these weapons and their means of delivery to non-State actors. Resolution 1540 likewise formally establishes the proliferation and possession of WMDs by

non-state actors as a threat to international peace and security.

The main aim of UNLIREC’s 2013-2014 project is to strengthen the capacity of Caribbean Member States to implement UNSCR 1540 (2004) and other related resolutions and instruments, as well as to support States in modernizing their national legislation and policy frameworks, and enhancing the national and regional momentum to engage in focused and sustained dialogue on non-proliferation issues from a legal perspective.

***“[...] The Secretary-General calls upon Member States, especially those from the region and other partners in a position to do so, to provide [UNLIREC] with the necessary financial and in-kind support to ensure that the Centre is able to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region.”***

***- Report of the UN Secretary General (A/68/134)***

## **UNLIREC celebrates regional support to the Arms Trade Treaty**



UNLIREC celebrates the progress made towards early ratification and strong implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) during the 68th General Assembly in New York. Costa Rica, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago made history by ratifying the Treaty and reaffirming the leadership of Latin America and the Caribbean in the process. To date, five out of the seven ratifying countries are from the region.

Additionally, UNLIREC welcomes the recent signature of the Treaty by Colombia, Peru, Barbados, and Honduras bringing the number of signatory States in the region to 26. Finally, UNLIREC acknowledges the efforts of Argentina and Costa Rica, which led and co-sponsored the ATT process from its conception, along with the recent high level meetings in New York.

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## **UNLIREC Agenda (October – December 2013)**

### **October**

- ✓ *Inter Institutional Training Course on Combating the Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives (IITC)*  
**Paramaribo, Suriname**
- ✓ *Weapons and Ammunition Destruction*  
**Paramaribo, Suriname**
- ✓ *BTWC Seminar*  
**Quito, Ecuador**

### **November**

- ✓ *National Explosives Seminar*  
**Lima, Peru**
- ✓ *Regional Armoury Management Training Course*  
**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**
- ✓ *On-going technical assistance on stockpile management*  
**Buenos Aires, Argentina**
- ✓ *Disarmament Education Course*  
**Lima, Peru**
- ✓ *Legal Firearms Seminar*  
**Guatemala City, Guatemala**
- ✓ *Small Arms Marking Seminar*  
**San Salvador, El Salvador**
- ✓ *Women Only Training - Inter Institutional Training Course on Combating the Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives (WOT-IITC)*  
**San Salvador, El Salvador**

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