

UNLIREC Newsletter

Caribbean Region

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs continues its support for weapons and ammunition destruction in Trinidad and Tobago

From 16–20 July 2012, the United Nations Office for Disarmament's Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) assisted the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GoTT) in the destruction 100 surplus and obsolete small arms and 510 units of light weapons ammunition, including mortars and rifle grenades. Five members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force were also trained in safe logistic destruction of ammunition by open detonation according to UN international standards and best practice. The destruction activities took place at the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF) Teteron Demolition Grounds using expertise and equipment provided to the Government by UNLIREC. The destruction process included independent monitoring and verification undertaken by UNLIREC personnel.

The destruction activities are made possible with the financial support of the US Department of State's Office for Weapons Removal and Abatement, which form part of a larger UNLIREC

Caribbean Assistance Programme, launched in Kingston, Jamaica in April 2010, and carried out in eight Caribbean



Source: UNLIREC

countries with the financial support of Canada and the USA. Since October 2011, UNLIREC has assisted the GoTT in the destruction of 2,305 surplus, obsolete and confiscated small arms, more than five tonnes of small arms ammunition, approximately one tonne of light weapons ammunition and provided equipment and training in order to guarantee permanent national capacity for weapons and ammunition destruction.

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Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Av. Pérez Aranibal 750
Magdalena del Mar - Lima 17, Peru
Tel: +51.1.625-9000
Fax: +51.1.625-9100
<http://www.unlirec.org>

The destruction of firearms and ammunition in cooperation with the GoTT is part of its joint efforts to combat the illicit trafficking in firearms, strengthen the capacity of the country's security forces and reduce armed violence throughout the country.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs' Regional Disarmament Centres, which

includes UNLIREC, serve over 135 countries worldwide and assists them in the implementation of arms control and disarmament programmes, such as the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (UN 2001 PoA).

Central American Region

UNLIREC launches Central America Assistance Package on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in El Salvador

On 16 July, UNLIREC launched its Central America Assistance Package in El Salvador undertaking three activities in San Salvador: Inter-Institutional Training Course on Combating the Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives – IITC (17-26 July); Technical Seminar on Stockpile Management International Standards; and Legal Seminar on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (20 July). This assistance package is funded by the government of Germany and Finland.



Source: UNLIREC

UNLIREC's award-winning IITC course trained 63 security sector personnel from

various law enforcement and judicial entities. Participants received focused training from international and regional experts on illicit SALW investigation and tracing techniques, technical aspects of SALW and ammunition identification, international and national legal frameworks, intelligence gathering and SALW and ammunition evidence management. Implementing partners addressed a series of cross-cutting issues related to the use of force, the impact of armed violence on youth and women, and child protection.

In parallel, UNLIREC trained 25 law enforcement personnel - responsible for managing firearms and ammunition depots and storage units - in stockpile management international standards, based on the UN International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs).

Additionally, UNLIREC presented a legal study on El Salvador's firearms legislation providing a series of recommendations to strengthen legal control over firearms in the country in line with international and

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regional agreements. Legal experts from Guatemala and Nicaragua shared their national experiences with a view to providing different elements to enhance national firearms control in El Salvador.

UNLIREC's assistance strengthens State capacities to implement relevant international and regional disarmament instruments, such as the UN 2001 PoA.

UNLIREC steps up efforts in Guatemala to prevent armed violence and combat illicit firearms trafficking

Legal practitioners in Guatemala received focused training on combating illicit firearms trafficking through UNLIREC's Specialized Training Course celebrated in the country's capital from 3 – 6 September. In parallel, UNLIREC held a regional best practice seminar on policy development in firearms control and armed violence prevention with policy-makers on 5 September. Both activities were carried out in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat of the National Security Council.

Civilian Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the National Firearms Control Directorate.



Source: UNLIREC

During the four-day specialized course, 29 legal practitioners and judicial officials were exposed to relevant national and international legal frameworks, inter-institutional and international cooperation mechanisms; and technical aspects of firearms and ammunition, including ballistic information. All participants are now better equipped with the necessary technical and practical knowledge and legal tools to assist them in their efforts to more effectively combat the scourge caused by illicit trafficking in firearms. Participants came from a variety of governmental institution, including the Office of the Public Prosecutor, National

The high-level policy seminar, on the other hand, brought together 26 high level representatives to contextualize the phenomenon of armed violence in Latin America and expose decision-makers to a wide range of policies related to firearms control measures and armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives. Two emblematic regional "best practices" were presented during the one-day seminar, namely, the Weapons Free Zone (WFZ) Programme from El Salvador, implemented in more than 30 municipalities across the country, and

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Brazil's well-known Disarmament Campaign and Statute, which - to date - represents the most important disarmament campaign undertaken in the continent. Participants from the Technical Secretariat of the National Security Council, Ministry of Government, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Parliamentarians, CSOs, and advisor in the public security sector used the information acquired to contribute to

their resolve in combating illicit firearms trafficking in their country and the region.

These activities form part of the technical assistance provided by UNLIREC to the Latin American region in support of these countries' efforts to enhance public security and aid in State implementation of the UN 2001 PoA.

Andean Region

UNDP and UNLIREC assist Ecuador and Colombia in strengthening their capacity to fight illicit firearms trafficking at the border

On 7 July 2012, in the city of Tulcan, the bi-national training course on combating the illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives on the border between Colombia and Ecuador concluded with the training of 40 law enforcement officers. The majority of those trained operate in border zones, thus guaranteeing that the knowledge gained will be applied to their daily work in the field. Ecuador's Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Interior, Coordinating Ministry of Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Attorney General's Office, Ecuadorian Armed Forces, Armed Forces of Colombia, Ecuadorian National Police and Customs were all represented during the six day course.

The course was carried out in accordance with the bi-national agreements on strengthening border control between the Governments of Ecuador and Colombia,

which aim to promote prosperity and positive living along the shared border.



Source: UNLIREC

The participants received specific training from international and regional experts on the circulation of firearms, ammunition and explosives and their impact on the common border zone. During the course, numerous topics were covered, including techniques for the investigation and tracing of illegal small arms and light

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weapons, technical aspects related to the identification of firearms and ammunition, related national and international legal frameworks, intelligence gathering and judicial evidence management. The organizing institutions (Government of Ecuador, UNDP's Peace and Development Programme for the Northern Border and UNLIREC) addressed a number of cross-cutting issues related to the use of force, the impact of armed violence on children and women, and the protection of women and children.

The bi-national course has been adapted from UNLIREC's "Inter-Institutional Training Course on Combating the Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and

Explosives" aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ecuadorian and Colombian border officers on specific aspects of preventing illicit arms trafficking in border zones, including techniques for examining vehicles and cross-border information exchange. Additionally, new practical exercises designed for this purpose were introduced.

This course forms part of the technical assistance that UNDP and UNLIREC provide to the Latin American Region in support of these countries' efforts to ensure citizen security and the implementation of the UN 2001 PoA and Decision 552 of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN).

Southern Cone States

UNLIREC assists government of the Republic of Argentina in improving capacity to manage small arms, light weapons and ammunition stockpiles

On 13 August 2012, UNLIREC signed an agreement with the Ministry of Security of the Republic of Argentina to provide technical assistance in the area of small arms, light weapons and ammunition stockpile management. This agreement is signed within the broader framework of the joint Ministry of Security/United Nations Development Programme project for Capacity Building for the Planning of Citizen Security Policies.

Efforts to build government officials' stockpile management capacities and improve infrastructure of facilities where weapons, ammunition and explosives are stored are essential measures for preventing theft, loss and diversion as well as preventing accidents. UNLIREC

assistance will entail undertaking collaborative stockpile management baseline assessments with officials from the Ministry of Security and federal security forces and developing action plans to ensure facilities and practices are in line with the UN International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the UN International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).

The cooperation between UNLIREC and the Ministry of Security began with an introductory workshop for national authorities in Buenos Aires on 13 August.

Since 2004, UNLIREC has provided stockpile management and destruction assistance to fourteen Latin American and

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Caribbean member states through assessment, capacity building and the provision of equipment resulting in the destruction of more than 475,000 surplus, obsolete and confiscated weapons and 600,000 rounds of ammunition. The implementation of stockpile management and destruction measures are key commitments taken on by states within the framework of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.



Source: Ministry of Security – Argentina

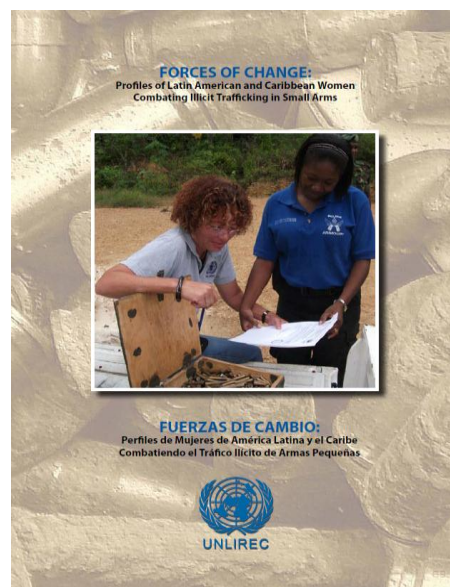
In the Spotlight

United Nations promotes women as forces of change in the combat against illicit trafficking in small arms in Latin America and the Caribbean

On 25 September, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) launched its publication *“Forces of Change: Profiles of Latin American and Caribbean Women in Combating Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms”* at the side event entitled *“Women Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control”*, hosted by the Honorable Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The publication - compiled by UNODA’s Regional Centre, UNLIREC - features and celebrates the experiences and skills of a diverse group of 58 women from national government security sectors, law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations working in the field of small arms control in the region. Women profiled in this publication contribute on a daily basis to the implementation of the *UN 2001 PoA*.

UNODA has continuously championed women as ‘forces of change’ by providing States with the necessary tools to facilitate and sustain the incorporation of gender perspectives into small arms control and disarmament. At the launch, Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs,



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noted that “[...] it is widely recognized that women have a critical role to play in disarmament, in general, and in the elimination of the illicit trafficking in small arms, it is therefore our duty to ensure that we provide the necessary tools and training to empower them on this quest”. She went on to add “[...] it is my own personal mission to continue fostering disarmament expertise among women, including ‘in-house’ at UNODA and heed the calls made in UNSCR 1325(2000).”

Action has also been taken by UNODA in the field through UNLIREC in providing technical assistance to Member States aimed at promoting and encouraging the robust participation of women professionals as an essential component of comprehensive strategies to combat illicit small arms trafficking. The cumulative impact of these actions, together with other UNLIREC initiatives, have resulted in a critical mass of female professionals from armed forces, police, civilian ministries and civil society who are better able to engage in combating illicit trafficking in small arms at the local, national and regional levels.

UNLIREC Agenda

October

- ✓ *Specialized Training Course on Combating the Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives for Legal Practitioners and Judicial Officials (STC)*
San Salvador – El Salvador; Panama City – Panama
- ✓ *National Seminar on Disarmament Policies, Arms control and Armed Violence*
San Salvador – El Salvador
- ✓ *Sub-regional Stockpile Management and Destruction Workshop*
Bridgetown – Barbados
- ✓ *National Stockpile Management and Destruction Workshops*
St. George’s – Grenada; Kingstown – St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Nassau – The Bahamas
- ✓ *Small Arms and Ammunition Destruction*
Santo Domingo – Dominican Republic
- ✓ *Small Arms Destruction*
Kingston – Jamaica

November

- ✓ *Regional Seminar on Best Practices in Stockpile Management*
Mexico City – Mexico
- ✓ *National Seminar on Disarmament Policies, Arms Control and Armed Violence*
Tegucigalpa – Honduras
- ✓ *National Inter-institutional Training Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosive (IITC)*
Tegucigalpa – Honduras
- ✓ *Stockpile Management Workshop (closing)*
Buenos Aires – Argentina

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***United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in
Latin America and the Caribbean***

Amanda Cowl, Political Affairs Officer
Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Av. Pérez Araníbar 750 - Magdalena del Mar, Lima – PERU
Tel. +51.1.625.91.12
www.unlirec.org

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