# SMALL ARMS, LIGHT WEAPONS, AND AMMUNITION TRANSFERS - HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PREVENT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ATROCITIES?

Human Target – International Congress on Social and Health Effects of the Global Arms Trade

June 2, 2013

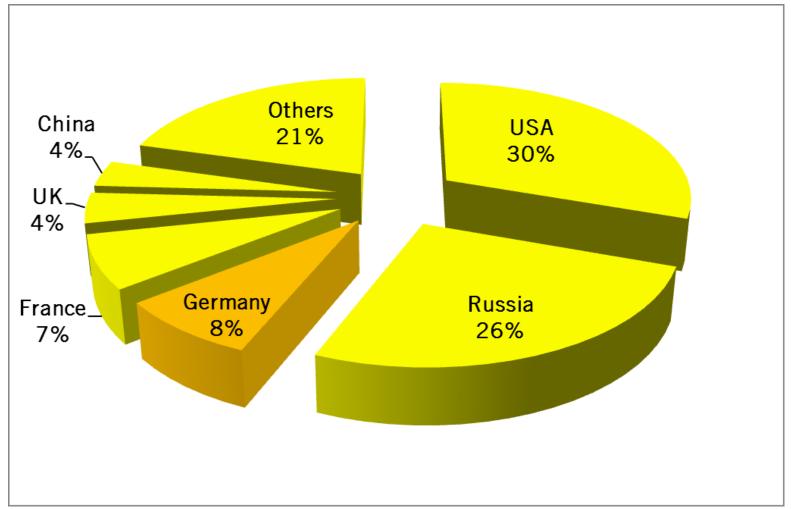
Mathias John

Working Group on

Military, Security and Police Transfers, Economic Relations, and Human Rights



# THE PROBLEM: TOP 6 EXPORTERS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS (2002-2012)



Source SIPRI 2013: Coventional major weapons (e.g. main battle tanks, fighter aircraft, war ships, artillery, missiles, and others SPRI statistics don't include small arms, light weapons, and ammunition

# THE PROBLEM: COMPLEXITY OF GLOBAL ARMS TRANSFERS

arms export shipment arms import transit

#### commercial exports

- weapon systems
- ammunition
- parts/components
- repair
- combat enhancement
- consulting/training
- licenced production
- delivery of manufacturing facilities

## governmental military aid

- arms
- training/advice

brokering

financing / indemnity bonds





## THE PROBLEM

Arms Transfers – too many weapons in wrong hands

- armed conflicts and irresponsible arms transfers contribute to the destruction of millions of lives and livelihoods across the world
- at least 60% of human rights violations documented by Amnesty International in a 10-year structured sample involved the use of small arms and light weapons
- thousands of women and girls are sexually abused at gunpoint or become victims of mass rape in conflict
- violent conflict and arms transfers threaten the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations



## THE PROBLEM

## Small Arms, light weapons and ammunition



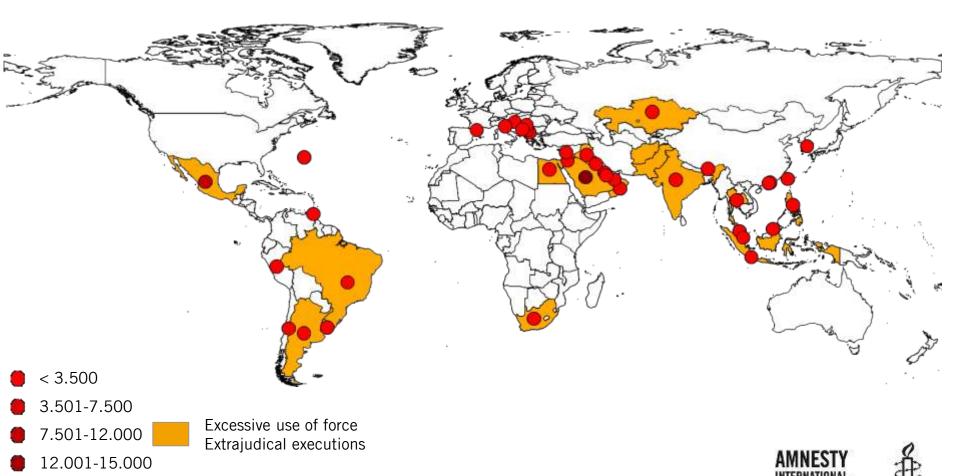






## THE PROBLEM: GERMAN EXPORT LICENCES FOR SMALL ARMS

German military small arms export licences to third countries 2007-2011 aggregated numbers – submachine guns, assault rifles, machine guns



> 15.000 Sources: Annual Reports of Amnesty International 2011, 2012. 2013

Reports by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on its Policy on F

## BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR SALW AND AMMUNITION TRANSFER CONTROLS

## Voluntary transparancy instruments

UN Register of Conventional Arms

#### Voluntary control instruments

- POA to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
- International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)
- Wassenaar Arrangement

## Legally binding control instruments

- National firearms law
- National export control legislation
- Regional arms transfer regulations, e.g. EU Common Position

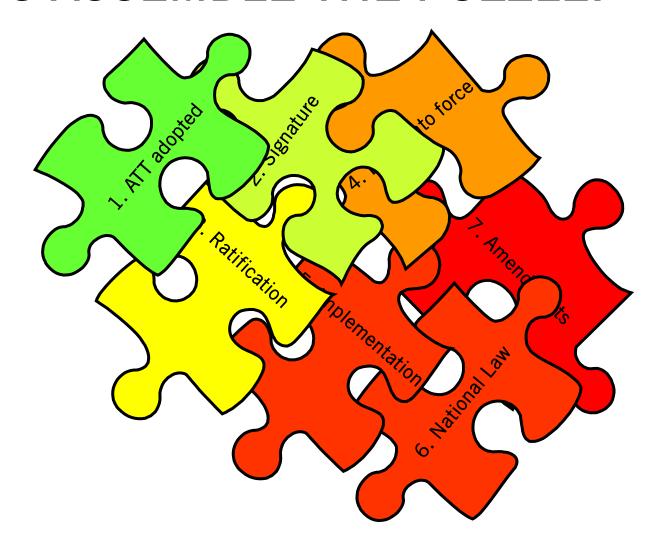
#### International treaties and conventions

- Firearms Protocoll
- Arms Trade Treaty





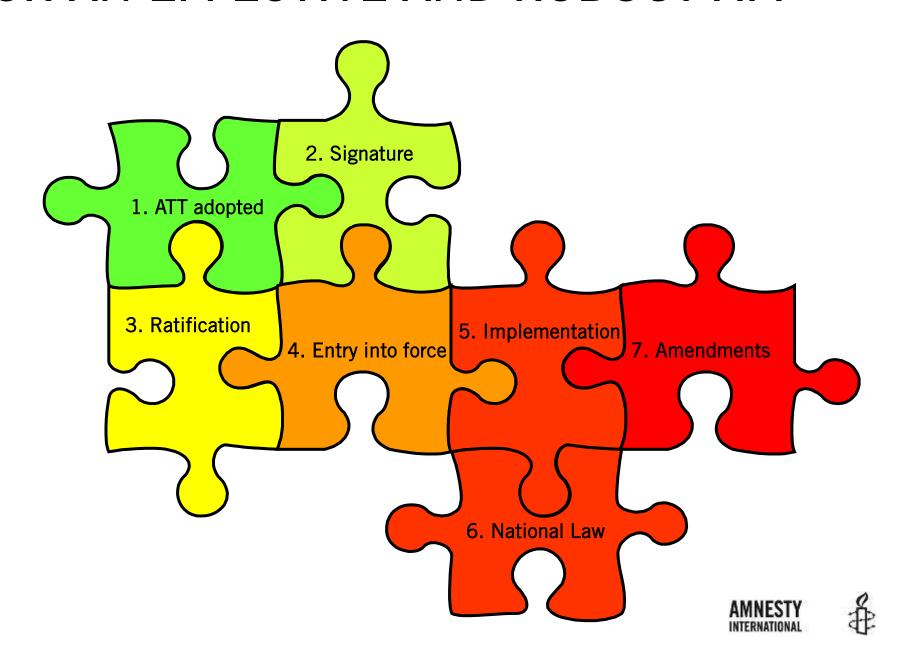
# FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND ROBUST ATT - LET'S ASSEMBLE THE PUZZLE!







## FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND ROBUST ATT



## HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARMS TRANSFER CONTROLS

- Immediate signature and ratification of the ATT international campaign for rapid ratification by 50 states and more to bring into force the ATT
- Effective implementation of the ATT provisions in the signatory states as soon as possible
- Integration of countries that abstained in UNGA decision
- Optimization of the ATT

## HIGHEST NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARMS TRANSFER CONTROLS

- Consistent arms export legislation with a legally-binding human rights clause for all arms transfers, including dual-use goods
- Full transparency on all arms transfers including dual-use goods and military/police training
- mandatory accountability on the application of human rights criterion for arms export licenses
- Involvement of parliament in arms export decisions
- Improved control of deliveries, shipments, and end use/final destination



