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The Italian Weapons 2006 Archivio Disarmo

Report on “Small” Arms”¹

“A gun is as easy to get as a packet of cigarettes”.

Evan Jean Lolles, 34, sentenced to life imprisonment for murder in the USA, 1997

Control Arms: for a safer world

On the 9th of October, 2006 Amnesty International, Oxfam and IANSA (*International Action Network on Small Arms*, a net of over five hundred associations in one hundred countries) launched a worldwide campaign called **Control Arms**, which is aimed to adopt, within 2006, the *Arms Trade Treaty* (ATT), in order to introduce close inspection of arms' transfer and assure the observance of this trade from all governments, according to the International standards.

Until now, the lack of an efficient check on the arms trade has boosted the violation of human rights, increased conflicts, and contributed to the spread of poverty and insecurity in various areas of the planet. Economic, political and strategic interests have lead to massive exports of arms, munitions and war-technology. It is time for governments to respect their responsibilities and put a stop to the indiscriminate arms trade.

Every year, about 300 thousand people in the world suffer serious injuries because of fire-arms. A further 200 thousand people loose their lives during armed conflicts. This tend to occur in the degraded metropolitan suburbs of the developing countries, where the level of criminality is very high. It is also due to the abuse of power from the security forces and warders with the governments' connivance. It happens in the streets or within the family, where women are easy victims of violence.

There are probably over 600 million fire-arms in circulation in the world , one out 10 habitants². The UN definition distinguishes between light weapons and small arms: the first are essentially war weapons, the second include sporting, hunting and self-defence weapons³. In contrast with the traditional image of war, today most conflicts are not led by armies equipped with sophisticated technological weapons,

¹ This research has been carried out with the scientific cooperation of Emilio Emmolo and Maurizio Simoncelli

² It is an UN assessment

³ The precise UN definition is the following: *light weapons* are collective weapons transportable by two people, by pack animals or by a small vehicle: machine-guns, grenades-launchers, missiles-launchers, transportable cannons and mortars of calibre below 100 mm; *small arms* are those that can be transported by one person: revolvers, carbines, rifles and machine-guns. We can add munitions, hand grenades, landmines and explosives.

but by rebel troops and paramilitary groups that clash with each other and with national armies, often making civilians the principal target of the violence. Often the term “low-intensity conflicts” is used, but this does not respect the victims of such long and bloody conflicts.

In a couple of years, the Campaign Control Arms has been able to awaken public opinion all around the world. The proliferation of weapons has become a theme discussed by common people and institutions, thanks to the pervasive and intense mobilization carried out by associations and pressure groups. “*We cannot allow free trade to dominate the international trade of weapons. We should realize that such trade is becoming the dictators’ friend and people’s enemy. It is time to give more importance to human lives than to weapons*” has declared Oscar Arias, ex-President of Costa Rica winner of the Nobel Prize and one of the *Control Arms Campaign* promoters.

The exportation of the common fire-arms: legislation and general description

On an international scale, there are no binding treaties that regulate the sales of arms. In Europe, the code of conduct over the exportation of weapons, adopted by EU countries in 1998, is binding only from a political viewpoint, but not from a juridical one, it has only the value of a declaration of intent. In Italy, in accordance with law n° 185 (1990), there are some precise criteria⁴ for the export of weapons, but it only applies to military weapons. The civilian weapons – guns, revolvers, rifles, carbines and associated munitions and explosives – are subjected to law n° 110, passed in 1975 (updating of the *Testo Unico di Pubblica Sicurezza* of 1931), created to defend national order, and reduce the importation of weapons but failing to set limits for exports.

Modern legislation is lacking in every level – both national, European and international – it is inadequate for today’s geo-political scene, where light weapons are becoming the most widespread tool in conflicts: they can be small, economical, easy to find on the black market and second-hand market, easy to assemble and use, and also suited to child soldiers.

In Italy, the Prime Minister is required to report to Parliament about the sales of military weapons every year in March, in accordance with law 185/90. Even given its limits and despite the repeated attacks from the war industry’s lobbies have reduced the transparency and the clearness of the law, such a long relationship remains useful for the control and the public monitoring of the sales and the destination of military weapons made in Italy.

Information about the export of civilian weapons can be found only from the ISTAT web site⁵. An easily consulted source (where weapons are reduced to the level of whatever other wares). It has serious limits: first, it is only possible to know the amount according to the trading currency (euro) so, it is only possible to estimate the

⁴ Criteria are: no exportation and thoroughfare of arms and materials on the national territory when they are in contrast with the Constitution, with Italy’s international agreements or when there are not adequate surety about the final destination of the materials. No exportation to countries in a state of armed conflict b) to Countries declared under total or partial embargoes of arms supplies by UN and EU c) to Countries whose governments are responsible of serious violations of human rights, verified by the competent authorities of UN, EU or the European Council. Over the years, law 185/90 has been under the pressure from some lobbies and many financial interests that reduce its efficacy.

⁵ <http://www.coeweb.istat.it>

quantity sold, according to what might be the estimated cost of a rifle, a gun, a bullet or gunpowder. Furthermore, it is not possible to have information about the producer nor about the final addressee. *We have arranged to aggregate some items in order to guarantee, when required, privacy*⁶. In addition to the continuous updating of the months indicated as *provisional*, we also regret the insertion of new data from past years which did not report that the original figures were provisional and a definite description of the situation is unavailable.

Comparing the latest data with those analysed previously⁷, there is a tendency to rise, after a minimum reached in 2001, when sales seemed to be decreasing, they have started to increase again from 2004 and they reached a peak during the last year.

There is no noteworthy news in comparison with the previous years about the destination of exported materials: the rising of sales in European countries is the most important datum: 44% of the exported weapons remained within the Union (344 thousand euros), while 35% (272 thousand euros) went to North America. The other European countries, not belonging to the Union, with 7% of the exports (51 thousand euros), are less important markets. Asia and South-Central America both with 4% (30 and 28 thousand euros respectively), and North Africa and Middle East with 3% (nearly 20 thousand euros). Finally, Oceania and South-Central Africa with 2% and 1% respectively (13 and 8,6 thousand euros).

In line with the exports of the previous years, more than one third of the civilian weapons have reached the USA for an amount of 267 thousand euros, even higher than the total of exportations to the other five big importers: the UK (more than 79 thousand euros), France (almost 65 thousand euros), Spain (51 thousand euros), Germany (36 thousand euros) and Greece (25 thousand euros). The following six countries imported arms valued at over 10 thousand euros and other forty-two countries imported arms valued at one thousand euros.

The Italian exports of small arms, during the last two years, have been made up of guns and rifles valued at more than 530 thousand euros, equivalent to 69% of the total, a percentage slightly higher than that recorded during 1999-2003. Munitions have amounted to 28% of the total, 213 thousand euros, lower than the previous quinquennium. Explosives still represent a small percentage: 3% or about 21 thousand euros.

Italian weapons and human rights: the situation in relation to the geographical areas

European Union

The export of Italian small arms to the European Union Countries is made up of guns and rifles 60% (208 thousand euros), munitions 35% (more than 120 thousand euros) and explosives for the remaining 5 % (15 thousand euros). There was no constant trend during the years 1999-2002, but exports increase progressively from 2003 and they amount to more than 185 thousand euros in 2005.

⁶ <http://www.coeweb.istat.it>

⁷ M. Simoncelli (edited by), *Armi leggere, guerre pesanti. Il ruolo dell'Italia nella produzione e nel commercio internazionale*, Rubettino, 2001, e E. Lagrasta, *Le armi del Bel Paese. L'Italia e il commercio Internazionale di armi leggere*, Ediesse, Roma, 2005



The UK was the principal importer during the biennium with a little less than 80 thousand euros for weapons of which a half is made up of guns, rifles and fittings⁸. The second was France (65 thousand euros) than Spain (51 thousand euros), of these amounts, 42 and 33 thousand euros respectively have been spent on guns and rifles, France also spends 6,8 thousand euros on munitions. Germany and Greece distinguish themselves for amounts of 35 and 25 thousand euros respectively: the quantity of munitions and explosives bought by the two countries is almost the same (almost 7 thousand euros for guns and 2 thousand euros for rifles each): the difference in the final amount is due to the higher quantity of fire-arms imported by Germany. Cyprus, Portugal and Belgium have amount higher than 10 thousand euros. The following twelve countries have an amount not lower than one thousand euros.

Anyway, the massive exportations to the European Union are balanced by the lack of conflicts and evident violations of the human rights in the area as to demand particular attention to the selling of fire-arms.

North America

North America is the second geographical area for the importation of civil weapons from Italy: 272 thousand euros, of which 98% were bought by the USA. The composition of the sales to this is mostly fire-arms (93% of the total), while munitions are 6% and explosives do not reach 1%. The trend of the exports, during the seven years considered, is characterized by a rise during the last three years, after the fall following the peak of exports in 2001.

In the USA the number of fire-arms into circulation – nearly 200 million – seems even higher than the number of televisions. The number of fire-arms victims per week is higher than in the whole Western Europe in a year (they had been more than 11 thousand in 2001)⁹. Anyway, the USA does not appear in the European Council Annual Report. But the tutelage of the human right in the country, that considers itself the biggest democracy in the world, is rather worrying. There have been many episodes of violence favoured by the easily availability of fire-arms or episodes of policemen accused of excessive brutality and arbitrary killings. “*In 2004 a women from Athens, Georgia, said she was forced into her apartment at gunpoint by a former County Deputy and raped because she is a lesbian. She said the officer vowed to “teach her a lesson”*”¹⁰.

This is what can be read in a recent report published by Amnesty International, where abuse committed by US Police concern the sexual attitude or the gender identity of

⁸ About the UK, it is interesting to remember the episode of the 44,926 “Beretta 92S” guns (semiautomatic of 9 parabellum calibre, considered war-arms and they are still very appreciated in the market), withdrawn by the *Viminale* in 2003 in order to substitute them with more modern weapons. After an inquiry conducted by the journalists Peter Gomez and Marco Lillo for *L'Espresso*, we know that these weapons were given to a factory in Brescia that no longer is licenced to repair arms and which ask for the licence to sell weapons to the provisory government of Baghdad. After a request for further information by the Minister, Beretta renounces, but asked to the prefecture of Brescia for a permit to sell them to a famous British company, one of the giants of the international war trade and obtained the authorization. Actually, the arms had already been paid for another unknown English company: Super Vision International ltd. Then, we know that the “Beretta” guns were found by the USA contingent in the Iraqi guerrillas deposits. Finally, a law introduced by the Government in the recent decree *omnibus* about the Olympiad “Torino 2006” could erase the enquiry.

⁹ M. Deriu *Dizionario Critico delle Nuove Guerre*, 2005, EMI, p.45

¹⁰ AI Index: AMR 51/043/2006, 23 March 2006 (www.amnesty.org)

the victims. The same organization denounces the CIA's secret operations in a recent report, where people accused of terrorism have been arrested, imprisoned in secret places or rendered¹¹ to other countries where they have suffered abuse and torture. The AI Secretary General Irene Khan denounces that the cynic and premeditated multiplicity of such violations is upsetting. The people who were taken prisoner, have undergone a wide range of abuse by the conniving governments and all that is happened with secrecy and deceit.

Extra-EU countries

The exports to European countries that do not belong to the Union – 51 thousand euros for materials, 7% of the total of the sales– are composed by guns and rifles 60% (30 thousand euros); munitions 37% (19 thousand euros) and explosives 3% (1.7 thousand euros). The exportations have not had a constant trend during the seven years but there was a progressive growth from 2003. The principal importer is the Russian Federation, valued at 16 thousand euros of exportation, of which 12 thousand euros are made up of fire-arms and 3.6 thousand euros for munitions. Then comes Turkey with little less than 12 thousand euros, of which 4 thousand euros for munitions, 2.7 thousand euros for guns and rifles and even 1.5 thousand euros for explosive material. Norway is another important buyer, with 8 thousand euros for weapons, of which almost 6 thousand for guns and rifles. Swiss, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia follow with imports from 3.2 to 1.4 thousand euros.

The situation of the human rights in some countries of the area is not very clear: first of all the case of the **Russian Federation**, involved by long time in an armed conflict with the Chechen separatists. From the EU Council comes a harsh sentence to the frequent human rights violations. They report forced disappearances, executions, tortures, kidnappings and abuse from the security forces¹². It is possible to read in the AI Report 2005 that: *“At 2am on 27 March, military vehicles carrying masked uniformed men entered the village of Duba-Yurt. Nineteen houses were raided and 11 men detained. Three were released soon afterwards. The bodies of the remaining eight were found on 9 April several kilometres away, reportedly bearing marks of torture and multiple gunshot wounds”*. We can also read in the Report, racial-style crimes in different zones of the country, especially against ethnic minorities like Rom, Chechens, Tajik and Hebrew.

The situation is difficult in **Turkey** as well where, despite the juridical reforms introduced by the government in order to adequate itself to the European standards, wide restrictions of fundamental rights still happen. Tortures and abuse committed by the Police have still not ceased as the excessive use of the force against the protesters. Whoever has tried to exercise his right to protest pacifically or show his disapproval on some subjects, has continued to risk the incrimination or other sanctions¹³. Episodes of home violence against women are very widespread.

¹¹ The term *rendition* indicates an illegal transfer by a country to another according to procedures that elude the judiciary and administrative superintendence. The aim of the renditions, in the context of “war on terrorism”, is to make the illegal interrogation of the suspects easy, in countries where there are not guarantees of the human rights safeguard and we can assume that there, the torture is widespread.

¹² EU Council, *Relazione annuale sui diritti dell'uomo 2004*, pag. 101

¹³ See the AI Annual Report 2005

From the Amnesty International Report 2005, we know that frequent episodes of violence and abuse from the Police have been denounced in **Ukraine** during the custody detention. Manifestations of protest have been banned, protesters are often arrested and ill-treated. Racial assaults against the Hebrew community have taken place in the whole country.

Serbia and Montenegro too (650 thousand euros for weapons together, 400 thousand euros the sole Serbia from 2005)¹⁴ have cases of torture and abuse by the Police. According to Amnesty International, in Kosovo, military complicity in interethnic offensives occurred in March, have been denounced. The Rom community have continued to be bereft of many fundamental rights. In Serbia as well as **Albany** (600 thousand euros for weapons) and **Macedonia** (147 thousand euros for weapons), the domestic violence and traffic in women and children for forced prostitution and low-cost manpower, are very wide-spread phenomena despite the arrest and the conviction of some culprits.

North Africa and Middle East

Italy has exported to North Africa and Middle East, in two years, a little less than 20 thousand euros worth of light weapons, of which 56% were guns and rifles, 37% were munitions, 7% were explosives. In comparison with the previous years, the trend of the selling has undergone a certain fall: after the peak of 2001 (more than 30 thousand euros), the amounts grew steady over 10 thousand euros every year. The principal importers from this area are Lebanon (4.7 thousand euros), Morocco (3.8 thousand euros), Egypt (2.9 thousand euros) and United Arab Emirates (2.2 thousand euros). Algeria, Kuwait and Tunisia are the middle importers, with imports of about 1.5 thousand euros.

Some countries of the area are object of attention by the European Council about the human rights. In particular, in the Annual Report 2004, they remember the frequency of the violation of the human rights in **Iran** (108 thousand euros only for munitions), violations like torture in jails, capital punishments, amputations and other cruel pains, difference of rights for women.

The situation of the human rights *has changed dramatically*¹⁵ In **Iraq** (119 thousand euros for fire-arms), with cases of suicidal and terrorist attack and ill-treatment of prisoners by the forces of the coalition. In the Amnesty International Report 2005, we read that: *"Women and girls continued to be harassed, injured and killed by armed groups and individuals, relatives, and members of the US-led forces"*.¹⁶

The situation in **Israel** is not less difficult during the biennium (158 thousand euros for pieces and fittings for guns and revolvers): destruction of the Palestinian properties in the occupied territories and restrictions to displacements, extra judicial executions, acts of violence, abuse to detainees, terrorist attacks.

Other cases of violence have been recorded by Amnesty International¹⁷ in **Lebanon** (increase of the violence against women, cases of tortures and deaths in custody), in **Egypt** (restriction of the freedom of expression, systematic use of the

¹⁴ From the 1st June, Serbia and Montenegro are divided into Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo

¹⁵ EU Council, *Relazione annuale sui diritti dell'uomo 2004*, p. 114

¹⁶ See the AI Annual Report 2005

¹⁷ See the AI Annual Report 2005

torture in jails also in relation to the state of emergency enacted after terrorist attacks), in **the Arab Emirates** (cruel judicial punishments) In **Algeria** (strong repression of the political disapproval, cases of ill-treatment of the detainees).

As regards **Morocco**, in the 2005 Report by Amnesty International we read that: *“The USA accorded Morocco the status of “major non-NATO ally” in June, apparently in acknowledgement of what a senior administration official described as “Morocco’s steadfast support in the global war on terror”. The status lifted restrictions on arms sales”*. We also read about forced repatriations of migrants, domestic violence, abuse committed during the anti-terrorism campaign, precarious state of life in the west Sahara. Generally speaking, from the Amnesty International Reports, we can conclude the situation of the human rights is worsened in many countries of the area after the declaration of the “war on terrorism”, with restrictions of the freedom of thought, unjust sentences and increase of the cases of tortures to prisoners.

South-Central America

If we consider 28 thousand euros worth of small arms bought by the South-Central America’s countries, 69% is made up of munitions, 30% guns and rifles, 1% explosives. Chile is first among the South American countries, but also seventh position in the worldwide classification in this biennium with nearly 16 thousand euros for bullets and munitions (and 1.5 thousand euros for other materials). Argentina is another great importer (3.4 thousand euros), followed by Mexico (nearly 3 thousand euros) and Venezuela (1.1 thousand euros). The trend of the exports to the area has undergone a progressive fall from 1999, growing steady on rather small values from 2002 to 2004, until 2005, when Chile’s contribution has made the trend of sales increase dramatically.

The Amnesty International Report also deals with **Chile**: *“Progress in ending impunity for past human rights violations continued to be slow, despite some positive developments. Torture and ill-treatment remained matters of concern. Indigenous Mapuche activists were subjected to human rights violations”*.

The same document also talks about the difficult situation in **Argentina** where: *“There were numerous complaints of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement and prison officers. Treatment of detainees amounted to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment”*.

In **Mexico** as well, despite the engagement of the federal government in order to promote the human rights and enforce the system of criminal Law: *“Human rights violations persisted, particularly at state level where arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment and the misuse of the judicial system were common. Impunity was a key factor in the government’s failure to stem a tide of violence. Among the main victims of the violence were members of minority communities and politicians”*.

Dozens of people were killed or injured in different zones of **Venezuela** during the clashes between the backers of the opposition party and the security forces. Many others were arrested and cases of abuse of the force, tortures and ill-treatments by the Police were denounced. The Amnesty International Report refers to illegal killings of suspected criminals. The victims’ relatives and witnesses who denounced such abuse have often been threatened and attacked.

In **Colombia** (307 thousand euros for fire-arms and munitions imported by Italy) from the 60s, there is a guerrilla war between security forces, paramilitary groups and groups of armed opposition. According to the Amnesty International Report 2005: *“In the first half of 2004, at least 1,400 civilians were killed or “disappeared”. During the year, around 1,250 people were kidnapped and 287,000 were forced to flee their homes. Hundreds of civilians were subjected to mass and often irregular detentions by the security forces. The government continued to make statements equating the defence of human rights with the promotion of terrorism”*.

In the **Dominican Republic** (620 thousand euros for Italian weapons) many deaths have been recorded because of an excessive use of the force by the Police, especially during manifestations and shootings. There have been many proofs of torture and abuse in the detention center.

Brazil is the only country that has 8% of deaths due to fire-arms on a worldwide level, 23 October 2005 a referendum was held, in which citizens expressed their opinion about the proposal of banning the fire-arms and munitions trade in the country¹⁸. Despite the unfavourable vote, the campaign of sensitization that preceded the referendum had positive implications: the total amount of civil weapons imported from Italy has reduced dramatically in the course of the years, from 6 thousand euros of munitions in 1999 to 170 thousand euros and 280 thousand euros respectively in the biennium 2004-2005.¹⁹

In **Haiti** (22 thousand euros for rifles and carbines) armed violence has increased dramatically from February 2004, when President Aristide left the country. A young woman tells that a group of bandits broke into the house, they had automatic rifles, they beat and raped her. There had never been such a violence before. *The bandits are killing people, the Police is killing people, and women are raped repeatedly.*

Asia

Over 30 thousand euros worth of civil weapons made in Italy (4% of the total) are sold to the Asiatic countries: munitions (60%), fire-arms (39%), explosives (1%). After the peak reached in 2002, the trend of the importations has begun to be on the fall. Some countries of the area are big importers: Japan (7,8 thousand euros for arms and munitions), Bangladesh (5 thousand euros for munitions), Pakistan (3,8 thousand euros employed mostly for buying guns in 2005), Singapore (almost 3 thousand euros for bullets). South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, India and Philippines are other importers, with purchase from 3 to one thousand euros.

The situation of the human rights is almost precarious in some counties. For example, for **Bangladesh**, the Amnesty International Report 2005 focuses on the impunity. Even the supporters of the human rights have been the butt of vexations and attacks. Dozens of activists of the opposition have been subjected to arbitrary arrests.

In **Pakistan**, arrests and detentions are justified in the context of the “war on terrorism”. It turns out that many people have “disappeared”. In the tribal zones, there are accusations of arbitrary arrests and extra judicial executions during security operations. Denounces of violence against women that include the “debts of honour”

¹⁸ See the AI web site

¹⁹ For a detailed explanation of the previous years see: E. Lagrasta, cit., p.52 and attachment 1 p. 82

have proceeded. Many cases have not been denounced and among the victims there are also young girls.

The situation in **India** is difficult too (more than 1,5 thousand euros worth of Italian imported civil arms) despite the improvement in its relationships and dialogues with Pakistan. According to Amnesty International, there have been abuse, torture, attacks and killings of civilians by armed groups in some north-east States and west Bengal. In Jammu and Kashmir, regions which for long time has experienced struggles between the central government and separatist Islamic groups, members of opposition groups are responsible for the deliberate killing of civilians. According to Amnesty International, there were government officials' relatives and people suspected of working for the government among the victims. Even the use of explosives resulted in the indiscriminate killing of civilians. In the Amnesty International Report 2005 we read that: *"In April, Asiya Jeelani, a human rights activist, and her driver were killed when her car carrying a team of election monitors hit an explosive device apparently laid by opposition groups opposed to the elections"*.

The UE Council expresses concern about **Malaysia** for the continuous application of the International Security Act that is an instrument not consistent with the international norms on human rights and with the recent anti-terrorism legislation. The latter modifies the criminal code without providing univocal definitions and leading to arbitrary and contradictory interpretations of it.

The Amnesty International Report 2005 highlights the lack of human rights and freedom in **South-Korea** too: dozens of conscientious objectors have been sent to prison because they refused to do compulsory military service. Moreover the National Security Law provides for long jail sentences or the death penalty for espionage or activity defined to be "anti-government" in general.

Oceania

2% of the total exportation of Italian light weapons has reached the Oceania: 13.7 thousand euros for materials. The exportations to the area had an unsteady trend, but a rise in the last biennium. 52% of the exported material is made up of guns and rifles, 46% munitions and the remaining 2% explosives. Australia is the major buyer from Oceania, with 9.4 thousand euros, followed by New Zealand with 4.2 thousands euros and New Caledonia (60 thousand euros) and Tonga (one thousand euros). Serious violations of human rights in the area have not been identified.

South-Central Africa

The countries of the South-Central Africa have imported, during the biennium, nearly 8.6 thousand euros worth for light weapons made in Italy, that is to say, 1% of the total of the exportations. The trend of the sales, also considering the previous years, is rather constant and it seems to have a small rise. The salient feature of the exports to this area is their percentage composition: while for all other geographic areas the exports are guns and rifles, in the case of the South-Central Africa, more than the half of the sales are munitions (54%), 30% fire-arms and 16% of explosives. Another distinctive feature is the high number of buyer countries that - excluding the two biggest importers (South African Republic and Congo-Brazzaville)

with more than 4 and 3 thousand euros respectively- appear with a rather small figure, not over a half million euros.

In the European Council Annual Report 2004, it states that in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**- importer from Italy for 120 thousand euros worth of cartridges- despite the delicate peace process, repeated violations of human rights are recorded, from the armed violence to the use of child-soldiers, to frequent rapes. The Amnesty International Report 2005 deals with a worrying situations in the Eastern part of the country: illegal killings of civilians, arbitrary arrests and frequent episodes of torture. It is possible to read that: *“The UN peacekeeping force, MONUC, continued to struggle to contain violence and protect civilians in eastern DRC. An increase in the size of the force from 10,700 to 16,600 was authorized by the UN Security Council in October, but many areas of the east remained beyond MONUC’s operational capacity. An arms embargo, imposed by the UN in July 2003²⁰ and monitored by MONUC, was only partially effective. In July 2004 the UN-appointed Group of Technical Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that direct and indirect assistance, which included the supply of arms and ammunition, was provided in violation of the embargo to armed groups operating in eastern DRC by neighbouring countries and from within the DRC”*. The phenomenon of the triangulations is very frequent and, despite the attention that should be paid in selling weapons to geographical areas at risk, the recent history of the Sub-Saharan Africa is full of examples of weapons bought by a country and then diverted to a neighbour which is a state of armed conflict (often under embargo of arms), filling the arsenals of the factions. It cannot be known if part of the 3 thousand euros of weapons sold to **Congo-Brazzaville** has reached the border, neither if the guns and rifles, sold to **Tanzania** or **Zambia**, have followed the same course.

From the AI Report 2005 we know that in **South Africa**, cases of serious and lethal injuries by the Police have increased, including shooting against disarmed demonstrators.

In **Eritrea** (400 thousand euros worth of rifles during 2005) deserters and people who fail to report for military service-compulsory for men and women from 18 to 40 years-have been arrested and often imprisoned, abused and tortured. Cases of domestic violence and religious persecution are frequent too.

Conclusions

What comes out from such analysis of ISTAT data is that, Italy in the biennium 2004-2005 (as the previous years) has exported fire-arms freely even to areas in a state of armed conflict, countries accused of serious and verified violations of human rights by UN, European Union and Amnesty International and countries under embargo (not binding). The small arms, even if considered to be for civil use,

²⁰ Embargo declared by the UN Security Council to the eastern part of the RDC with the Resolution 1493 (2003) subsequently confirmed by the Res. 1533 and Res.1552 (2004), finally extended to the whole national territory with the Res. 1596 from the April 2005. For further information see: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/sc8467.doc.htm>

can be used in context of socio-political instability- by armed groups, by the Police for maintaining law and order or by normal people prone to violence- as tools of offence or for increasing abuse. In the control of transfers to third parties, it is necessary to maintain a great rigor and an accurate evaluation of the political and social situation of each purchases in order to prevent the entrance of each type of weapon in armed conflicts or in cases of human rights violations or when the destination and the final use of the wares is not clear.

In order that such practices of control become binding, first of all, it is important to update the Italian internal law that needs to be adapted to the new international problems, to the nature of the conflicts marked by the use of light weapons and small arms. The State should take more responsibility about such a delicate matter, as the exportation of common fire-arms or the consequences of the transfers that he authorizes. The periodic draft of public documents that record the movements of all weapons and an engagement of the Parliament, as in the case of the military arms, can be important tools for a greater clearness and attention to the final destinations.

Italian involvement in such direction is important but not sufficient: in order to control the traffic in arms in the world and prevent cases of violations of the criteria fixed by ONU and EU for the arms transfer – which are not binding for many civilian weapons – it is also important to have a further international agreement, a net work made by exchange of information, new and rigid laws, severe controls and then a major attention by all people involved in defence, security and human life, attention often neglected in the face of high economic interests.

This is the viewpoint of the Control arms Campaign that wants to adopt the Arms Trade Treaty rapidly. The aim is to control the arms trade in the whole world and stop the free circulation of these deadly instruments. The Treaty should be based on six principles:

- Article 1. *Responsibilities of the States*: the States must authorize all international arms transfer by the issuing of licences. Such transfers will be applied according to their laws and national procedures.
- Article 2. *Express limitations*: the States will not authorize international transfer of arms that violate the uses assumed about the weapons according to international law (prohibition of the use of the force, embargos, no use of the weapons that cause excessive wounds or unnecessary sufferings).
- Article 3. *Limitations based on use or on the probable use*: the States shall not authorize the transfer of arms if there is a real risk that such weapons will be used for committing violations of international law or human rights, to risk the peace or for aggression.
- Article 4. *Other Considerations*: the States shall consider elements such as the history of the addressee for respecting the agreements and clearness in controlling the arm and the disarm.
- Article 5. *Transparency*: the States shall sent annual reports on their arms transfer to an international registry that will publish an international report.
- Article 6. *Global Controls*: the States will decide common standards for specific mechanisms in order to control the import and the export of weapons, the activities of mediation, the transfer of licences for the production and the transit of weapons.

A crucial element of such treaty is that the effects of the Convention can be applied both to big system and paramilitary materials, to technical and military knowledge, to dual-use technology, to weapons designed for personal use or for more people who work as a team, that is to say, the so-called small or small arms: machine-guns, small missiles launcher, guns, revolvers, rifles, carbines, their parts and munitions. An epochal revolution in the field of the armaments control and their transfer, an affront to the free exchange of material too often considered –for strategic, geo-political and commercial reasons- by the same standards as wares.

The stakes are too high. The expectations are high too. We cannot afford to fail the adoption of the arms Trade Treaty. The future of many people is dependent on the result of the ONU Conference.

***The exports of Italian small arms for civil use
2004 – 2005 (euro)***



<i>Place of destination</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>total</i>
<i>European Union</i>			
Austria	1,832,161	2,251,208	4,083,369
Belgium	5,616,660	4,928,965	10,545,625
Cyprus	2,117,596	13,257,619	15,375,215
Denmark	2,421,204	2,514,457	4,935,661
Estonia	144,614	87,196	231,810
Finland	3,687,459	3,422,646	7,110,105
France	33,211,937	31,778,458	64,990,395
Germany	17,768,825	18,303,392	36,072,217
Greece	11,367,868	13,894,329	25,262,197
Ireland	1,813,345	3,259,628	5,072,973
Latvia	156,650	202,618	359,268
Lithuania	147,831	131,436	279,267
Luxembourg	54,942	78,181	133,123
Malta	627,064	609,759	1,236,823
Netherlands	2,475,436	692,609	3,168,045
Poland	2,427,936	931,095	3,359,031
Portugal	7,262,326	6,058,317	13,320,643
United Kingdom	32,590,977	47,111,408	79,702,385
Czech Republic	1,702,192	1,139,241	2,841,433
Slovakia	1,759,757	1,813,441	3,573,198
Slovenia	1,392,044	791,922	2,183,966
Spain	23,659,886	27,356,973	51,016,859
Sweden	4,258,834	3,567,372	7,826,206
Hungary	916,522	1,105,717	2,022,239
total	159,414,066	185,287,987	344,702,053
<i>European Countries extra-UE</i>			
Albania	132,826	469,162	601,988
Andorra	208,485	223,286	431,771
Byelorussia	0	10,888	10,888
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,650	17,661	181,311
Bulgaria	908,364	1,000,973	1,909,337
Croatia	662,990	741,416	1,404,406
Iceland	145,101	430,910	576,011
Macedonia (FYROM)	106,706	40,838	147,544
Moldavia	0	1,510	1,510
Norway	3,128,270	5,112,434	8,240,704
Romania	1,201,650	838,819	2,040,469
Russia	6,619,750	9,549,732	16,169,482
Serbia	0	408,102	408,102
Serbia and Montenegro	546,697	110,754	657,451
Switzerland	1,815,737	1,428,715	3,244,452
Turkey	5,700,281	6,222,573	11,922,854
Ukraine	1,569,271	1,661,384	3,230,655
Total	22,747,778	28,431,157	51,178,935
<i>North Africa and Middle East</i>			
Algeria	1,569,502	57,436	1,626,938
Saudi Arabia	30,511	39,079	69,590

Armenia	22,523	68,789	91,312
Azerbaijan	32,284	39,355	71,639
Egypt	929,919	1,988,036	2,917,955
United Arab Emirates	824,734	1,464,897	2,289,631
Jordan	653,816	69,477	723,293
Iran	33,710	74,848	108,558
Iraq	0	119,313	119,313
Israel	12,145	146,639	158,784
Kuwait	775,216	846,445	1,621,661
Lebanon	2,965,177	1,744,980	4,710,157
Morocco	1,797,065	2,045,966	3,843,031
Oman	66,822	725	67,547
Qatar	24,144	227,664	251,808
Tunisia	425,235	826,322	1,251,557
Yemen	0	9,450	9,450
Total	10,162,803	9,769,421	19,932,224
<i>South-Central Africa</i>			
Botswana	239,760	0	239,760
Burundi	0	8,840	8,840
Cameroon	59,647	66,021	125,668
Chad	0	1,032	1,032
Congo (Brazzaville)	1,746,758	1,171,799	2,918,557
Congo (RDC)	76,194	43,860	120,054
Ivory Cost	0	19,600	19,600
Eritrea	0	419,700	419,700
Ethiopia	900	0	900
Gabon	1,398	14,377	15,775
Ghana	0	132,760	132,760
Kenya	92,676	33,055	125,731
Madagascar	888	0	888
Mali	113,614	117,039	230,653
Mauritania	0	749	749
Mauritius	3,264	12,800	16,064
Mozambique	792	0	792
Namibia	2,834	0	2,834
Niger	6,593	0	6,593
South African Republic	1,777,763	2,374,083	4,151,846
Senegal	16,678	28,001	44,679
Tanzania	51,573	22,384	73,957
Uganda	4,345	4,537	8,882
Zambia	12,000	4,080	16,080
Total	4,207,677	4,474,717	8,68,394
<i>North America</i>			
Canada	2,040,115	2,459,965	4,500,080
Greenland	6,082	8,718	14,800
Saint-Pierre e Miquelon	1,764	0	1,764
USA	130,247,611	137,518,826	267,766,437
Total	132,295,572	139,987,509	272,283,081



<i>Central-South America</i>			
Dutch Antilles	6,513	2,263	8,776
Argentina	2,472,409	954,737	3,427,146
Bahamas	22,573	0	22,573
Barbados	56,214	115,939	172,153
Bermudas	85,900	0	85,900
Bolivia	7,721	110,523	118,244
Brazil	172,144	283,405	455,549
Chile	856,318	16,601,867	17,458,185
Colombia	169,490	137,916	307,406
Costa Rica	13,291	16,591	29,882
Ecuador	23,850	28,821	52,671
El Salvador	104,799	6,220	111,019
Jamaica	91,924	184,008	275,932
Guatemala	239,226	189,409	428,635
Haiti	0	22,000	22,000
Mexico	1,479,761	1,513,860	2,993,621
Panama	25,824	0	25,824
Paraguay	54,608	33,594	88,202
Peru	151,164	142,278	293,442
Dominican Republic	315,440	306,062	621,502
Suriname	80,965	0	80,965
Trinidad and Tobago	80,195	1,492	81,687
Uruguay	18,875	68,479	87,354
Venezuela	690,765	487,988	1,178,753
Total	7,219,969	21,207,452	28,427,421
<i>Asia</i>			
Afghanistan	43,000	0	43,000
Bangladesh	4,824,573	206,742	5,031,315
Brunei	0	69,000	69,000
China	273,868	82,767	356,635
South Korea	1,166,731	1,677,308	2,844,039
Philippines	421,303	605,792	1,027,095
Japan	4,371,899	3,476,215	7,848,114
Hong Kong	2,285	52,107	54,392
India	1,145,744	450,917	1,596,661
Indonesia	39,805	6,685	46,490
Kazakhstan	49,069	93,408	142,477
Kyrgyzstan	34,538	0	34,538
Macao	0	3,108	3,108
Malaysia	574,559	1,436,196	2,010,755
Maldives	83,150	0	83,150
Nepal	7,340	0	7,340
Pakistan	8,881	3,801,111	3,809,992
Singapore	2,510,351	634,882	3,145,233
Taiwan	140,432	61,712	202,144
Thailand	766,057	920,431	1,686,488
Uzbekistan	10,217	25,392	35,609

Vietnam	16,815	50,394	67,209
Total	16,490,617	13,654,167	30,144,784
<i>Oceania</i>			
Australia	3,998,803	5,454,032	9,452,835
New Caledonia	28,593	31,664	60,257
New Zealand	1,815,497	2,396,663	4,212,160
Tonga	0	1,002	1,002
Total	5,842,893	7,88,361	13,726,254
TOTAL	358,381,375	410,695,771	769,077,146

Ns. elaboration on ISTAT data 2006

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