

## Latest events in the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence: 22 June

Please visit [www.iansa.org/woa](http://www.iansa.org/woa) to see photos, posters and more information about the Week's events

Add the Week of Action banner to your website! Click here: <http://tinyurl.com/mvcj7f>

### AFRICA

- Central African Republic: Link between guns and street children
- Chad: ATT role demanded
- DR Congo: Women's organisations launch DDV
- DR Congo: Radio campaign boosts awareness
- Mali: Documentary impresses journalists
- Sierra Leone: ATT campaign would support development, workshop told
- Sudan: Elections Without Guns campaign launched
- Zambia: Media conference on ATT, domestic violence

### AMERICAS

- Argentina: Street launch for DDV campaign
- Haiti: Call for widespread gun law reform
- Honduras: Young marchers demand tougher firearms law
- Nicaragua: Candlelit protest in city park
- Turks and Caicos Islands: DDA campaign launched with march and rally

### ASIA

- Azerbaijan: Link between gun violence and displacement
- Bangladesh: rallies in 3 cities
- Nepal: Bike rally to promote DDV campaign
- Philippines: Students urge the Philippines to go 'Gun Free'

### EUROPE

- Belarus: Students rock against gun violence
- Spain: ATT campaign hits Barcelona
- Russia: Arms flows to Sudan in special issue of security journal

### MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- Jordan: Shootings double in three years
- Tunisia: Misuse of arms condemned

### AFRICA

#### Central African Republic

African Muslim Agency (AMA) in collaboration with the women's group OFCA (Organisations des Femmes en Centre Afrique) hosted a round-table on 18 June, along with the Ministry of External Cooperation and Planning, UNDP, UNICEF, the public and the media. The meeting heard from Serge, a nine-year-old street child, who told how his father had killed his uncle with an illegal weapon, and had been arrested. After this, Serge's family dispersed, "which is why I find myself in the street," Serge said. Gérard Doulpanga of AMA explained that the campaign against gun violence was being carried on numerous radio stations, including The Voice of Peace, Ndeke Luka, Central Africa Radio, and Radio Our Lady.

#### Chad

The Committee for Peace and Reconciliation in Chad (Comité de Suivi d'Appel à la Paix et à la Réconciliation au Tchad) held a media conference on 19 June. The committee called for Chad to take an active role in the upcoming working group on the ATT. Ngaryngam Mouldjide of CSAPR told Freedom FM Radio that government should step up its efforts to stem the proliferation of light weapons.

Media: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Africa.htm#Cha](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Africa.htm#Cha)

## DR Congo

Forty women's organisations participated in the Disarm Domestic Violence launch in Kinshasa, organised by DRC members of the IANSA Women's Network IANSA, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) on 20 June. Presentations were also made about the ATT and the work of the National Commission on Small Arms. UNDP and Congolese Women From the Diaspora also attended the event.

Arthur Tshileo, Pascal and Augustine Vaweke Nkomo of Securitas embarked on a round of radio appearances to raise awareness about the impact of arms proliferation and discuss ways of reducing the negative effects of illegal weapons. Radio stations in Bunia, Ituri, carried news of the Global Week of Action, including Radio Okapi, Radio Canal Revelation, Tangazeni Kristo Radio and Candip Radio.

## Mali

The French documentary *Arms, Dealing and National Interest* – made by ARTE with help from Amnesty International – was screened to more than 30 journalists at the Press Club in Bamako on 19 June. The problem of small arms in DR Congo is not well known in West Africa, and the journalists said they were very moved by the film. Amadou Maiga, president of RJSDAO (West Africa Network of Journalists For Security and Development) said that arms trafficking involved the complicity of several countries, and could only be tackled by countries joining together to lobby for a strong ATT.

Photo: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Africa.htm#Mal](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Africa.htm#Mal)

## Sierra Leone

The YWCA hosted a workshop on 17 June with participants including officials from the Ministries of Defence, Police, Immigration, National Security, the Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International and a cross-section of civil society groups affiliated to SLANSA. One of the goals of the workshop was to review the government's commitment to the ATT process. Participants learned of the importance of an ATT based on international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and how this would support the Millennium Development Goals. SLANSA also discussed the government submission to the UN Secretary-General on armed violence and development, and highlighted the need to Disarm Domestic Violence. "The issue of gun violence affects rich countries as well as those emerging from conflicts or suffering from extreme poverty," said SLANSA coordinator Florella Hazeley. Media coverage included *Concord Times*, *Standard Times* and *Awoko*, as well as national TV and radio.

Media: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Africa.htm#Sie](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Africa.htm#Sie)

## Sudan

The Week of Action culminated with Sunday's event, which began with an ecumenical prayer service dedicated to victims of gun violence at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Nimule. The event was organised by Southern Sudan Action Network on Small Arms and the Catholic Diocese of Torit – Western Deanery – in collaboration with the Southern Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms control. It included the official launch of "Elections without Guns", a Southern Sudan-wide campaign aimed at creating awareness on the dangers of gun violence during the election process. The Magwi County Commissioner, His Excellency Emilio Igga, presided. The commissioner also attended the subsequent press conference which was addressed by CSO representatives, the area police chief, the Nimule Payam Judge and the coordinator of Kenya Action Network on Small Arms. The ATT, cross border arms trade concerns, and the Elections without Guns Campaign were discussed. The day ended with the final of a football tournament involving local youths.

Earlier in the week, SSANSA's Women's Development Group organised a symposium in Wau Western Bahar-El-Gazel state. This, was followed by a talk show on Bakhita Radio in Juba on Wednesday, and a civil society consultation on SALW organised by the Jonglei State Women's Union in Bor on Thursday.

## Zambia

Charles Mulenga of the Action Network Advisory on Small Arms (ANASA) held a press conference with the Ministry of Defence on 19 June. It was attended by 15 media organisations, including local television station CBC. Charles detailed ANASA's role in the Global Week of Action, stressing the need for the Zambian government to attend the ATT working group and support a strong agreement. He applauded last year's efforts to keep the Ship of Shame away from Africa's ports. He urged Zambia to reassess its firearm

and police laws: to tackle armed robbery and the killing of private citizens; domestic violence; and the issue of poaching and its direct correlation to gun violence.

Photo: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Africa.htm#Zam](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Africa.htm#Zam)

## AMERICAS

### Argentina

The public policy group APP (Asociacion para Políticas Públicas) organised outreach activities at the Callao metro station in Buenos Aires on 19 June. Newsletters were circulated with details about the Disarm Domestic Violence campaign, including resources for women or potential victims. Other campaign materials such as keyrings, stickers, and wristbands proved popular. APP also met with gender experts from the National Council of Women to share materials, discuss the launch of the campaign and future collaborations. Newsletter: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Americas.htm#Arg](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Americas.htm#Arg)

### Haiti

The Justice and Peace Commission urged the population of Cayes in the South of Haiti to participate in Sunday's Senate elections in a calm and non-violent way. Adrien Dissicile for Justice and Peace said the message was passed on in churches throughout the Global Week of Action. The Commission also released figures showing that 240,000 small arms were circulating in Haiti, and condemned the government for taking no decisive action to combat proliferation. The group urged the Haitian government to ratify the UN Convention against transnational organised crime and Protocol on arms trafficking. The Commission's proposals included: a crackdown on illegal weapons; a strengthening of laws on gun ownership; a new system of gun registration; a solution to the problem of guns circulating within the government. The statement concluded: "Human coexistence should not be based on the weapons in the hands of citizens. The State and the police must ensure that citizens can feel and live without fear."

Statement: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Americas.htm#Haiti](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Americas.htm#Haiti)

### Honduras

A march through the streets of Tegucigalpa attracted 600 people on June 19, followed by a candlelit vigil for victims of gun violence in Parque Central. There were also songs, poetry readings and dancing. During the march, young demonstrators demanded that the government reform the national firearms law which currently allows people as young as 18 to own five guns. The event was jointly organised by UNDP and CIPRODEH (Research Centre on Human Rights). Six TV channels and two radio stations publicised the event, which was also featured in the dailies El Herado, La Prensa and LaTribuna. During the week, CIPRODEH members met with Defence Minister Edmundo Oreyana and congressman Gabo Alfredo Jalil to argue for stronger firearms laws. CIPRODEH activists in Santa Rosa de Copan publicised the Week of Action on five TV channels, one of which broadcast a video about gun violence.

### Nicaragua

More than 300 people gathered in Managua on 20 June for a candlelit protest against gun violence. The event was held in the park of Villa Venezuela, a neighbourhood where it is common for young men to carry guns. Monica Zalaquett from the organisers CEPREV said: "During the event, we highlighted that real men do not need to carry guns; that masculinity is not associated with guns". The event was covered by the TV programme 100% Noticias and the newspaper Nuevo Diario. The event was one of several held simultaneously in Latin American cities by members of CLAVE (Latin American Coalition for Violence Prevention).

Media: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Americas.htm#Nic](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Americas.htm#Nic)

### Turks and Caicos Islands

A public rally and march through the streets of Providenciales launched the Disarm Domestic Violence campaign on 15 June. The events were organised by the Gender Affairs Unit of the Turks and Caicos Islands partnered with Women in Development (WINAD). The theme was 'Stop the Violence... Not another one'. The rally was addressed by the Minister of Home Affairs and Human Services, Karen Delancy. Other speakers included the leader of the parliamentary opposition and representatives from the education, health and social development ministries. Civil society groups and faith-based organisations were also well-represented. The campaign continues throughout June, with a programme including discussions on crime and violence and self-defence classes for women.

## **ASIA**

### **Azerbaijan**

Women and Modern World Centre organised a round-table on 20 June in Refugee City (in the suburbs of Baku) to mark the Week of Action and World Refugee Day. The link between gun violence and displacement was highlighted by government officials, journalists, representatives from parliament and local NGOs. A meeting with refugees followed.

Photo: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Asia.htm#aze](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Asia.htm#aze)

### **Bangladesh**

Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre organised a series of rallies in the towns of Gazipur, Jessore and Satkhira. The marches were well attended and received good coverage in local media.

Photo: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Asia.htm#Ban](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Asia.htm#Ban)

### **Nepal**

Sixty-one cyclists rode through the streets of Kathmandu to deliver a memo to all political parties on 19 June in support of the Disarming Domestic Violence campaign. The memo urged all parties to take action to prevent domestic violence committed with guns. The campaign launch was covered by Nepal TV, and in leading national daily and weekly newspapers. The event was organised by SAP Nepal, SASA-Net Nepal and Yatra, a youth organisation. Daniel Prins from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs participated.

Photo: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/Asia.htm#Nep2](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/Asia.htm#Nep2)

### **Philippines**

Tragedy marked the Week of Action in the Philippines, when the father of Patty Bugayong, one of the campaigners was shot dead on 16 March. The incident reinforced the commitment of the Philippines Action Network on Small Arms (PhilANSA) to continue with their activities raising awareness of the dangers of guns. The IANSA Secretariat sends its condolences to the family and friends, on behalf of the global network. During the week, PhilANSA organised exhibits in colleges as well as a poster and essay competition where students were able to voice their opinions on the issue of arms control.

## **EUROPE**

### **Belarus**

A rock concert – ‘Youth Against Violence’ – was held on 16 June, involving Blagy Mat and Volk, groups associated with the support group SCAF. Presentations on gun violence were given during the concert. During the week, students interviewed parliamentarians and local government representatives on their attitudes towards gun violence prevention.

### **Spain**

Fundacio per la Pau contacted several media outlets in Barcelona including the daily newspaper Periodico de Catalunya to highlight the importance of Spain playing a leading role in support of ATT during the working group at the UN in July. Amnesty International Spain is asking people to sign a letter which will be sent to the US Embassy in Madrid asking President Obama to support the ATT.

### **Russia**

The latest issue of Security Index Journal focuses on Russian arms control and was published on 20 June by PIR Centre in Moscow. PIR Centre researcher Vadim Kozulin analyses arms flows to Sudan, in particular from Ukraine and Russia.

## **MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

### **Jordan**

The number of firearm casualties has almost doubled in three years, from 319 in 2006 to 626 in 2008, according to Major Ra'id Al-Assaf of the Public Security Department. Major Ra'id expressed his concern on this increasing gun violence at a workshop organised by the Amman Centre for Human Rights. Other speakers included the Director of the News Department at the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation, who described the activities of the media in promoting awareness of the dangers of aerial firing and misusing

weapons. Stronger controls were desirable, said Deputy Ayman Shuwayyat, who is a member of the Legal Committee at the House of Representatives.

Photo: [www.iansa.org/campaigns\\_events/WoA2009/mena.htm#jor](http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/WoA2009/mena.htm#jor)

Tunisia

Kraifi Rabeih of Amnesty Tunisia addressed a meeting on the importance of the ATT on 19 June at Amnesty headquarters in Tunis. He condemned the authorities for the misuse of arms that has become a common occurrence in Tunisia.

**Please tell us about the events in your countries as soon as possible so we can broadcast them to the network!**