

Cambodian Arms Law

Cambodian legislators voted to pass a new arms law on gun control on 27 April. This arms Law is seen as an important tool to help the Government strengthen its on-going efforts to eradicate illicit small arms and light weapons and to stricter regulate the uses of state-owned weapons. The law is also expected to close the current loopholes in the existing gun-related legislations.

The Law maintains strict restriction on gun ownership by civilian populations. Article 4 states that:

Equipping, possession, carrying, use, purchase, sale, trading, loan, transfer, rental, production, fabrication, repair, transportation, transit, import, export and stockpiling of weapons, explosives and ammunition of all its aspects by the civilian population are prohibited in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The Law also provides severe punishment regarding the misuse of weapons. Article 19 stipulates that:

For those who equip, carry, possess, utilize, sell, purchase, lend, transfer, hire, fabricate, improvise and repair weapons, explosives and ammunition of any and all types shall be liable to imprisonment from 6 (six) months to 3 (three) years and a fine of 1.000.000 Riel (one million Rile) to 6.000.000 Riel (six million Riel)

The punishment also aims at those individuals whose registered guns are misused. Article 24 states as follow:

For those who are careless by allowing other people to use weapon, explosives, and ammunition, which fall under oneself possession, shall be liable to imprisonment from 3 (three) months to 3 (three) years and a fine 200.000 (two hundred thousand Riel) to 1.000.000 (one million Riel).

The Working Group for Weapon Reduction sincerely welcome the passing of the arms law and are further committed to go on even closer cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia to improve gun-related law and policy and to ensure the effective implementation of these laws and policy.

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