

Middle East North Africa Action Network Stop the Spread and Misuse of Small Arms

December 2005 "make some noise, silence the guns"
Regional Small Arms Bi Monthly Roundup

Dear MENAANSA Network members and friends,

NEWS	1
IRAQ	1
FIRST IRAQ VOTES CAST IN POLL OPPOSED BY MILITANTS	1
BRITISH MERCENARIES SHOOTING AT BAGHDAD MOTORISTS IS PART OF "THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT"	2
PALESTINE:	2
GUNMEN RAID ELECTORAL OFFICES OVER FATAH SCHISM	2
ABBAS TELLS PALESTINIANS TO KEEP TRUCE WITH ISRAEL	2
SYRIA: ARMS CACHE UNEARTHED IN SYRIA	2
SUDAN: DARFUR TALKS NEED PROGRESS ON LAND RIGHTS, SECURITY	2
AK-47: ICONIC WEAPON	3
OTHER SECURITY NEWS	3
LEBANON: 'MANAGING THE GATHERING STORM'	3
SUDAN: CHINA BECOMES LEADING ARMS SUPPLIER	3
HAMAS TO END TRUCE WITH ISRAEL	3
EVENTS, CAMPAIGNS, REPORTS	3
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER: AMNESTY BAHRAIN (AI)	3
BAHRAIN: AMNESTY BAHRAIN'S DRIVE AGAINST ARMS	3
STORY WRITING COMPETITION	4
DEC 10TH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY	4
PRESS RELEASE BY PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING GROUP: GAZA FEUD ENDS IN BLOODSHED	4
MAKE SOME NOISE, SILENCE THE GUNS	4
REGIONAL HUMAN SECURITY CENTER CONFERENCE REPORT, JUNE 2003	4
HD CENTER'S SMALL ARMS AND HUMAN SECURITY BULLETIN	4
CHILD SOLDIERS NEWSLETTER WINTER 2005- NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS AND CHILD RECRUITMENT	5

News

IRAQ

First Iraq Votes Cast in Poll Opposed by Militants

Iraq's *election* for its first full-term parliament since Saddam Hussein's overthrow began with special groups voting on Monday. Militants branded the poll ungodly and vowed to turn the country into an Islamic state. Election day is set for Thursday but the infirm, security forces



members and detainees voted early in hospitals, barracks and jails, inking their fingers to guard against multiple voting before dropping their votes into plastic ballot boxes. The election is being contested against a backdrop of sectarian tensions between the *Sunni Arab* minority dominant under Saddam and the Shi'ite and Kurdish blocs which dominated the January vote and are again expected to win the most seats.

<http://www.humansecuritycentre.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=56#Anchor-1>

British Mercenaries Shooting at Baghdad Motorists is Part of "the Rules of Engagement"

Michel Chossudovsky, December 04th 2005

Security contractors of the so-called "Victory" Group of the British mercenary Firm Aegis Defense Services have committed the ultimate war crime: the indiscriminate killing of civilians as part of a "game", not a video game but a real game of shooting Iraqi civilians as a form of entertainment, as revealed in a "trophy video" posted on an Aegis employees website. There are in fact several video clips, which suggests that the practice is not an isolated event.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=20051204&articleId=1402>

PALESTINE:

Gunmen raid electoral offices over Fatah schism

BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

MASKED gunmen from Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement seized control of electoral offices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday, casting doubt on whether long-awaited legislative elections can be held as planned next month.

In the worst flare-up of pre-electoral violence so far, gunmen from the Palestinian president's political movement stormed central election commission offices in Nablus, Gaza City and Khan Yunis a day before the end of the candidate registration period... In Gaza City, about eighty masked gunmen from Fatah's al-Aksa Martyrs' Brigades took over the offices of the elections commission. <http://news.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=2402532005>

Abbas tells Palestinians to keep truce with Israel

By Nidal al-Mughrabi Sat Dec 10, 5:45 PM ET

GAZA (Reuters) - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told militant factions on Saturday to renew their commitment to a 9-month-old truce with Israel, while a top U.S. official urged him to step up efforts to disarm them... Speaking at a ceremony for the laying of a cornerstone at a new court building in Gaza, Abbas said militants' actions in Gaza and the West Bank were harming the Palestinian people.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20051210/wl_nm/mideast_dc_23

SYRIA: Arms cache unearthed in Syria

Thursday 08 December 2005

Syrian security forces found caches of arms and explosives in the province of Aleppo and the suburbs of Damascus, the official SANA agency said, adding the weapons came from Lebanon. The agency also said on Wednesday security forces had unearthed a bomb-making factory in the northern province of Aleppo, the site of recent clashes with security forces.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/0D14ED65-8C0E-475A-A372-0470E103DCE9.htm>

SUDAN: Darfur talks need progress on land rights, security

By Opheera McDoom ABUJA (Reuters) - Finding a consensus on land rights and disarmament is essential to advance peace talks between Sudan's government and Darfur rebels, African mediators said, although both sides were far apart on the issues. The latest talks to end the violence in Darfur opened last week in Abuja with the rebels, presenting a unified front, forcing the government to tackle the key theme of power sharing for the first time after six previous negotiating rounds... The government wants the Arab militias, known locally as Janjaweed, to be disarmed simultaneously with the rebel groups. "You cannot ask some tribes to disarm when the other still carries arms," government spokesman Amin Hassan



Omar said. http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2005/12/7/worldupdates/2005-12-07T004559Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_-226633-1&sec=worldupdates

AK-47: Iconic weapon

All this week, BBC World Service's The World Today programme is looking at the stories behind one of the world's most iconic weapons, the AK-47, and talking to the people who trade in it, the people who carry it, and the people whose lives have been destroyed by it. The global trade in small arms is big business - it involves almost 1,250 companies operating in at least 92 countries producing weapons, parts or ammunition. The most popular, and perhaps the most iconic, of all these weapons is the AK-47 assault rifle. Its distinctive shape and widespread use made it an icon of violence in the 20th Century.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4380348.stm>

Other Security News

LEBANON: 'Managing the gathering storm'

The February 14, 2005, assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri - preceded by the decision to extend President Emile Lahoud's term - set off a chain reaction of local and regional events that began with the rapid withdrawal of Syrian troops, proceeded with elections and the formation of a new government, carried on with a UN report on the killing, and continues to this day. The abruptness of Syria's exit unquestionably was a success for the demonstrators who poured into the streets of Beirut on March 14 and for members of the international community - the U.S. and France at their head - who had pushed for it.

Paradoxically, however, it also left the country with scant time to prepare an order. Or, as an influential member of Parliament put it: "We have moved into a new house. But no one yet knows who will take which room. Everyone wants to get the best one, and it's led to sectarian squabbling. We have to find a way to divide the house in which there is space for all."

http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=20516

<http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/051202/2005120219.html>

SUDAN: CHINA BECOMES LEADING ARMS SUPPLIER

WASHINGTON [MENL] -- China has become a leading weapons supplier in Sudan as part of Beijing's efforts to maintain oil interests in Africa. The Washington-based Jamestown Foundation said in a report that China has become the fifth largest arms supplier to the African continent. http://www.menewline.com/stories/2005/december/12_09_1.html

Hamas to end truce with Israel

The political leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas has said it will not renew its informal ceasefire with Israel that expires at the end of year. Khaled Meshaal told a rally in the Syrian capital Damascus his group was preparing for a new round of conflict.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/4514548.stm

Events, Campaigns, Reports

Welcome to New Member: Amnesty Bahrain (AI)

Based in Bahrain, AI has just joined MENAANSA. AI focuses, among other issues on the Control Arms Campaign (Million Faces) and SALW awareness raising activities. For more information see below.

BAHRAIN: Amnesty Bahrain's drive against arms

CINEMAGOERS at Seef Mall Cineplex were yesterday urged to join the Amnesty International (AI) global anti-arms campaign. AI Bahrain were at the Cineplex entrance to encourage people to sign the rights group's Million Faces petition aimed at urging governments to sign an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which would introduce tighter controls on international arms trades. The initiative was held to coincide with the opening of the new film



'Lord of War', starring Nicholas Cage... More than 55,000 people have signed the petition to date. Bahraini activists are hoping to encourage about 1,000 people to join the petition.
http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/arc_Articles.asp?Article=129292&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=28263
<http://www.alwasatnews.com/topic.asp?tlD=75137&mydate=12-8-2005>
<http://www.almeethaq.net/liveweb/default.asp?action=article&ID=71073&KeyWords=%C8%D1%CF%D3%CA%C7%E4%ED>

Story Writing Competition

Al Bahrain is also holding a short story writing competition under the theme Art for Change. The competition is for Arabic speakers only in a bid to encourage more involvement in human rights from the Arab world. The stories should be between 100 and 250 words, exploring the negative effects of arms trading. It should look at topics such as who are the people responsible for, and benefit arms trading as well as the victims of such activities. Participants, who should be between 18 and 35 years, can send their stories to PO Box 21737, Manama. There will be prizes for the top three stories. For more information contact Mr Burdestani on 39423421 or visit the Control Arms website at www.controlarms.org and browse the Arabic section. <http://ara.controlarms.org/pages/index-ara>
http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/arc_Articles.asp?Article=129493&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=28266
For more information please contact: Nasser H. Burdestani, The Coordinator, Amnesty International, Kingdom of Bahrain, Email: amnestybahrain@hotmail.com

Dec 10th International Human Rights Day

Press Release by Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group: Gaza Feud Ends in Bloodshed

In Beit-Hanun, a disagreement between two Palestinian families ended in a public gunfight that killed five and injured over fifty bystanders. The fight began as retaliation for the murder of Salah al-Massree (45 yrs old), who was shot and killed Thursday December 1st as he was leaving his shop in Gaza. He was buried on Saturday December 3rd, and his grieving relatives sought revenge on the offending family, the al-Kabarnah's, on Saturday night. After arriving at the residence of Abed al-Salam Ashor al-Kabarnah (45 yrs old), the al-Masrees shot and killed Abed al-Salam. The ensuing gunfight between the two families resulted in the additional deaths of Zaidan al-Massree (25 yrs old), Hassam al-Massree (39 yrs old), and Salah al-Massree (45 yrs old). Also, officer Essam al-Hueihee (34 yrs old), a member of the police force dispatched to stop the dispute, was shot and killed. A second gunfight broke out on Wednesday December 7th, resulting in the additional death of Aysha Hamad, who was killed in her house from the crossfire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PHRMG/>

Make Some Noise, Silence the Guns

On International Human Rights Day (10 December), Amnesty International has launched 'make some noise', using the songs of John Lennon to promote human rights including the Control Arms campaign for a global Arms Trade Treaty to stop guns getting into the hands of human rights abusers. From the streets of Jamaica to the jungles of Colombia, the global suffering caused by the AK-47 assault rifle has recently been the focus of a series on the BBC World Service. [Click here for more information.](#)

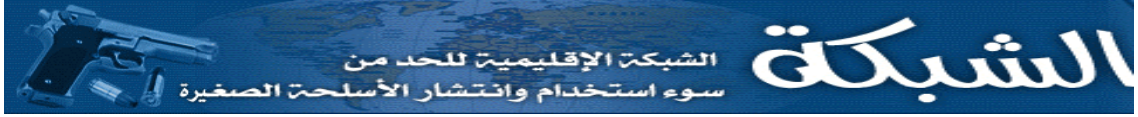
Regional Human Security Center Conference Report, June 2003

Available in English and Arabic.

[Illicit Trade in SALW in the Arab Region- Report of Conference on UNPoA 2003. Eng](#)
[Illicit Trade in SALW in the Arab Region-Report of Conference on UNPoA- Arabic](#)

HD Center's Small Arms and Human Security Bulletin

The 2005 Biennial Meeting of States and next steps - Small arms and development: converging priorities - Small Arms: Big opportunities
Available in Arabic, French and English
<http://www.hdcentre.org/?aid=61>



Child Soldiers Newsletter Winter 2005- Non-State Armed Groups and Child Recruitment

Children in non-state armed groups are the focus of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldier's latest newsletter (Winter 2005). The newsletter is available online at http://www.iansa.org/issues/child_soldiers.htm

Middle East North Africa Action Network on Small Arms

Email: menaansa@cyberia.jo hritc@yemen.net.ye
www.mena-small-arms.org

If you do not wish to receive our bi-monthly roundups, simply email menaansa@cyberia.jo with the subject: unsubscribe.