



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

**2006**

**‘Brother against Brother’  
Regional Small Arms Bi Monthly Roundup**

Dear MENAANSA Network members and friends,

<b>NEWS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>GAZA: FEARS GROW OF CIVIL WAR IN GAZA</b>	1
<b>SUDAN:</b>	2
ARMS FLOW TO SUDAN'S DARFUR DESPITE EMBARGO: UN	2
'LITTLE CHEER' FROM SUDAN PEACE	2
CHAD WANTS TO DISARM REBELS	2
<b>SOMALIA: FIGHTING KILLS 15</b>	2
<b>OTHER SECURITY NEWS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ABBAS 1 YEAR ON — SECURITY CHAOS, POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY</b>	2
<b>POLITICS OF CHAOS: GAZA'S TURMOIL IN CONTEXT</b>	2
<b>PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON INCH CLOSER TO RECOGNITION WITH 2005 WORK LAW</b>	3
<b>EVENTS, CAMPAIGNS, REPORTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CAIRO: FIRST NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING ON SMALL ARMS</b>	3
<b>THE UN SMALL ARMS PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (PREP COM)</b>	3
<b>SPECIAL NEWS REPORT: BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER</b>	4
<b>THE REIGN OF THE THUGS</b>	4
<b>DISARMAMENT: ARE SMALL ARMS THE REAL WMD?</b>	4

### **News**

#### **GAZA: Fears grow of civil war in Gaza**

By Craig S. Smith The New York Times, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2006

**‘GAZA** Political campaigning by Fatah and Hamas, the Palestinians' two main political factions, paused Tuesday while people slaughtered sheep and goats and the occasional ox for the annual Muslim Id al-Adha festival. But the mood was subdued amid talk of war between the factions and Palestinian security forces said they are girding for violence, fearing that the legislative elections scheduled for this month could lead to fighting. "If civil war starts, it will last a long time and cost thousands of lives," said Sameeh Nasser, a police officer riding through Gaza City's chaotic streets in a light blue Peugeot patrol car. The densely populated, weapons-packed territory, taut with frustration from decades of political injustices, restricted freedom and stunted economic development, threatens to turn on itself now that Israel has withdrawn... "We can't deny that there is real fear that something might happen," said Naji Alserhi, Hamas's campaign director for Gaza. He said that his organization has warned the Palestinian Authority that "people will take the law into their own hands" if the election is postponed...Feuding Palestinian clans have already turned parts of the north and the south into occasional war zones and pessimism about the future is widespread... The number of



weapons on the streets is estimated to be at least triple that in the hands of the Palestinian police, which only has one gun for every 20 officers.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/01/10/news/mideast.php?rss>

See also: *Prospects for peace falter amid Palestinian disarray*. 'Life for ordinary Palestinians is becoming harder, with less security and optimism than a year ago'.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/01/08/news/israel.php?rss>

## **SUDAN:**

### **Arms flow to Sudan's Darfur despite embargo: UN**

By Irwin Arieff Tue Jan 10, 6:23 PM ET

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Weapons are flowing to anti-government rebels in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region from neighboring Chad, Eritrea and Libya in violation of a U.N. arms embargo, U.N. experts said in a report obtained by Reuters on Tuesday. The embargo, imposed on all non-government forces in Darfur in July 2004, has also failed to prevent the government from arming the Arab militias that act as its proxy fighters in the Darfur conflict, the experts said. [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060110/wl\\_nm/sudan\\_darfur\\_un\\_dc\\_1](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060110/wl_nm/sudan_darfur_un_dc_1)

### **'Little Cheer' from Sudan Peace**

*British Broadcasting Corporation*

Millions of Sudanese still live in fear of violence, a year after the peace deal ended 21 years of war between north and south, aid agencies say. Many Sudanese have little to celebrate because of conflict in the western province of Darfur and insecurity in the south and east, they say.

### **Chad wants to disarm rebels**

Tuesday 10 January 2006, 4:20 Makka Time, 1:20 GMT

Chad has demanded that neighbouring Sudan disarm Chadian rebels in its violent Darfur region as a condition for peace talks to end a growing dispute with Khartoum over rebel and militia raids in the border area. <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/27B69F0A-6A98-46F4-B38C-CDBBCAA2B968.htm>

### **SOMALIA: fighting kills 15**

Thursday 12 January 2006, 13:06 Makka Time, 10:06 GMT

At least 15 militia fighters have been killed in fighting between opposing factions from a clan in central Somalia.

Tanks, rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles were deployed in a battle for control of grazing land and water for livestock.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/B3977DFC-41BB-4FFB-A1EB-B7CAEEE0B452.htm>

## **Other Security News**

### **Abbas 1 year on — security chaos, political uncertainty**

By Hossam Ezzedine

Agence France-Presse

RAMALLAH — One year after his election, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas faces an increasingly uncertain future with the demise of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and a spiraling security crisis. <http://www.jordantimes.com/mon/news/news8.htm>

### **Politics of chaos: Gaza's turmoil in context**

By Ramzy Baroud

The most recent kidnappings in the Gaza Strip are a disheartening testimony to how factionalism, corruption and lack of discipline can scar a national struggle that was meant to exemplify precisely the opposite. <http://www.jordantimes.com/sun/opinion/opinion2.htm>



## **Palestinians in Lebanon inch closer to recognition with 2005 work law**

Refugees demand lifting of all restrictions on employment

BEIRUT: The first step in what human rights advocates hope will be the march for full recognition was made in 2005 when the Labor Ministry ended two decades of discrimination against subjugated Palestinian refugees by allowing those refugees born in Lebanon to work at manual and clerical jobs... The employment announcement has also given rise to speculation there will be a concerted effort to disarm the various armed factions in the camps, an international demand stipulated in UN Resolution 1559.

According to Natour, "Slowly, through granting Palestinians their rights, security concerns will be viewed as being under less threat and a case will be made for the disarmament. But whether Palestinians will accept such a decision is another issue."... One Fatah military official said: "I cannot tell my men to disarm before ensuring a safe life for them. They will not disarm until they know they can live and work freely, until they know they will not be massacred, raped or slaughtered." Other faction leaders rejected disarmament outright, insisting their weapons will only be used against Israel. They said the unstable political and security situation in the country made disarmament "unlikely" at this stage.

[http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=1&categ\\_id=2&article\\_id=21402](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=2&article_id=21402)

## **Events, Campaigns, Reports**

### **CAIRO: First National Focal Points Meeting on Small Arms**

Took place in Cairo organized by The Arab League, Cairo, Dec 26-27, 2005

The following details are reported by Dr. Ghassan Sharour, Network Coordinator of the Arab Network of Researchers on Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War, based in Syria.

The agenda included:

- The role of the Regional Focal Point in the Arab League.
- The efforts of the Arab Ministers of Interiors in combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.
- The role of the National Focal Point.
- The challenges faced by the National Focal Point.
- The best practices on SALW in the region.
- National actions to implement The UN the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
- Update on the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- Update on the UN Review Conference in 2006.

Before the meeting, Dr Ghassan Sharour contacted some attendants to advocate the involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs), in the events as well as to highlight public health and social aspects of SALW in our region. The meeting highlighted the needs for more cooperation and coordination among the National Focal Points as well as the need for training and resources. It encouraged the involvement of CSOs in future activities. The final report will be finalized soon. To contact Dr. Sharour: [afodafro@scs-net.org](mailto:afodafro@scs-net.org) [syria@icbl.org](mailto:syria@icbl.org)

### **The UN small arms Preparatory Committee (PrepCom)**

is being held at UN Headquarters in New York (US), 9-20 January 2006.

It will prepare the ground for a landmark UN conference on small arms controls in June. The Review Conference will be an opportunity for much greater progress – if governments are prepared to take up the challenge. However, this opportunity may be lost, depending on the outcome of the preparatory meeting over the next two weeks. At the PrepCom, UN Member States will decide the agenda of the high-level Review Conference in June, ie which solutions to the problem of gun violence are open for discussion.

A number of issues were dropped from the text of the PoA in 2001, including

- regulating civilian possession of guns,
- arms transfers to non-state actors,
- and tough regulation of arms brokers.



[from IANSA's website: <http://www.iansa.org/un/review2006/prepcom.htm>]

### **Special News Report: Brother Against Brother**

On Thursday, PA policemen Abed al-Rahem Saleh (20 years old) was shot and killed while trying to restore peace to a Gaza neighborhood. Armed gunmen opened fire on the police station where he was working, in an attempt to force the release of clan members from the prison. The ensuing gunfight resulted in the death of al-Rahem Saleh and one of the gunmen. The clash gave credence to reports that the PA has lost control over Gaza. To accompany this tragedy, a new investigative report by the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group has revealed an alarming trend: over half of Palestinian fatalities in 2005 have been a result of gunshot wounds received from other Palestinians. The number of Palestinian deaths by Palestinian gunfire is the highest this year than in any year previously recorded. ***In Gaza alone, 37% of gunfire fatalities for the year 2005 have occurred since the pullout in September.***

To access full press release visit: <http://www.mena-small-arms.org/News.html>

### **The reign of the thugs**

By Bassam Eid

How do you change chaos into order? The Palestinians haven't succeeded. Under the powers handed over by Chairman Arafat, the Interior Ministry became responsible solely for civil issues and no longer for security. The National Security Council, headed by Chairman Arafat, will neither manage to direct the security issues, nor to control the corrupted and distorted situation in Palestinian society. [http://www.phrmg.org/articles/reign\\_of\\_thugs.htm](http://www.phrmg.org/articles/reign_of_thugs.htm)

### **DISARMAMENT: Are Small Arms the Real WMD?**

Thalif Deen

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 11 (IPS) - The United Nations argues that small arms -- including assault rifles, grenade launchers and sub-machine guns -- are primarily responsible for much of the death and destruction in conflicts throughout the world. But despite the availability of over 600 million small arms in open and underground markets, there is no international treaty to control the reckless proliferation of these light weapons worldwide. "Dinosaur bones and old postage stamps", yes, but a treaty on small arms, no, says Sarah Margon, director of Oxfam. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=31738>

---

### **Middle East North Africa Action Network on Small Arms**

Email: [menaansa@cyberia.io](mailto:menaansa@cyberia.io) [hritc@yemen.net.ye](mailto:hritc@yemen.net.ye)  
[www.mena-small-arms.org](http://www.mena-small-arms.org)

If you do not wish to receive our bi-monthly roundups, simply email [menaansa@cyberia.io](mailto:menaansa@cyberia.io) with the subject: unsubscribe.