



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

October 2005

'Cocktail of Armed Actors'
Regional Small Arms Bi Monthly Roundup

Dear MENAANSA Network members and friends,

NEWS	2
ARAB LEAGUE: Germany sign agreement on small arms control	2
LEBANON: moves to further reduce Syrian influence	2
PALESTINE:	2
Concerned over Clashes, Doubtful of Civil War	2
In unruly Gaza, authority goes to the clans	2
When to stop 'democracy with a gun'?	3
LEBANON, PALESTINIAN CAMPS:	3
Gunfight erupts outside Lebanon camp	3
Continued controversy over Palestinian groups weapons	3
Condemning Arms Flow	3
Assessment for Palestinians in Lebanon	3
YEMEN: Drug Smuggling and Other Crimes of the Dictator	4
SUDAN: Violence forces many to flee North Darfur	4
SUDAN: Chaos Grows in Darfur Conflict as Militias Turn on Government	4
SOMALIA: Too many guns, too little food threatens Somalia	4
IRAQ: Czech Republic to donate weapons to protect Iraq's culture	4
IRAN: British forces monitor arms smuggling	5
Security	5
Egypt's ambassador to Israel marks 'new phase' in relations	5
IRAQ: The State We're In	5
EVENTS, CAMPAIGNS, REPORTS	5
MENAANSA Preliminary Research on SALW and Security Perceptions	5
Human Security Report: Launched	5
Small Arms Review Countdown begins in Earnest	6
MISSING PIECES	6



Womad festival, UK: Interview with Farida

6

Control Arms: Campaign reveals arms trade realities behind new Nicholas Cage film Lord of War

6

News

ARAB LEAGUE: Germany sign agreement on small arms control

CAIRO, Oct. 10 (Xinhuanet) -- The Arab League (AL) and Germany signed here on Monday an agreement on small arms and light weapons control in the Arab world, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported. Under the agreement, Germany will provide money to the league for holding the first Arab meeting on small arms and light weapons control among Arab countries, according to the report. The agreement was signed by AL assistant secretary general for financial and administrative affairs Samir Saiful Yazal and German Ambassador to Egypt Martin Koebler. The agreement will contribute to the implementation of the UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons that works to combat and eradicate illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, reported MENA. Enditem www.chinaview.cn 2005-10-11 00:20:33 http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-10/11/content_3602775.htm

LEBANON: moves to further reduce Syrian influence

Cabinet names new security chiefs amid string of bombings
Tuesday, October 4, 2005; Posted: 8:01 p.m. EDT (00:01 GMT) BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) -- The government moved Tuesday to purge Lebanon's security services of Syrian influence by appointing new chiefs, but it put off plans to reform the intelligence apparatus that was once a tool of Damascus... The top official of the Palestinian Fatah faction in Lebanon, Brig. Gen. Sultan Abul-Einein, has scoffed at media reports that the Palestinians could act as Syria's henchmen in Lebanon. "Our men and guns are not for hire," he said in a statement. Copyright 2005 The [Associated Press](#).
http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/10/04/lebanon.security.ap/index.html?section=cnn_latest

PALESTINE:

Concerned over Clashes, Doubtful of Civil War

Thursday, October 06 2005 @ 02:21 AM EDT Hamas vowed it will end arms phenomena which has recently led to chaos and security deterioration in Gaza.." (Xinhua) - "Are we closed to a civil war among the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip?" It is a question that a majority of Palestinians are asking. Not only Palestinian analysts, but also ordinary people and leaders of different political groups said that although Gaza streets have recently witnessed heavy armed confrontations between militants of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and police, we can't talk about a Palestinian-Palestinian civil war.
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/story.php?sid=20051006022120525>

In unruly Gaza, authority goes to the clans

[By Steven Erlanger](#) The New York Times, MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005
[GAZA CITY](#) Tawfiq Abu Khoussa is the spokesman for the Palestinian Interior Ministry in Gaza and sits at the epicenter of what should be state power here. But when some of Gaza's many gunmen fired shots at his office, Khoussa did not seek protection from the Palestinian police or security services. He called on gunmen from his own powerful hamulla - his clan or tribe - to protect him. ..The hamullas are again so powerful in Gaza that rival security forces seek to buy their loyalty with money and weapons, while hamullas seek to ensure that their members are represented in all crucial groups, including Hamas, Islamic Jihad and of course Fatah, which is supposed to be the bulwark of the Palestinian Authority.
<http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/10/17/news/gaza.php>



When to stop 'democracy with a gun'?

Joshua Brilliant, UPI Israel Correspondent, October 13, 2005

JERUSALEM -- A cartoon in a recent issue of the Palestinian daily *Al Hayat Al Jadeeda* showed Kalashnikov assault rifles with moon-shaped magazines pointing barrel to barrel. The cartoon, published following deadly street battles between Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces and militant groups expressed fear of deterioration and "an explosion". It followed several incidents. <http://metimes.com/articles/normal.php?StoryID=20051013-064635-8091r>

LEBANON, PALESTINIAN CAMPS:

Gunfight erupts outside Lebanon camp

Sunday 23 October 2005, 21:07 Makka Time, 18:07 GMT Clashes just outside Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp have wounded at least four people, witnesses said. One of the wounded was said to be in a critical condition. Reuters earlier on Sunday reported that the clashes were between the Jund al-Sham, a Palestinian Islamist group, and supporters of Lebanon's Popular Nasserist Group in the southern Ain el-Hilweh camp. <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/07B0FDD2-EF1C-4E9A-9F6A-BB36DA2CF3C7.htm>
See also: <http://www.jordantimes.com/mon/news/news3.htm>

Continued controversy over Palestinian groups weapons

Lebanon-Palestine, Politics, 10/8/2005, At a time when the Lebanese prime minister Fouad Sinioura is expected to meet a delegation representing the Palestinian groups in order to discuss the presence of weapons in camps, Sinioura on Friday rejected that the Palestinian keep their weapons in Lebanon outside their camps, expressing his hope to solve this matter with the Palestinian refugees by means of dialogue. <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/051008/2005100814.html>

Condemning Arms Flow

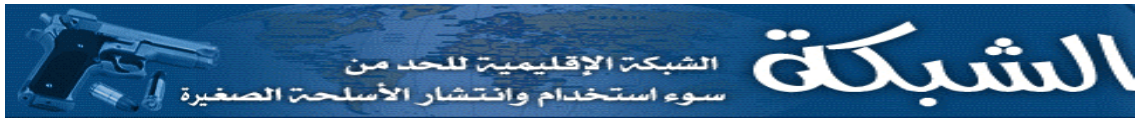
By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press Writer Tue Oct 18, 4:51 PM ET PARIS - Palestinian and Lebanese leaders on Tuesday used their first-ever summit to condemn the smuggling of arms to Palestinian militants in Lebanon — part of a recent round of diplomacy in Paris that has pinpointed Syria as an impediment to Lebanese security. http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051018/ap_on_re_mi_ea/lebanon_palestinian_summit

Assessment for Palestinians in Lebanon

While political and social conditions in Lebanon following its civil war have improved for most groups since the 1990s, this has had little impact on the situation of Palestinians living in Lebanon. Most Palestinians in Lebanon are refugees who live in overpopulated camps (some in existence for over 50 years) that have suffered repeated damage as a result of fighting in the region whether during the Civil War (1975-1990) or Israeli occupation and cross-border raids against terrorists (1982-2003). As a result of the ongoing Intifada since 2000, the living conditions in the camps has deteriorated even more.. With few economic resources and conventional political outlets at their disposal, Palestinians in Lebanon have generally supported militant organizations, although many of the grievances of these groups (e.g., Fatah, DFLP) are directed toward Israel and not Lebanon...Unrest in the refugee camps had at times led to crackdowns by the Southern Lebanese Army (SLA, a militia comprised of Maronites, Druze, Sunni and Shi'a and traditionally allied with Israel) and arrests of Palestinians (note: it is important to differentiate the power held by the SLA in southern Lebanon and the central government in Beirut opposed to the SLA)... After decades of chaos the first signs of hope are now visible in Lebanon.

<http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/mar/assessment.asp?groupId=66003#risk>

See also: <http://www.jordantimes.com/thu/news/news5.htm>



YEMEN: Drug Smuggling and Other Crimes of the Dictator

Jane Novak, Wordpress.org contributing editor, October 14, 2005... Weapons Trafficking: Both the United States and the United Nations have expressed concern regarding the amount of illegal arms transfers from Yemen. The Yemeni weapons pipeline has two sources of supply: the black market and legitimate military purchases... Independent analyst Shaun Overton noted, "Many people believe that Yemeni military officers bear responsibility for the distribution of weapons in the country. Arms can flow legally into Yemen for the legitimate purpose of supplying the army." The poorest nation in the Arab world, Yemen is among its top weapons purchasers. <http://www.worldpress.org/Mideast/2162.cfm>
See also: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051012/ap_on_re_mi_ea/yemen_terror_4
http://www.yobserver.com/news_8384.php

SUDAN: Violence forces many to flee North Darfur

EL FASHER, 11 Oct 2005 (IRIN) - Hawa Wadi Kogere arrived in Zam Zam camp for internally displaced persons' (IDPs), on the outskirts of El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur state, on 20 September after her village was attacked... "There were people on camels and a number of Land Cruisers [all-terrain vehicles]. They had heavy weapons on vehicles and RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades]. Then they started shooting," Ali Mohamed Fadul, a local Sheik who oversees 45 villages, told IRIN.
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=49462&SelectRegion=East_Africa

SUDAN: Chaos Grows in Darfur Conflict as Militias Turn on Government

...The fact that militias trained and armed by the government are now emboldened enough to turn their guns on the government is a sign of trouble. It was government support of the janjaweed at the outset that ignited the fighting in Darfur that killed tens of thousands of people and displaced two million villagers. "Darfur is no longer under control," said Eltayeb Hag Ateya, head of the Peace Studies Institute at the University of Khartoum. "It's not just the government against the rebels anymore. There's this armed group and that armed group. It's getting more complicated by the day."... Just last month, after the villagers had hoed their plots and planted their vegetables and groundnuts and other crops, the militias attacked again..."They came with cars, with horses and with camels," said Ali Mohamed Fadu, a sheik from Jabein, a village that was overrun on Sept. 17 for the second time in two years. "They all had guns, and they shot at us and killed some of us."
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/18/international/africa/18darfur.html>

SOMALIA: Too many guns, too little food threatens Somalia

By Chris Tomlinson

The Associated Press NAIROBI, October 23,— With too many weapons, too little food and three factions vying for control, Somalia's anarchy is fast overwhelming its new government even before it can establish itself in the country. The competition for power, which threatens to trigger another civil war, could combine with a potential humanitarian crisis for a repeat of the disaster that followed the collapse of Somalia's last regime in 1991. A massive UN operation was mounted then to help the starving, but failed to set up a viable government in the Horn of Africa nation. <http://www.jordantimes.com/sun/news/news7.htm>

IRAQ: Czech Republic to donate weapons to protect Iraq's culture

October 11, 2005, **PRAGUE** -- The Czech Republic will donate guns and military uniforms to Iraq "to help the country protect its cultural heritage", according to an agreement signed by the two countries on Monday. The 1,500 discarded submachine guns, 50 machine guns and 1,500 military uniforms are worth around one million koruna (€34,000, \$41,000), Czech defense minister Karel Kuehnl told Czech news agency CTK. Iraq's ambassador to the Czech Republic, Zia Hadi Mahmoud Dabas, told journalists that the weapons and uniforms were mainly for humanitarian, not military, purposes and would provide moral support to the Iraqi people. <http://metimes.com/articles/normal.php?StoryID=20051011-030111-4267r>



IRAN: British forces monitor arms smuggling

Tuesday, October 11, 2005 - ©2005 IranMania.com LONDON, October 11 (IranMania) - The detained members of an arms smuggling gang have admitted that British forces in Iraq monitor the smuggling of arms from Iraq to Iran, the Fars news agency reported, quoting a provincial police officer. Brigadier General Isa Daraei, the commander of the Law Enforcement Forces in Khuzestan Province, told reporters some 117 cache of small arms including handguns and Kalashnikov have been confiscated from four smugglers in recent days. Daraei said that the smugglers have confessed that they have brought arms from Iraq to Iran under the close eye of US and British forces in Iraq. <http://www.iranmania.com/News/ArticleView/Default.asp?NewsCode=36551&NewsKind=Current%20Affairs>

Security

Egypt's ambassador to Israel marks 'new phase' in relations

Career diplomat points to 38-year occupation of Gaza as main cause of ensuing chaos after pullout, By Vivian Salama, Daily Star staff, Saturday, October 15, 2005 Daily Star staff Egypt, CAIRO: Over the last 50 years, perhaps one of the countries with which Egypt has had an incessant relationship of ups and downs is its neighbor to the east. The State of Israel, known to many as the land for a people without land, is now entering a new phase of relations with the Arab world in the wake of a decision by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to withdraw from the Gaza strip - the tiny Palestinian territory sandwiched between Israel and Sinai's northeastern border. Flash forward five years and violence has greatly subsided, and Israeli troops and settlers are packed up and out of the Gaza Strip. While these recent developments have given the Arab world - and particularly Palestinians - much to celebrate, the shared border between Egypt and Gaza at Rafah has become a great cause for concern. Israeli officials have recently spoken out in fear that underground tunnels left over from decades of [occupation](#) could pave the way for the free flow of weapons, drugs - or worse - terror suspects in and out of Egypt. http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=10&categ_id=2&article_id=19331

IRAQ: The State We're In

Special Report, [Belfast Telegraph Home](#)
14 October 2005, When will peace return to Iraq? When will the terrifying cycle of bombings and suicide attacks abate? When will the people have food and electricity? When will they be able to walk the streets in safety? When will our sons and daughters return home? How will it all end? In this special report from Baghdad, Patrick Cockburn exposes the monumental series of blunders that plunged the nation into chaos - and explains why the conflict will be longer, bloodier and more profound in its consequences even than Vietnam. <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/story.jsp?story=665179>

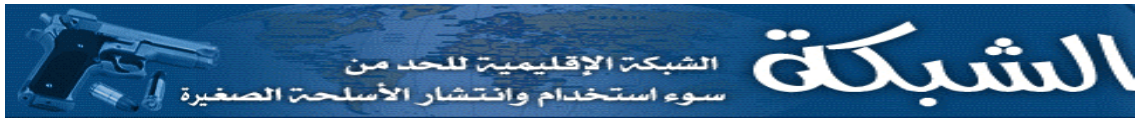
Events, Campaigns, Reports

MENAANSA Preliminary Research on SALW and Security Perceptions

Project partners (members of MENAANSA based in Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan and the West Bank) are finalizing their focus group meetings and their qualitative and analytical reports on security and the proliferation and misuse of SALW in select communities in the above-mentioned areas. For more information please visit: <http://www.mena-small-arms.org/RecentProjects.html>

Human Security Report: Launched

COMPREHENSIVE THREE-YEAR STUDY SHOWS SURPRISING EVIDENCE OF MAJOR DECLINES IN ARMED CONFLICTS, GENOCIDES, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE, MILITARY COUPS AND INTERNATIONAL CRISES, WORLDWIDE.



The Number of Armed Conflicts Has Dropped 40% since 1992.
This Unheralded Decline Is Linked to a Dramatic Increase in UN Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Efforts.

NEW YORK, October 17, 2005—Confounding conventional wisdom, a major new report reveals that all forms of political violence, except international terrorism, have declined worldwide since the early 1990s. Supported by five governments, published by Oxford University Press and released today, the [Human Security Report](#) is the most comprehensive annual survey of trends in warfare, genocide, and human rights abuses. The *Report*, which was produced by the Human Security Centre at the University of British Columbia, shows how, after nearly five decades of inexorable increase, the number of genocides and violent conflicts dropped rapidly in the wake of the Cold War. It also reveals that wars are not only far less frequent today, but are also far less deadly. <http://www.humansecurityreport.info/>

Small Arms Review Countdown begins in Earnest

Geneva Reporter, Quaker United Nations Office-Geneva
<http://www.quno.org/geneva/pdf/QUNO/GR20510.pdf>

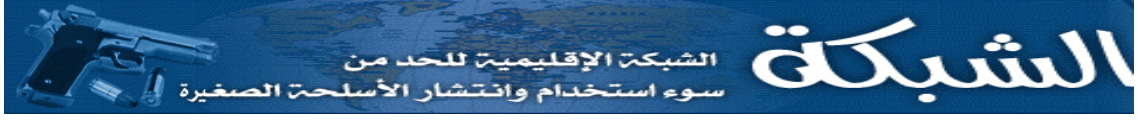
MISSING PIECES NOW AVAILABLE IN ARABIC, ENGLISH, FRENCH and SPANISH
Missing Pieces: Directions for reducing gun violence through the UN process on small arms control” is now available in Arabic, French, and Spanish. The Arms Programme is committed to generating materials on arms availability and gun violence available in multiple languages and hope this is of use to government officials, NGO advocates, journalists and UN personnel alike. Go to <http://www.hdcentre.org/?aid=133> to download your copy of the report.

Womad festival, UK: Interview with Farida

Well-known Iraqi singer Farida Mohammad Ali praised the work of the Control Arms campaign when we met at the UK's WOMAD festival in July. Control Arms Campaigners met with Iraqi singer Farida Mohammad Ali at the UK's WOMAD festival (World Festival of Music And Dancing). The famous Iraqi singer sang for peace and tranquillity in three languages – Arabic, Turkish and Kurdish - in front of thousands of fans. She said, “In Iraq everybody has a weapon, and this has a big impact on the lives of people there and their children”.
<http://www.controlarms.org/events/womad2005/index.htm>

Control Arms: Campaign reveals arms trade realities behind new Nicholas Cage film Lord of War

As new Nicolas Cage film Lord of War was released nationwide, the Control Arms campaign (Amnesty International, Oxfam and IANSA) revealed the harsh realities of the arms trade on which the film is based. Lord of War stars Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke and Ian Holm. It follows arms dealer Yuri Orlov (Cage), who sells weapons from the former Communist Bloc into African conflict zones, taking advantage of the lack of controls on the arms trade to evade Interpol agent Jack Valentine (Hawke). Experts from Amnesty and Oxfam exposed the failings of international regulations that allow arms dealers and gunrunners to ship weapons into the world's worst conflict zones, and arms those who are torturing and massacring civilians... "Filmgoers don't have to sit back and accept this. If people are shocked by this film, they can do something about it. Just by visiting www.controlarms.org they can join our campaign and help bring this deadly trade under control". Anna Macdonald, Head of Campaigns at Oxfam. <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news/press/16478.shtml>



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