

Control Arms India Update

A Monthly Newsletter from Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI)

Volume 1 No. 2 July 2005

Control Arms Foundation of India, formerly known as India Working Group on Arms Control was established on 10th September 2004 in New Delhi. The Foundation functions at an all India level and consists of noted academics, lawyers, journalists, former military personnel and human rights activists. The aim of the Foundation is to address issues of control arms, small arms light weapons proliferation, women and disarmament and conducting research on India's defence policies and military expenditure. The Foundation aspires to create a movement in the sub-continent where defence and military issues no longer remains a department where the public has no say.

The Control Arms India Update brings news, views and analyses on issues pertaining to small arms, light weapons, gun running, human rights violations due to arms by both state and non-state actors, arms transfers, military expenditure and defence policies pertaining to Indian sub-continent. This is the second issue of the newsletter. The first was launched in the Week of Action on 12th June 2005

Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Following is the Report Submitted by the Government of India at the Recently Concluded UN Session in July 2005, New York

The proliferation of illicit trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons poses a grave danger to the security of States. Such weapons have disrupted political stability and social harmony, derailed pluralism and democracy and hampered growth and development. They have also fuelled international terrorism and internal conflicts. India therefore attaches high priority to the eradication of the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and has been actively associated with the various international efforts on this direction. The implementation of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is at a well advanced stage in India.

Implementation at National Level

In its national report on the implementation of the UN PoA submitted in 2003, the Government of India had provided detailed information about the statutory and administrative framework existing in India for regulating policies related to SALW. This is briefly recapitulated as under.

India's domestic policy on SALW is regulated statutorily under the Arms Act (1959) and Arms Rules (1962), as amended from time to time. These legislation and various executive instructions from the Central and State government have involve an effective mechanism for control and regulation of SALW in India. The Arms Act (1959) and Arms Rules (1962) cover all aspects of lawful possession of manufacture, sale, transfer, transport, export, import of arms and ammunition, and provide penal provision for violation of these acts. A specific distinction in terms of caliber (prohibited and non-prohibited bore) exists in so far as possession and trading in

firearms by civilians is concerned. Prohibited bore weapons are generally used by security forces/police and license for these types of weapons are issued to civilians only in exceptional cases. The manufacture of SALW is regulated under a licensing system established by the Arms Act (1959) / Arms Rules (1962), through which the Government is able to regulate the categories and types of weapons which may be manufactured and the transactions which may be carried out in respect of those.

All small arms produced/manufactured in India are uniquely marked by stamping, engraving or laser marking to indicate the type/nomenclature of the weapon, registration number, manufacture/factory of origin and the year of manufacture. Such markings are made on one or more of the vital and critical components of a small arm—the body, breech block and the barrel – during final stages of production. The manufactures are required to keep a record of each and every weapon manufactured along with the information on the concerned dealer/indenter. Further, if an imported firearm kept for sale by a dealer does not bear the manufacturer's name the concerned importer is required to engrave appropriate identification marks. A record of arms sold in the civilian market is also required to be kept by each arms dealer. These records are regularly checked by the concerned authorities. India follows a strict policy with regard to export of Small Arms and Light Weapons including the requirement for end-user certificates on a government-to-government basis and a ban on exports to countries under UN arms embargo. Export of all lethal items as well as other equipment and stores manufactured by Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Indian Ordnance Factories (which includes SALWs) is governed by a regime administered by the Ministry of Defense in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs.

India has designated the office of Joint Secretary, Disarmament and International Security Affairs, Division, Ministry of External Affairs, as the **national point of contact** for international liaison on matters related to implementation of the UN PoA. These details have also been provided to the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs (DDA). An Inter-Ministerial Task Force was established in 2002 to provide inputs related to policy guidance, research and monitoring of effort to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW. The Task Force, which meets on a regular basis, comprises representative from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministries of Defense and Home Affairs and the National Security Council Secretariat.

The Government of India has also enacted other laws which have penal provisions related to illegal possession, manufacture etc, of SALW. These include Armed Forces (special powers) Act, Indian Penal Code, the Army Act and the analogous laws, and the Unlawful Activities Prevention (Amendment) Act. The Unlawful Activities Prevention (Amendment) Act, which was passed in 2004 replaced the earlier Prevention of Terrorism Act (2002). Under the provisions of this Act, if any person contravenes any provision of, or any rule made *inter-alia* under the Arms Act 1959, he shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the Arms Act or rules made there under would be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine. Further more, since all terrorist activities involve the use of illegal weapons, including small arms, organizations indulging in such activities are declared as “unlawful” under the provisions of relevant acts. Thirty-two (32) organizations had been banned by the Government of India under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) for their activities, although not all the listed organizations operate in India. These organizations continue to remain under ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (2004).

The Government of India thus has a comprehensive and effective mechanism to control all aspects of small arms and light weapons in India. India, however, continues to face the problem of proliferation of illicit SALW and weapons which are smuggled into the country by various anti-national groups. The seizures of illicit SALW, by security forces, from terrorists provide an indicative assessment of the problem they pose. India, in its national report in 2003, had noted that in Jammu and Kashmir and the north eastern areas alone, the security forces had, since 1990, seized approximately 39,000 weapons of all types, whose markings clearly indicated that these were brought into India through illicit channels from outside the country. This continues to

pose significant challenge to the Government. In the last two years, (2003-04), the number of illicit SALW seized or confiscated by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir and in the north eastern areas was more than 4,800. The Government of India remains committed to taking all necessary measures to put an end to such illicit flows. At the same time, the government has also taken effective measures to ensure that the weapons confiscated/seized by security/police forces do not find their way back into the illicit trade channels or fall into the hands of unscrupulous elements. A small amount of crude "country-made" weapons are also found to be produced clandestinely in India. An updated table listing the arms seized/confiscated by security/police forces for the period January-November 2004 is at Annexure I .

Global and Regional level

India recognises that close international co-operation to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW. India also holds the view that efforts to combat and eradicate illicit trade in SALW should be seen as an integral part of the international efforts to combat terrorism. Indeed the United Nations Plan of Action has highlighted the fact that illicit trade in small arms and light weapons fuels both crime and terrorism.

Considering that illicit in SALW is closely linked with terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, money laundering and other trans-national organized crimes, India has taken bilateral and regional initiatives with several number of countries, to put in place arrangements, to enhance cooperation in fighting terrorism which would inter-alia also helping combating the illicit trade in SALW. India has been a victim of the violent crimes committed by terrorist, and recognises the importance of taking urgent, concerted and sustained action at the global and regional levels to ensure that the fight against terrorism is successful.

India has supported the efforts of international organizations and the initiatives taken under the United Nations auspices. India has supported the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 1373, and has signed twelve (12) of the UN Conventions and Protocols relating to terrorism. India remains fully committed to supporting the work of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee and other pertinent UN bodies. India has also signed the UN Convention on Trans-national Organised Crime and its associated protocols - including the Firearms Protocol.

At the regional level, India along with other member states of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) have established a Joint Working Group to coordinate efforts in areas such as intelligence sharing and capacity building as well as to strengthen joint efforts on counter terrorism and trans-national crime. The First meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) was held in New Delhi in December 2004, which decided inter-alia to work out programmes of cooperation in areas such as preventing and suppressing illicit trade and trafficking in arms, ammunitions, explosives, and other dangerous materials of terrorist use by land, sea or air

India has also finalized bilateral agreements and mechanisms with several countries, [including with Myanmar (October 2004) and Indonesia (July 2004)] to combat terrorism and trans-national crimes. Such arrangements provide for exchange of documentation, information and experience on the activities of persons involved in organized crime and terrorism, including, *inter-alia*, illicit trade in arms, and funding of international terrorism.

India has been and will continue to actively participate in the work of the Open Ended Working Group set up pursuant to the UNGA resolution 58/241 to negotiate instrument to enable states to identify in a timely and reliable manner illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. Earlier, India had also chaired the Group of Government Experts which had recommended to commence discussions on an international instrument to enable states to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons under UN auspices.

Source : <http://disarmament.un.org>

Statement by Ambassador Jayant Prasad, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament at the Second Biennial Meeting of States on Implementation of the UN Programme of action on Preventing, Combating and Eradicating Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

**New York
July 11, 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

If we placed the spectrum of available weapons in a three-tiered pyramid, its top will have nuclear weapons, the middle ground will be taken up by chemical and biological weapons, and the broadest part of the pyramid will be constituted by conventional weapons and small arms and light weapons. While it is vital to address the apex of the pyramid, the base constitutes a larger, contingent concern, given the persistent prevalence of intra-state conflicts and terrorism in different parts of the world, and it is consequently receiving the priority attentions of States.

As we begin to consider and to take stock of national implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Preventing, Combating and Eradicating Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPOA), it is well worth reminding ourselves of the devastating impact of the proliferation of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It gravely endangers the security of States, disrupts their social harmony and political stability, and hampers growth and development. The ready availability of illicit weapons fosters organized crime, drug trafficking, and illegal exploitation of natural resource and promotes sectarian violence, insurgency, and terrorism.

India, therefore, remains committed to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its essential objective of preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. India's legal and administrative mechanism for effective control and regulation of such weapons cover all aspects of their lawful possession, manufacture, sale, transport, transfer, export and import of arms and ammunitions and stockpile management. All small arms and light weapons manufactured in India are uniquely marked and a comprehensive record kept enabling their tracing. India also follows strict policy guidelines with regard to export of small arms and light weapons.

Indian security forces have seized tens of thousands of these weapons, markings clearly point to their external provenance. India believes that efforts to combat and eradicate illicit trade in small arms and light weapons will contribute to the global efforts to combat terrorism and other organized crime. We believe that State responsibility is critical in ensuring this, primarily through their efforts, and also through cooperation with other States at the regional and global levels. India's National Report on UNPOA's implementation details the steps taken by India in this direction.

Mr. Chairman,

UNPOA reflects the explicitly expressed political commitment of States to address the issue of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to implement a key set of agreed principles and programme. We would have, ideally, liked UNPOA to include additional provisions to increase its efficacy, such as prohibition of transfer of weapons to non-state actors. We are aware that the purpose of this meeting is to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action and, at the upcoming Review Conference next year, we shall assess and review the Programme of Action in its entirety and identify further steps that may be required to achieve its central objective.

For now, we shall, therefore, remain focused on UNPOA's national implementation. For this, it is a good augury that we succeeded in reaching consensus on a draft international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons. Even though it will not be a legally binding instrument, we joined the consensus, since the instrument contains vital commitments by States to mark all small arms and light weapons according to universal standards and cooperate with other States in tracing illicit ones. This significant achievement reflects our common commitment to achieve the objectives enshrined in the Programme of Action. Indeed, agreement on the instrument sends out an important message concerning a reinforcing of the multilateral ethic, so much absent in the international discourse of today.

We are happy that Department of Disarmament Affairs has, meanwhile, carried out extensive, broad-based consultations on further steps to enhance international cooperation in addressing illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. The General Assembly Resolution 59/86 outlines the parameters of further action on the subject. We expect that consultations and deliberations during the 2006 Review Conference will provide the required guidance to the Group of Governmental Experts, which the Secretary General has been mandated to appoint, no later than 2007, to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation on illicit brokering.

We would like to commend your initiatives in undertaking consultations with Members States prior to this meeting and for having identify key questions for the thematic debate. Our debate is likely to provide clarity as well as catalyse fresh ideas on how to implement UNPOA more effectively.

In this connection, the Indian delegation would like to express appreciation for the important contribution that international organizations and institutions such as UNDP and UNIDIR, as well as NGOs and civil society organizations like the Geneva Process, Small Arms Survey and IANSA. They have enhanced our understanding of the concerned issues and highlighted the need for more purposive efforts to deal with them.

The international community has taken modest, yet significant steps in addressing the question of preventing, combating and eradicating illicit small arms and light weapons. States, by consensus, have first identified the issues and then embraced a collective approach to resolve them. We need to carefully nurture the coherence, cooperative atmosphere and commitment that have emerged as the key characteristics of the Programme of Action. A steady, flexible and progressive approach will help consolidate our gains. India, Mr. Chairman remains committed to this approach.

I thank you for your attention.

Source : <http://www.un.org>

Report : Indo-Israel Arms Deals are Worth Rs. 11,880Crore

India and Israel have entered into military purchases worth Rs 11,882.54 crores. The two countries are usually reluctant to put a figure on their dealings but, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on 10 August, the ministry of defence (MoD) revealed the total value of purchase contracts concluded during the last three years.

The policy of pursuing active defence ties with Israel is being followed by the UPA government, which continues to maintain close contacts with the Israeli military industry. Both sides are usually unwilling to discuss the extent of defence ties. Visits by Israeli delegations to India and Indian officials to Tel Aviv are kept a closely guarded secret. But Israel has emerged as one of the biggest suppliers of military equipment to India. It has already become the second largest supplier after Russia. Officials pointed out that the co-operation is going to increase in the coming months.

All the top names in the Israeli military industry, including Elbit Systems, Elisra, EMIT Aviation Consult, RADA Electronic Industries, Orbit ACS and Israeli Aircraft Industries and Aeronautics Defence Systems have a presence in New Delhi.

Israeli companies have bagged major contracts including the sale of Phalcon spy planes in a multi-billion contract signed a couple of years back. There have been several smaller contracts. An Israeli company bagged a \$25-million contract to supply Derby beyond visual range (BVR) missile for Sea Harriers.

Another company got the contract to supply assault rifles. The MoD said the contract was worth \$18,074,634. As per the deal, the Israeli company was to supply 5.56-mm Tavor assault rifles, but supplies have been delayed.

Source : *Asian Age*, August 11, 2005

Comments by General (Dr) BS Malik : *The deal with Israel is of different kind more in the realm of high technology which West would not give, Russia does not have and DRDO cannot make . What about Tavor-21, 5.56 mm standard Assault Rifles and Galil 7.62 mm Sniper Rifles ? But we have to see the context of increased terrorist threat in J& K now. Incidentally the 5.56mm system is based on the belief of injuring /wounding unlike the lethal higher calibre for killing outright. If you look at the individual component of the 11,882.54 crore contracts concluded with Israel, it includes amongst other systems, 500 Israeli Thermal imaging stand Alone Systems (TISAS)and VHF radios for the Army, Green Pine Radars Searcher II and Heron UAVs and even the ship borne EW Systems for the Navy, and the much hyped \$ 1.1 billion three Phalcons for the Air Force (Airborne Warning and Control Systems-AWACS), taking it all together the idea appears to cut down own casualties and ensuing blood shed by going in for a higher level of surveillance.*

OPINION - ASHIMA KAUL

The Proliferation of Small Arms in J&K

"We are also capable of manufacturing small weapons" and "we have re-established our training camps inside India controlled J and K", are some state-ments that Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) supreme commander Syed Salahudin has recently given in an interview to Outlook (June 13,2005). In the wake of what small arms and light weapons have done to the people, property and development in Kashmir, the claim deserves attention.

Trained and experts in making and fabricating IEDs, HM cadres code named as Bombar Khan have executed some of the deadliest attacks in the last fifteen years of insurgency in Kashmir. To recall five years ago during the Amarnath Yatra HM aimed a security vehicle on the Phalgam road. A box filled with grenades with nails fitted on its sides was attached with a string. The terrorists had only to pull the string from across the road where they sat to unplug a pin when the security vehicle passed. The explosion and nails, which scattered all around resulted in grave damage and casualties. And in complete violation of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, last year a bus belonging to Border Security Forces carrying personnel and their families was blown by IED on the Srinagar- Jammu highway resulting in 35 casualties.

"The human cost of the proliferation of small arms is enormous. It destroys cultures and lives, it exacerbate and intensifies conflicts. It kills and injures!" says Binalakshmi Nepram, a member of Control Arms Foundation of India. And in Kashmir where it was often said in the past that 'red skies was an indication that some human life has been killed', circulation of countless small arms and light weapons is an issue which the civil society has not even dared to speak about.

Guns and grenades, in fact entered Kashmir far back in late fifties and early sixties. During Chief Minister G.M.Sadiq's reign a grenade was thrown at a public meeting held by him "However there

was no large scale proliferation those years", says Javed Makhdoomi, Inspector General J and K Police, Kashmir Zone. According to him till the late seventies a group would survive and continue their activities with small number of arms. Large scale of pushing of arms happened later in the late eighties and in the ninety "we all know what happened!" Not only the numbers of weapons have proliferated incredibly but also the groups.

"It's a living hell! Where is the space for us Kashmiris amidst these guns, to breathe, to trust, least of all to express. Yet we have learnt to use these guns to survive, take revenge, to fight and protect our ideologies, our identity, our honor, our possessions, ourselves", says a desolate retired schoolteacher in Kupwara. "However, almost all of us have become victims of it. Those who have stayed on and those who have fled ", he adds with bitterness.

But when 'boys' in the mid nineties had masqueraded openly in lanes and by lanes of Downtown areas in Srinagar, Idgah complex and village squares, with their guns slung on their shoulders or firing in the air, crowds had jeered at them. When those 'boys' got married, girls took guns as gifts or dowry. There was unabashed heroism attached to being a militant and guns were the symbol of power and honor. Songs were written and sung for them. Sadly, as most of these girls admit in private, 'little did the young brides realize that the guns, which they were carrying as gifts, will become their burden and songs of heroism, which the women so passionately sang, would be sung as marsiyas'.

Guns have also destroyed the composite culture of Kashmir. Their continuing presence refuses to heal relationships between two communities of Pandits and Muslims. In 1986 Dhanow and Whanpo villages in Kulgam were burnt down because of some injustice the Muslims perceived against fellow Muslims in the Arab world, idols often became target of wrath and anger and the infamous cricket matches between India and Pakistan, always had tensions between the two communities. But these differences or tensions never snapped ties or relationships. The minority never felt intimidated enough to leave their homeland. But guns in 1989 made that one big difference.

Clearly, access to lethal weapons such as assault rifles can transform what would otherwise have been a minor and containable incident into a full-scale massacre. Sangramapura when 8 Kashmiri Pundits were killed on March 20th, 1997, Wandhama when 25 Kashmir Pundits were killed on Jan-25-26 again in 1997, killings of 27 Hindus in Prankote in 1998 and the same year massacre of 25 Hindus in Champnari, followed on June 30th the killing of 15 laborers. Chatisinghpura when 35 Sikhs were killed on March 20th in 1999 and recently in 2003 the Nadimarg massacre are traumatizing events for both communities.

Today, less of tanks, there is almost every kind of sophisticated weapon circulating in the valley. There are reports of weapons being buried in syntax tanks in the mountains of Kashmir. Massive influx of sophisticated weaponry from across the border and in possession of terrorist groups includes AK rifles, pistols, revolvers and guns like Sniper, Pika, RPG, INSAS, SLR, LMG, UMG, SMG, MMG besides grenades, detonators and IEDs. "Its impossible to give an exact number of weapons circulating", says Col V.K.Batra, PRO Army. "Most of it is dumped and buried and those who knew about it have either died or crossed over", he adds. However according to an estimate by IDSA and security agencies Hizbul Mujahidin possesses around 2000 small arms including 1550 AK series rifles 55 LMG/UMG/SMG, 162 machine guns and light weapons around 1000 small rocket launchers, besides 2000 hand grenades, 500 mines, assorted ammunition and explosives, sniper rifles and 5.45 Krinkov SMGs.

Similarly Lashkar-e-Toiba seems to have around 3,100 weapons including AK series, Pika guns, 60 mm mortar, 3,000 Chinese hand grenades, 100 rocket projectile grenade launchers (RPGL), Chinese pistols and huge quantity of RDX. Jaish –e-Mohammad, the third big outfit operational has around 1,800 weapons including 300 light machine guns (LMGs), 200 Heavy Machine Guns (HMGs), 900 assault rifles, mortars, IEDs and rocket grenades.

These figures are just tip of the ice berg for besides these three major groups there are, out of the 35 terrorist groups there are 7-8 other groups like Harkat-ul-Ansar, Al-Badr- Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami, Save Kashmir Movement which are operational in Jammu and Kashmir. Incidents of rifle snatching from security personnel especially police are common. There have been instances when police pickets have been attacked and arms –ammunition taken away by terrorists. Last year more than three branches of J-K bank in South Kashmir were looted .The money was apparently used for purchasing arms from the grey market. For all the fears about tanks, aircraft and nuclear weaponry, it is these simple pistols, rifles and machine guns that have transformed the Kashmir conflict into a more lethal one endangering Human Security, governance and Human Rights. A place where 'Kangdi', an indigenous earthen fire pot was the only lethal weapon to be used is

today laced with guns, grenades and RDX. Moreover the terrorists keep on improvising on the weapons to make them more deadly. Major victim of these arms have been civilians. According to police sources, since 1995 till April 2005 the number violent incidents have been 19,898 and grenades attack numbered 1824. If we account only civilian deaths, 5808 have been killed by militants and those who have died during cross firing or while trying to maintain law and order has been 606, each of these somebody's loved one.

In the case of Mariam Bano of Manoh village in district Doda in Jammu Division, a PIKA gun has left her scarred and traumatized for life. She was abducted by terrorists, kept in custody and repeatedly raped for 'being instrumental in motivating her brother Hamid to leave militancy and surrender his arms to security forces'. The militants wanted her to disclose and recover a PIKA gun, which was with her brother. They later on 4th July 2004, chopped her ears and nose. She was rescued by the army in a traumatized state. However in the case of M.A. Magrey of Renzipora village in district Pulwama in Kashmir Division his world shattered last year when his son on being tortured by the security forces for stealing a gun, ran away from home to join a militant group and tried to cross over to Pakistan for arms training was killed at the border in Poonch. His body was never recovered. Magrey's wife is undergoing counseling and is unable to put together her broken home. "My son died for nothing. A gun ruined our family. But I do not internalize his death as such; it will be difficult for me to survive. So I tell the world and myself that he became a martyr. This way at least I can console myself and survive" Endless testimonies and narratives such as these reveal potential capability of arms and how they have destroyed both lives and livelihoods in Kashmir.

In fact the lethality of small arms and how dangerous they can be is evidently clear from the Kaluchak Massacre on May 14th 2002 and the December 13, 2002 Parliament attack when armies of two nations-India and Pakistan came eye ball to eyeball almost on the verge of a nuclear war, crumbling co-operative security in South Asia. The presence of arms in fact poses a serious threat to the ongoing political peace process. A major violent incident can put a dent on it.

"At the local level, it is the nexus, outspread, criminalisation and misuse of arms for abductions, arson, extortions and intimidation is worrisome", says Makdhoomi. According to police figures since 1995 to April 2005 there have been 1028 cases of arson and 963 abductions. Besides killing of political and religious leaders grassroots workers, civil servants and members of the minority community goes unabated. Expressing concern Makhdoomi adds, "The simplicity of small arms has turned Kashmiri children into deadly killers. And that is our biggest concern". It is believed that young children as old as 13-14 years old are being exploited to throw grenades and learn to use arms. According to security agencies, mobile camps operational in remote jungles where youth is being trained in the use of grenades and handle AKs. Small Arms also initiate women into becoming couriers and messengers, making the circle of nexus and exploitation much bigger.

Statistics and data collected from army reveal that from 1990-2005 the number of AK rifles recovered by them from terrorist groups have been 17,737, UMG/LMG/PIKA have been 965, pistol/revolvers 5496, SNIPER Rifle 226, ammunition 35.50 lakhs, explosives 35,113 and mines

4969. Whereas the police claims to have recovered from 1995-April 2005 10399 AK Rifles, 4392 Pistol/revolvers, 2325 other weapons, 36184 grenades, 4102 IED/Mines and 19781.5 Kgs of RDX. Add to this the number of arms used by the military, paramilitary and police and the arms in circulation by terrorist groups, we have a fairly grim picture of the extent of militarisation of Kashmir. It is a sinister structural war going on putting sustainable peace in peril. . "Global arms trade is huge in the world. With governments also involved in arms transfers, which essentially is legal but often become illicit or enter into 'grey market 'transfers' once deals are diverted from its State legal sanctioned destinations during the export stage", says Nepram. "We want to tighten up regulations concerning legal transfers of weaponry.

But we are equally campaigning for governments and civil society to clamp down on the huge illegal trade in small arms involving the non-state actors", adds Nepram In Kashmir the civil society perhaps has yet to wake to the gruesome reality of small arms in everyday life of a common Kashmiri. Recent grenade attack on Bisco Memorial school children however was an eye opener. "We cannot allow our children to live in this terror. There is a need for peace workers and civil society in Jammu and Kashmir to generate awareness among people to prevent proliferation of small arms", says a Kashmiri member of Control Arms Foundation of India. Hope the supreme commander of HM sitting in safe environs of Muzaffarabad listens to the appeal of Kashmiris who die a daily death on the roads and within their homes in blood soaked Kashmir.

Source : *Cobrapost News Features*, July 2005

China and India become Top Weapons Importers

Figures recently released from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) show that China and India emerged as the world's top two arms importers between 2000 and 2004. Indeed, China's provisional military budget announced in March 2005 included an increase of 18.1 per cent over the 2004 budget. To date, both China and India have looked to Russia for military equipment but are expected to look further afield as their demands increase.

Source : <http://www.caat.org.uk/>

Control Arms Foundation of India

President : General (Dr) BS Malik
Vice President : Professor Anuradha Chenoy
Secretary General : Binalakshmi Nepram
Treasurer : Ashima Kaul
Legal Advisor : Riju Raj

**For more information, please contact : Binalakshmi Nepram at BNeptram@Yahoo.co.in
Address : B 5/ 156 Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110029, India. Mobile : 9891210264**