



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



UNODC: Illegal Firearms Trade

Hello delegates! My name is Ariana Green and I will be your head chair for the MVHS MUN 2016 conference. This is my fourth year in MUN and I have been enjoying every year. I participate in the California Scholarship Federation Club and the Journalism Program. I write for the The Diablo Dispatch, I am an editor, as well as the online editor. I have been part of the MVHS Journalism Program since my freshman year. In my free time, I love to spend time with my family and my close friends. I can't wait to spend the weekend with you to have a wonderful committee experience. If you have any questions, please email me at:

I. Background

The illegal trafficking or smuggling of weapons is not only limited to regions with political turmoil, it is now widespread throughout the world. This very profitable trade affects the lives of millions of people around the world. Illegal firearms trade fuels civil wars, as well as also increasing crime rates within many inner cities, worldwide. Illegal firearms in the hands of terrorists bring fear and uncertainty around the globe. Small guns, as well as ground-to-air missiles are available on the black market to be purchased by terrorist who can, in turn, affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in one assault.

These guns and other weapons are smuggled across the nations' borders in a variety of ways. They are hidden under supplies of food, packed into household appliances brought in by cargo ships, or simply packed in the back of trucks.

It has been very difficult to control and monitor the flow of illegal firearms to countries, large and small. It seems like small firearm trafficking is not a solvable problem. Governments, collectively, have been attempting to manage this very serious problem by strengthening their borders and by monitoring and addressing the causes of conflict between countries. Most of these illegal firearms will end up in countries where human rights are abused. These countries believe in building a strong military and commit fewer resources to social development and to the building of infrastructure. With corruption rising in poor, underdeveloped countries, illegal firearm trade sometimes becomes the way of making a living and getting paid by some of the corrupt officials running those governments. To sum it up, everyday millions of people suffer from the consequences of irresponsible illegal firearms trade. Thousands are killed, many are forced to flee their homes and many others have to live under the constant threat and fear of weapons.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations has been working tirelessly to confront the issues of illegal firearms trade and its impact on the lives of innocent civilians trapped in situations where armed violence and conflict exists. Inadequate control of illegal firearms trade has a wide spread affect on human life, especially in underdeveloped countries. The United Nations has faced serious set backs due to poorly regulated firearms trade around the world. During attempts to deliver food and aid to displaced people and refugees, many rebels using illegal firearms, have threatened United Nations' workers' lives. This is why the United Nations must have a strong and effective Arms



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Trade Treaty (“ATT”), to help save lives and prevent further human rights abuse. In July 2012, the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on firearms trade produced a treaty. However, it failed due to some countries, including the United States, Russia and Syria, desiring more time to review and agree with the treaty. In 2013, more than 90 countries cosponsored a new resolution to adopt the Arms Trade Treaty. Their resolution passed with one hundred and fifty five countries in favor and three countries that opposed. The countries opposing were Iran, Syria and North Korea. The United Nations also implemented a voluntary trust fund, so states that agreed with the treaty could contribute monetary aid so the treaty could be implemented throughout the world.

III. Possible Solutions

In 2013, the security council of the United Nations adopted the first resolution dedicated to small firearms or light weapons. Illegal small firearms and light weapons continue to cause significant loss of life around the world. The United Nations reminded the states that they must be committed and take measures against any activity that was in violation with the resolution. Sanctions would be set in place on any violators, as they must act to prevent the supply, sale, transfer or export of small firearms and light weapons, as required under the resolution. The Arms Trade Treaty adopted that the United Nations General Assembly would enforce the control and ban of illegal firearms pouring into underdeveloped and conflicted countries. The ATT is an agreement that establishes common ground for the international trade of weapons and helps to reduce the illegal firearms trade. This treaty also promotes accountability and transparency by the states that agreed with the treaty.

IV. Country Bloc Positions

Western: Many of these nations are dealing with heavy debate regarding firearms, so the opinion may vary. Where they will all agree, however, is that the illegal trade of these firearms must stop.

Latin American: These nations deal with heavy trade, and the groups dominate these regions. Very similar to the cartels in Mexico, they are a major threat to public safety.

Middle Eastern: Similar to the Latin bloc, these nations are in even worse state due to the political unrest in these countries. There is then increased trade in these regions.

Asian: Being near the Middle East, these conflicts bleed into this region, which also leads to the trade of firearms.

African: Also in the same region on the Middle East, the African bloc is concerned with the increase in trade and conflict within their region.

V. Guiding Questions

1. How far should countries commit to searching and monitoring people’s property, which come through their borders?
2. Is the United Nations’ involvement with the illegal firearm treaty sufficient enough to resolve this issue globally?
3. How can countries, that are involved and agree with the gun control treaty, convince all countries to agree with the treaty?



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4. With the unrest in conflicted countries, what can the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations do to protect innocent civilians?

VI. Works Cited

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