

Edited by Stéphanie Pézard and Holger Anders

# TARGETING AMMUNITION

A PRIMER

A Small Arms Survey publication in cooperation with partners



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## About the project partners

The **Centre for International Cooperation and Security (CICS)**, located in the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford, UK, is a centre for both academic and applied research aimed primarily towards policy communities. A principal research area is the development of cooperative responses to prevent and combat small arms proliferation and illicit trafficking. The Centre co-directs *Biting the Bullet*, a major international project to promote the implementation and development of the *UN Programme of Action* on small arms and light weapons. A briefing on the safe and secure storage and disposal of ammunition stocks was recently co-authored by CICS within the framework of this project. [www.brad.ac.uk/acad/cics](http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/cics)

**GRIP (Groupe de recherche et d'information sur la paix et la sécurité)**, located in Brussels, is an independent Belgian research centre focusing on the study and dissemination of information and training on problems of peace, defence, and disarmament. GRIP works with the aim to contribute to improving international security in Europe and throughout the world by assisting in political decision-making processes. Its current work on small arms, light weapons, and related ammunition focuses on the thematic issues of transparency and restraint in arms transfers, controls on arms brokering, and tracing illicit arms. [www.grip.org](http://www.grip.org)

**SEESAC (South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for SALW Control)** is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme and the Stability Pact. SEESAC's mandate is to support all international and national stakeholders by strengthening national and regional capacity to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and thus contribute to enhanced stability, security, and development in South Eastern and Eastern Europe. SEESAC focuses primarily on the development and delivery of strategic advice and operational capability to national governments and international and national stakeholders. SEESAC's work includes

technical assistance and support, project development, monitoring and evaluation advice, resource mobilization activities, the development of operational support tools, and small arms and light weapons information management. [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org)

The **Small Arms Survey** is an independent research project located at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. It serves as the principal source of public information on all aspects of small arms and as a resource centre for governments, policy-makers, researchers, and activists. The Survey sponsors field research and information-gathering efforts, especially in affected states and regions. Established in 1999, the project is supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and by sustained contributions from the governments of Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The project has an international staff with expertise in security studies, political science, law, economics, development studies, and sociology. It collaborates with a worldwide network of researchers, partner institutions, non-governmental organizations, and governments. [www.smallarmssurvey.org](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org)

Since 1993, **Viva Rio**, an NGO based in Rio de Janeiro, has worked to combat a growing wave of urban violence—a problem that affects mainly young people—in Brazilian cities. Campaigns for peace and against the proliferation of small arms, as well as projects aiming to reduce criminal behavior and armed violence, are the hallmarks of the organization's work. Activities to confront problems associated with the proliferation and misuse of firearms are carried out at the local, national, and international levels. Viva Rio has three main objectives: to reduce the demand for guns (actions to sensitize civil society to the risks involved with using or carrying firearms and to respond to the gun industry lobby); to reduce the supply of guns (curb illicit arms trafficking and control the production, sales, exports, and imports of small arms and ammunition); and to improve stockpile controls (destruction of excess guns and improvement of secure storage facilities). [www.vivario.org.br](http://www.vivario.org.br)

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## Foreword

Germany has long recognized that the issue of ammunition, along with the control of weapons, plays a key role in relation to human security. Illegal trafficking in ammunition can have equally devastating consequences as illicit trade in arms. Both are frequently obtained from the same sources, and are often sold by the same methods and by the same people. Combating illicit trade in ammunition can thus help to fight the illegal proliferation of weapons, and vice versa. As ammunition is needed in large quantities for military combat, the intensity of conflicts can be reduced by cutting off illicit supply channels.

Ammunition can be diverted from military stockpiles into zones of instability where it fuels conflicts. It can also fall into the hands of criminal gangs and terrorists. Poorly managed ammunition stockpiles can damage the environment and pose the risk of explosion. Explosive remnants of war constitute a threat to civilians as well as security personnel and hamper the recovery of post-conflict societies.

While pursuing efforts to fight the illicit proliferation of weapons, Germany has consistently borne in mind the elements that render firearms lethal: the bullets, grenades, mortar rounds, and rockets that maim and kill. During the recent negotiations on an agreement to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons, the German government pleaded strongly for the inclusion of ammunition. In 2005, France and Germany introduced a resolution in the UN General Assembly's First Committee entitled *Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus*, formally putting the issue on the international agenda. Germany has also supported the efforts undertaken by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to promote best practices for stockpile management and destruction, with work on a comprehensive *Best Practice Guide on Conventional Ammunition* due to be completed in 2006. Germany has provided assistance to states in need, providing training and ammunition disposal facilities. The German support of a multi-year

programme to facilitate the work of weapons and ammunition disposal teams in Afghanistan is a case in point.

*Targeting Ammunition* is an invaluable resource for all those involved in confronting the dangers associated with ammunition. This timely and user-friendly volume identifies the main challenges—such as the procurement and use of ammunition by groups engaged in crime and conflict, the ease with which it can be smuggled, and the need to develop an adequate mechanism to trace ammunition back to its origin or to its purchaser—and provides practical guidelines and tools with which to tackle these challenges. *Targeting Ammunition* confirms the need for national governments, civil society, and the international community to direct their attention not only to the challenges related to firearms but to ammunition as well.

**Frank-Walter Steinmeier**

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Federal Republic of Germany

## About the authors

**Holger Anders** is a researcher on small arms control at GRIP. He previously worked as regional information officer for the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) as well as in technical cooperation projects in the fields of drug control and demobilization of ex-combatant in Egypt and Cambodia. His work on small arms has been published by various NGOs and institutions, and he frequently participates in inter-governmental meetings in global and regional arms control forums. He is a doctoral candidate in peace studies at the University of Bradford, UK, and holds a master degree in international relations from London University.

**James Bevan** is a researcher at the Small Arms Survey. He has authored and co-authored numerous chapters in the annual *Small Arms Survey* on subjects such as the arms industry, the use of weapons in contemporary conflict, and armed violence among young men. Most recently, he conducted field research into the use of small arms by the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda, where he currently supervises a Uganda-wide small arms project. He holds a BSc in international relations and an MA in international politics with economics and law. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, and he specializes in covert interventions in United States foreign policy.

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pean Union Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Explosive Remnants of War. Currently he is one of the two experts drafting the ECOWAS Convention on the Moratorium on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

**Mike Bourne** is a research fellow at CICS, at the Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, UK. He is a coordinator of the *Biting the Bullet* project (a joint project of the University of Bradford, Saferworld, and International Alert). He has worked on numerous small arms-related projects over the past decade. His work has focused on the nature of small arms and light weapons flows to areas of conflict, illicit trafficking, and global and regional responses to small arms issues. He has authored numerous publications—including book chapters, policy reports (such as the Red Books), briefing papers, and training modules—on the issues of small arms, armed violence, poverty, security sector reform, and the privatization of security. He holds a PhD from the University of Bradford.

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**Adrian Wilkinson** has headed SEESAC since 2003. He holds an MSc in explosive ordnance engineering from Cranfield University and an MA in international conflict analysis from the University of Kent, Canterbury. He was a Senior Ammunition Technical Officer (SATO) in the British Army, where he gained operational bomb disposal (EOD) experience in Northern Ireland, Gulf 1991, Falkland Islands, Albania, Bosnia, and north-west Europe. He also established the UK Demilitarization Facility. In 2000–03, he was the head of Technology and Standards at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), where he was responsible for the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the provision of technical advice to the UN, EC, ICRC, and national governments on EOD and explosive engineering matters. He has published several articles and book chapters on disarmament and demilitarization issues.

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With bullets draped over his head, a former militia man waits to hand in his weapons to the UN in Aru, Ituri region of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, in April 2005.

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