

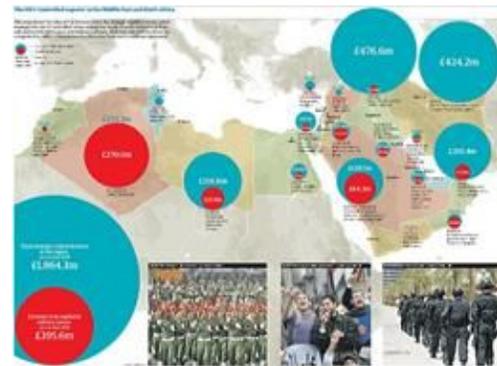
DISEC 1
Briefing Papers



The Issue of the Small Arms Trade in the Middle East and North Africa

The small arms trade is the authorized or illicit trade of small arms and light weaponry (SALW), defined by the Small Arms Survey as “civilian, private, and military weapons that fire a projectile with the condition that the unit or system may be carried by an individual, a small number of people, or transported by a pack animal or a light vehicle”.

Small arms proliferation is a significant problem in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) - the largest arms importers in the developing world, fuelling conflict and increased tensions. There is evidence that legally imported arms have been utilised by states to commit human rights abuses in the repression of protests and in military operations. SALW are believed to cause roughly 90% of civilian casualties in war. From 2012-13, the value of small arms imports to Middle Eastern states increased by 84% retrieving an income of \$630m, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE as the largest single importers. There are concerns about the lack of transparency of states arms dealings, particularly over the re-exportation of arms: for example, the ammunition sold to Qatar later ended up perpetuating violence in Libya.



There are also major concerns about the illicit flow of arms to terrorist organisations such as ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) and Boko Haram, as well as through legal stockpiles but still falling into terrorist hands. According to a 2015 report by Amnesty International, ISIL’s “poor regulation and lack of oversight of the immense arms flows into Iraq going back decades have given ISIS and other armed groups a bonanza of unprecedented access to firepower”. ISIL has been found to use arms from at least 25 countries including the USA, China and Russia, largely seized from Iraqi military stocks in 2014. Proliferation of illicit SALW is also a major concern in Nigeria; over 350 million illicit SALW believed to be domiciled in the country in 2016, resulting from the ‘spillover effect’ of recent crises in Libya and Mali as well as unresolved internal conflicts. The United Nations Regional Centre (UNREC) stresses that “ineffectively managed stockpiles were a major contributing factor to the trafficking and diversion of arms into the illicit market and their subsequent flow to terrorists and other criminal groups such as Boko Haram and Niger Delta militants”.

In 2014 the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) came into force to regulate the international trade in conventional weaponry (including SALW). As of March 2017, 92 states have ratified or acceded to the ATT and 41 states have signed but not ratified the treaty. However, a significant number of states, including major arms exporters, have not signed it. The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA), (up for review in 2018, and adoption by states of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI)) also provide a framework for regulation of the SALW trade.

Points to consider:

- How to strengthen national governments and borders to inhibit the movement of illegal small arms within and between states
- How to combat corruption in the MENA region and internationally
- What measures should be taken to regulate private gun ownership and curb 'gun culture'?
- How to increase the transparency of small arms traders and regulate the re-exportation of arms
- What safeguards should be put in place to prevent the sale of arms to states/groups where they are likely to be used to commit human rights violations and/or perpetuate conflict?
- How should the Arms Trade Treaty be effectively enforced?



Map showing which states have signed or ratified the Treaty:
yellow = Signed; Pale green = Ratified;
dark green = Acceded

The Issue of Dismantling Unidentified Landmines

Landmines, either anti-personal or anti-vehicle mines, are defined as 'any munition placed under, on, or near the ground or other surface area'. They are designed to be detonated or exploded by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person or vehicle. The main overwhelming majority of anti-personnel mines are innocent civilians, who are killed or maimed by simply stepping on them. Anti-vehicle mines directly cause casualties in the same manner as anti-personnel mines but also indirectly affect the local population: land suspected of having mines cannot be farmed and access to trade, water and care for the local population is affected.

Measures have been taken to reduce the impact of landmines. For example, over 150 countries joined the 1997 "Mine Convention Ban," or, as it was officially known, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction. Not only did the 150 signatories destroy stockpiles of mines (over 40 million) and increase the number of mine-free states, they also furthered assistance to existing victims of mines.

However, the landmine problem remains. In 2015, an average of 18 people around the world lost their life or limb to a landmine or another explosive remnant of war, every day. 34 non-signatory states of the Mine Ban Treaty remain: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, North Korea, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United States, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. However, only a small group of countries continue to produce anti-personal landmines, including Myanmar, Pakistan, South Korea and India.

Points to consider:

- Do the long-term humanitarian costs of mines outweigh their military utility?
- What alternatives are there to mines in border protection?
- Is there correlation or causation between the removal of landmines and economic growth?
- What impact do landmines have on humanitarian law?

Useful Links:

<http://www.icbl.org/en-gb/problem/arguments-for-the-ban.aspx>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/landmines/>

The Issue of Upholding Diplomacy in the DPRK

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's alleged advanced nuclear programme is a growing threat and its capabilities have created tension in international relations with the country. The DPRK's continuous disregard for signed treaties has proven problematic when attempting to settle issues with diplomacy. Reverting to military action could have the potential to cause another devastating war within the region and create further diplomatic unrest in an already unstable situation. Therefore, maintaining strong diplomatic ties with the DPRK has become essential for progress.

Brief History

The formation of the DPRK came after the division of Korea at the end of World War II. In the North, Soviet-backed Kim Il-sung gave rise to the communist-aligned party until the US-administered South declared independence in 1950. The North's invasion that ensued prompted the Korean War, involving United Nations,



US, Chinese and Soviet forces. An armistice was called in 1953: the Korean Armistice Agreement that was signed re-established the line of division separating the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North) from the Republic of Korea (South) with a demilitarized zone across the Korean peninsula.

Throughout the 1970s, relations with the South fluctuated, with many efforts to promote economic and social cooperation. However, the North's announcement to develop its nuclear program deterred any progress. Despite acceding to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1985, many concerns were raised that the DPRK was neglecting its commitment to solely use its nuclear programme for peaceful purposes, such as energy. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) then put pressure on the DPRK to allow inspections of its nuclear energy facilities to be carried out: the DPRK refused and threatened to withdraw from the NPT.

At this point, the US responded with diplomacy, by drawing up the Agreed Framework under which North Korea pledged to freeze and eventually dismantle its nuclear programme in exchange for a supply of alternative energy from the US. The

DPRK officially joined the UN in 1991, and after that, the Agreed Framework was signed by both parties in 1994.

Present Situation

The death of Kim Il-Sung in 1994 and succession of his son, Kim Jong-Il, as supreme leader signalled a transition in the DPRK from a traditional Communist government to a military dictatorship. Since then, the DPRK has allegedly continued to advance and enlarge its nuclear programme and has repeatedly run ballistic missile tests, despite constant criticism and disapproval from international bodies and governments.

Various nuclear tests since 2006 have prompted the UN Security Council (UNSC) to pass several resolutions imposing sanctions on the DPRK. These include:

- *Embargo on arms and related materiel*
- *Ban on exports of certain goods and technology listed by the UN*
- *Prohibition of procurement of arms, related materiel and other goods and technology listed by the UN*
- *Ban on provision of certain services*
- *Ban on exports of luxury goods*
- *Restrictions on admission*
- *Freezing of funds and economic resources*
- *Commitment to take cooperative action to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, ballistic missiles and their means of delivery, related materials and technology*

Many other member states and organisations including Japan, South Korea, the US and the EU have imposed their own sanctions upon North Korea. Even China, a long-time benefactor of North Korea, has actively drafted many unanimously adopted UNSC resolutions to counteract North Korea's continuous defiance of the nuclear issue. However, harsher sanctions have not resulted in a more compliant North Korean government and the consequences of numerous embargos have started to take its toll on the civilians in the DPRK with reported widespread famine and poverty in the country.

Points to Consider:

- What new measures need to be taken in order to resolve North Korea's current international isolation?
- What is the role of the UN in enforcing signed treaties and agreements?

- Should the livelihood of civilians in North Korea be taken into account when imposing sanctions?
- Is there a limit to the effectiveness of diplomacy in this situation?
- What scenario would provoke the need for military action?

Useful Links:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/kn.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/north-korea/report-korea-democratic-peoples-republic-of/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/07/the-worst-problem-on-earth/528717/>