

enthusiasts, political warlords, criminal syndicates and even government officials and employees.⁶⁴ From 1993 to the 1st quarter of 1999, 3,423 or 93% of the 3,670 firearms involved in criminal cases were unlicensed.⁶⁵

The Partisan Armed Groups (PAGs)⁶⁶ [previously known as Private Armed Groups] also contribute to the proliferation of unlicensed firearms in the country. As of September 1998, the PNP has identified 93 Partisan Armed Groups, with 2,129 members and 1,072 firearms.⁶⁷

There are some 45 firearms manufacturers, 522 authorized dealers, and 133 gun repair shops in the Philippines as of April 1998, according to the PNP Firearms and Explosives Division (FED). Gun smuggling is also prevalent, given that smuggled firearms cost cheaper and no documentation is required to market or possess them.

The main sources of uncontrolled firearms (loose firearms) in the Philippines are the unregistered local gun manufacturers, mostly concentrated in Danao and Mandaue cities in the Visayas. Firearms are then shipped to Manila and other provinces in Visayas and Mindanao aboard passenger and fishing vessels. Filipinos returning from abroad also reportedly smuggle firearms, either for business or private use.

Firearms are also smuggled in the country through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and the maritime ports in Luzon and Mindanao. In Manila, gunrunning activities are prevalent in Cavite, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Batangas and Palawan.⁶⁸ Gunrunning is heavily concentrated in the Visayas, where firearms smuggled out of the country (i.e., Japan) are manufactured.⁶⁹

From 1991 to March 1997, the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee

⁶⁴ *Country Paper on Illicit Trafficking and Manufacturing of Firearms: Philippine Context*, Philippine Center on Transnational Crime (PCTC), 1999, p. 5.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

⁶⁶ According to the PNP's Intelligence Directorate, a Partisan Armed Group is an organized group of more than 3 persons with legally issued or illegally possessed firearms, utilized in the conduct of criminal and/or oppressive acts primarily for the advancement and protection of the vested political and economic interests of a public official or private individual. This definition excludes groups that are purely criminal in nature.

⁶⁷ PNP Report on Partisan Armed Groups, 1999.

⁶⁸ "Firearms Smuggling" in a *Concept Paper on the Philippine Experience on Transnational Crime*, PNP, 1997, p. 55

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*