

Reliable (safe) ammunition is also difficult to produce. Ammunition also has a significantly shorter shelf-life than the weapons in which it is used..."<sup>13</sup>

How accurate are these observations? How feasible are ammunition control suggestions -- technically and politically? Are they cost-effective? Will they achieve what they are intended to achieve? Can ammunition controls make a realistic contribution to ameliorating the destabilizing and excessive accumulations and misuse of small arms? This paper will survey some of the issue areas surrounding ammunition control in an attempt to highlight the factors that must be considered in attempting to design an effective control system. It is intended as a preliminary study only; one that hopefully will point the way for a truly in-depth study such as that proposed in the recommendations of the UN Governmental Experts Panel on Small Arms. Because the research involved considerable use of various web sites on the Internet, the references in this study provide a good source of material for further study that can be easily accessed by others wishing to examine some of the issues in more detail.

It is important to note that domestic firearms and ammunition regulation for the purpose of domestic public health and safety, particularly within the context of advanced states such as Canada, is not a focus of this study. The problems upon which this study concentrates relate to conflict and post-conflict situations which are, for the most part, in developing countries. It is a fact that effective domestic firearms regulation can contribute to reducing firearms deaths and can ameliorate illicit exports and imports. The applicability of the Canadian experience to regions such as Central Africa, South-East Asia and other similar areas, however, may be problematic, particularly where military small arms are used by both state and non-state actors in a situation of serious turmoil involving such issues as political, ethnic, economic, security, and social inequalities coupled with a myriad of other problems including a lack of resources. Thus, if an observation is made in this report that a certain action may have little utility in addressing a certain situation, it does not necessarily apply to domestic firearms regulation in advanced states.

## METHODOLOGY

While the foregoing applies to all firearms ammunition production in the broadest sense, specific queries and information collection for this report focused on the rounds associated with the most commonly used small arms or light assault weapons: i.e. the Avtomat Kalashnikova (AK-47 and its variants) using the 7.62 x 39 mm cartridge; the Uzi sub-machine-gun (SMG) and other SMGs using the 9 mm cartridge, the AR-15/M-16 and its variants using the 5.56 x 45 mm cartridge, and the many semi-automatic and automatic rifles using the 7.62 x 51 mm cartridge. Almost all states use these small arms rounds for the personal weapons of their military personnel and in many cases for their police and para-military security forces. In addition these rounds are frequently used in civilian firearms and are manufactured and distributed for the civilian as well as the military market. It would be safe to suggest that the vast majority of civilian and military

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 16