

- dismantled pieces included among other metal items, typically machinery parts that are exported and imported legally; and
- cargoes that are dropped sometimes from the vessels at pre-arranged areas some distance from the shore and later picked up by small boats for transportation to safe areas.¹⁰¹

In Mindanao, smuggling usually occurs in the "Southern backdoor", the extensive sealanes and isolated coastal areas in the provinces of Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and Zamboanga. This area is also used by secessionist groups as the delivery point of assorted firearms from contacts in Sabah, Malaysia.¹⁰² Other gunrunning areas are in the provinces of Agusan, Misamis, Surigao, Maguindanao and Zamboanga. Most commonly smuggled-in firearms are: pistols (.357 and 9 mm), rifle (5.56 mm and 7.62 mm), Garand rifles (.30), sub-machine guns (.50) and shotguns (12 gauge).¹⁰³

Except for individual shipments (*i.e.*, total number of firearms in each monitored or apprehended shipment), government sources have no aggregate data on the total number of smuggled armaments from various sources. For instance, data gathered only covers the occasional apprehension of arm shipments, but the total number of arms shipments in Mindanao are largely unmonitored. Government data compilation efforts typically focus more on the total number of firearms in the possession of secessionist or private armed groups.

The funding for the arms supply in Mindanao varies according to the end-user and the sponsors of the organization. For instance, the MILF reportedly procured arms through various sources. In one report, the MILF expected a shipment of some 3,000 assorted high-powered firearms and tens of thousands of assorted ammunition (Kalashnikov firearms to anti-tank rockets and landmines) from Afghanistan through funds from Osama bin Laden.¹⁰⁴ Military intelligence reports also cited that assault rifles and rocket launchers were delivered to the MILF [forthcoming the MILF denied, saying it manufactured its own firearms].¹⁰⁵ In addition, military reports have monitored the landing of 15 M14 and 1,485 M16 rifles plus 30 wooden crates of assorted ammunition from Lebanon in May 1994 which were intended for the MILF.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰¹ Merliza M. Makinano. *Transnational Crimes: New Risks to Philippine Security* (Quezon City: Office of Strategic and Special Studies, Armed Forces of the Philippines, June 1999), p. 15.

¹⁰² "Firearms Smuggling" in a *Concept Paper on the Philippine Experience on Transnational Crime*, PNP, (1997), p. 54.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ *Tempo Online* (22 February 1999) and "3000 guns for rebels arriving? *Manila Bulletin* (22 February 1999).

¹⁰⁵ *Tempo Online* (March 20, 1999).

¹⁰⁶ AFP Briefing Paper on the Secessionist Movement, unpublished.