

attempting to implement or actually implementing, ineffective procedures based on faulty and incomplete analysis. Such a study is best done under the sponsorship of a national or international organization with the financial resources and the authority to ensure full cooperation and participation. Its recommendations should satisfactorily address the concerns of those on all sides of the equation, particularly regarding the practical application of any recommendations insofar as achieving realistic results are concerned. There are several preliminary or ancillary studies that could be done to better capture the essence of any role that controls on ammunition might play. These are outlined below:

- A survey of current regions or states where conflict and post-conflict problems exist to determine which companies or states were or are the main suppliers of ammunition and whether the source was primary or secondary. Information on modes of delivery, age of ammunition, available quantities and quality, prices, replenishment sources including domestic and foreign, and types of ammunition in terms of popularity and availability is required. Such a study would serve to focus on the main problem areas and determine whether new ammunition supply was exacerbating the situation and what means might be most useful in stemming the flow. In this regard NGOs could provide valuable field information.⁸⁰
- A technical study of the utility of marking cartridge bases or other parts of the cartridge with a stamp or bar code, particularly on large production runs for major users such as military and police forces. If feasible cartridge ID might be enhanced by the addition of taggants. Such markings would indicate if such a sale had been diverted for one reason or another by the recipient. Problems might be perceived concerning disposal of surpluses to secondary legitimate buyers, the incrimination of a secondary source through reloading of spent cases, theft from original shipment portions, or deliberately manufacturing cartridges to indicate they came from a source that never purchased them. Good forensic analysis should address the second issue. In the third case it would encourage recipients of ammunition to take due care in accounting and security and to announce thefts. In the first and last case a proper paper trail as required in the OAS Convention would establish rightful ownership and/or soon expose a fraud. The real question to be asked is what meaningful sanctions would the international community put in place if ammunition was misdirected deliberately. If the answer is none, then such an effort may have little utility.
- Although perhaps difficult to implement due to the perceived "national security concerns", the UN should survey its members to ascertain which states produce small arms, ammunition and ammunition components. Without this information effective controls will be difficult to achieve.
- A survey of a few states and/or manufacturers that appear to have a history of supplying ammunition to actors (state and non-state) in areas of instability to: ascertain whether they

⁸⁰ See footnote 42 with reference to the excellent work done by Human Rights Watch.