

Brazil: Rubem Cesar Fernandes, Viva Rio (via teleconference)

Throughout the 1990's, Brazil saw approximately 300,000 people killed with firearms. These numbers are analogous to a nation at war. There is a growing demand for guns and ammunition and a concurrent increase in armed conflict in Brazil. The supply of small arms is domestic and international, with 6 - 7% of guns in Rio originating in the United States. US-produced guns have special importance because they tend to be military-style long arms (assault, submachine, machine, etc.). Arms produced in Brazil are mainly revolvers and pistols.

It is not sufficient to address the issue of increased demand for firearms. Efforts should be focused on how to control the supply of these weapons. The need for regional controls is recognized, because small arms from countries with lax regulations tend to flow into countries with stricter controls. Similarly, there is a need to investigate the domestic small arms trade, and the ways by which arms are diverted to the illicit market. By imposing comprehensive laws concerning the licit small arms trade, it is hoped that the licit/illicit small arms connection will be broken.

Central America: Greg Puley, Project Coordinator, ARIAS Foundation

The Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress was established in 1988 by then Costa Rican president, Dr. Oscar Arias. It was funded initially with the monetary award that came with Dr. Arias' 1987 Nobel Peace Prize, which was bestowed for his role in ending the civil wars in Central America. The Foundation is dedicated to researching and advocating peace, gender equity, and sustainable development. It promotes peaceful and just societies by working to strengthen democracies and non-governmental organizations.

Nigeria: Dr. Owens Wiwa, African Environmental and Human development Agency (AFRIDA)

Extensive experience treating victims of gun violence and research reveals the mental health consequences of gun violence. The small arms trade in Africa is a complex issue with many factors. In countries like Nigeria, the struggle for control over natural resources has led to armed conflict and an increased militarization of society. Many countries are involved in armed conflict or are in a post-conflict state, contributing to an abundance of small arms. Illicit trafficking of small arms across international borders is prevalent in many regions. Compounding the problem is the lack of adequate training in the proper use of small arms in most regions.

Due to the collapse of domestic markets in Nigeria and elsewhere, Africa represents a lucrative market for the foreign small arms industry and its illicit counterpart. AFRIDA (a Nigeria-based NGO with an office in Toronto) has formed coalitions with governments and members of civil society to discourage arms proliferation.

Lora Lumpe, Senior Associate, International Peace Research Institute, Oslo; Editor of *Running Guns: the Black Market in Small Arms* (Zed Books: August 2000)

In *Running Guns*, we are shown the means by which legally manufactured small arms end up in illicit markets, and how corrupt state agents and criminal syndicates facilitate and broker these transfers. *Running Guns* offers several recommendations to deal with the problem, including: the