

## FINNISH ARMS TRADE IN 2008

### Summary

This is the first annual critical report on Finnish arms trade published by SaferGlobe Finland – A Research Network for Peace and Security. Its purpose is to bring the destinations of Finnish arms exports to the media's, decision maker's and civil society's attention. The report exemplifies one of the many ways world security can be influenced. It also shows some possible discrepancies within Finnish foreign policy. On the one hand, arms exports have been allowed to countries which are party to a conflict. On the other hand, official Finnish foreign policy emphasizes human rights, development and peace building.

This report's focus lies on small arms and light weapons, in accordance with the Finnish OSCE presidency's theme in 2008. The subject has been approached from various angles: how small arms ended up being weapons of mass destruction of our time, and legal arms being turned into illegal arms when falling into the hands of criminals and terrorists. Influenced by the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, the Finnish arms export to China has also been examined in this report. The main focuses of the upcoming arms export reports will vary.

### The Grey List of Arms Export

SaferGlobe Finland has evaluated the Finnish arms exports by comparing approved licenses with the EU Common Position on Arms Export's eight criteria. The criteria served as a point of reference for categorizing the countries of destination. Additionally, the following indicators were used for categorizing:

- (1) State in war or a civil war ongoing on its territory (UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset)
- (2) State is involved in armed conflict (UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset)
- (3) High intentional homicide rate (10 per 100 000 inhabitants, UNODC, European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control)
- (4) Non-democratic state or (4-) Grave breaches of democracy (Freedomhouse, Freedom of the World Survey)

- (5) Grave violations of human rights (Freedomhouse, Freedom of the World Survey)
- (6) The least-developed or low-income countries (OECD DAC-list, two lowest categories)
- (7) Middle-income countries (OECD DAC-list)
- ( ) When categorizing states we have also taken into consideration the effect of arms embargoes filed by the UN and the EU.

Based on the comparison's results, a grey list of Finnish arms exports was compiled. Exporting arms to the grey list countries may violate or violates against one or several of the EU Common Position's criteria. The findings were: altogether, Finland exports arms to 64 countries; 30 countries ended up on the grey list, 8 countries of which were involved in conflicts.

***Finnish Arms trade export 2008: Small arms – on the roots of global security problem.***  
*Jarmo Pykälä & Pamela Baarman (Eds.). SaferGlobe Finland, Jyväskylä 2010. 32 pages, wrote in Finnish, export tables also in English. Copying not permitted. Please always cite.*



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