

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs at
the launch of the 2008 Small Arms Survey
Monday 14 July 2008
Conference Room 6,
United Nations
1:15 -2:45 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I would like to welcome you to this special event which marks the launching of the 2008 Small Arms Survey. My congratulations go to Professor Keith Krause of the Small Arms Survey and his team of competent researchers in Geneva for the invaluable work they have contributed to the international community over the last nine years.

Small Arms Survey consistently delivers remarkable, resourceful and comprehensive research, often carried out under challenging circumstances and in dangerous parts of the world. Their studies from diverse countries like Sudan, Haiti and Papua New Guinea are venturing into new terrain, both on subject matter and in methodology. The latter is illustrated in the innovative “baseline security assessment” conducted in Sudan which shows the success of door-to-door household inventories of gun ownership.

The organization’s flagship publication, the Small Arms Survey Yearbook, enjoys a well-deserved reputation as an authoritative publication, thanks to the accuracy of its data and the excellence of its analysis. It is a publication that experts and practitioners in the area of small arms must keep close at hand, as a reliable reference source on a wide range of issues. It is no coincidence that the Secretary-General, in his recent analytical report to the Security Council on the issue of small arms, referenced all previous editions of the Yearbook.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Every year, the Survey considers specific aspects of the challenges posed by illicit small arms trade and proliferation. This year it addressed *the link between small arms and the broader issue of armed violence*, to which the Secretary-General has also given attention. The Survey indicates that *diversion* constitutes a major source of supply to the illicit market. Importantly, it places renewed emphasis on the persistent problems surrounding end-user certification, which is a highly topical subject in light of, for example, the recent news stories on weapons in Darfur. The addition of a comic strip on this topic in the book is both ingenious and powerful.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to acknowledge the important contributions of the Small Arms Survey to the work of the United Nations. Apart from its publications, it participates in Expert Group meetings, makes presentations at seminars and workshops organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Its current significant work in developing indicators for measurability of armed violence in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme is also noteworthy.

You will be pleased to know that in his recent report to the Security Council on the subject, the Secretary-General quoted extensively from previous editions of the Small Arms Survey's Yearbook. Attentive readers of the report will even come across a quote from the 2008 Yearbook – which is launched now. This confirms the seriousness accorded to the Small Arms Survey publications as a reliable solid source based on its renowned reputation of thoroughness and meticulousness. On a lighter note, this also shows that even the Secretary-General sometimes breaks an embargo; albeit with the consent of the author!

I am pleased to recommend the current edition of Small Arms Survey to the widest possible readership.

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