



## Killer Facts

1. Up to 1000 people are killed on average by small arms every day.<sup>1</sup> The number of people who are killed by small arms every month could fill a Premier League football stadium.<sup>1</sup>
  2. For every \$1 spent in development assistance \$10 is spent on military budgets.<sup>2</sup>
  3. Seven of the eight G8 countries are among the largest global arms exporters, and all eight export large amounts of major conventional weapons or small arms to developing countries.<sup>3</sup>
  4. There are at least 640 million firearms in existence in the world today. That's one for every ten people on the planet.<sup>4</sup>
  5. Global estimates put the production of AK assault rifles in the region of 50-70 million, although estimates of 100 million Kalashnikov assault rifles are not uncommon.<sup>5</sup>
  6. Between one third and three quarters of all grave human rights violations reported by Amnesty International involve the use of small arms and light weapons.<sup>6</sup> 85% of killings reported by Amnesty International involve the use of small arms and light weapons.<sup>7</sup>
  7. Between 10 and 14 billion units of military small arms ammunition are produced every year – that's roughly two bullets for every man, woman and child on the planet.<sup>8</sup>
  8. Annually, the world spends US\$900 billion on defence, around US\$325 billion on agriculture and only US\$60 billion on aid.<sup>9</sup>
  9. Every year, at least 1 million firearms are lost or stolen worldwide.<sup>10</sup>
  10. Nearly 60% of the world's firearms are in the hands of private individuals.<sup>11</sup>
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## Comparative statistics

1. An average of \$22 billion is spent on arms by countries in Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa every year according to estimates for the US Congress. This sum would have enabled those countries to put every child in school and to reduce child mortality by two thirds by 2015 (fulfilling two of the Millennium Development Goals).
2. <sup>12</sup> In sub-Saharan Africa, military expenditure rose by 47% during the late 1990's while life expectancy fell from 50 years to just 46 years.<sup>13</sup>
3. The UK ratio of military expenditure compared to developmental assistance is 13:1, and in the US is 25:1<sup>14</sup>
4. The amount that rich countries spend on fighting HIV/AIDS every year represents just 18 days global spending on arms (according to estimates for the US Congress).<sup>15</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> 200-270,000 non-war deaths per year (Small Arms Survey 2004, p175), 48-97,000 deaths in wars per year (Small Arms Survey yearbook 2005, p230). Thus, total small arms deaths per year is between 248,000 and 367,000.

<sup>2</sup> Based on 1,000 arms deaths per day.

<sup>3</sup> UN Human Development Report 2005, p.8

<sup>4</sup> TransArms database. See table below for the Top 15 Exporters in the World for 2004 based on information last published, with the exception of Canada the latest data is for 2002. On Small Arms - these figures are based on the latest aggregated figures from the Small Arms Survey using UN Comtrade data and annual reports, Small Arms Survey Yearbook 2004: Rights at Risk, A Project of the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Oxford University Press, 2004, p.104.

<sup>5</sup> Small Arms Survey 2002, p.103.

<sup>6</sup> From the *Kalashnikov rifle production: tools of atrocities and abuse*, Control Arms campaign, June 2006. These figures are a result of several sources. 50 million is cited in Janes Defence Infantry Weapons 2006-2007, p. 203; 70 million -100 million is cited by a range of sources including Small Arms Survey, 2001, p.17, 62 & 63. No single authoritative reliable figure is available.

<sup>7</sup> Findings from an analysis of twelve years between 1991 and 2002 of AI documentation from a sample of 10 countries in different world regions. A total 2951 documents were analysed covering Algeria, Brazil, Chechnya/Russia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor, Egypt, France, Jamaica, and Nepal.

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<sup>9</sup> Small Arms Survey 2003, p.13.

<sup>10</sup> World Bank Press Conference , James D. Wolfensohn, 22 April 2004, Washington D.C.

<sup>11</sup> Small Arms Survey 2004, p. 43

<sup>12</sup> Small Arms Survey 2002, p.104

<sup>13</sup> US\$87bn was spent by these regions over the last four years for which data is available. It is estimated that the education goal and the maternal mortality goal requires US\$12bn a year extra each. See 'International Finance Facility' proposal, January 2003, HM Treasury, available from [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/international\\_issues/international\\_development/int\\_gnd\\_iff2003.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/international_issues/international_development/int_gnd_iff2003.cfm)

<sup>14</sup> BICC Conversion Survey 2003 – Global Disarmament, Demilitarisation and Demobilisation, Bonn International Centre for the Conversion, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden.  
Millenium Development Goals, Regions, [http://www.developmentgoals.org/About\\_the\\_goals.htm](http://www.developmentgoals.org/About_the_goals.htm)

<sup>15</sup> UN Human Development Report 2005, p.94

<sup>16</sup>  $\$34,000,000,000(\text{per year on exports})/365(\text{days}) = \$93,150,684.93$  spent per day on authorized arms exports.  $\$1,700,000,000(\text{per year on AIDS})/\$93,150,684.93(\text{per day on exports}) = 18.25$  days. Source for 1.7bn figure: UNAIDS Global report 2004, p.131.

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