

MEDIMUN XII Annual Session 2017



RESEARCH REPORT – GA1

Table of Contents

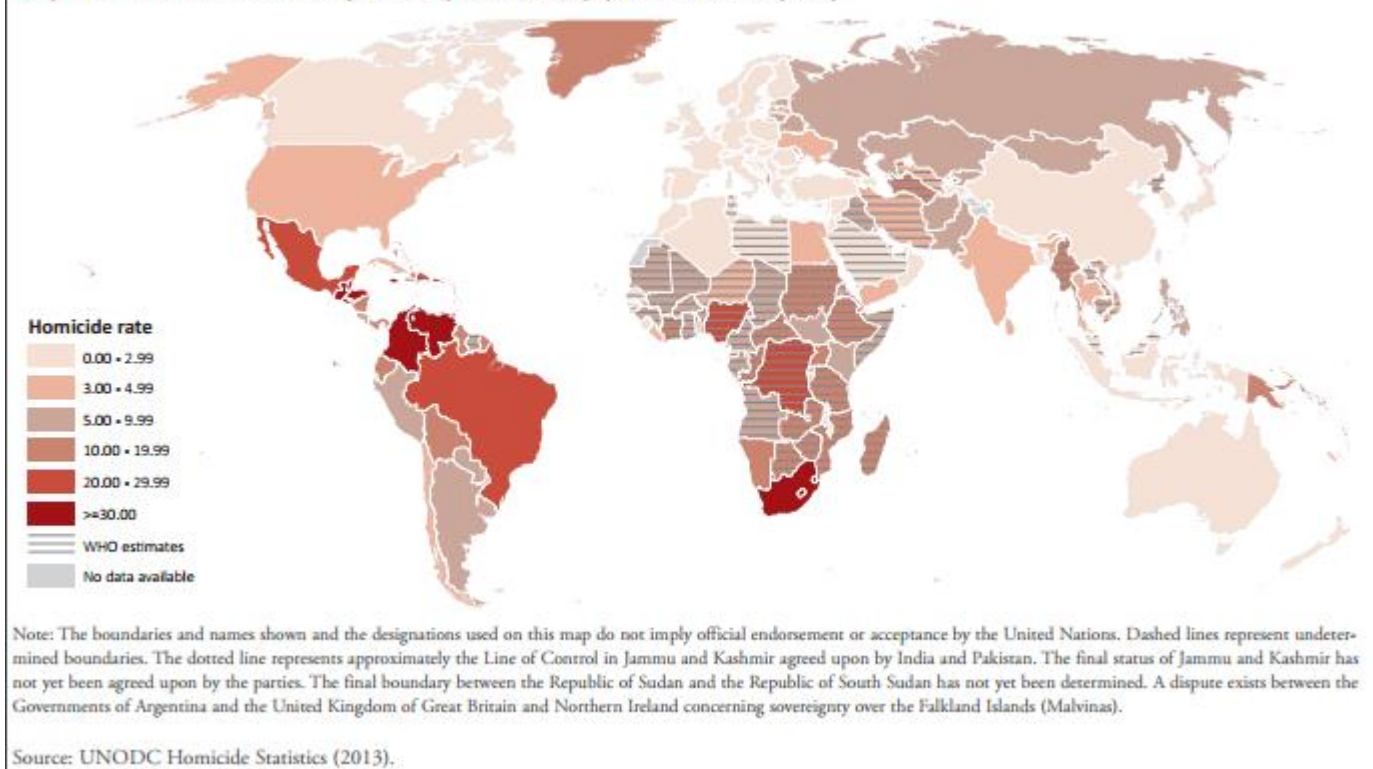
Topic 1: Measures to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons to reduce urban violence in civilian areas.....	3
Topic 2: Measures to combat sexual violence in conflict zones.....	6
Topic 3: Combating Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.....	9

Topic 1: Measures to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons to reduce urban violence in civilian areas

Introduction

- The mismanagement and diversion of small arms and light weapons leads to their acquisition by gangs, rebel groups, and so forth. This endangers the lives of civilians, often resulting in unnecessary deaths and homicide. The lifespan of small arms is several decades, and since many Member States permit civilians to possess some form of armaments, the illicit trade in small arms is difficult to track and control.
- Most such small arms/light weapons originate as distribution, theft, corruption, pilferage and resale of surplus shipments of armaments into conflict zones.

Map 1.1: Homicide rates, by country or territory (2012 or latest year)



Definition of Key Terms

- Illicit trade: illegal/illegitimate/unlawful trade. (N.b. "unlawful" can be interpreted as anything not clearly authorized by the legal code, without necessarily being illegal.)
- Small Arms and Light Weapons: any man portable lethal weapon that expels or launches, is designed to expel or launch, or may be readily converted to expel or launch a shot, bullet or

projectile by the action of an explosive (definition established in the report submitted to the UN General Assembly by the Working Group in 2005.)

General Overview

- Some of the heavily affected regions are Latin America, Africa, and current conflict zones.
- The root of the problem in Latin America lies in the Cold War – both the USSR and the USA supplied their Latin allies with excesses of armaments, most significantly during Central American civil wars in the 1980s. The weapons circulate to this day.
- In Latin America, gunshots are the leading cause of death for citizens aged 15-44, and it is estimated that 45 to 80 million small arms/light weapons are currently circulating the region, most of them illicitly acquired.
- The illicit trade in small arms, particularly in conflict zones, is estimated by the UNODA to have been responsible for over 50,000 deaths annually, between 2005 and 2016.
- In Africa, illicit trade in small arms is most developed in countries/areas currently in conflict, e.g. Somalia (Civil War), Nigeria (Boko Haram Conflict), Mali-Algeria-Libya triangle (terrorist activity that includes Al-Qaeda), etc.

- Illicit arms trade does exist in Western countries, however is difficult to track due to arms legislation (e.g. in the USA.)

- At the request of UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council held its first conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2001. During the conference member nations unanimously adopted Program of Action (PoA) to combat and stop Illicit Trade of small arms in all aspects. See sources for link to full text of the Programme of Action.

- By adopting the Programme of Action, member states agreed to strategize the working and implementation and limiting of growing illicit trade. Additionally, member nations also agreed to submit an annual report on the status of the Programme of Action in their nations. Between 2002 and 2010 out of 192 member nations, 152 submitted yearly reports, but this count decreased significantly and in 2013 only 37 nations submitted their report on the Programme of Action.

Major Parties Involved

- Nations currently engaged in conflict, e.g. Iraq, Libya
- South American Nations
- African Nations, e.g. Liberia, Somalia, Nigeria

Mediterranean Model United Nations XII 2017

- Nations that are major manufacturers of small arms and light weapons, e.g. UK, USA, Turkey, North Korea, Russian Federation, Austria, Brazil, and others
- Boko Haram
- ISIL
- Multiple other rebel/resistance organisations worldwide

Relevant Countries and Organizations

- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- UNLIREC
- United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament, and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC)
- United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)

Possible Solutions

- Physical solutions – weapons are a physical resource, and so the destruction of surplus, reinforcement of security on storage units, and etc. are all valid measures.
- Call upon Member States to pass and enforce stricter regulations and laws.
- Measures to improve the registration and tracking of small arms and light weapons – weapons sold illicitly are often unaccounted for.
- Investigation into arms dealers and organisations participating in illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

Sources

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/289

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/>

<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets/producers/industrial-production.html>

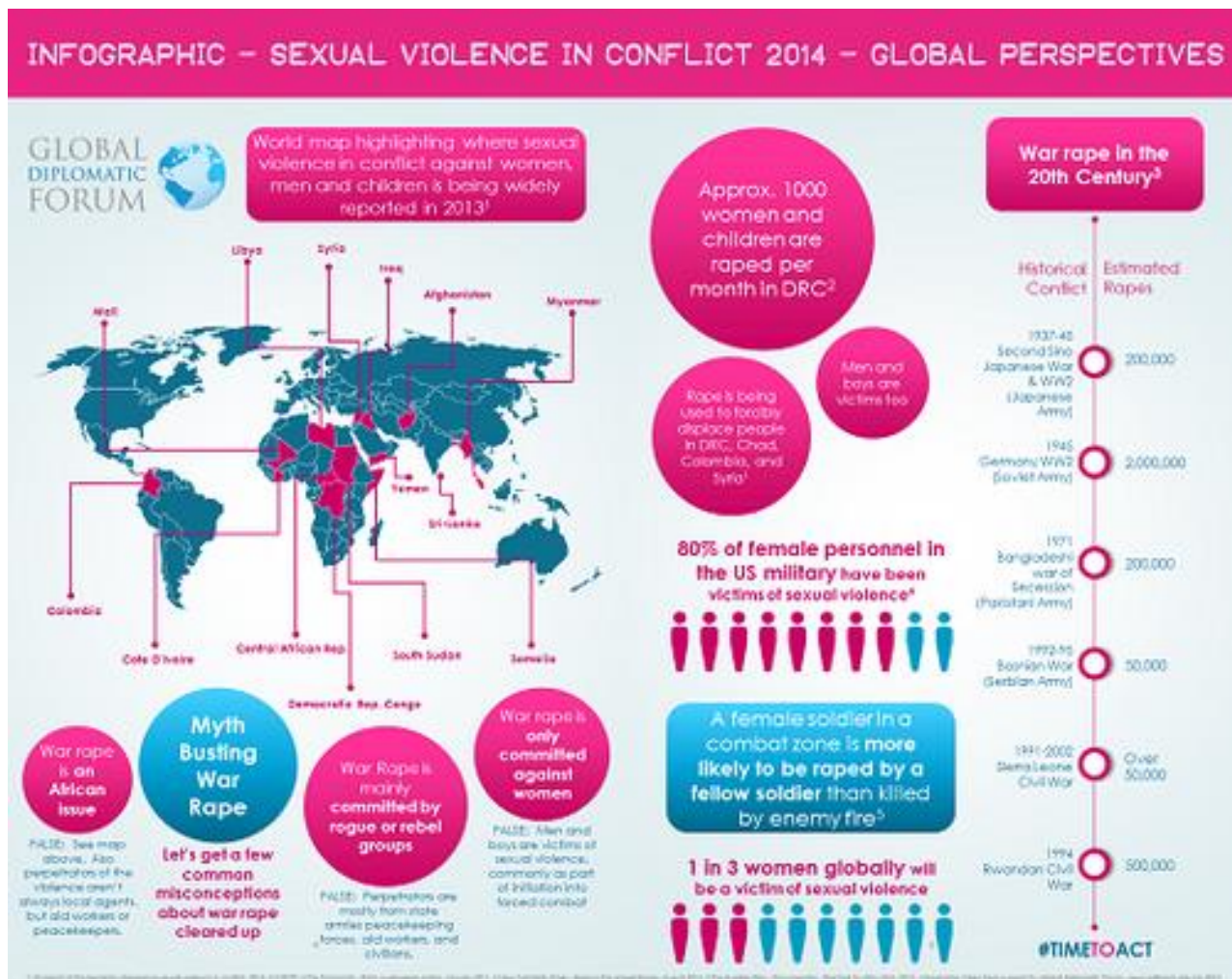
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2006/dc3032.doc.htm>

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/the-wars-ravaging-africa-2016-14993>

Programme of Action text: <http://www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/pdf/PoA.pdf>

<http://homicide.igarape.org.br/>

Topic 2: Measures to combat sexual violence in conflict zones



Definition of Key Terms

1. **Sexual Violence:** Any sexual act, attempts to obtain a sexual act or acts to traffic, against a person's will, including rape and assault
2. **War crimes:** An action carried out during the conduct of war that violates accepted international rules of war
3. **Genital Mutilation:** All procedures that involve the full or partial removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons

General Overview

- Evidence from conflicts around the world demonstrate that conflict-based sexual assaults – including rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, sterilization and genital mutilation – are not merely opportunistic acts carried out by individual soldiers and civilians, but are also

Mediterranean Model United Nations XII 2017

utilized strategically by state security forces and armed opposition groups as military tactics aimed at destroying people, communities and entire nations.

- In 2013, significant efforts were intensified to raise the issue onto the top list of the international agenda. This has led to the adoption of the declaration of Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict by G8 ministers in April, and the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in September by over 120 countries.
- **Under International Law, sexual violence is now recognized as a war crime against humanity**

Major Parties Involved

This a topic that can be applied to any current or future conflict zone. Prominent examples include:

- Civil war in Libya (2014 -)
- Conflict in Iraq and Syria (Mosul, etc.) – keep track of how conflict unfolds between the workshop and the conference.
- War in Afghanistan (2001-2014, 2015-)
- Turkish-Kurdish (PKK) Conflict
- Unrest in Burundi (2015-)
- Central African Republic Civil War (2012-)

It is important to remember that troops of UN member countries are/have been frequently responsible for sexual violence in conflict zones. Historical examples include the Vietnam War (1954-1975) and The Rwandan Genocide (1994.)

N.b. sexual violence in conflict zones is frequently perpetrated by government and military officials that are meant to be protecting displaced women and children, e.g. Nigerian officials sexually abusing refugees fleeing Boko Haram in Maiduguri, Nigeria.

Relevant Countries and Organizations

- UN Women
- UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sexual Violence in Conflict
- UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict
- Any UN member state engaged in or supporting conflict, particularly: Bosnia and Herzegovina; Central African Republic (CAR); Colombia; Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Liberia; South Sudan and Sudan.
- NGOs, including: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Rescue Committee, Peace Women Project Women's International League For Peace And Freedom (WILPF), etc.

Possible Solutions

- Solutions dealing with sexual violence caused by invading UN member troops, through surveillance or harsher penalties
- Practical solutions including protection of women in conflict zones
- Training of military personnel to respond to sexual violence
- Awareness
- Improved surveillance and record keeping in order to identify and punish perpetrators of sexual violence
- Mobilising political ownership by concerned governments
- Distribution of self-defence devices and training
- Harmonising responses carried out by different organisations

Sources

http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/media/publications/unifem/evawkit_06_factsheet_conflictandpostconflict_en.pdf

<http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/p32137#!/>

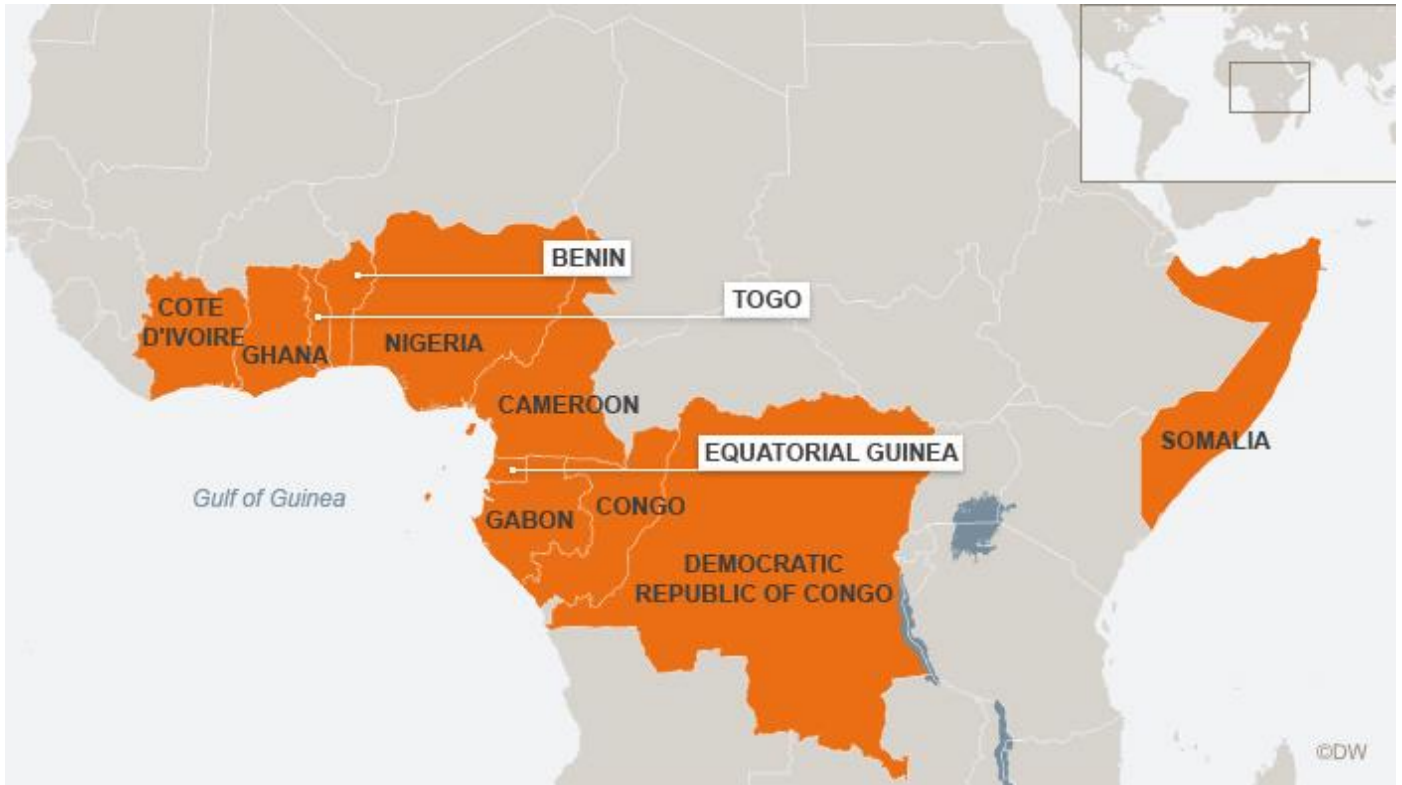
<http://www.gdforum.org/balkanssecurity-2/>

<http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/about-us/about-the-office/>

<http://www.stoprapenow.org/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-37823738>

Topic 3: Combating Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea



Definition of Key Terms

1. Piracy: The practice of attacking and robbing ships at sea
2. Maritime Security: Freedom from the risk of serious incursions against a nation's maritime interests
3. Territorial Waters: The waters under the jurisdiction of a state, especially the part of the sea within a stated distance from the shore
4. Illegal Bunkering: The theft and direct tapping of oil (generally by pirates)
5. EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone

General Overview

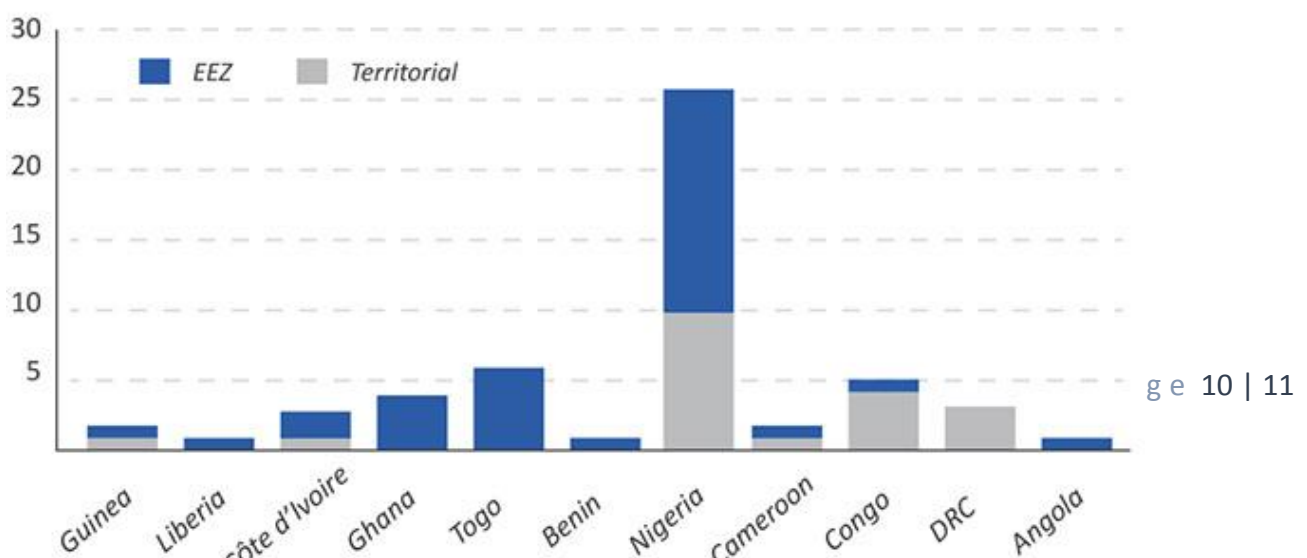
- The Gulf of Guinea is a 5000 nautical mile long coastline, stretching from Cape Verde to Angola, which is host to numerous natural harbours and is largely spared of extreme weather conditions.
- It is also rich in hydrocarbons, fish and other resources, making it a popular hub for maritime commerce, resource extraction, shipping and development
- These attributes have facilitated the West African region's rapid economic growth in recent years
- The region has also become a main contributor to global energy supplies with substantial quantities of petroleum products heading for Europe, North America and Asia transiting this waterway

- However, given the limited maritime security presence in the Gulf of Guinea, these shipping routes are threatened, and by extension the economic growth of West African countries is threatened
- The estimated annual cost of piracy in the region is between \$565 Million and \$2 Billion a year
- Oil theft and Illegal bunkering of oil by heavily armed and sophisticated criminal enterprises are the main causes of these losses
- Human costs such as Killings, Kidnappings and casualties have resulted from incidents of piracy
- As of 2014, pirate attacks more commonly occur in territorial waters rather than in the high seas
- This has inhibited intervention efforts by international naval forces, who face a well-funded criminal industry with established supply routes

Relevant Countries and Organizations

- Guinea, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola were the 11 countries that experienced violent, high-profile incidents of piracy in 2015
- Nigeria was the worst affected with 26 of the 54 occurrences taking place in Nigerian waters
- The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) developed an integrated strategy of maritime security which called for a common regional framework for regulating maritime activities off Central Africa in 2008.
- An ongoing effort by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is developing an Integrated Maritime Strategy (IMS) modelled after the ECCAS's effort that includes creating a regional coordination centre for maritime security in West Africa and 3 zones overseen by multinational maritime coordination centres.
- The UN International Maritime Organization has reported 45 incidents of piracy in 2010, 64 in 2011 and 54 in 2015

LOCATION OF INCIDENTS IN 2015



Possible Solutions

- Improving maritime security by the strategic management of maritime routes for vessels
- Central and Western African States need to define clearer transit corridors and anchorage sites in their territorial waters and exclusive economic zones (EEZ) to avoid hijacking and sabotage
- Increased co-operation between Western African countries by the sharing and merging of naval security forces

Sources

oceansbeyondpiracy.org/reports/sop2015/west-africa

www.dryadmaritime.com/combating-piracy-gulf-guinea/

africacentre.org

Oceansbeyondpiracy.org

www.maritime-executive.com/piracy-news