

 **ansa**
international action network on small arms **Report**



Time to End the Deadly Flood of Guns

Message from the Chair

In 2003, IANSA created the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence as a mechanism to raise awareness of and mobilize action on all aspects of the small arms problem. It creates an important opportunity to highlight the international campaign to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms, promote the effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA), and raise awareness of the epidemic of gun violence and its consequences.

This year's Global Week of Action against Gun Violence was held on May 1-8 and focused on the theme "Time to End the Deadly Flood of Guns." IANSA members were encouraged to focus in their respective countries on topics such as the marking of weapons, stockpile management, effective border control and management to prevent the easy flow of weapons across porous borders. Members were also asked to continue to work to improve laws and regulations to prevent guns from flooding into communities while addressing the factors leading to demand for guns. We requested that members pay sufficient

attention to the gender dimension, issues affecting children, and survivor participation, as they are all cross-cutting issues.

This report summarizes some of the activities that IANSA members carried out for the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence in 2016, and includes the message given for the week by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs at the United Nations, Mr. Kim Won-soo. We hope that this report will help to inspire further actions in the future, and generate new ideas inside of our network and beyond.

I am extremely proud of everyone who organized activities around the Week of Action, and helped to make it a great success, and IANSA looks forward to continuing to make strides together in 2017.



Baffour Amoa
Chair of the International
Advisory Council,
International Action
Network on Small Arms



Summary of Member Activities

Brazil Sou da Paz

Sou da Paz, a civil society organization in Brazil working to end gun violence, raised awareness of the connection between the legal market of weapons and crimes that have occurred in Brazil. Sou da Paz's research revealed that of more than 4,000 firearms seized in robberies and murders in the city of Sao Paulo, 38 percent of them had been sold legally and then diverted into the hands of criminals. As part of the Week of Action, Sou da Paz spoke out on this problem, and organized a discussion about Brazil's foreign policy and arms trade control at a university campus in Sao Paulo.



Sou da Paz's panel discussion for the Week of Action drew a full house

Burundi

Femmes Unies pour la Paix dans la Région des Grands Lacs / Women United for Peace in the Great Lake Region (FUP-GL)



The Great Lakes Region of central Africa has seen some of the worst violence and conflict in the continent over the past 50 years

FUP-GL, a women’s organization in the Great Lake Region of Africa, planned a number of activities for the Week of Action, including a play about the impact of arms proliferation, a visit to leaders of political parties to lobby them to take action on small arms and development, media outreach to promote arms control and disarmament as top priorities for the country, and a meeting with parliamentarians to emphasize enforcement of existing arms control mechanisms. However, shortly before the Week of Action, a grenade attack in the region injured eight people and killed two. In this environment of fear and intimidation, FUP-GL found it too difficult to convene citizens and authorities, and had to cancel their plans. Burundi, they noted, continues to suffer greatly from illicit arms circulating in the country and concomitant violence.

Colombia



Red Nacional de Iniciativas Ciudadanas por la Paz y contra la Guerra / National Network of Citizen Initiatives for Peace (REDEPAZ)

REDEPAZ, a network of citizen peace initiatives in Colombia, promoted the Week of Action through a press release and social media activities. They noted that Latin America and the Caribbean have one of the highest rates of violence in the world, and that the use of firearms in homicides in Latin America is higher than the global average, especially in the Caribbean and Central America. They furthermore pointed out that

the proliferation and misuse of small arms has increased in recent years, and that greater action is needed to reduce the sale, trafficking and production of guns and ammunition. More effective border control is a must, they added. REDEPAZ urged civil society organizations, schools, universities, and businesses to join in the Week of Action and work toward ending the harmful impact of small arms on global development.

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Association of Volunteers of Congo (ASVOCO)

The Association of Volunteers of Congo organized an appearance on a national television program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to talk about the small arms problem in the country. Mr. Mwenebatende Dufina Tabu, President of ASVOCO, noted that in the eastern part of the country, people are dying nearly daily as a result of small arms. He also pointed out that a lack of human rights or violations of these rights fueled people to take up small arms, and called for greater respect for these rights in order to reduce gun violence. Members of ASVOCO also visited the headquarters of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) as part of their activities for the Global Week of Action.



The President of ASVOCO speaking on national television about gun violence



Members of ASVOCO visiting the headquarters of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC

Democratic Republic of the Congo



REFEADES mobilized young men in DRC to march against gun violence

Reseau des Femmes en Action pour le Developpement Social (REFEADES)/Network of Women in Action for the Social Development

Based in the Fizi territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Reseau des Femmes en Action pour le Developpement Social (REFEADES), mobilized local young men to call for an end to gun violence. Holding a banner announcing the Global Week of Action, the young men took the lead in a march down the streets of their village, setting an important precedent of young men publicly rejecting armed violence. REFEADES is an NGO that works to protect human rights, train community members in non-violence, and promote peace and reconciliation between divided communities



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-Democratic Republic of the Congo



Members of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) organized a day of awareness for the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence. They drew attention to the fact that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons undermines the ability of women to participate in the resolution of conflicts, in elections, in governance, and in the process of reconstruction of a post-conflict country. They also raised awareness of how the proliferation of firearms is connected to the decline of human security, injustices, human rights abuses, and to increases in the illegal trade in natural resources. WILF DRC has grown immensely in the past years, and the organization is making important inroads in reducing gender discrimination and advocating for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

France

Action Sécurité Ethique Républicaines (ASER)

The ASER logo consists of the letters "aser" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with the "a" and "e" in white and the "s" and "r" in black, all set against a yellow square background.

ASER brought the Global Week of Action to the heart of the French Government by holding meetings with key actors in small arms control: an adviser to the President of the Republic at the Elysée Palace, and the official in charge of SALW and the ATT within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meetings covered proposed laws on arms brokers and on violations of arms embargoes; improvements to the European Firearms Directive; the need for greater transparency on French arms exports, and the possibility of NGOs meeting regularly with the national government.

The Palais d'Élysee



Guatemala

Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible / Institute of Teaching for Sustainable Development (IEPADES)

To help foster a generation of young Guatemalans conscious of human security and of the need to reduce demand for guns in the country, IEPADES held sports matches, a drawing contest, and mural painting activities at various educational centers.

The drawing contest was based on the theme “Live in a world free of violence,” and four winning designs were chosen. In teams, schoolchildren then recreated the designs on large,

colorful murals on school walls. Teams of schoolchildren also played sports together, wearing t-shirts with the message “To Love is to Disarm (Amar es desarmar)” as their uniform. The events generated tremendous enthusiasm amongst the students, and the events were a great success. IEPADES is a nonprofit organization in Guatemala that has worked for peacebuilding, democracy, social justice in the country for more than 25 years.



Wearing “To Love is to Disarm” t-shirts, and showing off their “hands free of weapons,” children enjoy sports matches organized by IEPADES



IEPADES’ drawing contest spreads a message of peace and non-violence to schoolchildren

India

Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection (IIPDEP)

The Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection (IIPDEP) held five events throughout the country to rally people in India and to alert the public to the issue of gun violence. They events emphasized the importance of gun control in the country, and the importance of government involvement in ensuring stronger gun control laws. Seminars hosted by the IIPDEP outlined the regions in India that are most affected by gun trafficking and drugs, and drew attention to how people in these areas are being displaced because of this illegal activity. The IIPDEP also emphasized the effect that gun violence can have on women and children, showing that gun violence does not just affect a select group, but targets all.



Political leaders, including parliamentarians, talk to constituents about the illegal trade of guns in India, and how gun violence impedes industry and government support in certain regions of India



At a seminar and rally on the importance of the ATT, a parliamentarian meets with victims of gun violence and landmines near the India-Pakistan border



Audience members attend a public seminar on the illegal trade of small arms and light weapons in south Asia and its effects on India



At a seminar co-organized with the Association of Medical Women in India, participants learn about the health and psychological effects of small arms on women and children in both combat zones and civilian life

Latin America and the Caribbean



Coalición Latinoamericana para prevención de la violencia armada / Latin American Coalition for the Prevention of Armed Violence (CLAVE)

Promoting the message: “Violence is the never the answer-No more guns!” the Latin American Coalition for the Prevention of Armed Violence (CLAVE) organized a social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter for the Week of Action. One of the gifs they created for the week can be found here: <https://media.giphy.com/media/l3V0hVeMgxVO3YeNq/giphy.gif>.

CLAVE is currently working on creating murals around Latin America and the Caribbean that carry a strong visual message in support of disarmament and non-violence.



Violence is never the answer—no more arms

Seguridad Humana en Latinoamérica y el Caribe Human Security in Latin America and the Caribbean (SEHLAC)



SEHLAC, a network that works to reduce armed conflict and draw greater attention to its consequences in Latin America and the Caribbean, released several videos on YouTube regarding the Week of Action. One was from the Director of the Colombian Campaign Against Mines, who noted that Colombia has lived with armed violence for more than 50 years, and the proliferation of guns in the country has promoted violence, deaths and instability in the country. He urged the Latin American and Caribbean region to work toward becoming gun-free to in order to develop peace and security. Another was from a SEHLAC member in Mexico who emphasized that addressing the problem of armed violence is a fundamental part of achieving the 2030 Agenda. SEHLAC also promoted awareness of problem through social media.

Nicaragua

Instituto de Estudios Estratégicos y Políticas Públicas/Institute of Strategic Studies and Public Policy (IEEPP)



For the Week of Action, the Institute of Strategic Studies and Public Policy (IEEPP), a member of the Central American Peace Network (REDCEPAZ) held a multi-pronged strategy to focus attention on small arms issues most relevant to Nicaragua. These issues include arms trafficking, possession of illegal arms, improved regulation necessary to prevent arms from flooding into communities, and small arms as one of the main security problems in the country. IEEPP published articles on several sites about why it's important for the public to talk about small arms and violence, and gave interviews on two television stations about the topic. IIEEP also created a weeklong social media campaign highlighting the issue of gun violence, as well as infographics representing citizen perceptions of safety in the country. IIEEP also sent out a press release encouraging the Nicaraguan government to release a report on its progress regarding the sixth Biennial Meeting of States.

La inseguridad que viven las mujeres

Hay diferentes razones por las cuales las mujeres se sienten inseguras al salir a la calle, pero ninguna es tan importante como las diferentes formas de acoso. (%)



An IEEPP infographic shows women are becoming increasingly fearful of armed assaults when they leave home

Peru



Instituto de Seguridad y Derechos Humanos / Institute of Security and Human Rights (ISDH)

ISDH issued a statement calling for increased awareness among policymakers, the public and the media about the global threat to human rights and human security caused by small arms. ISDH noted the importance of civil society efforts to prevent arms proliferation and armed violence through policy development, public education and research, fostering collaborative advocacy efforts, participating in global and regional processes, and promoting the voices of survivors of gun violence. The Director of ISDH, Ana María Watson, also issued a video on YouTube about the topic of small arms and the Week of Action. See the video (in Spanish) here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeEEo-p0aFc



ISDH Director Ana María Watson calls for increased awareness among policymakers, the public and the media about the small arms threat to human rights and security



United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC)



UNLIREC released its online study “Stray Bullets II: Media Analysis of Cases of Stray Bullets in Latin America and the Caribbean” as part of the Centre’s second effort to document and analyze the phenomenon of stray bullets associated with armed violence—violence that is a consequence of the proliferation of small arms in Latin America and the Caribbean. The comprehensive study examines the effects of stray bullets in order to share recommendations to prevent the phenomenon. For the 2016 Week of Action, UNLIREC also developed its plan to lead a weapons destruction event in Trujillo, Peru in July. At the event, a total of 1,247 confiscated weapons including pistols, revolvers, shotguns and homemade weapons were destroyed. In addition, UNLIREC supported the destruction of and verified the destruction process of 8,701 confiscated weapons. As a result of UNLIREC’s actions, a total of 9,948 confiscated weapons were destroyed. These results were achieved with the assistance of both the National Regulatory Entity for Firearms and Ammunition Control (SUCAMEC) and the Peruvian National Police. For a copy of the full report of UNLIREC’s report on stray bullets in Spanish, visit: http://www.unlirec.org/Documents/Balas_Perdidas.pdf. For an executive summary of the report in English, visit: www.unlirec.org/Documents/BalasPerdidas_Sum_ENG.pdf



UNLIREC’s efforts have helped to destroy thousands of weapons in Peru

Philippines

The Center for Peace Education at Miriam College



Photos capture the lives of children living at the crossroads of conflict



Students write down their opinions and feelings after viewing the photo exhibit

The Center for Peace Education at Miriam College in the Philippines organized a photo exhibit that focused on telling stories of children living amidst conflict in Mindanao, a protracted and ongoing conflict that has led to the loss of thousands of lives and uprooted many from their homes. The photos were the work of a renowned photographer, and talks and other activities were organized around the exhibit. A wall called “Thinking Out Loud” allowed students to express their feelings and opinions after viewing the photos and learning more about how the armed conflict has affected the lives of children. See a full report of the event here: <http://weact1325.org/2016/05/03/we-act-1325-memberscpe-and-wagi-collaborate-with-opapp-to-host-photo-exhibit/>

South Africa Gun Free South Africa (GFSA)

Gun Free South Africa released the results of a media survey it conducted for the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence that revealed that although gun deaths have been nearly halved since the year 2000 after the introduction of stricter gun laws in South Africa, too many people from all walks of life continue to lose their lives or suffer injuries from firearms. The survey revealed that in just 31 days in 2016, 86 people were killed with a gun and 68 people were injured. Of the total number of deaths and injuries reported, 128 were men and 31 were women, including 7 young girls. The cases reported in the media over this period also showed that firearms are used to kill men, women, children, the elderly, police officers, taxi drivers, security guards, business owners, and alleged gangsters. In short, no one is safe from gun violence in the country.



18 PEOPLE ARE SHOT & KILLED EVERY DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

“ Take action to STOP gun violence... ”

Nobody is immune from gun violence emphasizes Gun Free South Africa

United States

Reaching Critical Will



Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), created a weeklong blog series focusing on the intersections of gun violence, gender and disarmament. The articles addressed issues of gun violence and domestic abuse, violence against sexual minorities, firearms and patriarchy, militarism and small arms, and our current culture of weapons amongst other topics. Find the full text of their articles here:

<http://wilpf.org/action-against-gun-violence-is-action-against-militarism/>

<http://wilpf.org/the-impact-of-firearms-on-women/>

<http://wilpf.org/gun-violence-an-ongoing-challenge-to-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda/>



Nonviolence International-New York City

Members of Nonviolence International joined Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in a march across the Brooklyn Bridge to raise awareness of gun violence, and volunteered to help the organization with logistics on the day of the event. The event included powerful speeches by a number of mothers from around the United States who lost their beloved children to gun violence and who are now members of the “club that nobody wants to join.” The parents have joined forces to call for greater gun control.



Carrying the Week of Action message across the Brooklyn Bridge



NI joined Moms Demand Action in marching against gun violence

United States

IANSA UN Liaison Office



IANSA’s UN Liaison office joined the march against gun violence across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York and helped to promote the event. The office also developed disarmament education material, and joined Peace Boat US, an IANSA member based in New York, in providing a disarmament lesson to high school students in the city. The office also reached out to dozens of faith based organizations in the city, and encouraged them to raise the topic of gun violence to their members during the Week of Action.



In front of the United Nations, the IANSA UN Liaison office kicked off the Week of Action



IANSA’s UN Liaison Office gave a presentation about gun violence to high school students in New York City

Uruguay

Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

A member of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Senator Daisy Tourney of Uruguay gave a speech in the country’s Senate on May 3 regarding the Week of Action. In her speech, she raised the importance of controlling the proliferation of civilian weapons and the need for laws against illicit arms trafficking, as well as enforcement of existing laws. The Parliamentary Forum on SALW is the only global network of parliamentarians specifically dedicated to matters of arms control and violence prevention. The mission of the organization is to support parliamentarians in their small arms related work, contributing to the advancement of the small arms agenda, and providing a space for parliamentarians to meet and join forces with other stakeholders and actors, such as civil society organizations. Senator Tourney has long been a vocal supporter of reducing gun violence.



Senator Daisy Tourney addressed the issue of small arms at a session of the Uruguay Senate

Venezuela

Amnesty International Venezuela



Amnesty International Venezuela's graphic calls for "Not one more weapon for atrocities"

Amnesty International Venezuela urged people to contact their government officials to ask them to take greater action on gun violence, and to raise awareness through social media messages. Amnesty International Venezuela created drafts of 13 tweets that people could use for this purpose. In an article published for the Week of Action, Amnesty International Venezuela detailed why it is crucial to take action on the issue of gun violence, noting that Venezuela has the second highest homicide rate in the world according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. See the full article (in Spanish) here: <http://www.amnistia.org/profiles/blogs/semana-de-accion-contra-la-violencia-armada>. The organization also circulated an impressive graphic with the message: "Not one more weapon for atrocities".



Yemen

Dar Al-Salaam Organization



The Dar Al-Salaam Organization in Yemen held four dialogue workshops for feuding political leaders in Yemen in order to prevent armed violence, and also organized awareness campaigns in schools for the 2016 Week of Action. To continue raising awareness of the deaths and injuries caused by celebratory gunfire, Dar Al-Salaam also announced its fifth national campaign regarding this problem, using the slogan 'Don't let your celebration turn deadly'. The organization notes that it has worked hard throughout the year, and has assumed the responsibility of launching a campaign for combating armed violence, religious extremism, and adopting a program of peace building in tribal societies. It should be noted that the efforts of this organization have not come without hardship. Since the commencement of their peacebuilding work in 1997, the organization has lost 21 members in the course of its work. Both the head of the organization, Mr. Abdrahman Almarwani, and the head of its peace committees sector, Mr. Mohammed Nassr, have previously suffered multiple assassination attempts. Despite enormous challenges, the Dar Al-Salaam Organization continues to be an important advocate for peace and disarmament in the country.



In a country where tribal conflicts and revenge killings are common, Dar Al-Salaam's actions for peace and disarmament are exceptional



As the head of Dar Al-Salaam, Sheik Abdrahman Almarwani has lost numerous colleagues working for peace, and has survived assassination attempts on his own life.jpg



High Representative's Statement for the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence By Mr. Kim Won-soo, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

The theme for this year's observance of the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence as "Time to End the Deadly Flood of Guns", is a timely one. It reflects that, when it comes to the horrific carnage perpetrated by guns, the global community speaks with one voice.

In 2016, the United Nations Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons celebrates its fifteenth anniversary. For one and a half decades, this landmark instrument has formed the core of international efforts to combat the unlawful trade in guns.

During this time, enormous strides have been made to push back the illicit arms trade. National frameworks to control small arms have been developed or enhanced. Weapons have been collected and destroyed. Depots have been made safer. International and regional initiatives have been instigated to build Member States' capacity. There are now multiple regional conventions dealing with small arms.

The Arms Trade Treaty, which entered into force in December 2014 and which includes small arms and ammunition in its scope, complements these initiatives and adds a multilateral dimension. Finally, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, agreed last year by all Member States, now encompasses peace and security as a key component. Importantly, the 2030 Agenda includes a significant reduction of all forms of violence and of illicit arms flows among its targets.

This growing number of global and regional norms to counter illicit guns, reflects the international community's determination to stop the too frequent – yet preventable – destruction they inflict. However, paper and meetings will not stop innocent men, women and children from suffering gun-inflicted death or gunshot wounds. What is needed is vigorous implementation. During this Week of Action against Gun Violence, I call on all governments to redouble their work to reduce gun violence, and to work with civil society partners and the United Nations to make the lives of all people safer and more secure.



Time to End the Deadly Flood of Guns

 **iansa**
international action network on small arms

T: +1 917-621-7449
777 United Nations Plaza Suite 3E.
New York, NY 10017 USA
www.iansa.org



Graphic Design: Maria A. Pérez
Text: Rose Welsch & Leslie Brice
Cover image: CLAVE