

UNLIREC Newsletter

UNLIREC, as the regional organ of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, seeks to advance the cause of practical disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean as part of its commitment to support Member States in their implementation of international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, in particular, the UN 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms.

Caribbean States

Suriname bolsters its capacity to combat illicit firearms trafficking

From 7 to 18 October 2013, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) – in close collaboration with the Ministry of Defense of Suriname – conducted a 10-day training course at the Ministry of Defense in Paramaribo on combating illicit firearms trafficking for Surinamese security and justice sector officials.



This inter-institutional course - the first of its kind carried out in Suriname - resulted in the training of 44 law enforcement officers, including police, customs and intelligence officials, armed forces, airport

security and correctional services officials, who bolstered their ability to undertake firearms investigative techniques in keeping with international standards and best practices. Participants received specialized training in the following areas: technical aspects of weapons and ammunition identification, intelligence gathering and crime scene management, tracing and preparation of evidence in criminal proceedings, as well as practical small arms control measures, such as weapons destruction and stockpile management. The course also covered cross-cutting issues related to the use of force, gender awareness and child protection.

UNLIREC has trained over 3,500 law enforcement officers throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, strengthening the capacities of States in the region to address the problem of the proliferation of and trafficking in illicit firearms and ammunition.

Geographical coverage / Cobertura geográfica

Antigua and Barbuda • Argentina • Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • Bolivia • Brazil • Chile • Colombia
Costa Rica • Cuba • Dominican Republic • Dominica • Ecuador • El Salvador • Grenada • Guatemala
Guyana • Haiti • Honduras • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • St. Kitts and Nevis • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago • Uruguay • Venezuela

Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Av. Pérez Aranibal 750
Magdalena del Mar - Lima 17, Peru
Tel: +51.1.625-9000
Fax: +51.1.625-9100
<http://www.unlirec.org>

This training activity forms part of UNLIREC's Firearms Assistance Package for Caribbean States. At the request of the Government, UNLIREC extended this Assistance Package to include Suriname in 2013, which also contemplates technical assistance on stockpile management, firearms and ammunition destruction, as well as recommendations on legal reforms and updates to the national firearms act. Additionally, in parallel to the law

enforcement training course, national authorities organized a roundtable meeting for policy makers during which UNLIREC presented its legal firearms comparative study. The activities carried out in Suriname were made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of the United States of America.

Surinamese officials trained on destroying surplus and obsolete small arms and ammunition



From 21 to 26 October 2013, UNLIREC, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Defense of Suriname, supported the destruction of close to 700 surplus and obsolete weapons and 200 kilos of small arms ammunition. All small arms were destroyed using a set of hydraulic shears provided by UNLIREC to the Ministry of Defense of Suriname, while the ammunition was burned using the UNLIREC-patented Small Arms Ammunition Burning Tank (SAABT). All weapons and ammunition destroyed were documented in accordance with UNLIREC's standard operating procedures

based on UN International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and UN International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs).

UNLIREC also provided training on firearms and ammunition destruction techniques to 17 law enforcement officials with a view to permanently installing technical and human resource capacity to engage in independent destructions. All activities were made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of the United States of America.

Geographical coverage / Cobertura geográfica

Antigua and Barbuda • Argentina • Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • Bolivia • Brazil • Chile • Colombia
Costa Rica • Cuba • Dominican Republic • Dominica • Ecuador • El Salvador • Grenada • Guatemala
Guyana • Haiti • Honduras • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • St. Kitts and Nevis • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago • Uruguay • Venezuela

Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Av. Pérez Aranibal 750
Magdalena del Mar - Lima 17, Peru
Tel: +51.1.625-9000
Fax: +51.1.625-9100
<http://www.unlirec.org>

UNLIREC and Trinidad and Tobago train Caribbean armourers on stockpile management of small arms and light weapons

From 4 to 15 November 2013, UNLIREC, in collaboration with the government of Trinidad and Tobago, steered an armoury management course at the Caribbean Regional Armoury Management Training Centre located at the Police Service (TTPS) Academy in Port of Spain.

This course is the second of its kind to be held in Trinidad and Tobago by UNLIREC, having recently inaugurated the training centre in June 2013 with a national course, where 12 officials from the security sector in Trinidad and Tobago participated.



On this occasion, 13 security sector officials from 11 different Caribbean countries were trained to manage, store, secure, inspect, maintain, repair and destroy small arms and its ammunition over the two week period in keeping with internationally-accepted norms. This regional course employed the 'training-the-trainers' concept whereby the armourers previously trained during the national course were invited to share their knowledge and expertise with course participants. It is intended that the

officials trained in this course will impart their knowledge in their respective countries, ensuring, at a regional level, a pool of professionals responsible for weapons storage, management and accountability, thus contributing to reducing the risk of proliferation.

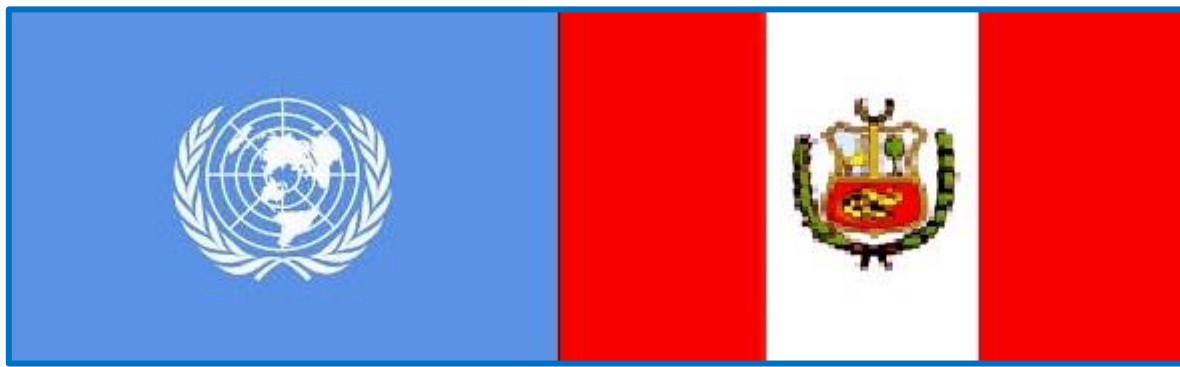
Course Valedictorian Samuel Morgan stated that "[...] the armoury management course is a truly beneficial programme that enhances our skills and competencies as armourers and will enable us to give greater quality of service to the police and armed forces of the Caribbean [...]."

During the second week of the course, as part and parcel of stockpile management best practices, participants were also trained on conducting periodic weapons destruction. 122 confiscated and obsolete weapons from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service were destroyed and documented in accordance with the UN International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). All weapons were destroyed using equipment previously donated to the government of Trinidad and Tobago by UNLIREC.

This initiative forms part of a wider UNLIREC Caribbean Firearms Assistance Package, which has trained more than 670 officials in the combat of illicit trafficking and destroyed more than 40,000 weapons and 57 tonnes of ammunition. This component was made possible thanks to a grant from the Government of the United States of America.

Andean States

UNLIREC and Peru join forces to strengthen firearms control



From 23 to 24 October 2013, the National Regulatory Entity for Security Services, Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives for Civil Use (SUCAMEC) and UNLIREC organized a training workshop on firearms control in Lima, Peru. This event provided a forum for almost 50 SUCAMEC officials to delve into this issue with particular emphasis on the identification and classification of firearms, ammunition and explosives; national and international disarmament-related instruments; disarmament campaigns; firearms and ammunition marking; and stockpile management.

This workshop forms part of an on-going series of collaborative initiatives being undertaken by SUCAMEC and UNLIREC aimed at strengthening firearms control in Peru and supporting its efforts to implement the UN 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms.

The next event in this series took place in November whereby 15 SUCAMEC officials were trained on weapons destruction preparation techniques (planning, packaging, labelling, transport) and monitoring and verification processes.



Geographical coverage / Cobertura geográfica

Antigua and Barbuda • Argentina • Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • Bolivia • Brazil • Chile • Colombia
Costa Rica • Cuba • Dominican Republic • Dominica • Ecuador • El Salvador • Grenada • Guatemala
Guyana • Haiti • Honduras • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • St. Kitts and Nevis • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago • Uruguay • Venezuela

Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Av. Pérez Araníbal 750
Magdalena del Mar - Lima 17, Peru
Tel: +51.1.625-9000
Fax: +51.1.625-9100
<http://www.unlirec.org>

Peru destroys over 3,000 firearms with support from UNLIREC



UNLIREC supported the National Regulatory Entity for Security Services, Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives for Civil Use (SUCAMEC) in the destruction of over 3,000 firearms via smelting at the Funvesa foundry in the Andean country's capital of Lima on 17 December 2013. The destruction event was attended by numerous high-level officials, including the Peruvian Minister of Interior, Walter Alban; the Director General of Peru's National Police, General Jorge Flores; the Superintendent of SUCAMEC, Derik Latorre; and the Director of UNLIREC, Mélanie Régimbal.

During her speech, Ms Régimbal highlighted the fact that "[...] the destruction of weapons is considered one of the most effective disarmament and

arms control measures, which allows States to definitively do away with obsolete and seized weapons, and those handed over by civilians, ensuring that they will not be used to commit future acts of crime."

UNLIREC served as an independent observer both prior to and during the destruction process. In this role, the Regional Centre monitored and conducted on site verification of the serial numbers of over 800 weapons, equivalent to roughly 30% of all weapons destroyed. The act of monitoring and verification aims to demonstrate transparency throughout the process and certify that it was conducted in accordance with internationally-accepted standards for weapons destruction.

UNLIREC and Peruvian Ministry of Defence increase capacity of defence sector on disarmament and non-proliferation issues

For the first time, UNLIREC and the Peruvian Ministry of Defence joined forces to expand the capacity of the defence sector (joint command, army, armed forces and police) on a wide gamut of issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation. This intense one-day seminar dealt with themes ranging from the disarmament-related clauses found in the UN Charter to prominent UN figures dedicated to advancing the multi-lateral disarmament and non-proliferation agenda and from the international normative framework on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to the new Arms Trade Treaty aimed at regulating the conventional arms trade.



This disarmament advocacy initiative forms part of a wider UNLIREC Programme designed to increase the capacity of States to implement international disarmament agreements with a view to strengthening the implementation and reporting on these instruments. With this purpose in mind, great emphasis is placed on promoting the submission of UN transparency reports, including the UN Report on Military expenditures (<http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Milex/>) and the UN Register of Conventional Arms (<http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Register/>). Both reports - available online - serve the indispensable objective of building confidence among States and helping to avoid conflict and unnecessary rises in tensions.

UNLIREC's Disarmament and Non-proliferation Seminar is also available to the wider diplomatic community from all 33 Latin American and Caribbean States. Those governmental institutions interested in benefitting from this programme are invited to write to [\[information@unlirec.org\]](mailto:information@unlirec.org).

“Disarmament and non-proliferation education continues to make inroads into the education curricula of the next generation, and stakeholders should continue to build upon existing efforts and promote and develop new opportunities [...].”

- ***Report of the 2012 UNSG on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/67/138)*** -

Southern Cone States

UNLIREC and the Ministry of Security of Argentina move forward on their stockpile management collaboration

The Ministry of Security of Argentina and UNLIREC progressed on their technical cooperation to update arms control practices and policies from 4 to 15 of November, 2013, in the country's capital, Buenos Aires.

During the mission, UNLIREC assessed the four federal security forces on firearms and ammunition management. This assessment is based on International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) and it aims to improve stockpile infrastructures, strengthen staff capacity, and enhance stockpile management practices within the federal forces. In addition, different weapons and ammunition marking proposals and techniques were analyzed and discussed.

During the current year, UNLIREC conducted assessments in several stockpile facilities and provided recommendations to improve infrastructures, standard operating procedures and training processes. During 2014, in addition to continuing work in these areas, UNLIREC will provide assistance in a destruction process for obsolete firearms and the scope of activities will be extended to reach different areas of the country. The

collaboration, ongoing since 2012, falls within the framework of the citizen security project led by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Argentina.



In summary, UNLIREC provided assistance in stockpile management and weapons and ammunition destruction to 17 Member States in the region providing equipment and training, and conducting evaluations throughout 2013 whereby more than 50 tonnes of ammunition and almost 45.000 firearms were destroyed, including surplus, obsolete and confiscated weapons, and more than 130 stockpile facilities were improved. Implementing firearms destructions and stockpile management standards is one of the main commitments assumed by the States within the framework of the UN 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Central American States

Government of Guatemala steps up small arms control with legal support from UNLIREC

The Government of Guatemala and UNLIREC organized a one-day legal seminar on small arms control in Guatemala City on 19 November 2013. The seminar was chaired by the Vice-ministry of Violence and Crime Prevention, whereby a broad group of institutional stakeholders including the Ministry of Defense, National Civilian Police, Judiciary, Office of the Prosecutor, ministries of Health and Education and the NGO IEPADES, participated in the event.

The seminar was organized to present and disseminate UNLIREC's legal analysis and recommendations on two bills of law proposed by the Government to address the accumulation of firearms evidence in the judicial system through the advanced destruction of apprehended firearms following ballistic testing, as well as the creation of a legal and policy framework for an eventual voluntary firearms amnesty campaign in the country.

UNLIREC's expert advice on the bill of law on advanced evidence disposal drew on international instruments related to weapons destruction while the bill for a weapons amnesty drew heavily on International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) related to the collection of illicit and unwanted small arms.

UNLIREC's legal unit was able to undertake this work thanks to the generous contribution of the Governments of Germany and Spain.





**UNLIREC
Virtual Legal
Library**

Access UNLIREC's Virtual Library at [http://www.unlirec.org/virtual00_eng.aspx] and find out why the region is calling it the "go-to" UN resource for support in creating more robust legal frameworks for combating illicit weapons trafficking.

Geographical coverage / Cobertura geográfica

Antigua and Barbuda • Argentina • Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • Bolivia • Brazil • Chile • Colombia
Costa Rica • Cuba • Dominican Republic • Dominica • Ecuador • El Salvador • Grenada • Guatemala
Guyana • Haiti • Honduras • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • St. Kitts and Nevis • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago • Uruguay • Venezuela

Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Av. Pérez Araníbal 750
Magdalena del Mar - Lima 17, Peru
Tel: +51.1.625-9000
Fax: +51.1.625-9100
<http://www.unlirec.org>

UNLIREC facilitates national dialogue for standardizing small arms and ammunition marking practices in El Salvador

“[...] marking and tracing of weapons plays a crucial role in international efforts to curb the growing global trade in illegal small arms and light weapons.”

- **General Assembly DC/3123** -

UNLIREC and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security co-organized a seminar on 17 November 2013 to advance the standardization of small arms and ammunition marking practices in El Salvador. The marking of small arms and their ammunition provides basic information for uniquely identifying small arms; allows for their effective tracing to its last legal owners; facilitates criminal investigations; and improves stockpile management systems among other benefits.

This seminar gathered policy makers and technicians from various institutions, including Defense, Justice and Public Security, Foreign Affairs, Public Ministry, the National Police, and international experts from the Organization of American States (OAS) and UNLIREC. During the seminar, UNLIREC presented its Technical Guide for the Marking of Small Arms and their Ammunition, aiming to complement, from a technical standpoint, the progress achieved on the issue of marking through relevant international instruments by proposing standard markings, using alphanumeric codes, to be applied at

various stages in the life cycle of small arms and their ammunition.



The Ministry of Justice and Public Security, as Coordinator of the inter-institutional firearms working group, recommended to the Ministry of Defense the adoption of standard markings based on the recommendations made by UNLIREC's Technical Guide. UNLIREC will continue providing assistance to El Salvador with the aim of incorporating marking standards into national legal frameworks and administrative procedures. This initiative was made possible through financial support from the Federal Republic of Germany.



In the Spotlight

UNLIREC strengthens the capacity of women in El Salvador to combat illicit arms trafficking

On 25 November, coinciding with the celebrations of the UN International Day on the Elimination of Violence against Women, UNLIREC inaugurated a National Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Firearms Trafficking targeted at women working in the area of small arms control in the country. This ten-day course – carried out in San Salvador from 25 November to 6 December – brought together 40 female officers from law enforcement institutions, judiciary power and the public prosecutor's office. Access to technical training for women is vital for the continued and effective implementation of the UN 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms.

This unique training initiative reaffirms UNLIREC's commitment to gender balance in its programming and support in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on "Women, Disarmament, Arms Control, and Non-Proliferation", which aims to increase the opportunities for women to access specialized training otherwise characterized by a disproportionate bias in favour of male participation. This initiative acknowledges the crucial role played by women in promoting peace and disarmament and showcases El Salvador's firm commitment to breaking the cycles of violence and addressing the rise in femicides, which are further exacerbated by illicit arms trafficking.



The training course – made possible thanks to a grant from the Federal Republic of Germany - provides up-to-date information on a variety of subjects, including firearms identification; investigative techniques and intelligence; stockpile management; weapons destruction; chain of custody; and human security, with gender perspectives incorporated throughout. The aim of the course is not only to increase the knowledge of participants on these and other subjects, but also to improve multi-sectoral cooperation for a more effective implementation of international instruments in this field.



Consistent with its commitment to mainstream gender perspectives and promote the contribution of women in all its activities, UNLIREC is seeking funding for its 2014-2015 gender proposal to build momentum for regional implementation of A/RES/65/69. If interested in partnering with UNLIREC or finding out more about its gender-related activities, please write to [information@unlirec.org].



Geographical coverage / Cobertura geográfica

Antigua and Barbuda • Argentina • Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • Bolivia • Brazil • Chile • Colombia
Costa Rica • Cuba • Dominican Republic • Dominica • Ecuador • El Salvador • Grenada • Guatemala
Guyana • Haiti • Honduras • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • St. Kitts and Nevis • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago • Uruguay • Venezuela

Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Av. Pérez Araníbal 750
Magdalena del Mar - Lima 17, Peru
Tel: +51.1.625-9000
Fax: +51.1.625-9100
<http://www.unlirec.org>

UNLIREC Agenda (Jan-Mar 2014)

January

- ✓ *Equipment handover and weapons and ammunition destruction*
Georgetown, Guyana

February

- ✓ *Regional workshop on best practices in crime scene management*
San Jose, Costa Rica
- ✓ *Roundtable on pilot ATT course manual*
Mexico City, Mexico

March

- ✓ *Specialized training course for legal operators on combating illicit firearms trafficking*
Belmopan, Belize
- ✓ *National Course Development Seminar on the WMD Commodity Identification Training (CIT) Program (in partnership with the government of the USA)*
Lima, Peru

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

*Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Av. Pérez Araníbar 750, Magdalena del Mar, Lima, Peru
Tel. +51.1.625.9112 - www.unlirec.org
information@unlirec.org*

Geographical coverage / Cobertura geográfica

Antigua and Barbuda • Argentina • Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • Bolivia • Brazil • Chile • Colombia
Costa Rica • Cuba • Dominican Republic • Dominica • Ecuador • El Salvador • Grenada • Guatemala
Guyana • Haiti • Honduras • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • St. Kitts and Nevis • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago • Uruguay • Venezuela

Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Av. Pérez Araníbar 750
Magdalena del Mar - Lima 17, Peru
Tel: +51.1.625-9000
Fax: +51.1.625-9100
<http://www.unlirec.org>