

## UNLIREC Newsletter

UNLIREC, as the only UN regional entity specialized in disarmament and non-proliferation in the region, supports Latin American and Caribbean States in achieving and maintaining peace and security through disarmament.

### Gender and armed violence reduction training

#### UNLIREC promotes the contribution of women in the prevention and reduction of armed violence in Dominican Republic



**(Dominican Republic; April)** – UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/65/69) recognizes the specific contribution of women at the local, national, regional and sub-regional levels in the prevention and reduction of armed violence in non-conflict contexts.

UNLIREC has continuously championed women as “forces of change” and is providing States with the necessary tools to incorporate gender perspectives into small arms control and disarmament efforts.

It was within this context that UNLIREC undertook a specialized course on managing firearms and ammunition as evidence in collaboration with the Government of the Dominican Republic from 4-6 April in Santo Domingo. The UNLIREC developed and designed course was led by an all-women team comprised of three Latin American women who are at the top of their respective fields, including Pamela Romero from Mexico (crime scene management), Arabeska Sanchez from Honduras (forensic ballistics) and Natasha

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Complejo Javier Pérez de Cuellar  
Av. Pérez Aranibar 750  
Magdalena del Mar – Lima 17, Perú  
Tel: +51.1.6259114  
mail: [info@unlirec.org](mailto:info@unlirec.org)  
<http://www.unlirec.org>

Leite from Brazil (armed violence reduction). The 22 course participants honed their capabilities to manage and properly handle firearms and ammunition as evidence at crime scenes, and address the due sequencing of procedures at these scenes. Skills transferred during the course will improve national tracing procedures and facilitate the implementation of international firearms instruments adhered to by the Dominican Republic.

Course participants acknowledged that – in stark contrast to previous years - over half of the forensic ballistic teams at the Institute of Forensic Sciences and the Scientific Police are female firearms

examiners. The same gender parity was reflected in the course with half of the eight firearms examiners present being women. “Curiosity”, it was said, and “vocation are better indicators of success in the field than gender”. The course also highlighted the interaction between technical considerations and the social, cultural and institutional contexts in which they take place.

This training course was carried out within the framework of UNLIREC’s operational forensic ballistics project in the Caribbean. This project is supported financially by both the government of the United States and the government of Canada.

### ***WMD non-proliferation training***

## **UNLIREC and Jamaica team up with FBI to combat proliferation of explosives**



**(Jamaica; January)** - UNLIREC teamed up with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to train Jamaican law enforcement officials on detecting and handling sensitive dual use chemicals and improvised explosives. This U.S.-funded training forms part of UNLIREC’s umbrella programme for Caribbean States on

improving their implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and falls under Operative Paragraph 3 of the resolution calling on States to develop and maintain appropriate effective physical protection measures to account for and secure sensitive materials in production, use, storage or transport.

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During the three-day dynamic training sessions, 30 participants from seven different government agencies, including the Police Force, Defense Force, Customs, Port Authority, among others, had the chance to study some of the main chemicals and potential explosive material readily available in the island. The theoretical sessions included a basic

introduction to explosives and improvised explosives, detection of sensitive chemicals, processing of crime scenes and post blast scenarios. These sessions were complemented by practical demonstrations at the range, where instructors conducted controlled explosions to demonstrate the potential risks of some of the elements procured.

### UNLIREC and IMO collaborate with Jamaica in bolstering maritime security



**(Jamaica; June)** - UNLIREC and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) delivered tabletop exercise on maritime and port security to over 40 government officials in Jamaica. A range of real-life scenarios were presented, including threats to cruise ships, border security issues involving ports, airports and land border crossings, incidents potentially involving WMDs, dealing with illicit firearms on shipping vessels, security-related health crises and environmental threats, such as oil spills and maritime safety inspections.

The two-day event aimed at supporting the country in bolstering its implementation of UNSCR 1540 and further developing Jamaica's capabilities to enforce maritime safety and security legislation and to counter piracy and armed robbery against ships. This joint tabletop exercise marks the fourth time UNLIREC joins forces with the IMO. Previous trainings took place in Grenada (2014) and in Trinidad and Tobago (2015). The Dominican Republic is the next Caribbean country to benefit from such assistance.

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<http://www.unlirec.org>

## Legal drafting of WMD laws

### UNLIREC and Dominican Republic advance implementation of its 1540 National Action Plan

**(Dominican Republic; April)** – The Dominican Republic submitted its Voluntary National Action Plan to the 1540 Committee in November 2015. Within this Plan, the country mapped out a series of specific objectives and activities, as well as committed itself to strengthening its legal framework, including the modernization of existing WMD legislation.

As part of its 1540 Regional Caribbean Assistance Programme, which benefits from US and Canada financial support, UNLIREC held a third legal drafting session in April 2016 with Dominican legal counterparts. The April work sessions benefitted from the accrued experience and technical input of UNLIREC legal experts. This work-session, which included 21 legal advisors and representatives from various relevant institutions, focused on ensuring the draft WMD law was aligned with the provisions of UNSCR 1540. As a next step in this process, UNLIREC and national legal experts will continue reviewing the draft WMD law and – at the request of the State

- UNLIREC will focus on supporting authorities in the development of additional subsidiary regulations, including a national control list, once the bill of law is finalized.



This draft law constitutes a significant step forward in the country's efforts to strengthen implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) and will provide the Dominican Republic with a solid legal basis for adopting trade controls and measures to counter the proliferation of WMDs.

*The Security Council “[...] encourages all States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee.”*

-1540 Committee (Security Council Committee established pursuant to UNSCR 1540-

## *Preventing proliferation financing*

### **UNLIREC presents new tool to Trinidad and Tobago to aid efforts to prevent proliferation financing**

**(Trinidad and Tobago; June)** - Tackling proliferation financing has become a priority for many countries seeking to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). In many jurisdictions, existing laws that address money laundering and the financing of terrorism are being examined and extended to criminalize proliferation financing specifically.

Implementation of specific laws to address the financial aspects of counter-proliferation provides countries with the opportunity to tailor legislation that simultaneously addresses compliance with international obligations and recommendations, most notably with UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR 1540), Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations, and various UNSCRs on DPRK and Iran.

As part of UNLIREC's 1540 Assistance Programme for Caribbean States and with US financial support, UNLIREC's legal team presented the Centre's newly developed Guidelines and Recommendations on Preventing Proliferation Financing to national authorities in Port of Spain during a workshop from 27-28 June. These

Guidelines compile the provisions found in international instruments on prevention of

proliferation financing and applies them to the jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago. This two-day workshop benefitted from the input on operational practicalities concerning the regulation of proliferation financing provided by experts on UNSCR 1540, UN targeted sanctions, and FATF recommendations.

"Proliferation financing facilitates the movement and development of proliferation-sensitive items and as such, can contribute to global instability and potentially catastrophic loss of life if WMDs are developed and deployed."

-FATF Report (Feb 2010)-

Trinidad and Tobago is the first Caribbean country to intensify efforts relating to the prevention of proliferation financing. UNLIREC looks forward to working with Trinidad and Tobago as legal drafting progresses in relation to this important aspect of counter-proliferation.

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## Forensic ballistics training

### UNLIREC helps increase capacity of firearms examiners to present reliable ballistic evidence in courts of law

**(Jamaica, Bahamas, St Kitts and Nevis, Barbados, Guyana, Belize; February-June)**

– UNLIREC, together with the Governments from six Caribbean States, held a series of hands-on forensic ballistics training exercises at the national level in each of the countries' capitals. These exercises represent the second round of support held under the framework of UNLIREC's Caribbean operational forensic ballistics assistance package, made possible thanks to the support of the U.S. and Canada.



The training exercises enabled 63 firearms examiners, technicians and officials from the Police Force to gain in-depth knowledge on specific UNLIREC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), such as bullet damaged items, forensic examination of firearms, comparison microscopy, open case file, and range of fire (shot pattern determination).

The practical exercises focussed on comparing cartridge cases and bullets using a comparison microscope, and assembling an open case file and determining range of

fire with bulleted cartridge firearms and shotguns.

Participants also exchanged best practices, shared challenges faced in the field, as well as practiced new methods and technology in order to build more substantial cases and solid evidence.

In June 2016, UNLIREC also launched its forensic ballistics programme in Trinidad and Tobago by assessing the country's capacity to function at an operational level in this field. This assessment was followed by a forensic ballistics executive seminar and a three-day training course targeting firearms examiners and forensic staff.



UNLIREC will follow-up with authorities in Trinidad and Tobago to finalize the development of a National Action Plan for future project implementation and provision of standard operating procedures and protocols.

*Backlogs and delays in cases involving arms trafficking and armed violence are obstacles to access to justice and due process. In this context, strong forensic ballistic evidence is crucial in strengthening rule of law.*

## UNLIREC hosts international expert meeting to develop and promote proficiency testing among forensic ballistics professionals



**(Peru; April)** – UNLIREC held an expert meeting on competency and proficiency testing for firearms and toolmark examiners in the context of its operational forensic ballistics assistance package in Lima. This assistance package, funded by the U.S. and Canada, aims to enhance the capabilities of eight Caribbean countries to implement operational forensic ballistic (OFB) investigation strategies amidst broader efforts to combat illicit small arms trafficking and impunity in cases of armed violence.

The international platform brought together specialists from the American Association of Firearms and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE), the European Network of Forensic Scientists (ENFSI), CARICOM IMPACS, representatives of graduate programmes in forensic sciences from the University of the West Indies and the University of Santo Domingo with government representatives from Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica

Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Bureau for Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). UNLIREC proposals for hands-on competency testing in the Caribbean were discussed in the context of existing state-centred and private testing frameworks.

Throughout 2016, UNLIREC will be piloting forensic ballistics collaborative exercises to evaluate government examiners abilities to undertake firearms, ammunition and trigger pull examinations in line with established standard operating procedures (SOPs). It is hoped such exercises will complement written and practical tests administered online or by correspondence and build Caribbean laboratories' capacity to evaluate their own staff. Competency and/or proficiency testing combined with the use of written SOPs are the building blocks of forensic ballistics quality managements systems.

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<http://www.unlirec.org>

## Strengthening arms control by private security companies

### **Fast Facts:**

- *Private Security Companies (PSCs) employ approximately 25.5 million people worldwide.*
- *PSCs are estimated to hold up to 3.7 million small arms globally, not including undeclared holdings.*
- *Outside of armed conflict settings, PSCs are most highly armed in Latin America, with ratios of arms per security guard about 10 times higher than in Western Europe.*
- *Greater regulation of PSCs can lead to a reduction in the diversion of weapons.*

### **UNLIREC assists Government of El Salvador in marking private security company weapons**



**(El Salvador and Peru, Jan-Jun)** - As part of its German-funded *Strengthening Oversight and Building Capacities for Small Arms Control and Non-proliferation in the Private Security Sector* project, UNLIREC supported El Salvador and Peru in the secondary marking of small arms belonging to private security companies (PSCs). This type of marking, conducted with state-of-the-art laser technology, contributes to improvements in the PSC's stockpile

management systems. The marking process consists of placing unique markings on firearms allowing for the identification and tracing of weapons, in a timely and reliable manner.

To date, within the framework of this project, 540 private security weapons have been marked in El Salvador, while more than 900 have been marked in Peru, thus demonstrating the progress being made in

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tackling the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in both countries.

Since July 2015, UNLIREC has been implementing this project, which provides technical assistance to both the Salvadoran and Peruvian national authorities responsible for regulating the Private Security Sector (PSS), as well as to the PSCs that provide armed security services.



### **UNLIREC helps Peru modernize physical security of firearms and ammunition depots belonging to private security entities**



**(Peru; May-June)** - Under the umbrella of this joint UNLIREC/DCAF project to promote international standards on arms and ammunition management by PSCs and SUCAMEC, and with the overall goal of preventing diversion, theft, and firearms accidents, the Regional Centre donated a series of bullet-traps to PSCs operating in Peru.

Bullet traps are devices that all depots must have as a preventive security measure, according to the international standards on small arms and ammunition control.

Whenever firearms are received or handed over at the depots, the staff must ensure that the arms have been made safe, in other words, without ammunition inside them. This is known as 'dry firing' and must be performed inside a bullet-trap, which consists of a metallic cylinder containing sand.

The barrel of the arm is placed inside the cylinder to make the dry fire. In the case of an involuntary shot, the bullet is absorbed by the cylinder, which slows the bullet down and prevents ricocheting towards

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the shooter, thus avoiding fatal consequences due to an involuntary shot.

The PSCs participating in this project also received hazardous material warning stickers to be placed in the weapons and ammunition depots. These stickers were designed according to the UN Recommendation on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.



Additionally, the following month, UNLIREC attended the inauguration of SUCAMEC's newly renovated arms and ammunition depot modernized with new furniture and high-security equipment provided by UNLIREC.

This renovated depot keeps arms and ammunition for civilian use in temporary

custody, particularly those belonging to PSCs. A total of 16 clauses of the ISACS and 12 clauses of the IATG were incorporated into the redesign and remodelling of the depot, allowing for improvements in the physical security, access control, and storage, registration and record-keeping management of the arms and ammunition.



UNLIREC also provided expert guidance on the arms depot remodelling process and donated equipment and materials to SUCAMEC, such as steel shelves, metallic doors, high-security padlocks, barcode readers and printers. The SUCAMEC's arms depot - now in compliance with high-security international standards and good practices to ensure proper management of arms depots - will serve as a model for other SUCAMEC offices and PSCs nationwide.

### **UNLIREC carries out international seminar and finalizes first phase of private security assistance project in Peru**

**(Peru; March)** - As part of this German-funded private security project, UNLIREC, in partnership with DCAF, conducted an international seminar on good practices and international experiences in the private security sector in Peru's capital, Lima.

During this seminar, UNLIREC and DCAF presented the project's achievements in the two countries, including: small arms and ammunition inventory management training for more than 40 PSCs; assessments of eight PSCs aimed at providing technical recommendations on stockpile management and physical

security measures; and secondary marking with laser technology of nearly 1,500 firearms.



All of these activities – in line with ISACS and IATG – have contributed to improvements in the private security companies' arms and ammunition

warehouses as well as the adoption of practices and procedures to improve small arms control in this sector.

Likewise, UNLIREC and DCAF described the available international initiatives and standards that are applicable to the PSS, such as the International Code of Conduct (ICoC), with the goal of promoting their accession and implementation. This seminar also provided a forum for discussion and experience sharing between government authorities, private security companies, civil society and other actors on mechanisms for good governance in the private security sector.

### Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Implementation

*Unregulated and irresponsible arms transfers intensify and prolong conflict, lead to regional instability, facilitate human rights abuses on a massive scale, and hinder social and economic development. The ATT is designed to stop such transfers and to promote responsibility, transparency and accountability in the global arms trade. It will therefore contribute to reducing the suffering of millions of civilians who are affected by armed conflict and violence.*

- UNODA ATT Implementation Toolkit | Module 1 | Why Join the Arms Trade Treaty?-

### UNLIREC assists Uruguay and Panama in implementation of ATT

**(Uruguay; March / Panama; April)** - UNLIREC continues to support State Parties in the region to implement the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) through its - ATT Implementation Course (ATT-IC). Both Uruguay (March) and Panama (April) benefitted from the ATT-IC during the first semester of 2016.

During the course, participants analyzed the regional conventional arms trade, classified arms under the application of the Treaty, tested their knowledge of the regulatory provisions that need to be applied, familiarized themselves with end-use/user documentation, and simulated the decision making process from the perspective of the national supervisory authorities.

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http://www.unlirec.org



The ATT-IC course provides States with sufficient tools to ensure the effective implementation of the Treaty so that adequate control mechanisms can be established for all international transfers of arms, ammunitions and their parts and components in order to avoid their illegal

diversion and their use in criminal activities.

Thanks to Germany's financial--support, this training course and all instruction materials are available to ATT State Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean. To date, 21 countries in the region have ratified the ATT, which came into force on 24 December 2014: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominica, The Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

### UNLIREC works with Costa Rican authorities in creating national authority responsible for ATT implementation



*The ATT requires all states-parties to “[...] designate competent national authorities in order to have an effective and transparent national control system regulating the transfer of conventional arms.”*

- United Nations Arms Trade Treaty-

**(Costa Rica; May)** - UNLIREC continued assisting States in the region in ATT implementation. In May, UNLIREC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica inaugurated a roundtable on the process towards creating a national control

authority for ATT implementation. This marks the second in a series of UNLIREC-lent support, the first of which took place in December 2015 in El Salvador leading to the elaboration of a draft Presidential Decree in 25 April 2016.

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This activity targeted 30 national authorities in charge of conventional arms transfer controls from seven different institutions. The main purpose of the two-day roundtable was to provide States with guidelines on the creation of this national authority responsible for arms transfers in compliance with the ATT provisions, and

provide examples of international standards and models from other States at both the regional and global levels. Moreover, the activity created a space for structured discussion on the aspects to be taken into consideration when creating the national authority, such as composition, functions, functionality and inter-institutional cooperation.

## Citizen security dialogue

### UNLIREC contributes to multisectoral dialogue on citizen security in northern city of Peru

**(Peru; April)** - UNLIREC, as a member of the United Nations Joint Programme on Strengthening Human Security and Community Resilience by Fostering Peaceful Coexistence in Peru, participated as a speaker at a seminar entitled *Citizen Security from a Human Security Approach* held on 15 April 2016 in Trujillo, the capital city of the northern department of La Libertad.



Seminar organizers and participants highlighted prevention strategies against drugs and violence, and alternative measures for juvenile offenders. UNLIREC contributed to discussions on public policies for arms and ammunition control

and armed violence prevention and reduction, stressing that arms control policies must be coordinated with other initiatives since armed violence is not solely a security and justice issue. As well, UNLIREC pointed out that citizen insecurity, which usually involves firearms, has multidimensional aspects to it and therefore must be addressed in a multi-sectoral manner.

Finally, UNLIREC presented the results of a survey that the Centre conducted at the end of 2015 about values, norms, and attitudes towards violence and the use of firearms among the population of the Province of Trujillo. The results of the survey showcased that roughly 90% of the respondents consider that weapons possession should be authorized by the government and that they would encourage their acquaintances to participate in a voluntary surrender of firearms programme.

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