



DISCUSSION AND RESOURCE GUIDE

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Shooting Poverty Resource and Discussion Guide is intended to introduce you to the topics explored in the Shooting Poverty film series, as well as to spark dialogue about the issues raised in the series' three films. The initial sections of this guide, *What Is Shooting Poverty* (page 1) and *The Link Between Arms and Poverty* (page 2) can serve as a basic primer on the campaign for an international Arms Trade Treaty. Next, the *Share Your Story* section (page 3) aims to help you initiate a dynamic post-film discussion about how armed violence affects your community. For more specific discussion themes and questions to accompany each individual film, turn to *Burundi: Bang for Your Buck* (pages 4-5), *India: April 6th* (pages 8-9), or *Brazil: Grosso Calibre* (pages 10-11). For a graphic illustration of what a robust international Arms Trade Treaty should look like, please turn to the guide's centerfold (pages 6-7). Finally, for opportunities to take action and learn more, please turn to page 12.

ABOUT OXFAM

Oxfam is an international confederation of 14 organizations working together in 98 countries with partners and allies around the world to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. We work directly with communities, and we seek to influence the powerful to ensure that poor people can improve their lives and livelihoods and have a say in decisions that affect them.

ABOUT CONTROL ARMS

Control Arms is a global civil society alliance campaigning for a "bulletproof" Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that will protect lives and livelihoods. A "bulletproof" Arms Trade Treaty means an international, legally binding agreement that will stop transfers of arms and ammunition where there is a risk they will be used to fuel conflict and poverty and to commit serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

WHAT IS SHOOTING POVERTY?

From February to June 2010, Oxfam called on young people around the world to submit their vision for a documentary film about armed violence. The challenge: to expose through film the true cost and impact of poorly regulated arms trade and armed violence on poor communities around the world.

More than 60 written submissions were received from entrants in nine countries. A panel of judges selected three projects to be given mentoring, hands-on production support, and the financing necessary to make the projects a reality.

The result is three stories of armed violence on three continents. In *Bang For Your Buck*, we visit Bujumbura, Burundi, where the population is among the poorest in the world but a grenade remains affordable to all. In *Grosso Calibre (High Caliber)*, we tour the slums of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, where "forbidden funk" star MC Smith evokes the violence and corruption of the slum (*favela*) through his music, revealing how an epidemic of gun violence is spread by both drug traffickers and the police. Finally, in *April 6th*, we meet Renu, a 28-year-old widow in Manipur, India, whose young husband was a victim of pervasive armed violence, and who is confronting her past through peaceful protest.

The arms trade is globalized. Almost every nation is involved in manufacturing, exporting, importing, or transiting arms. In the Shooting Poverty film series, we see the devastating impact of this lack of comprehensive control on the sale and transfer of weapons. And we hear a growing chorus of citizens demanding a legally binding international treaty on the trade of conventional arms.

The Shooting Poverty films are available on DVD or online at www.shootingpoverty.org



THE LINK BETWEEN ARMS AND POVERTY

One round of ammunition for an AK-47 assault rifle costs an average of 20 cents USD. In some parts of the world, the rifle itself can be purchased for less than \$10 USD. But while weapons and ammunition remain cheap, the damage inflicted by them costs billions. As compared to peaceful regions, countries wracked by armed violence experience more infant deaths, more malnourishment, a reduced life expectancy, higher illiteracy, and fewer doctors per capita.

The damage does not stop there. In societies awash in illegal arms, citizens wrestle daily with the fear and insecurity that accompany the threat of violence. Instability restricts public engagement and participation in electoral and political processes. A climate of danger limits safe travel to work and school, undermines effective law enforcement, and cripples medical care. Inappropriate arms sales can also divert scarce government funds away from development initiatives and increase national debt. By 2010, half of the world's poorest people were living in states experiencing, or at risk of, violent conflict. Their poverty and insecurity—coupled with the cheap availability of weapons—breeds armed violence. In turn, armed violence undermines efforts to eradicate poverty and creates a climate of fear.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2000, 189 governments agreed to eight measurable Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at reducing global poverty by 2015. The goals seek to reduce poverty and hunger, achieve universal education, arrive at gender equality, improve child and maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, and work toward environmental sustainability across the world. Every one of the MDGs is undermined by armed violence and the systematic misuse of armed force. This is true both of direct effects, such as death and injury, which can leave a family without income, and indirect effects, such as closed schools, overburdened hospitals, undermined food security, or inaccessible fields and markets. Of the countries least likely to reach the MDGs, most are in the midst of or emerging from armed conflict.

A BULLETPROOF ARMS TRADE TREATY

The Control Arms campaign is calling on the member states of the United Nations (UN) to deliver a strong and effective Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The treaty must be a legally binding instrument based on international human rights and humanitarian law and commitments to socio-economic development. It must be properly implemented to reduce the human cost associated with uncontrolled trade in conventional weapons and ammunition. It must be agreed to in the shortest time frame.

In December 2006, 153 governments voted at the UN to start work toward the ATT. Since then, there have been years of discussion among states, which will culminate in July 2012 in a month-long, final negotiating conference.

SHARE YOUR STORY

The arms trade touches nearly every segment of society. How has armed violence affected you? What role does it play in your community?

- 1) In Burundi, a grenade costs only as much as a beer, and the prevalence of these deadly weapons has established a nationwide threat of explosive violence. What kind of armed violence is present in your community? How safe do you feel?
- 2) In *Grosso Calibre*, MC Smith's music describes the violence of the *favela*. Can you name songs that depict violence? What about films, murals, or graffiti? Is violence celebrated or condemned in your community?
- 3) In *April 6th*, Renu breaks a cycle of violence when she responds peacefully to the death of her husband. Can you identify an example of nonviolence following violence in your community? What about situations when violence was met with more violence? How valuable do you think peace is to your community? Are you a peacebuilder? Do you know other peacemakers who inspire you?





BURUNDI: BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Introduction

Although its civil war finally ended in 2009, the central African nation of Burundi faces an ongoing plague of armed violence, evidenced most strongly by widespread grenade attacks. *Bang for Your Buck* introduces us to citizens on all sides of the country's virulent arms trade: from an arms dealer in a local bar, to survivors of grenade attacks seeking care at a hospital, to ex-combatants imprisoned for violent crimes. Along the way, journalist Teddy Mazina introduces us to the challenges Burundi faces as it struggles for economic and political stability amid rampant grenade attacks. Here, in the fourth poorest country in the world, *Bang for Your Buck* exposes the vast economic handicaps wrought by armed violence, and prompts us to question how a bulletproof Arms Trade Treaty might help Burundi meet the economic, health, and security needs of its citizens.

Theme 1: Armed Violence as Disease

"...The presence of violence and of weapons among the population remains a disease that takes time to heal." -Teddy Mazina, Journalist

Teddy Mazina is an activist and journalist who promotes peace and disarmament in Burundi. But even he keeps a gun beside his bed. How does Mazina's own reliance on guns for a sense of security reflect his belief that weapons have "contaminated" his country? How does his and other Burundians' possession of weapons ensure the continuing threat of violence? Does the "fear" and "mistrust" that Mazina identifies in his country seem infectious?

Can you draw parallels between the forces that drive insecurity in Burundi and those that cause international conflict? How could an Arms Trade Treaty stop particular weapon transfers to countries with an existing pattern of violence?

Theme 2: Armed Violence, Military Spending, and Poverty

"...There is nothing more disgusting than a weapon that doesn't discriminate between anything, not a single thing." -Dr. Reginald Moreels, Medical Doctor

When Dr. Moreels speaks about the indiscriminate power of grenades, he refers to the random havoc they wreak on the human body. How do the grenade wounds he treats also inflict indiscriminate economic harm? How do his patients' injuries impact their ability to work or care for their children? How does the expense of treating gunshot and grenade wounds—estimated at \$163.28 USD per injury—cripple Burundi's ability to address other chronic public health concerns such as malnutrition, maternal mortality, and childhood disease?

According to human rights activist Joseph Mujiji, a considerable portion of Burundi's national budget has been allocated to defense and the purchase of weapons. How does this contribute to Burundi's failure to make necessary strides toward the Millennium Development Goals? How would a treaty banning arms transfers that undermine poverty eradication efforts help improve economies like Burundi's?

Theme 3: The Cost of a Bullet Versus the Cost of War

"If you have money, anything is possible." -Nchoro, Arms Dealer

A grenade can be purchased in Burundi for the price of a pint of beer. But estimates put the economic cost of Burundi's war at \$5.7 billion USD—or 37% of its gross national product. How does the negligible cost of weapons obscure the vast expense of Burundi's ongoing violence? Given an estimate of \$18 billion USD lost in Africa every year as a result of armed conflict, can you identify the direct costs of violence, beginning with medical and military expenses? What about indirect costs like the loss of educated citizens like Mazina, or the loss of tourist income? What about intangible costs like human suffering, fear and trauma?

If Burundi's government were to invest in peacebuilding and socio-economic development rather than in weapons, in which sectors might they invest? What would the economic worth of an international arms treaty be for Burundi? For Africa?



WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF A BULLETPROOF ARMS TRADE TREATY?

Every day, more than one person dies every minute worldwide as a result of armed violence. An Arms Trade Treaty is needed now to stop irresponsible arms transfers from fueling poverty, conflict, and human rights abuses. To save lives and livelihoods, an ATT must be bulletproof. This means:

1

THE TREATY MUST COVER ALL CONVENTIONAL ARMS, COMPONENTS, AND AMMUNITION.

It must include all weapons, all transfers, and all transactions. Weapons include everything from tanks and planes to small arms and bullets.

2

THE TREATY MUST HAVE TOUGH RULES.

It must be based on international human rights and humanitarian law, and commitments to socio-economic development.

3

THE TREATY MUST BE WORKABLE AND ENFORCEABLE.

It must have clear implementation mechanisms.

2

is the approximate number of bullets produced each year for every person on the planet



85%

of killings involve the use of small arms and light weapons



10

is the factor by which worldwide military spending is greater than development aid





INDIA: APRIL 6TH

Introduction

Between 2000 and 2007, India was the world's second largest arms importer. Arms sold to India accounted for almost eight percent of all major weapons transfers globally. *April 6th* focuses its lens on one young victim of these arms deals: Renu Takhellambam. Renu is a 28-year-old widow; her husband was shot dead by state security forces on April 6, 2007. The film explores her decision to respond to her husband's death with public, peaceful protest and community organization. Her commitment to counter violence with nonviolent action in support of human rights appears in stark contrast to the recent history of retaliatory violence in North East India. There, armed insurgents claimed 998 lives in 2009 alone, and armed police committed more than 500 homicides in the name of counterinsurgency. Through Renu's story, we understand the need for an international arms treaty that will control the supply of weapons when there is high risk of the arms being used to commit human rights violations.

Theme 1: "A Cycle of Violence"

"...There is more militancy and more army—more army, and therefore more militancy. But the cycle of violence has been going on over and over and over." -Bablu Loitogbam, Director, *Human Rights Alert Manipur*

What role does poverty play in fueling armed retaliation between armed insurgents and army police in Manipur? What is Loitogbam referring to when he says that "unmet human needs" have encouraged the growth of armed rebel militias, and in turn, the presence of the military?

Illegal arms and ammunition continue to flow unchecked across India's vast land borders with Bangladesh, Pakistan, Burma, China, Nepal, and Bhutan. How does the availability of illegal firearms contribute to a pattern of violence in India? How does Renu's peaceful activism contrast with this pattern? How would an Arms Trade Treaty interrupt the cycle of violence?

Theme 2: The Arsenal of the World

"The United States of America will have never heard of Manipur, but its M-16s are a favorite with our insurgent groups." -Binalakshmi Nepram, Secretary General, Control Arms Foundation of India

Many of the arms used in Manipur come from outside India. In what ways is the armed violence in Manipur an international as well as a domestic issue? Given the international origins of firearms, can individual governments like India's regulate arms transfers alone?

How might an international Arms Trade Treaty limit the illegal and uncontrolled transfer of weapons across borders? What do importing and exporting countries, like the United States and India, have to gain from an arms treaty that provides better control of the international flow of weapons? What are the economic gains? Security gains?

Theme 3: Women and Armed Violence

"Every year, 300 widows are created in Manipur." -Binalakshmi Nepram, Secretary General, Control Arms Foundation of India

Men make, sell, buy, own, and use small arms far more than women. Men are also more likely to be killed or injured by weapons; they account for 90 percent of global firearm homicides. At the same time, the impact of armed violence on women remains severe. Whether killed, wounded, traumatized, intimidated, or raped at gunpoint, women suffer armed violence at a rate staggeringly disproportionate to their use and ownership of guns. How does Renu's experience illustrate the impact of armed violence on women? How does her husband's death affect her household financially? How does it change the life of her son?

Does Manipur's plague of armed violence hinder its ability to meet the Millennium Development Goals, for example, achieving gender equality, reducing child mortality, or combating HIV/AIDS?

How is Renu's peaceful activism in partnership with other young widows an example of the role women can play in peacebuilding internationally?





BRAZIL: GROSSO CALIBRE

Introduction

Grosso Calibre takes us to Complexo do Alemão, a network of slums (*favelas*) in the northern part of Rio de Janeiro. Here, so-called “forbidden” funk music is as popular as the automatic weapons wielded by both police and drug traffickers. And it employs the same vocabulary. 23-year-old funk star MC Smith’s lyrics read like a laundry list of local weapons: *Glock, grenade, G3, PARAFAL, .30, 762*. MC Smith introduces us to the culture and life inside Rio’s gun-infested *favelas*, where elementary school children draw pictures of bazookas and families hide in their homes to avoid crossfire. In a place where MC Smith sees no opportunity to “raise the peace flag,” how could an Arms Trade Treaty make a difference?



Theme 1: A Culture of Violence

“This is the music of favela. This is not thug music.” -MC Smith, Forbidden Funk Star

How is the violence of Rio de Janeiro’s *favelas* reflected in MC Smith’s on-stage persona and lyrics? Does he glorify violence or merely provide an accurate description of life in the *favela*?

Why is MC Smith’s music called “forbidden”? Is forbidden music acceptable when it captures in uncompromising detail the dark side of Brazilian *favelas*, including gangs, drugs, crime, and gun violence? Can you describe how violence has imprinted itself onto youth culture in other communities?

Theme 2: Guns and Power

“You can’t combat weapons with weapons.” -Orlando Zaccone, Rio de Janeiro Civil Police

What is the relationship between the presence of armed police in the *favela* and the desirability of guns among drug traffickers? If each group owned an equal number of guns, would they possess equal power?

In Brazil, more than two-thirds of guns seized from apprehended criminals were first sold legally in stores. How does this easy flow of weapons from legal sources to criminal hands represent a challenge for national and global arms control?

Since 2004, it’s been illegal to carry weapons publicly in Rio, and homicide rates have sunk for the first time in 13 years. How can the regulation of weapons transfer power away from criminals and give more power to peaceful citizens? How does the struggle for guns and territory between criminal gangs and police in the *favela* parallel arms races and territorial disputes among countries on a global scale?

Theme 3: Collateral Damage

“When there is a war in the slum between cops and traffickers, the residents are the ones who suffer the most.” -MC Smith, Forbidden Funk Star

An anonymous interviewee whose walls are riddled with bullet holes says “nobody wants to live in the shooting zone.” How does the conflict between traffickers and police affect unarmed residents’ ability to live dignified and productive lives?

What role do weapons play in maintaining the economic and social inequalities in the Complexo do Alemão and on the beaches of Copacabana?

TAKE ACTION BY SHARING YOUR STORY ONLINE

Share your stories about armed violence in text, photo, or film:

ONLINE

www.shootingpoverty.org

BY E-MAIL

reports@shootingpoverty.org

VIA TWEET

[@shootingpoverty](https://twitter.com/shootingpoverty)

AND JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AT

www.controlarms.org

TRACK THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Explore interactive maps following states' positions on the Arms Trade Treaty.

www.armstreaty.org

LEARN MORE

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www.smallarmssurvey.org
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www.iansa.org



NOTES

Resources consulted in the production of this guide include:

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More information about Shooting Poverty can be downloaded at
www.shootingpoverty.org