



**SIGN THE
PETITION**
AND DEMAND A
LIFE-SAVING TREATY.

Thousands of people are killed, injured, raped, and forced to flee from their homes as a result of the **unregulated global arms trade**. The Control Arms campaign is a global civil society alliance calling for a **bulletproof Arms Trade Treaty**: a global, legally binding agreement that will ease the suffering caused by irresponsible transfers of conventional weapons and munitions.

To follow the UN negotiations through tracking of State's positions, blogs and analysis **click here**.

TREATY CONFERENCE BEGINS IN

95 DAYS

DAILY FEATURE: AN INTERVIEW WITH ROSS ROBERTSON, MP (NEW ZEALAND) – ASSISTANT SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT AND PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA)

As part of the "100 Days of Speaking Out!", a countdown to the treaty negotiations, Control Arms will regularly feature stories and profiles of different people who support a bulletproof ATT.

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is a long-time advocate for arms control and disarmament. It sits on the Board of the Control Arms coalition and has been a key partner in advancing the coalition's [Global Parliamentary Declaration on the Arms Trade Treaty](#).



In this interview with their President, Ross Robertson, he reflects on the role of parliamentarians in the ATT process as well as the challenges we will face to conclude a strong treaty. Mr. Robertson is a New Zealand politician for the Labour Party. His current parliamentary roles include Assistant Speaker and Associate Spokesperson for Disarmament. He has been a member of parliament since 1987.

"On a more personal level, I think it is important to remember that Legislators often have constituents who have been directly impacted by irresponsible transfer/control of arms which has resulted in loss of life or terrible, life-long injuries. We owe it to them and their families, as we do to everyone else, to make sure we have a robust ATT in place – and as soon as possible. It is a terrible indictment of all of us that we live in a world where tens of thousands of people lose their lives or are seriously injured every year because of inadequate regulation of the transfer/export of conventional weapons." Read the [full interview](#).

PREVIOUS FEATURES: CATHOLIC VOICES FOR AN ARMS TRADE TREATY

Members of the International Catholic Organizations Network (ICON) came together for a briefing yesterday on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in New York. About 20 people representing several large organizations attended the event organized by Beth Begley of Pax Christi International. Gene Sullivan of the [ATT Legal Response Network](#) and Allison Pytlak of the [Control Arms Coalition](#) secretariat provided background on the treaty process and about the recent launch of the coalition's 100 day countdown to the treaty negotiations in July. Members were also introduced to the [Interfaith Declaration on the ATT](#), which is a sign-on statement open to religious leaders and faith-based organizations of any religious tradition and will be presented to governments ahead of the treaty negotiations. [Pax Christi International](#) was among the first organizations to sign onto the Declaration; it has since been endorsed by such high-level leaders as Desmond Tutu.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



RT @BattistoniA: Suivez l'actualité de la campagne de 100 jours pour l'adoption d'un #ArmsTreaty à l'ONU en juillet 2012 sur notre page <http://t.co/LAYHL2g4> about an hour ago



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BLOG

The briefing included a lively question and answer period and spurred a high level of discussion on many facets of the ATT including the inherent moral imperative among event participants.

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Control Arms is a global civil society alliance campaigning for a bulletproof Arms Trade Treaty.

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ERIC'S STORY

"Un traité sur le commerce des armes est important pour moi parce que, comme enfant soldat au Burundi, j'ai remarqué la façon dont le trafic illégitime d'armes est dangereux. J'ai

survécu à de nombreux incidents causés par les armes. J'ai perdu beaucoup d'amis à cause de la guerre. Certains d'entre eux sont désormais des handicapés. Certaines personnes ont été enlevées, les femmes violées à cause de la guerre.

Donc, je pense que le TCA va diminuer le transfert illégal des armes et va contribuer à diminuer la guerre partout dans le monde."

– Eric Niragira, founder of the [Training Centre for the Development of Ex-Combatants](#) (CEDAC), Burundi

WHAT'S NEW

The Urgent Need To Be Clear on the ATT

MARCH 16, 2012

Every day our TV screens are full of images of the horror of Homs and other cities in Syria where civilians are being abused and killed. Despite worldwide condemnation, the abuse continues, and appallingly, arms and ammunition that are being used to commit human rights abuses continue to be supplied. Syria is only one chilling live example of why a robust ATT is urgently needed, and tragically there are many more such examples every day around the world.

Last month at the final Preparatory Committee for the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations, states were invited to submit their views on what should be in the treaty, with a 1500 word limit, and by the 31 March.

Here's our take on what must be in the Treaty for it to be effective in protecting human rights, lives and livelihoods.

The suffering must end. An effective, robust ATT is needed now to stop irresponsible arms transfers from fuelling poverty, conflict and human rights abuses. It must be strong. It must be unambiguous. It must look like this:

The treaty must have clear goals and objectives:

This is a treaty designed to address the humanitarian and human rights catastrophe caused by the poorly regulated and irresponsible arms trade. It is essential therefore that the goals and objectives clearly articulate this core purpose, so that the rest of the treaty is appropriately designed to achieve it.

The treaty must be all-inclusive:

It must include all arms, ammunition and equipment

–Including all military, security and police arms, related equipment and ammunition, components, expertise, production equipment and technology.

It must include all types of transfers

–Import, export, re-export, temporary transfer, transit and transshipment

–By the state and by companies

–Sales, leases, loans, gifts and aid.

And it must include all kinds of intermediary and supporting actors and activities:

–Including by dealers/brokers and agents and those providing technical assistance, training, transport, storage, finance and security.

The treaty must hold governments to account:

It must have strong criteria against which governments must assess authorisation or denial of an arms transfer. The criteria must ensure that no transfer is permitted if there is substantial risk that it:

1. Will be used to violate UN Charter obligations, including UN arms embargoes

2. Is likely to be diverted to an unauthorised user/users

3. Will be used:

–In serious violations of international human rights or humanitarian law;

–To commit acts of genocide or crimes against humanity;

–To facilitate terrorist attacks;

–To facilitate a pattern of gender-based violence, violent crime or organised crime;

–To adversely affect regional security, including through the excessive or destabilising stockpiling of arms;

–To seriously impair poverty reduction or socio-economic development;

4. Contravene other international, regional, or sub-regional commitments or decisions made, or agreements on non-proliferation, small arms, arms control, and disarmament;
5. Involves corrupt practices.

The treaty must be workable and enforceable

It must provide guidelines for full, clear implementation. It must ensure transparency – including full, publicly available national reports. It must have an effective mechanism to monitor compliance. It must ensure accountability – with provisions for adjudication, and dispute settlement.

The Treaty will need an Implementation Support Unit, with the authority and capacity to analyse and use data from reports to promote and assist Treaty implementation.

It must include a comprehensive framework for international cooperation and assistance so that States can request and receive assistance from other States and from relevant international, regional, and sub-regional organisations, in order to facilitate full implementation of Treaty obligations.

The Treaty must reinforce existing responsibilities to assist survivors of armed violence, providing a framework for assistance to individuals and communities who have suffered due to armed conflict and violence..

It must have simple final provisions

The Treaty should enter into force – ie become international law – at the earliest opportunity. In order for this to happen, the number of ratifications required for entry-into-force should be low (30), and all states should be treated equally for ratification purposes.