

# NEW LIES

## ARMED VIOLENCE" - THE 2008 GBAV REPORT

But you don't need sophisticated data analysis to recognize the use of smoke-and-mirrors.

The GBAV authors barely mentioned the significant number of violent deaths perpetrated by government against civilians. For example, in Kenya, it has been reported that up to 90 percent of homicides are committed by Kenyan police.

The GBAV authors also glossed over the vast number of murders due to a nearly global drug war, yet included them as part of the 740,000 total. While technically accurate, this category of violence will never be controlled by the Arms Trade Treaty, and should be treated separately as a public policy issue. Its inclusion here is used only to intensify fear of civilian owners of firearms.

We know that the stronger the "war on drugs," the greater the violence. Anti-gun criminologist Alfred Blumstein scientifically described "excess murders" as the increase in the number of homicides resulting from the increasingly vigorous enforcement of drug laws.

Examples abound. In Mexico, when President Felipe Calderon took office in 2006, he "made combating the drug cartels a top priority." CNN.com reported that "An unprecedented wave of violence has washed over Mexico since Calderon declared war on drug cartels shortly after coming into office in December 2006."

In Colombia, in Medellín alone, there were 2,899 murders in the year 2009, "directly attributable to" the drug war, according to law enforcement authorities.

The war on drugs stimulates the growth and violence of the black market on drugs. The danger exists that the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty could act similarly as a "war on

weapons," strengthening the black market in weapons, and increasing global violence.

Although the reduction of violence is the promise of the ATT's proponents, they should know that it is a false promise. Their true goal is weapons reduction, regardless of the cost. They lie in order to achieve this, and we should consider those lies as an attack.

Whatever protections our Second Amendment might provide us, we still need to know our enemies. A good place to start is by visiting some of

the prominent anti-gun websites, such as <[www.SmallArmsSurvey.Org](http://www.SmallArmsSurvey.Org)>, <[www.ControlArms.Org](http://www.ControlArms.Org)>, <[www.GenevaDeclaration.Org](http://www.GenevaDeclaration.Org)>, and <[www.IANSA.Org](http://www.IANSA.Org)> (International Action Network on Small Arms).

It may be difficult to identify their lies, so a good rule of thumb to keep in mind is that the weapons-prohibitionists always exaggerate the costs, and minimize the benefits to society of civilian-held arms.

\* **The full GBAV report is available at:** <<http://www.GenevaDeclaration.Org/fileadmin/docs/Global-Burden-of-Armed-Violence-full-report.pdf>>.

**For a more detailed**

**discussion of the GBAV report, see:**

David B. Kopel, Paul Gallant & Joanne D. Eisen, "How Many Global Deaths from Arms? Reasons to Question the 740,000 Factoid being used to Promote the Arms Trade Treaty," 5 NYU J. LAW & LIBERTY 672 (Number 3), available at: <[http://www.law.nyu.edu/ecm\\_dlv3/groups/public/@nyu\\_law\\_website\\_\\_journals\\_\\_journal\\_of\\_law\\_and\\_liberty/documents/documents/ecm\\_pro\\_068094.pdf](http://www.law.nyu.edu/ecm_dlv3/groups/public/@nyu_law_website__journals__journal_of_law_and_liberty/documents/documents/ecm_pro_068094.pdf)>

**"THE GBAV AUTHORS BARELY MENTIONED THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF VIOLENT DEATHS PERPETRATED BY GOVERNMENT AGAINST CIVILIANS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN KENYA, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT UP TO 90% OF HOMICIDES ARE COMMITTED BY KENYAN POLICE."**