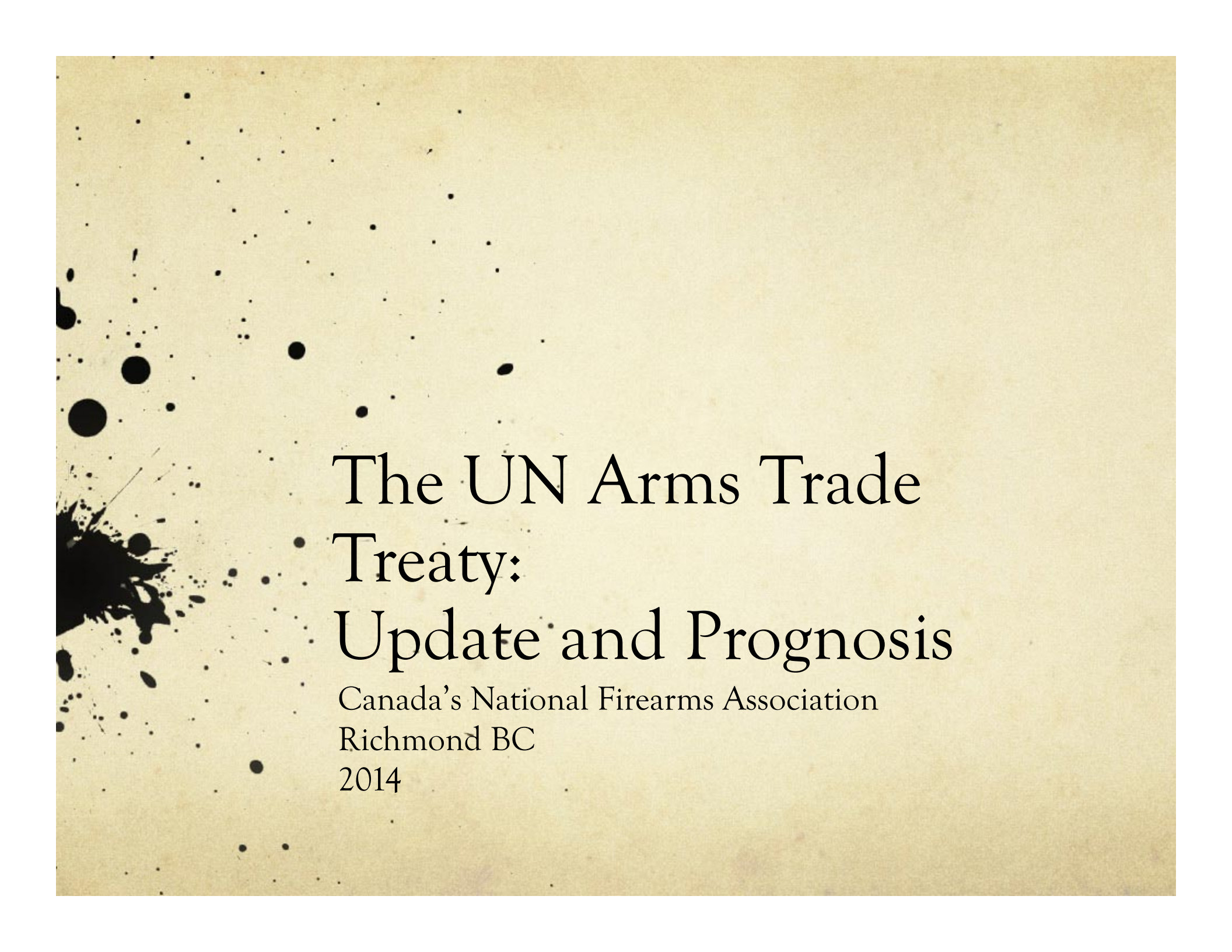


Hot enough for you yet?





The UN Arms Trade
Treaty:
Update and Prognosis

Canada's National Firearms Association
Richmond BC
2014

Gary Mauser

- Professor emeritus, Simon Fraser University
- Member, Firearms Advisory Committee,
 - Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney
- Testified before Canadian Parliament and Supreme Court of Canada on criminal justice issues

United Nations



THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

- On 2 April 2013, the General Assembly adopted the landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), regulating the international trade in conventional arms, from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships. The treaty will foster peace and security by putting a stop to destabilizing arms flows to conflict regions. It will prevent human rights abusers and violators of the law of war from being supplied with arms. And it will help keep warlords, pirates, and gangs from acquiring these deadly tools.

Arms Trade Treaty

- The UN General Assembly violated consensus, broke protocol to act like a world parliament
- The ATT is a treaty -- only legally binding between consenting nations
- Ostensive goal is to regulate the international trade in conventional arms,
 - Key provisions focus on “non-state actors”
 - To be ratified by each member state individually
 - This treaty will be amended, it will expand

How can the UN affect me?

- The UN is far away
- There is no direct link
- The UN can not pass laws over Canadians

The UN seems as distant as the
moon



... but the moon is powerful

- Canadians know the moon (though further away than the UN) still has powerful effects
 - On the tide if not werewolves
- Moon's gravity shaped by other factors
 - The shoreline
 - The shape of the sea bottom

The UN can affect you

- Canada bound by ATT as it trades with countries that have ratified the ATT
- UN resolutions reflect elite opinion
 - Governments are run by elites
- The UN resolutions stimulate national regulations
 - Shop for ammo in the US recently?
- Politicians can use the UN's decisions to justify their actions

Moving towards entry into force

States have signed the Treaty? 118

○ States have ratified the Treaty? 32

○ 50 ratifications needed –

○ This will be reached by September

○ General Assembly vote to adopt

○ the Treaty: 154-3-23

Countries Opposing or Abstaining

- Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe

UN 101

- Security Council
- General Assembly
- International Court of Justice
- UN Secretariat
- UN Specialized agencies

Security Council

- Veto
 - Only permanent members
- Decisions can be implemented with force, and have been:
 - Korea
 - Serbia
 - Afghanistan

Security Council

Permanent members - The victors of WW II

- USA
- UK
- France
- Russian Federation
- China

Security Council, Rotating members (2-year terms)

Argentina	Australia
Chad	Chile
Jordan	Lithuania
Luxembourg	Nigeria
Republic of Korea	Rwanda

UN Secretariat

- A variety of anti-gun bodies reporting directly to the Secretary General
- ISACS - watch out for this one!
- UNIDIR
- UNODA
- DESA

UN Specialized Agencies

- World Health Organization
- International Labour Organization
- International Monetary Fund

General Assembly

- It simulates a parliament, but delegates are not elected
- Decisions have little more than moral force
- Sensitive decisions are typically made by consensus rather than by majority vote

General Assembly

- The General Assembly has 193 member states
- The biggest voting blocs is the “group of 77”
or “developing nations” or former colonies
- The group of 77 is dominated by the Arab bloc
- Next largest voting block is the “progressives,”
mostly Europe and Commonwealth countries

Baptists and Bootleggers

- States in US South allow counties
 - to decide to prohibit booze sales
- The predominant religion is Southern Baptist
- Result: States are checkerboarded with “wet” and “dry” counties

An “unholy” coalition

- Southern Baptists support prohibition because they believe drinking is immoral
- Bootleggers support prohibition because it drives up prices ... and their profits

Progressives and Arms Dealers

- The Progressives support arms controls because they believe civilian arms promote violence
- A few arms dealers -- the EU and the UK -- support the ATT because it cripples the US
- Tyrants support arms controls in order to control their people

Hypocrisy

- France ratified the ATT on April 2
- In March, France agreed to sell advanced helicopter carriers to Russia for \$1.7 billion USD
- French Defence Minister described these carriers as unarmed “civilian hulls”
- No pro-treaty NGO has condemned this transfer

Major NGOs Advocating Disarmament


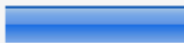







- Amnesty International
- Oxfam
- International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)
- Control Arms
- Swiss Small Arms Survey
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Major NGOs Supporting Gun Rights












- World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSA)
- National Rifle Association ILA (NRA)
- SAAMI
- SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL
- Others: SSAA, COLFO, Canada's NFA

Arms sales by exporter 2004-2011 (billions US \$)

(constant 2011 U.S. dollars)

Supplier	Total Sales in US Dollars (billions)	Percent of total sales
United States	 220.608	44%
Russia	 83.323	17%
France	 41.96	8%
United Kingdom	 27.037	5%
China	 17.808	4%
Germany	 22.068	4%
Italy	 14.278	3%
Other European	 48.259	10%
Others	 27.109	5%

Who are the arms importers? (2004-2011 - billions US \$)

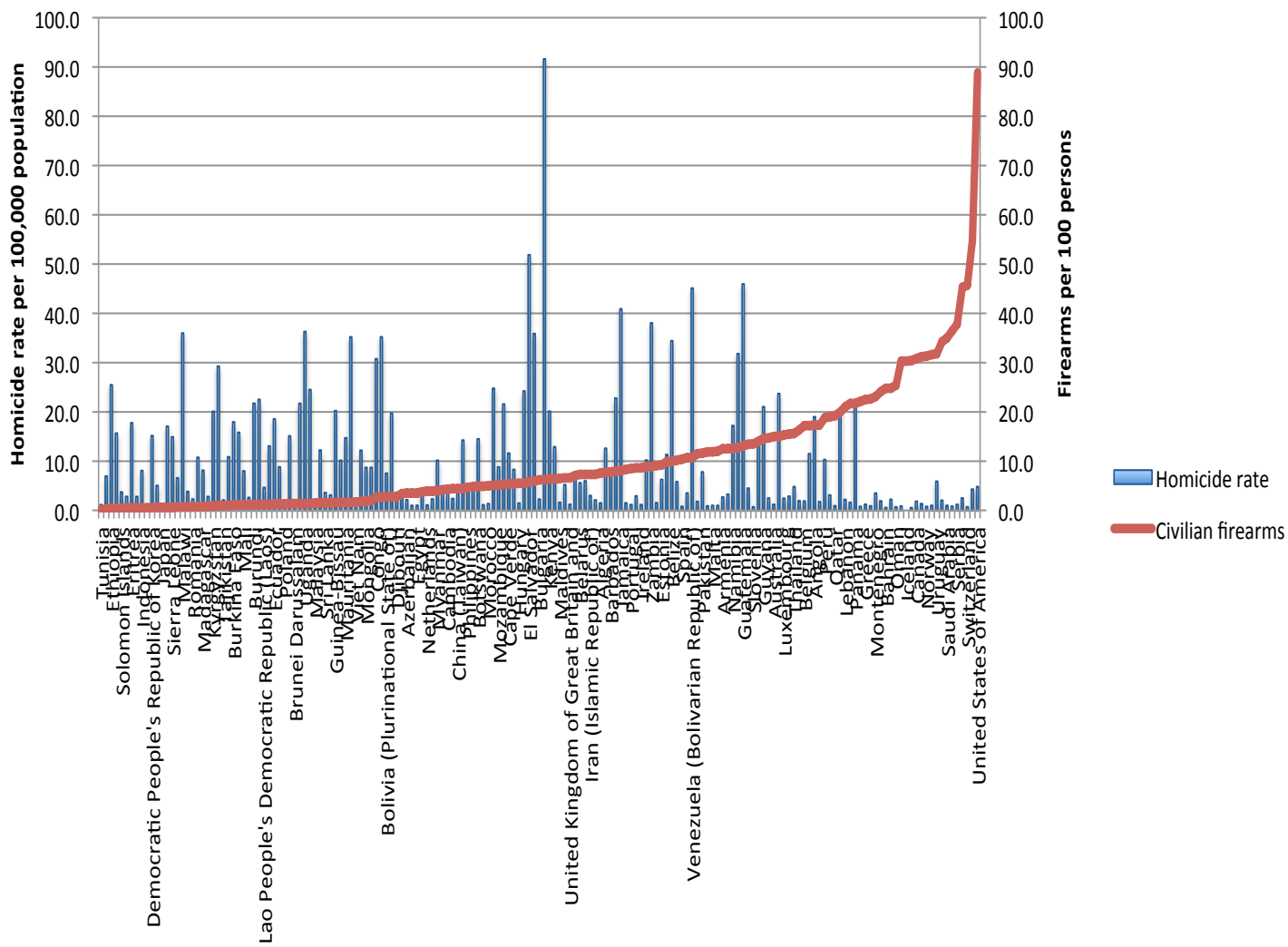
1	Saudi Arabia	 75.7	21%
2	India	 46.6	13%
3	UAE	 20.3	6%
4	Egypt	 14.3	4%
5	Pakistan	 13.2	4%
6	Venezuela	 13.1	4%
7	Brazil	 10.9	3%
8	Algeria	 10.3	3%
9	Israel	 9.5	3%
10	South Korea	 9.2	2%
11	All other developing countries	 145.168	39%

Firearms and civilians

- No international correlation between civilian access to firearms and national murder rates
- Countries with more civilian firearms tend to be those with higher national income, greater economic freedom – and political stability

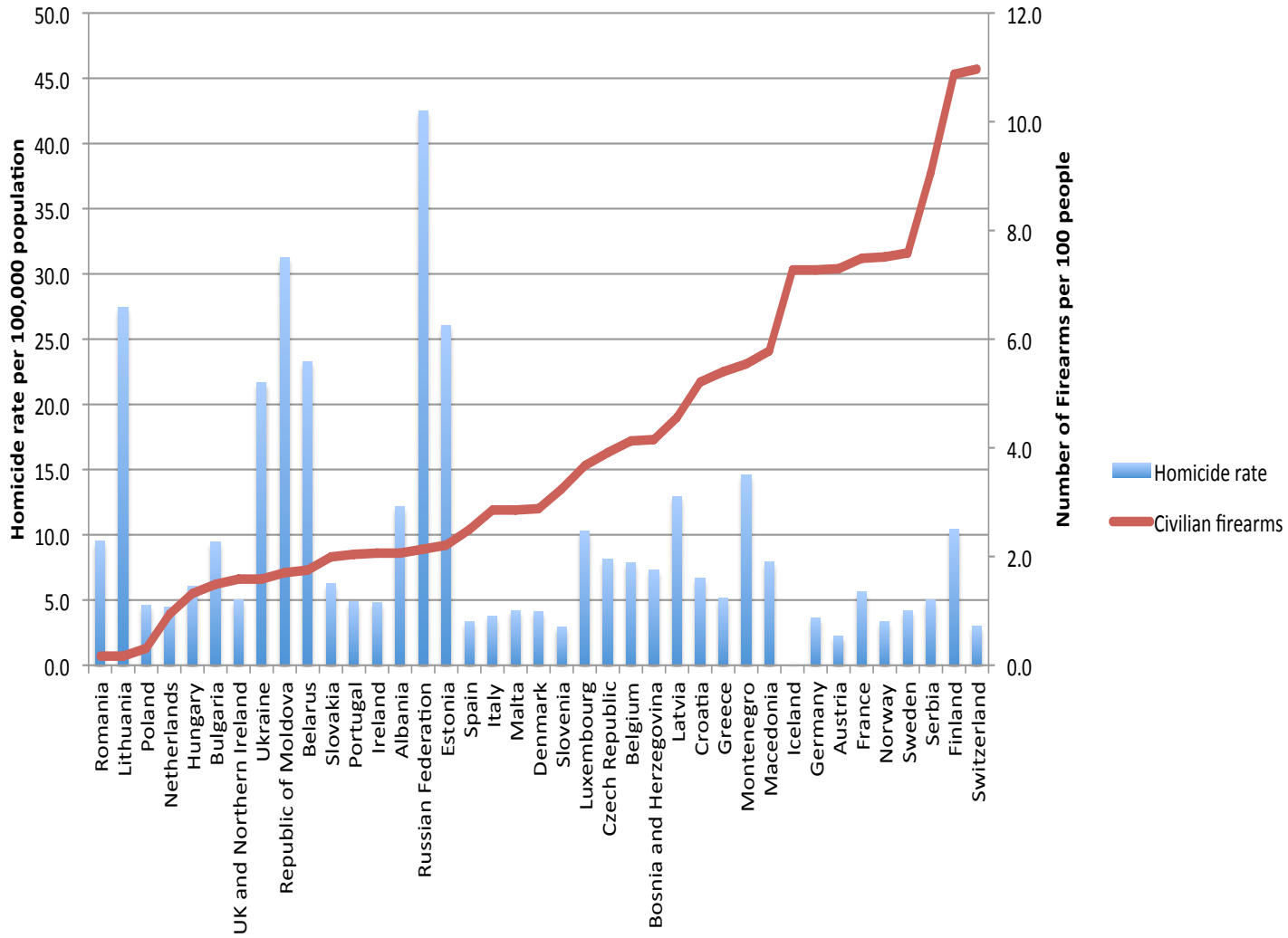
Civilian Firearms and Homicide Rates

173 Countries, 2012



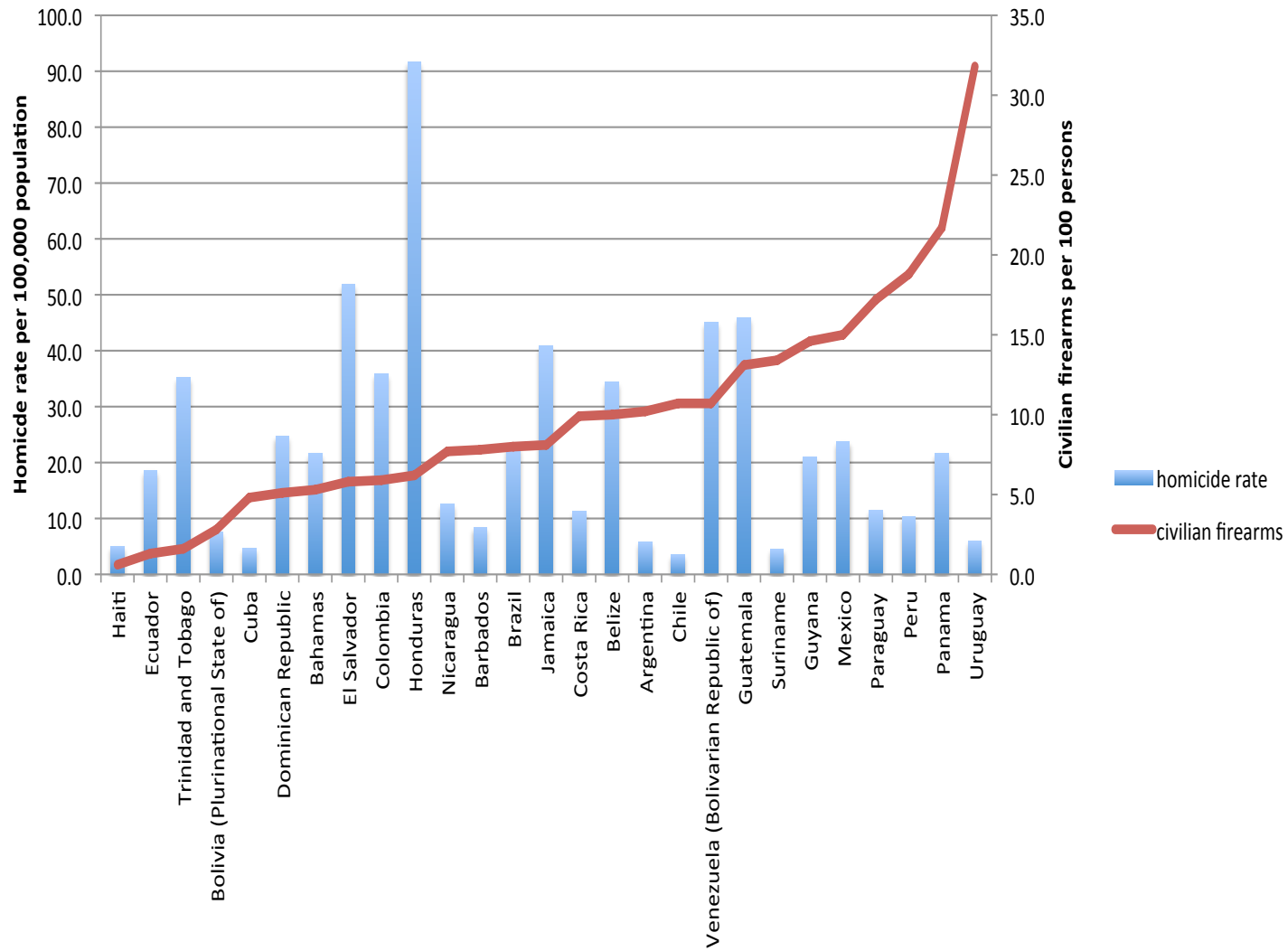
Source: Homicide rates, UNODC; Civilian firearms estimates, Swiss Small Arms Survey

Civilian Firearms and Homicide Rates Europe, 2008



Sources: Homicide rates, UNODC; Civilian firearms estimates, Swiss Small Arms Survey

Civilian Firearms and Homicide Rates Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012



Sources: homicide rates, UNODC; civilian firearms, Small Arms Survey

Canada and the UN

- The UN PoA stimulated the passage of strict gun laws in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, the European Union, and South Africa
- Only New Zealand and Canada have ever rolled back any gun law

Canadian Gun Laws Instigated by PoA UN's Programme of Action

- Kim Campbell's Bill C-17
- Jean Chrétien's Bill C-68



DONATO TORONTO SUN

What have the Conservatives done for you?

- Eliminated the long-gun registry
- Cancelled the proposed gun-show regulations
- Postponed marking /tracing regulations
 - until 2015 (for 11 consecutive years)
- Amnesty for licensing (expires 2015)
- Extend POLs
- Free PAL renewals (expired)

Is this enough?

NO!

Changes under consideration

- Roll back RCMP reclassification of Swiss rifles
- Restrict RCMP powers to reclassify firearms
- Extend duration of PALs (10-year)
- Grace period for PAL renewal (1 year proposed)

Further Proposed Changes

- Merge POLs and PALs
- Attach ATT to PAL
- Rein in CFOs – rewrite Section 58.1
- Mandatory firearms training for first-time users

Still more proposed changes

- Permit police to sell agency/protected firearms (Repeal section 15.1)
- Get PALs off CPIC
- Create “violent offenders” list
- Technical Committee to classify firearms
- Repudiate proposed UN marking system

Is this enough?

NO!

The opposition supports UN proposed gun laws

- Liberals
 - Support long-gun registry
 - Proposed banning semi-automatic firearms
- NDP
 - Support long-gun registry
 - Wants additional gun controls

What to do now?

- **Fight or give up?**
- Fighting means
 - making difficult choices
 - working hard despite doubts
 - Not just angry ranting
- Giving up is easy – just be cynical

How to fight

- Work from inside a political party
 - Support favorable candidates, policies
- Work from the outside
 - Protest, demonstrate, partisan action
- Both needed

Strategic obstacles

- Firearms community diverse and divided
- Little coordination, many egos, much competition
- Little agreement about what issues or priorities

Three-pronged approach

- Grass roots involvement
- Partisan action
- Organizational advocacy

Some Strategies

- Barbarian horde vs Roman Army
- Pack of wolves vs herd of herbivores
- Uncle Tom vs Mau Mau

Uncle Tom vs Mau Mau

- In the '60s, a black radical was called
 - a “Mau Mau”
 - The radicals advocated drastic change
- An “Uncle Tom” was a black moderate who preferred negotiation
- Result: the Uncle Toms profited from the Mau Mau protests and demonstrations

NEVER
GIVE UP!





DONATO TORONTO SUN