

# Statements: the arms bazaar

1. The UK is the world's second-largest arms exporting country.
2. Small arms have been used in both Sierra Leone and Liberia to kill and maim many innocent civilians, yet nobody involved in supplying any of these arms has been prosecuted or held accountable for their actions.
3. In March 1999, a Ukrainian arms broker, Leonid Minin, was responsible for delivering weapons, including 2,000 AK-47 assault rifles, 50 machine guns, ammunition, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank weapons and surface-to-air missiles, from Ukraine to Liberia and to rebel forces in Sierra Leone.
4. In 2001 China, France, the Russian Federation, the UK and the USA were the top five arms exporters in the world, together responsible for 88 per cent of arms exports.
5. Illegal arms deals involve a complex web of front companies, false or misleading paperwork, transport and different trails originating from many different countries.
6. MBDA (a UK-owned arms company), produces some of the world's most advanced future missile systems and its ambition is to offer customers the best and most cost-efficient solutions and services for their defence requirements in missiles and missile systems.
7. Arms can travel around the world and reach conflict zones and countries with poor human rights records or high levels of organised crime.
8. Between 1960 and 1999, the number of countries producing small arms doubled and there was an almost six-fold increase in the number of companies manufacturing them.
9. Nearly 60 per cent of small arms are in civilian hands.
10. Leonid Minin's arms deals were made possible by companies and individuals based in countries as diverse as Gibraltar, the UK, Burkina Faso, Côte D'Ivoire and the Ukraine.
11. The control of arms trading is left to individual governments, who may be unwilling or unable to ensure responsible practices.
12. DRS Technologies (a US-owned arms company) states that it is a defence technology leader and provides leading-edge products and services to defence, government, intelligence and commercial customers.

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13. Between 1998 and 2002 there was an 11-fold increase in the number of components licensed for sale in the UK.
14. Italian police arrested Leonid Minin near Milan on 5 August 2000. When police raided his hotel, documents relating to questionable arms deals were found in his possession.
15. In March 1999, any arms deals to Sierra Leone and Liberia were illegal and outlawed by the United Nations.
16. China, France, the Russian Federation, the UK and the USA are heavily involved in the business of arms trading and profiting from it.
17. Leonid Minin walked free from prosecution when Italian authorities decided they could not prosecute him under Italian law because the arms he supplied, although outlawed by the United Nations, had never passed over Italian soil.
18. The majority of weapons used in conflict situations are not produced by the countries involved.
19. BAe Systems (a UK-owned arms company) states that it is a systems company innovating for a safer world and is a company with vision and values.
20. The USA dominates the arms industry, contributing almost half (45 per cent) of all the world's exported weapons.
21. Recent research has identified 1,135 companies manufacturing small arms and ammunition in at least 98 countries; these numbers are increasing all the time.
22. From 1998 to 2001, the USA, the UK, and France earned more income from arms sales to developing countries than they gave in aid.
23. One of the key features of the trade in arms is the way that weapons pass from the legal sector into the illegal sphere. The boundary between the two is extremely weak.
24. There is an increasing trade in components (parts that are used to make small arms and weapons) which are more likely to be given licences for trade with fewer controls.
25. DRS Technologies (US-owned arms company) develops and manufactures a broad range of mission critical systems, which are sold to all branches of the US military, government agencies, major aerospace and defence contractors, and international military forces.