



Weapons Trafficking to Haiti

Summary of Administrative Remedies

Haitians are facing a particularly challenging security situation as armed gangs have taken control of much of the country.

Gang violence is largely made possible through firearms and ammunition originating in the United States, including .50 caliber rifles, military weapons that can penetrate structures, lightly armored vehicles, and taxiing airplanes. These and other small arms and ammunition are not manufactured in Haiti. They are exported legally and illegally from the United States due to a combination of weak gun laws in several states and lack of oversight from the federal government on gun trafficking and exported goods.

Below is a summary of measures the administration could take to reduce the flow of weapons:

1. The Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection should increase resources dedicated to screening the contents of ships exiting via the Miami River Port, a primary starting point for firearm shipments to Haiti.
2. The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security should ensure that adequate export control personnel are stationed at U.S. embassies near Haiti, and especially in the Dominican Republic, in order to better monitor arms trafficking into the country.
3. The Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) should implement a strategy to increase the number of firearms recovered in Haiti that are submitted for tracing. ATF should also ensure that the public has access to the tracing data so that the public can hold dealers and manufacturers accountable.
4. ATF should expand its "Demand Letter 3" program to cover states linked to arms trafficking to Haiti, and in particular Florida. Under Demand Letter 3, federal firearms licensees in the identified states must notify ATF if they sell someone multiple semi-automatic rifles in a five-day period.
5. The State Department, Commerce Department, DHS and DOJ should implement an interagency strategy to stop this illegal flow of arms. That strategy should include collecting and reporting to Congress and to the public data about arms export trends, arms trafficking trends, and efforts to disrupt illegal firearm exports.
6. The Administration should shift small arms authority back to the Department of State from Commerce to increase accountability and transparency.