

## UNLIREC Newsletter

UNLIREC is the only UN regional entity specialized in disarmament and non-proliferation in the region mandated to support Latin American and Caribbean States in achieving and maintaining peace and security through disarmament.

### Enhancing forensic ballistics capacity across the Caribbean

#### UNLIREC works with Caribbean States to sustain forensic ballistic capacity region-wide



UNLIREC worked with state officials from five Caribbean countries to support progress in creating national systems for assessing the knowledge of firearms examiners in the field of forensic ballistics (FB). An internal testing tool was used to identify gaps in FB knowledge among the various forensic firearms units and laboratories, as well as exercises to measure different sets of FB capacities. In the medium- and long-term, this internal testing mechanism will systematize the continual upgrading of “competencies” and sustain an ever-more capable pool of Caribbean FB experts.

This tool evolved from the recommendations made during an encounter of FB international

experts in Lima in April 2016 and relate to firearms and ammunition examination, and trigger pull and travel examination, among others. These assessments also represent a preliminary step in solidifying a pan-Caribbean competency-testing framework.

Close to 20 firearms examiners and/or laboratory technicians from Jamaica, Barbados, Bahamas, St Kitts and Nevis and Belize took part in the national assessments. This initiative forms part of UNLIREC’s Caribbean Operational Forensic Ballistics Assistance Package, which is made possible thanks to the support of the US Department of State and the Government of Canada.

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## UNLIREC and Trinidad and Tobago advance implementation of standard procedures in forensic ballistics

As part of UNLIREC's Forensic Ballistic Assistance Package for Caribbean States, the Regional Centre, held a succession of hands-on forensic ballistics (FB) training exercises in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in August 2016. The training exercises enabled firearms examiners, armourers and Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) technicians from the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre and the Police Service to refresh their knowledge on specific UNLIREC FB standard operating procedures (SOPs). Topics related to the validation of scientific methods, test firing procedures, comparison microscopy and range of fire for bulleted cartridge firearms and shot guns, among others.



These activities – made possible thanks to the support of the US Department of State and the Government of Canada – also included a series of exercises aimed at comparing cartridge cases and bullets using a comparison microscope. These practical exercises also included exploring the creation of a specific SOP on test fire samples and determining range of fire with bulleted cartridge firearms

and shot guns. The exercises provided participants with the opportunity to exchange best practices, improve inter-institutional coordination and discuss challenges faced in the field.

For the next round of project assistance to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, UNLIREC will deliver a series of collaborative exercises derived from forensic ballistic SOPs as a tool for determining staff competencies in key functional areas.

*Backlogs and delays in cases involving arms trafficking and armed violence are obstacles to access to justice and due process. In this context, strong forensic ballistic evidence is crucial in strengthening rule of law.*

## Reducing Armed Violence through Art and Dance in Peru

### UNLIREC increases awareness on the impact of armed violence among youth through theatrical dance routines in northern Peru



UNLIREC, within the framework of the UN Joint Programme ‘Strengthening Human Security and Community Resilience by Fostering Peaceful Coexistence in Peru’, brought together more than 800 adolescents in the city of Trujillo in August 2016 to view theatrical dance routines. These artistic performances sensitize and raise awareness about the use of firearms and their impact upon society and community. The event was attended and supported by local and regional authorities.

The dance performance is the result of a joint initiative between UNLIREC and the Cultural Association Angels D1 (*Asociación Cultural Ángeles D1*), led by the well-known Peruvian choreographer and dancer, Vania Masias. The performance, entitled ‘Stories of Fire’, was elaborated by D1 and performed by its young artists. Through artistic dance and urban music,

the young dancers recreate stories sending a clear message about the presence and circulation of firearms in the communities, as well as the impacts that their use has upon cohabitation and social structure.

The performance was carried out in Trujillo, in the district of El Porvenir, which is the second district with the highest homicide rate registered nationwide (22 per 1000,000 inhabitants) in 2015.

The UN Joint Programme for Human Security, works in an articulated manner with public institutions and authorities of Trujillo, particularly in the districts of El Porvenir, La Esperanza and Florencia de Mora, in order to reduce and prevent crime, gender-based violence and adolescent involvement in criminal activities.



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## International Peace Day

# UNLIREC PEACE SPOTLIGHT



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The Day's theme for 2016 is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace".

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were unanimously adopted by the 193 Member States of the United Nations at an historic summit of the world's leaders in New York in September 2015. The new ambitious 2030 agenda calls on countries to begin efforts to achieve these goals over the next 15 years. It aims to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

The Sustainable Development Goals are integral to achieving peace in our time, as development and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. "The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are our shared vision of humanity and a social contract between the world's leaders and the people," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "They are a to-do list for people and planet, and a blueprint for success."

Sustainability addresses the fundamental needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Modern challenges of poverty, hunger, diminishing natural resources, water scarcity, social inequality, environmental degradation, diseases, corruption, racism and xenophobia, among others, pose challenges for peace and create fertile grounds for conflict. Sustainable development contributes decisively to dissipation and elimination of these causes of conflict and provides the foundation for a lasting peace. Peace, meanwhile, reinforces the conditions for sustainable development and liberates the resources needed for societies to develop and prosper.

Every single one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is a building block in the global architecture of peace. It is critical that we mobilize means of implementation, including financial resources, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, as well as the role of partnerships. Everyone has a stake and everyone has a contribution to make.

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## Improving WMD -non-proliferation capacity in the Caribbean

### UNLIREC and Dominican Republic advance implementation of UN Security Council resolution on WMD non-proliferation



The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), provided technical and legal assistance to the Dominican Republic, from 31 August to 1 September 2016, as part of its support to States in the region towards strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). This resolution imposes binding obligations on all States to adopt legislative measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and their delivery systems, and establish appropriate national controls over related materials aimed at preventing their illicit trafficking.

During the mission, UNLIREC provided comments and recommendations about the draft bill against the proliferation of WMD that the country has been developing since September 2015. Based on the inputs of UNLIREC, legal advisers and representatives of different government sectors, present in the session, undertook a further revision of the draft bill to ensure a proper consistency with the provisions of Resolution 1540. The discussions focused mainly on the development of a roadmap for the preparation of future regulatory provisions, an area in which UNLIREC will continue supporting the Dominican Republic thanks to the financial contribution of Canada.

This draft bill and its future regulation constitute a significant step forward in the country's efforts to strengthen the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), as it will provide the country with a solid legal basis for establishing trade controls of related materials and adopting measures to counter WMD proliferation.

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## Improving small arms control by private security companies in Central America

### UNLIREC launches project to strengthen arms and ammunition control among private security sector in Costa Rica

UNLIREC, in collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), launched its project aimed at strengthening capacities for effective and transparent management of small arms and ammunition within the private security sector (PSS). The launch of this project took place on 21 September in San Jose during an executive seminar on good practices and international standards in the PSS upon request from the government of Costa Rica. Several private security companies operating in the country, and representatives of national agencies, in charge of the control and regulation of this sector, participated in the event.



The PSS in Latin America has expanded and become more professional over the past years, providing services that include security and protection with small arms. The growth in this sector caused an increase in the legal demand of small arms and ammunition. The State institutions using arms, as well as the private security companies and their agents, are

therefore vulnerable to considerable insecurity (robberies, attacks) and corruption (illegal sales and unlawful use of arms) that can cause diversion of arms into illegal channels, and their potential use in violent and criminal actions with serious impacts on citizen security.

The UNLIREC project, in collaboration with DCAF, helps to reduce these risks through the promotion of arms control measures between the national authorities responsible for the control and audit of the sector, and the private security companies themselves. As well, authorities build their capacities to review and strengthen good governance in the sector by promoting regulatory initiatives. The joint technical assistance is based on international standards, good practices, and globally recognized initiatives, such as the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers (ICoC), the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). With the launch of this project, the PSS of Costa Rica and the governmental authorities that regulate and supervise it, can benefit from a series of activities aimed at strengthening capacities throughout this sector through technical support.

This project is possible due to the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany.

October 2016 (UNHQ, NY) - UNLIREC and DCAF launched a new regional study to present a comprehensive picture of the armed private security sector in the region, with a primary focus on the use and management of weapons. It is hoped that this study will support policy makers, national authorities and industry actors in their efforts to revise and strengthen their approaches to private security oversight and regulation.

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## **UNLIREC Agenda (Nov-Dec 2016)**

### **November**

- ✓ *Roundtable on UNSCR 1540 Implementation*  
**Lima, Peru**
- ✓ *Private security technical assistance mission*  
**San Salvador, El Salvador**  
**San Jose, Costa Rica**
- ✓ *UNSCR 1540 Legal Drafting Session on Combating Proliferation Financing*  
**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**
- ✓ *Competency-based Testing: Operational Forensic Ballistics Project*  
**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**  
**Georgetown, Guyana**
- ✓ *Technical Workshop for Private Security Companies*  
**Lima, Peru**

### **December**

- ✓ *UNLIREC/International Maritime Organization Tabletop Exercise on Maritime and Port Security*  
**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**
- ✓ *UNSCR 1540 Legal Drafting Session on Combating Proliferation Financing*  
**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**
- ✓ *Caribbean Encounter on Forensic Ballistics*  
**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**
- ✓ *Development of UNSCR 1540 Voluntary National Action Plan*  
**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**
- ✓ *Development of UNSCR 1540 Voluntary National Action Plan and Legal Drafting Session on Combating Proliferation Financing*  
**Belmopan, Belize**
- ✓ *Launching of UNLIREC study on less lethal weapons*  
**Lima, Peru**

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