Trap guns in Sri Lanka

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இலங்கையில் பொறித் துப்பாக்கிகள்



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COVER PHOTO: Collection of trap guns from Horowpothana: Trincomalee; PRASANNA RATNAYAKE.

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1 Introduction

Trap guns are a significant cause of insecurity in Sri Lanka, indiscriminately threatening human life and development. However, effective enforcement of the law that applies to these illicit small arms remains weak. This paper explains what trap guns are and why they are used, and highlights the human, economic and environmental impacts of trap gun use. The paper calls for an integrated solution to the trap gun problem based on improved law enforcement, a better understanding of the problem, and a genuine search by communities and authorities for alternative means of protecting crops and safeguarding livelihoods.

What is a trap gun?

A trap gun is made from a metal pipe, explosives (usually taken from firecrackers and other readily available explosive chemicals or explosive remnants of war[1]) and metal pellets. The trigger mechanism is a basic trip system, that when disturbed by the movement of a person or an animal, fires the gun.

In the case of a normal gun, there is a shooter who chooses the target and pulls the trigger. He only pulls the trigger after choosing an intended target. The danger in case of the trap gun is that it is indiscriminate. Any person or animal that moves past it can trigger it and fall prey to it.

Judicial Medical Officer, Anuradhapura

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Aspects of the trap gun problem in Sri Lanka

Trap guns and Sri Lanka's firearms law

The Firearms Ordinance No. 33 of 1916 – Sri Lanka's primary piece of legislation on small arms and light weapons – provides the legal framework for civilian licensing, importation, sale, transfer, manufacture, repair and possession of all firearms. While there is no mention of what constitutes a licit or illicit small arm, the Ordinance stipulates that a "gun" includes:

Any barrelled weapon of any description from which any shot, pellet or other missile can be discharged with sufficient force to penetrate not less than eight strawboards, each of three sixty-fourth of an inch thickness placed one half of an inch apart, the first such strawboard being at a distance of fifty feet from the muzzle of the weapon…[2]

Given the potential penetrative capacity of trap guns, they fall within this legal definition of a "gun".

Trap guns can therefore be defined as illicit small arms, as they are manufactured by unlicensed local sources, in contravention of article 17 of the Firearms Ordinance, which declares:

No person shall manufacture[3] *any gun without a licence from the licensing authority.*[4]

As a consequence, trap guns cannot be licensed by an applicable authority as required by article 3:

The importation, manufacture, repair, sale, transfer, and possession of guns shall take place only in accordance with licences and permits provided for by the [*Firearms*] *Ordinance.*[5]

There is insufficient information available to evaluate whether the police are adequately enforcing the law relating to the manufacture and use of trap guns. However, police records indicate that prosecutions for the manufacture of trap guns under the Firearms Ordinance are minimal.[6] Moreover, anecdotal evidence suggests that law enforcement providers are not effectively policing homemade weapons, including trap guns, as offences related to home-made weapons are being prosecuted under the more expedient Public Offence Act, rather than the Firearms Ordinance.[7]

I heard a gunshot and a person had been injured by a trap gun… I hurriedly removed the trap gun and took it to the Kekirawa Police to file a complaint. When the case was taken up in the courts the offender was fined Rs 250 and released.

Representative of the Ipalogama Disabled Committee

Such a punishment for possession of an illicit trap gun is minimal if one considers the penalties laid down by the Firearms Ordinance:

Any person contravening the provisions […] *shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance and shall on conviction be punishable –*

(a) *for the first offence with a fine not exceeding ten thousand rupees or with rigorous imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or with both fine and imprisonment;*

(b) *for the second and subsequent offence, with rigorous imprisonment for a period of not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years.*[8]

Trap gun use

The primary reason for the setting of a trap gun is crop protection; however, their use is often closely linked to illicit income generating activities and livelihoods.

It is recorded by the World Bank that in urban areas of Sri Lanka, poverty halved between 1990/1991 and 2002. In contrast, rural poverty fell by only five percent. This is significant as the rural population accounts for some 70 percent of the total Sri Lankan population.[9] The agricultural sector has remained especially vulnerable and poverty has compelled many farmers to use illicit means of safeguarding their crops from potential harm. One affordable means of doing this is to set up trap guns around property to protect it from wildlife.

Presently the Firearms Ordinance limits those that are eligible to own a small arm for "agricultural purposes"[10]; individual shotguns can legally be licensed by the District Secretary or the Ministry of Defence, Public Security, Law and Order (MODPSLO) for the purpose of crop protection. Potential threats to crops and livestock include elephants, wild boar, deer, porcupines and leopards. Whilst not stated in the Firearms Ordinance, a licence for crop protection is only available to those persons that cultivate a plot of land of five acres or more. Therefore, smaller holdings are left vulnerable, resulting in many farmers using illicit means, including trap guns, to protect their livelihoods.





Close up of a trap gun firing mechanism

Trap gun demonstration by a Sri Lanka Police Officer

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Use of trap guns is also attractive to the poor because slain wildlife is a source of much-needed, though illicit, income, and the meat can be used for food. This illegal form of hunting allows many impoverished households to generate income through the sale of skin, bones, tusks and other bodily parts of a carcass. Trap guns are also popular with poachers who use them to kill a variety of wildlife for onward sale. A poached elk, for example, can be sold for between Rs 10,000 and Rs 12,000.[11] Trap guns are consequently installed on paths frequented by wildlife and set to an appropriate height and angle for the animal intended to be killed.

Approximately 65 percent … use trap guns as there is no other means of protecting their crops; the other 35 percent from what we have seen clearly use trap guns to kill wild animals for economic gain.

Wildlife Officer, Anuradhapura

Beyond their use in crop protection and poaching, trap guns also serve as a means of protecting illicit economic activity. Trap guns are often used to secure the perimeters of sites on which illicit logging, gem mining, and *chena* (slash and burn) and cannabis cultivation take place. They therefore, hinder effective law enforcement and have caused injury to police officers and forestry officials.[12]

Human impact

Trap guns, like landmines, are dangerous because they are indiscriminate in who they injure and kill. It is difficult to estimate the total distribution of trap guns across Sri Lanka, but participants from focus group discussions held on small arms and community safety, indicate that this locally manufactured small arm is a significant problem for the country at large, and in particular the Dry Zone.[13]

Participants from Ampara, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Monaragala and Vavuniya acknowledged that trap guns were present in their locality, and in several incidences that

multiple weapons could be found within a village. Farmers from Anuradhapura for example, declared that there were between 50 and 60 trap guns in some villages.

Although police records on trap gun offences may not be complete, records indicate that for the years 1999 through to 2005 trap guns have been used in 329 attempted homicides and 144 homicides, 27 incidences of grievous harm, 5 robberies and 1 case of abduction. Although many of those injured by trap guns survive, the use of trap guns in remote areas, increases the risk of death, as victims have to travel great distances to get necessary medical attention (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Figure 1
Police records of trap gun use for the years 1999–2005

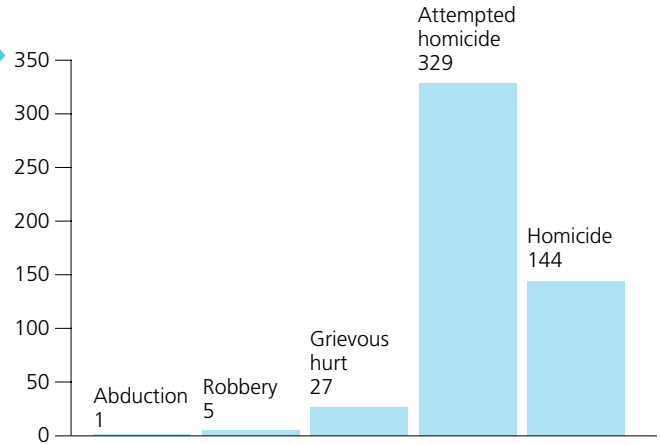
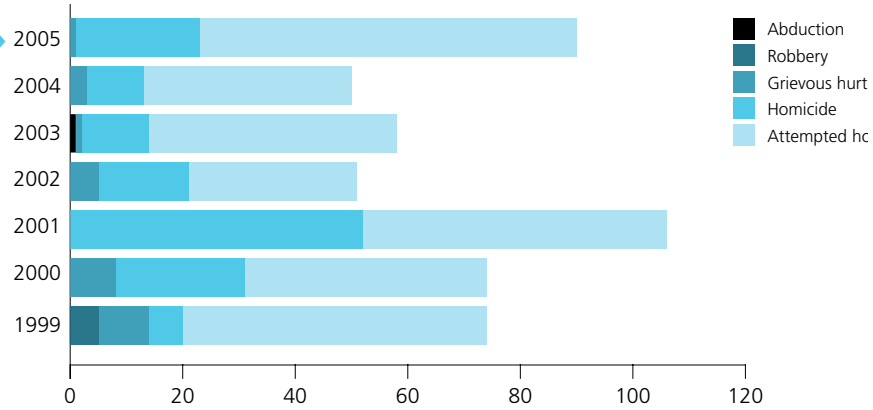


Figure 2
Police records of trap gun use for by year (1999–2005)



The victim is generally in the middle of the jungle when the injury happens, and often alone. He or she would definitely not be able to walk after being injured. There is inevitable bleeding. Therefore, due to the combination of factors: the inability to walk, heavy bleeding and being too far away to call for help, a person suffers a great deal and can eventually bleed to death.

Judicial Medical Officer, Anuradhapura

Impact of a trap gun injury on a farmer from Anuradhapura

Long-term consequences of a trap gun injury

PRASANNA RATNAYAKE





It is not clear whether the police figures provide an accurate picture of the total impact of trap guns as reports from Judicial Medical Officers (JMO) from Anuradhapura, Badulla and Kurunegala all indicate that injuries are commonplace. In the Teaching Hospital of Anuradhapura, for example, it is reported that up to 250 patients are treated each year as a direct result of trap gun use.[14]

There are so many people coming with trap gun injuries to [*Badulla Base*] *Hospital. Almost all of them are coming from the adjacent districts of Ampara and Moneragala. Mainly these injuries are on the leg. They are either vascular, bone or muscular injuries. Sometimes these cases lead to amputation. Some get superficial injuries and are discharged within two–three days; others stay for as long as three–four months.*

Assistant Judicial Medical Officer, Badulla Base Hospital

Table 1: Trap gun deaths and injuries in Medawachchiya, Galen-Bindunuwewa and Rambewa Divisional Secretary Divisions

Year	Medawachchiya		Galenbindunuwewa		Rambewa	
	Deaths	Injuries	Deaths	Injuries	Deaths	Injuries
2001	3	12	1	11	1	8
2002	1	13	–	7	–	3
2003	2	13	–	4	–	7
2004	1	6	–	5	1	6
2005	1	5	3	6	–	2
Total	**8**	**49**	**4**	**33**	**2**	**26**

Trap gun injuries are high, with two–three each month. Most of them are serious and we have to send the victims to Anuradhapura for surgery.

District Medical Officer, Medavachchiya



X-ray of a broken bone caused by a trap gun
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Unsurprisingly, as trap guns kill and injure indiscriminately, a wide variety of people are vulnerable. In recent years, farmers, police officers, homeguards, wildlife and forestry officials and children have all been killed or severely injured by these weapons.

In addition to their physical impact, trap guns can devalue the capacity of communities to live fulfilling and productive lives. This is because the setting of trap guns can limit or deny access to local resources such as seasonal harvests, firewood, wild herbs for Ayurvedic Medicine and many other non-timber forest products. Moreover, when, as is frequently the case, the victim of a trap gun is the primary income generator, serious injury can limit the capacity of a family to meet their basic needs or alleviate poverty.

Trap guns also produce a negative impact on national resources such as healthcare. This is because treating trap gun-related injuries is costly. In the most severe cases, medical support may be required for in excess of a year and may include surgery, prosthetics and rehabilitation.

Over 1,000 people in the Anuradhapura District have so far been injured by a trap gun, and the government has to spend hundreds of thousands (of Rupees) to treat the injured.

Representative of the Anuradhapura Citizen Committee

Environmental impact

Trap guns have also had an acute impact on wildlife and the environment. Trap guns installed for crop protection and poaching, in particular, have contributed to large numbers of deaths to elephants, wild boar, deer and leopards and contribute towards forest degradation through their use in illegal logging activities.

The need to use trap guns in defence of crops is the direct result of increased human-animal conflict. The population of Sri Lanka has increased demand for land, and caused extensive

habitat destruction and the encroachment of farmland into the territory of many species of wildlife. This has inevitably resulted in competition for food and water resources. Human-elephant conflict is particularly concerning. A wild elephant can devastate a 'peasant farmer's' cultivated land in a single night.[15] The preservation of crops is thus necessary for food and economic security. Despite this necessity, beyond the danger they pose to humans, trap guns appear to be a cruel way protect crops. A wildlife officer from Anuradhapura noted: "I have personally witnessed many occasions in my career [when] many elephants have been killed due to trap gun injuries […] The damage to the front leg makes [an] elephant immobile [so] it dies of hunger, thirst and infected wounds".[16]

The Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) reports that over 1,369 elephants have been killed since the 1990s, while gunshot injuries account for 56 percent of the casualties.[17] While the types of small arms utilised in killing these elephants are not disaggregated by the DWC it is likely that trap guns were a significant contributor.

During our raids of forest crimes we have found that approximately 55 percent were crimes carried out using firearms. Of this, 22 percent to 25 percent were crimes using trap guns.

Wildlife Officer, Anuradhapura

As poaching has reduced the amount of game available for leopards, this has resulted in local livestock becoming more vulnerable to attack;[18] the impact of this can be just as destructive as the loss of crops to a vulnerable farmer.

Illicit logging sites are also often protected by trap guns:[19]

I went to pick wild berries with friends. A trap gun went off hurting my calves. The trap gun was set as a guard by illegal loggers against the Forest Conservation Department.

Trap gun victim, Thisa Wewa

In addition to such injuries, illicit logging is threatening the survival of endangered species of tree, and harming the legally protected natural resources and ecology of the country. Similarly illicit gem mining and chena cultivation, illegal activities that are also linked to trap gun use, have exacerbated soil erosion and the deterioration of inland aquatic systems.[20]

3 Conclusion

Solutions to the trap gun problem

If the price paid by Sri Lankan society for the use of trap guns is acknowledged to be unacceptable, the correct alternatives to address the motives for their use need to be identified through open discussions between community members and authorities. This paper does not claim to provide a list of appropriate responses, but rather seeks to stimulate an open and honest debate about how to reduce the unnecessary burden of death and injury attributable to these weapons. Possible elements of a solution to the problem could include:

- **Effective enforcement of existing laws.** Given the numbers of injuries being caused by trap guns, the police need to be more responsible in applying existing laws to makers and users of trap guns.
- **Be tough on illicit economic activities that are contributing to environmental degradation.** Where poaching is done purely for economic gain, the Government of Sri Lanka has to ensure that existing wildlife laws are enforced, and respective law enforcement agencies provided with sufficient resources to address this abuse of the environment. This in turn requires that trap guns installed along wildlife paths be deactivated and the setters be prosecuted.
- **Ensuring an appropriate penalty for those who endanger human life.** Prosecutors also need to be more assertive in ensuring trap gun related cases are penalised in a way that provides an effective deterrent to their manufacture and use.
- **Awareness campaigns highlighting the impacts of trap guns.** The work of South Asia Small Arms Network – Sri Lanka, in partnership with the National Commission Against the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms, has already shown the willingness of communities to give up trap guns when their negative impacts has been highlighted through local campaigns.

Awareness campaigns can help to ensure that communities themselves consider the relative costs and benefits of trap gun use and take action to protect themselves and their environment.

- **A search for alternative means of crop protection.** Trap guns are used for a variety of reasons, but predominantly they serve as a means for farmers to protect their crops. The need of the poor to protect their crops is unarguable, but deaths and injuries are not an acceptable price for society to pay. Communities therefore need to be supported to find efficient, safe alternative means of crop protection.

The search for alternatives

Traditionally, farmers have sought to preserve their crops by the maintenance of a night-watch (*pel rekima*). This practice consisted of the lighting of fires and the making of loud noises (usually by shouting) to deter wildlife from encroaching onto farmland. Firecrackers (also known as elephant crackers) and sirens have also been used with varying degrees of success across the country. The long-term effectiveness of these methods of deterrence are limited, for there is evidence that animals acquire the ability to distinguish between warning sounds and genuine threats.[21] Accordingly, in areas where competition for food is great, crops cannot be effectively protected by this method.

An alternative to these limited deterrents, in areas suffering from extensive human-animal conflict,[22] is electric fencing. At present 500 kilometres of electric fencing has been installed by the Department of Wildlife Conservation. Where electric fences have been adopted, they have enjoyed varying degrees of success and sometimes cause problems in their own right, and therefore can only be considered a partial solution.

Electric fencing requires substantial economic investment, as a fencing system for a community, for example, requires the construction of several hundred concrete posts and a control room to house a generator, as well as the clearing of the fence line, digging of fence post holes and the installations of all the posts and electric lines.[23] In addition, an electric fence can only be effective if it receives an uninterrupted power supply; the threat of a power failure can be mitigated to some extent by the use of solar-power but this system like all other is in turn dependent on there being no technical failure. Moreover, while an electric fence may be effective at keeping elephants out of cultivated area, it also acts as a barrier to rural communities exploiting surrounding forests for non-timber forest products. Therefore, electric fences should be considered only a partial solution and should work in parallel with other measures, which could include the planting of secondary vegetative fences to provide an additional barrier between wildlife and human habitations.

In areas where no other practical, non-violent means of deterring wildlife is available, the Government of Sri Lanka could consider granting firearms licences to farmers of small

holdings. This would enable farmers to protect their crops and livestock without having to resort to illicit trap guns.

A further viable measure could be the introduction of a welfare fund that insures farmers against the destructive impact of wildlife. For example, if an elephant destroys a year's harvest, farmers can be protected from economic and food insecurity – thus limiting the need to set up a trap gun as farmers would be protected, should more conventional defences fail.

Illicit activities that are often protected by trap gun use, such as illicit logging and cannabis growth, could be reduced by the generation of viable alternative livelihoods for youth in areas where poverty is greatest. Access to education, vocational training in a variety of skills in demand in the labour market, apprenticeship schemes, micro-credit, business advice and employment services, as well as development of rural transport, communications and economic infrastructure are important ways to encourage access to legitimate economic opportunities among those tempted to engage in criminal activity.

Clashes between humans and wildlife could also be reduced by establishing new national parks and conservation areas, policing wildlife corridors and ensuring that the habitats of wildlife are redeveloped. This would aid in limiting territorial cross over, and providing wildlife with alternative food stocks in protected areas, such as by planting fodder trees.

By considering the development of a holistic, compassionate solution to a complex problem through detailed consultation with communities about why trap guns are used and what alternatives are available, the authorities can engage in positive steps for enhancing safety and economic viability of affected communities, in a way that is locally-owned.

Notes

1 Landmine Action (2003), *Explosive Remnants of War in Sri Lanka*, http://www.landmineaction.org/resources/ERW_Sri_Lanka.pdf

2 Firearms Ordinance No. 33 of 1916, article 2

3 "Manufacture" of guns includes the assembling of any parts whatsoever, whether old or new, so as to form a gun

4 Firearms Ordinance No. 33 of 1916, section 17

5 See Firearms Ordinance No. 33 of 1916, sections 6 (d) and 23 (4)

6 See Administration Reports of the Inspector General of Police (Colombo: Police Statistics Division)

7 *The Trap* (2008) [Documentary film] directed by Prasanna Ratnayake, Saferworld

8 Firearms (Amendment) Act, No. 22 of 1996 relating to section 22 (3)

9 The Government of Sri Lanka, *Mahinda Chintana: Vision for a new Sri Lanka, A Ten Year Horizon Development Framework 2006–2016 Discussion Paper*, http://www.treasury.gov.lk/EPPRM/npd/pdfdocs/budget2007/MahindaChintanaTenYearDevelopmentPlan.pdf, p.1

10 Firearms Ordinance No. 33 of 1916, section 2

11 Op cit, The Trap

12 See National Commission Against Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms (2006), Illegal Small Arms and Light Weapons Pilot Survey: *Hambantota*, http://www.saferworld.org.uk/images/pubdocs/Hambanta_Survey_English.pdf

13 Saferworld, 2007 – Focus group discussions included: Farmers, Anuradhapura; Farmers, Kurunegala; Farmers, Monaragala; Homeguards, Anuradhapura; Tamil Men, Vavuniya; Tamil Women, Vavuniya; University students, Colombo

14 op cit, The Trap

15 Ibid

16 Op cit, National Commission Against Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms

17 Department of Wildlife Conservation (2003), *Elephant Conservation: An Overview*, http://www.dwlc.lk/cgi-bin/template.pl?elephant:%20%3E%20Elephant%20Conservation

18 The Wilderness and Wildlife Conservation Trust, *Leopard Poaching in Sri Lanka*, www.wwct.org/leopard_poaching.php

19 Op cit, National Commission Against Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms

20 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): Regional Resource Centre for Asia and Pacific (2003), *Sri Lanka*, http://www.rrcap.unep.org/reports/soe/srilanka_part1.pdf

21 Op cit, Department of Wildlife Conservation

22 Areas identified by the Department of Wildlife Conservation include: Kotavehera, Kalegama, Navagattegama, Galgamuwa, Giribawa, Kahalle-Pallekele, Galewela, Pibidunugama, Galkiriyagama and Karuwalagaswewa in the northwest, Heen Ganga to Dumbara valley in the vicinity of Wasgomuwa National Park; Sigiriya-Habarana area in the Mahaweli and Ritigala-Kalawewa area; Haldummulla, Uma Oya; the area between Lunungamvehera, Udawalawe and Bundala; Haltota-Haldummulla area north of Udawalawe National Park in the south.

23 See International Elephant Foundation (2002), *Saving Elephants by Helping People: Creating ways for people and elephants to co-exist in Sri Lanka*, http://www.projectelephant.org/downloads/pdf/SaveElephants.pdf

Organisation profiles

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South Asia Small Arms Network (SASA-Net) is a civil society movement contributing to the reduction of small arms and light weapons on the lives of people in the region. SASA-Net Sri Lanka aims to bring together organisations and activists from the different districts to lobby policy makers, build public awareness and share information on taking action against small arms and light weapons proliferation in Sri Lanka.

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SASA-Net

දකුණු ආසියා සුළු අවි විරෝධී ජාලය (SASA-Net) යනු කළාපයේ ජන ජීවිතය කෙරෙහි සුළු අවි සහ සැහැල්ලු ආයුධ වල බලපෑම අඩු කිරීම සඳහා දායකත්වය දක්වන සිවිල් සමාජ ව්‍යාපාරයකි. ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ සුළු අවි සහ සැහැල්ලු ආයුධ ව්‍යාප්තියට එරෙහිව ක්‍රියා මාර්ග ගැනීම සඳහා ප්‍රතිපත්ති සම්පාදකයන් එකඟ කරවා ගැනීම, මහජන දැනුවත් භාවය වර්ධනය කිරීම සහ අදාල තොරතුරු හුවමාරු කරගැනීම පිණිස, විවිධ දිස්ත්‍රික්ක තුල පවත්නා විවිධ සංවිධාන සහ ක්‍රියාකාරීන් එකට ගොනු කිරීම SASA-Net Sri Lanka සංවිධානයේ අරමුණ වේ.

සේෆර් වර්ල්ඩ්

මානව ආරක්ෂාව වර්ධනය කිරීමත් සන්නද්ධ ප්‍රචණ්ඩත්වය මර්ධනය කිරීමටත් උපයෝගී කරගතහැකි නව උපාය මාර්ග පිළිබඳව පරියේෂණ කිරීම, එබඳු උපාය මාර්ග ප්‍රවර්ධනය කිරීම සහ ක්‍රියාවට නැංවීම සඳහා අන්තර්ජාතික වශයෙන් රජය සහ සිවිල් සමාජ සංවිධාන සමග එක්ව කටයුතු කරන ස්වාධීන රාජ්‍ය නොවන සංවිධානයකි

தாபனத்தின் புறவரை

SASA-Net

தென் ஆசிய சிறிய ஆயுதங்கள் வலைப்பின்னல் (SASA-Net) ஒரு சிவில் சமூக இயக்கமாகும். இது பிராந்தியத்தில் உள்ள மக்களின் வாழ்க்கை மீது சிறிய ஆயதங்களிதும், இலகு ஆயுதங்களினதும் குறைப்புக்கு பங்களிக்கின்றது. இலங்கையில் சிறிய ஆயதங்களினதும், இலகு ஆயுதங்களினதும் பெருக்கத்திற்கு எதிராக நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பது மீது கொள்கை வகுப்பவர்களிடம் ஆதரவு திரட்டுவதற்கும், பொதுசன விழிப்புணர்வைக் கடடியெழுப்புவதற்கும், தகவலைப் பரிமாறிக் கொளவதற்கும் வேறுபட்ட மாவட்டங்களிலிருந்து தாபனங்களையும், தீவிர நோக்குடையவர்களையும் ஒன்றாகக் கொண்டு வருவதையே ளுயுளுயு-நேவ ளுசளை டுயமெய குறிக்கோளாகக் கொண்டுள்ளது

சேபர்வேர்ள்ட

'சேபர்வேர்ள்ட்' (Saferworld) ஒரு சுதந்திரமான அரச சார்பற்ற தாபனமாகும். இது மனித பாதுகாப்பை அதிகரிப்பதற்கும், ஆயுத வன்முறையைத் தடுப்பதற்கும், புதிய மூலோபாயங்களை ஆராய்ச்சி செய்வதற்கும், முன்னேற்றுவதற்கும், அமுல்படுத்துவதற்கும் சர்வதேசரீதியில் அரசாங்கங்களுடனும், குடிசார் சமூகத்துடனும் பணியாற்றுகின்றது.

In Sri Lanka, the use of home-made weapons known as trap guns for crop protection and poaching is a significant cause of insecurity, indiscriminately threatening human life and development. This publication highlights the human, economic and environmental impacts of trap gun use, the weak enforcement of laws controlling these illicit small arms, and calls for a co-ordinated solution to the trap gun problem. This paper is accompanied by a documentary film entitled 'The Trap'.

බඳින තුවක්කු වශයෙන් හඳුන්වනු ලබන්නේ ගෘහ නිෂ්පාදිත ආයුධ වර්ගය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළදී වගාවන් ආරක්ෂා කර ගැනීමට සහ නීති විරෝධී ආකාරයට වන සතුන් දඩයම් කිරීමට භාවිතා කරන අතර, එමඟින් කිසිදු වග විභාගයකින් තොරව මිනිස් ජීවිත වලට සහ සංවර්ධනයට තර්ජන එල්ල කෙරෙන හෙයින් එම එම අවි අනාරක්ෂිත භාවය සඳහා බලපාන එක් වැදගත් හේතුවක් ලෙසද පවතියි. බඳින තුවක්කු භාවිතය මඟින් සිදුවන මානව, ආර්ථික මා පාරිසරික බලපෑම, මෙම නීතිවිරෝධී සුළු අවි පාලනය සඳහා පනවා ඇති නීති ක්‍රියාවට නැඟීමේ දුබලකම ගැන පැහැදිළිව පෙන්වාදීමට සහ බඳින තුවක්කු ගැටළුවට සාමූහිකව විසඳුම් සෙවිය යුතු බවට හඬක් නැඟීම මෙම ප්‍රකාශනය තුළින් සිදුවෙයි. 'උගුල' යන ශීර්ෂ පාඨය යටතේ දිගහැරෙන වාර්තා චිත්‍රපටියක්ද මෙම ලේඛනය හා එක්ව පවතියි.

இலங்கையில், பயிர் பாதுகாப்புக்கும், வேட்டையாடுதலுக்கும் பொறித் துப்பாக்கிகளாக அறியப்பட்ட உள்ஙரில் தயாரிக்கப்படும் ஆயுதங்களின் உபயோகமானது பாதுகாப்பின்மையின் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க காரணியாக விளங்குவதுடன், மனித வாழ்க்கையையும், முன்னேறறத்தையும் பாகுபாடின்றி பயமுறுத்துகின்றது. பொறித் துப்பாக்கி உபயோகத்தின் மனித, பொருளாதார மற்றும் சூழல் தாக்கங்களையும், இச் சட்டவிரோதமான சிறிய ஆயுதங்களைக் கட்டுப்படுத்தும் பலவீனமான சட்டங்களின் வினைப்படுத்தலையும் முனைவுபடுத்துவதுடன், பொறித் துப்பாக்கிப் பிரச்சனைக்கு ஒன்றிணைக்கப்பட்ட தீர்வொன்றுக்கு அழைப்புவிடுக்கின்றது. இவ்வறிக்கை 'The Trap' எனத் தலைப்பிடப்பட்ட கருத்துப்படமொன்றுடன் சேர்ந்துள்ளது.

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