

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

MONITORING REPORT

ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING AND USE OF WEAPONS



UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

CENSS
Center for Security Studies

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

Alpha is a special unit of the Centre for special operations against terrorism, protection of participants in criminal proceedings and law enforcement officers of the Security Service of Ukraine, which performs tasks to suppress terrorist acts and actions that threaten the security of the state, release of hostages, seizure of dangerous criminals, protection of participants in criminal proceedings, court officials and law enforcement agencies, and members of their families.

ATO – Anti-Terrorist Operation is a complex of coordinated special measures aimed at warning, preventing and suppressing terrorist activity, releasing of hostages, ensuring the safety of civilians, neutralization of terrorists, minimization of consequences of terrorist activity of illegal armed groups in the East of Ukraine. It started on April 14, 2014.

Servicemen are persons who perform military service.

The case, event and episode in this study are a revealed fact of illegal use, possession and sale of weapons that was recorded by representatives of the law enforcement agencies.

PGO - Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine

Group of persons - in this study, the term covers groups of persons who have used weapons during the commission of offences and who fall under the characteristics defined in Article 28 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (Criminal offense committed by a group of persons, or a group of persons upon prior conspiracy, or an organized group, or a criminal organization). The term «group of persons» in this study also covers organized criminal groups within the meaning of the Law of Ukraine «On the organization-legal bases of fight against organized crime».

Identification - in this study - is the definition of types/kinds of weapons without inspection on the basis of official reports from law enforcement agencies regarding the illegal use, possession and sale of weapons.

KORD - Corps of Rapid Action Rapid Operational Response Unit - special purpose unit of the National Police of Ukraine
MIA - Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine

Youth - in this study - persons 18-25 years old.

Drugs - narcotic drugs - substances of natural or synthetic nature, medication, plants included to the List of narcotic

drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated from May 6, 2000 No.770

National Police - National Police of Ukraine.

JFO - Joint Forces Operation is complex of measures to ensure national security and defence, repel and deter the armed aggression of the Russian Federation in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. It started on April 30, 2018.

Retirees are persons aged 60 years or over.

Law enforcement officers - in this study - are employees of the National Police, Prosecutor's Office, Security Service of Ukraine, and State Border Guard Service.

SBU (SSU) - Security Service of Ukraine.

Neighbours, acquaintances are persons whose households are located in a territorially close proximity; persons who did not know each other prior to the commission of the offense with weapon

The territory of the ATO/JFO - the territory of Ukraine, where the settlements of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts are located, as defined in the list approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, where the anti-terrorist operation launched in accordance with the Decree of the President of Ukraine «On the decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine dated from April 13, 2014 «On urgent measures to overcome the terrorist threat and to preserve the territorial integrity of Ukraine» dated from April 14, 2014 No.№ 405/2014, as well as the territory of Ukraine, where the settlements of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts are located in combat zone.

The ATO/JFO participants, ATO/JFO veterans are servicemen (reservists, conscripts), persons from volunteer formations participating in combat operations and who defended the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and took direct part in the anti-terrorist operation, ensuring its conduct or in the implementation of measures to ensure national security and defence, repel and deter the armed aggression of the Russian Federation in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, as well as to ensure their implementation.

Family members - in this study - husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, nephew, niece.

ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING AND USE OF WEAPONS

MONITORING REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2019

1. INTRODUCTION

The state of weapons trafficking in any country is an important indicator against which a number of other areas can be assessed. These are traditionally the spheres of state, public, military security and response to crime. All of these areas are particularly important for Ukraine in the context of ongoing hostilities and occupation of part of its territory.

Studying the state of the weapons trafficking also allows to gain additional knowledge about particular states and important processes taking place in social and political spheres. Including:

- efficiency/inefficiency of state institutions, in particular law enforcement agencies;
- efficiency/inefficiency of comprehensive measures in response to crime;
- availability and effectiveness of programs for work with veterans, youth;
- the availability and efficiency of programmes or measures to prevent violent conflicts – political, domestic, economic and other, both individual and group;
- the level of sense of safety in communities;
- the level of confidence in the state institutions for personal and collective safety, etc.

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The study was carried out in the period from September 2019 till January 2020 to identify the main tendencies and signs indicating the status of illegal weapons trafficking and its use, and covers events that took place in the period from September 1 till December 31, 2019.

The study was carried out by analyzing information obtained through special processing of data, obtained from open sources, state statistical reports and sociological studies.

In the information space of Ukraine, there are daily reports on the use and/or seizure of illegal firearms, ammunition and explosives (hereinafter – “illegal weapons”), as well as the illegal seizure or theft of weapons.

Such reports may contain information about:

- persons from whom illegal weapons are seized or who use them;
- the number, types and kinds of seized or used weapons;
- affected persons by the use of illegal weapons;
- the territory where the case (event) involving the use and/or seizure of illegal weapons occurred;
- circumstances, causes, purposes, and intentions of the use of illegal weapons;

- methods of possession, transportation and use of illegal weapons;
- the cost of illegal weapons on the “black market”;
- sources of origin of illegal weapons;
- number, types and kinds of stolen weapons, places of possession, circumstances of theft, persons responsible for their possession and persons suspected of abduction;
- other important information.

Information obtained from public sources, specially processed and analysed, is an important element in assessing the state of illegal weapons trafficking. For this purpose, the Center for Security Studies “CENSS” (hereinafter – the Center) monitors open sources, namely, official websites of state and local authorities, the unified state register of court decisions, web resources of law enforcement agencies of central and regional levels; their profiles in social networks (twitter, facebook) as well as leading Ukrainian digital mass media according to the Centre’s experts’ internal assessment can be described as “reliable” or “conditionally reliable”. The results of monitoring are structured by the number and qualitative indicators.

As it was previously noted, other important sources of information used in the preparation of this report, in addition to information obtained through special processing of open sources, are state statistical reports and the results of sociological study conducted by third parties, which, according to the Center’s experts, have a high reputation and are relevant to this study.

In this study, the cases/events that occurred in the area of illegal trafficking and use of weapons, as well as the weapons themselves, are classified according to the categories defined by public reports or statistical data of the National Police, the Security Service and the Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine.

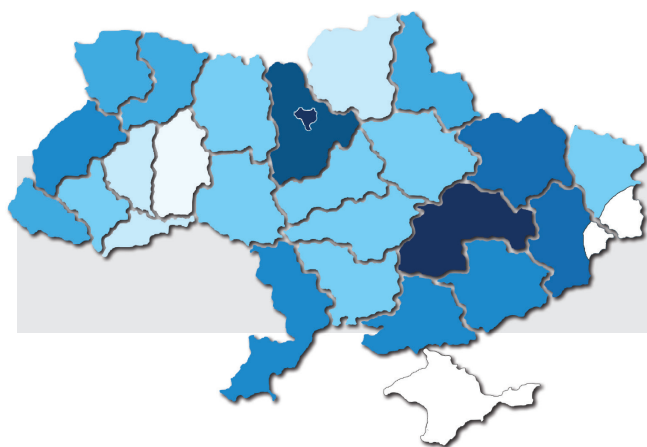
In the framework of this study, information was used on the types and kinds of weapons exclusively from the texts of information reports, without direct examination of the weapon by Center experts. The issue of the country of origin of the weapons was also not studied, and detailed routes and methods of delivery of weapons to the places mentioned in the information reports were not studied separately.

The monitoring data will subsequently serve as a basis for the development of measures both in the direction of weapons trafficking, and in other spheres, in particular in the field of countering crime, social sphere, conflict prevention, etc.

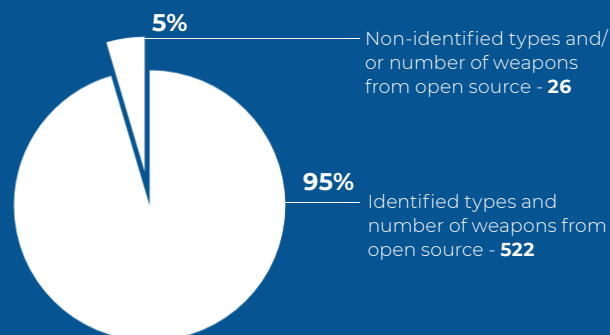
2. NUMBER AND TYPES OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS, ITS GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The Center for Security Studies "CENSS" identified **548 events**, related to the use, possession and illicit arms proliferation in September-December 2019.

Of all the events that were recorded and analysed in the framework of monitoring, types and/or number of weapons that were illegally possessed or used were identified in **522 cases**. This indicator accounts for 95% of the total number of reports.



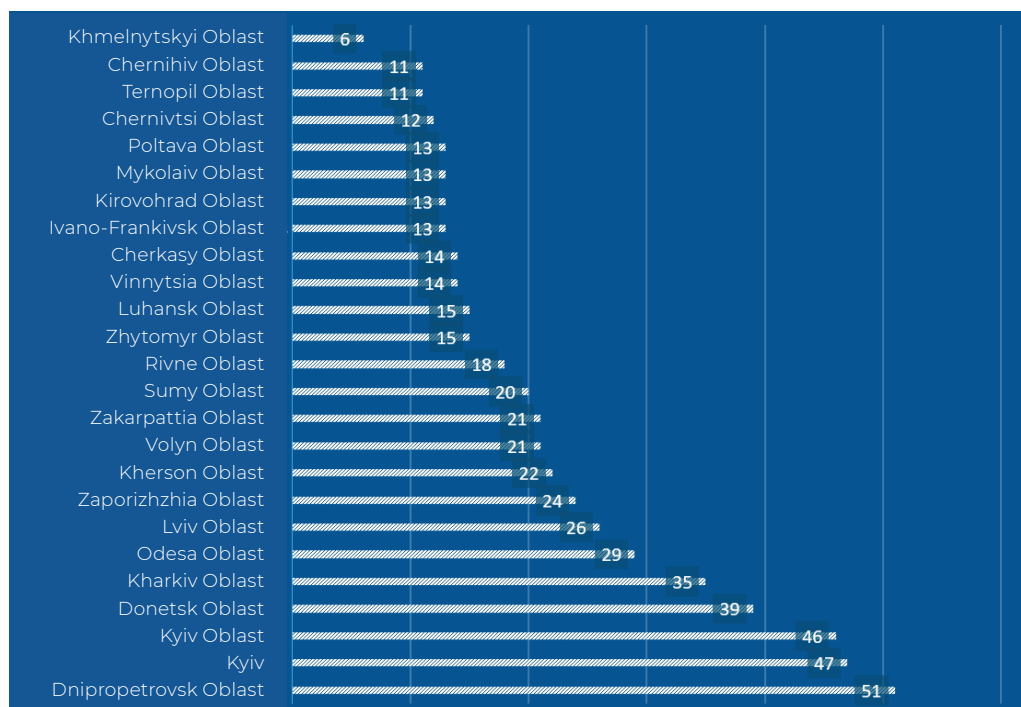
Reports on identified facts of illegal weapons possession, use and sale, **total - 548 events**
(September - December 2019)



According to the monitoring data, the majority of cases of illegal trafficking and use of weapons and explosives were recorded in Dnipropetrovsk (51 reports), Kyiv (46 reports), Donetsk Oblasts (39) and Kyiv (47).

Distribution of reports on identified weapons by territories

(number of reports, September - December 2019)



On the basis of the data contained in public reports of crimes, the Center analysed in which cases law enforcement officers identify individuals with weapons.

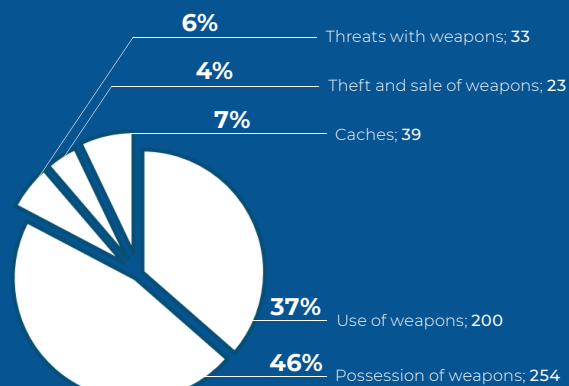
Therefore, the most common cases are those possession and use of weapons - **254 and 200 respectively**.

For the most part, **weapons are possessed by groups of persons associated with illegal arms trafficking, commission of violent crimes, distribution of drugs, psychotropic substances/plants, as well as the ATO/JFO participants.**

The use of different types of weapons and explosives has become common for the Ukrainian society: **disputes on the road, domestic conflicts, robberies, as well as throwing grenades at places with mass presence of people.** The increase of illegal trafficking of weapons in Ukraine has led to the fact that **anyone can buy one or another weapon through the Internet** and, if appropriate, use it.

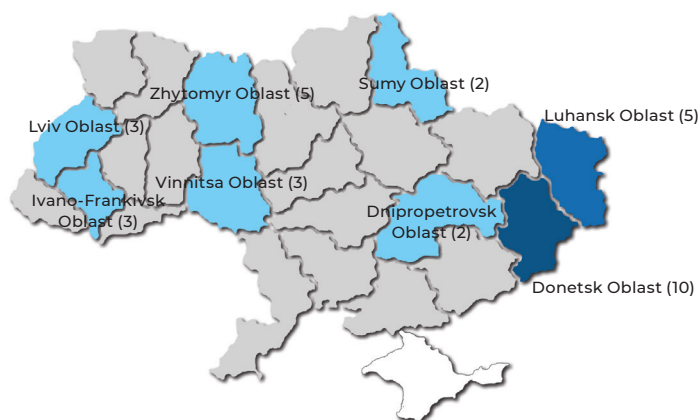
The results of the study indicate that the proliferation of illegal weapons most often takes place in the regions of Ukraine, where the Joint Forces Operation is ongoing (formerly - an anti-terrorist operation, thereafter - the ATO/JFO) - in particular in Donetsk Oblast (4 cases) and close to it Zaporizhzhia Oblast (2 cases). In

The ratio of different categories of cases
(number of cases and %, september-december 2019)

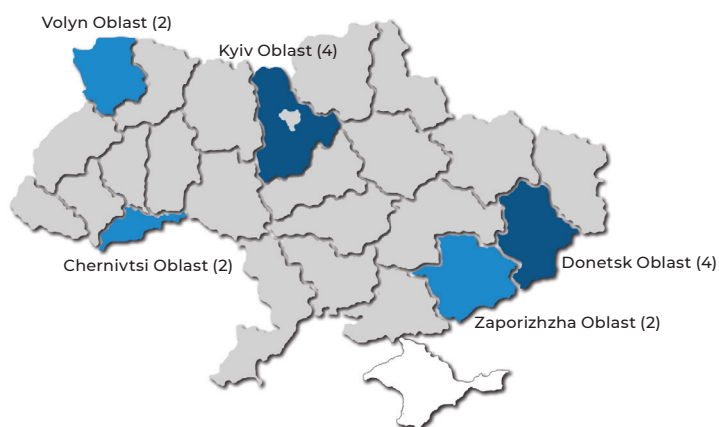


addition to this fact, the illegal proliferation of weapons was recorded in Kyiv Oblast, as well as in the border Oblasts of Ukraine - Volyn, bordering with Poland and Chernivtsi, bordering with Moldova and Romania.

The monitoring data indicate a high probability of the problem of the increase in illegal weapons with the large number of the ATO/JFO participants from certain Oblasts of Ukraine. For example, places of arms caches were found in Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Zhytomyr, Vinnitsa, Sumy, Mykolaiv and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts. A significant number of military personnel were mobilized from these Oblasts in 2014-2016¹.

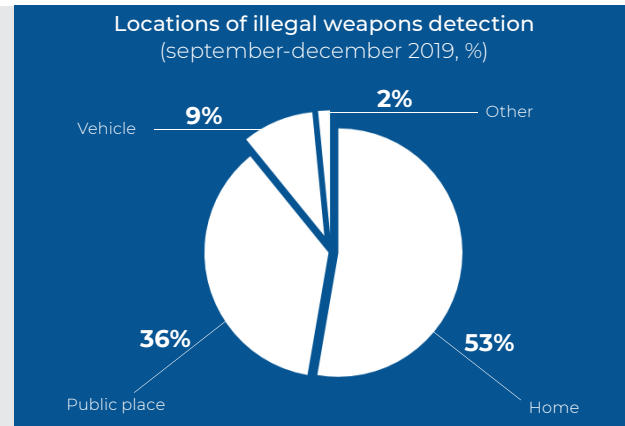


Cases of seizure of illegal weapons from caches
in september-december 2019



Cases of illegal weapons sale
in september-december 2019

Most often, cases of weapons trafficking or use occur in premises, public places and vehicles. Thus, of the 548 cases, in 259 cases weapons were found in private premises, and in 233 cases weapons were found in public places (streets, courtyards of multi-storey buildings, bus stops and railway stations) and in 50 cases - in vehicles. Other places of interest include an airport, a bridge and a water supply facility. All of them belong to a critical infrastructure, so the detection of weapons or explosive substances on their territory posing an increased risk to the population.



An important feature that characterizes the situation with illegal trafficking and proliferation of weapons is the **storage of parts of ammunition, fuses and explosive assemblies and mines, grenade bodies, TNT slabs at home** by citizens of Ukraine. The illegal manufacture and processing of weapons into firearms, as well as the manufacture of ammunition or explosives remains a characteristic phenomenon for Ukraine on several grounds. On the one hand, it is one of the consequences of the armed conflict, during which the military and other ATO/JFO participants have acquired the skills to use weapons, its processing or production of improvised weapons and explosives. On the other hand, the data of previous studies indicate that **significant quantities of weapons were brought to Ukraine from other countries** and later were converted into firearms. Such weapons were supplied mainly from Turkey. Thus, for the period from 2010 till 2019 non-lethal weapons were delivered to Ukraine for an amount of USD 4.2 million, among which was a 'Zoraki' pistol².

In a course of analysis of 548 reports it was indicated that the largest number of identified weapons were **explosives (mines, grenades, TNT slabs and fuse caps), at least 623 items**. Monitoring has shown that explosives are detectable both at the level of the integral device and at the level of its integral parts. Thus, **282 fuses and fuse caps for mines**, as well as **406 items of weapons parts, ammunition and explosives** were identified and seized by law enforcement officers.

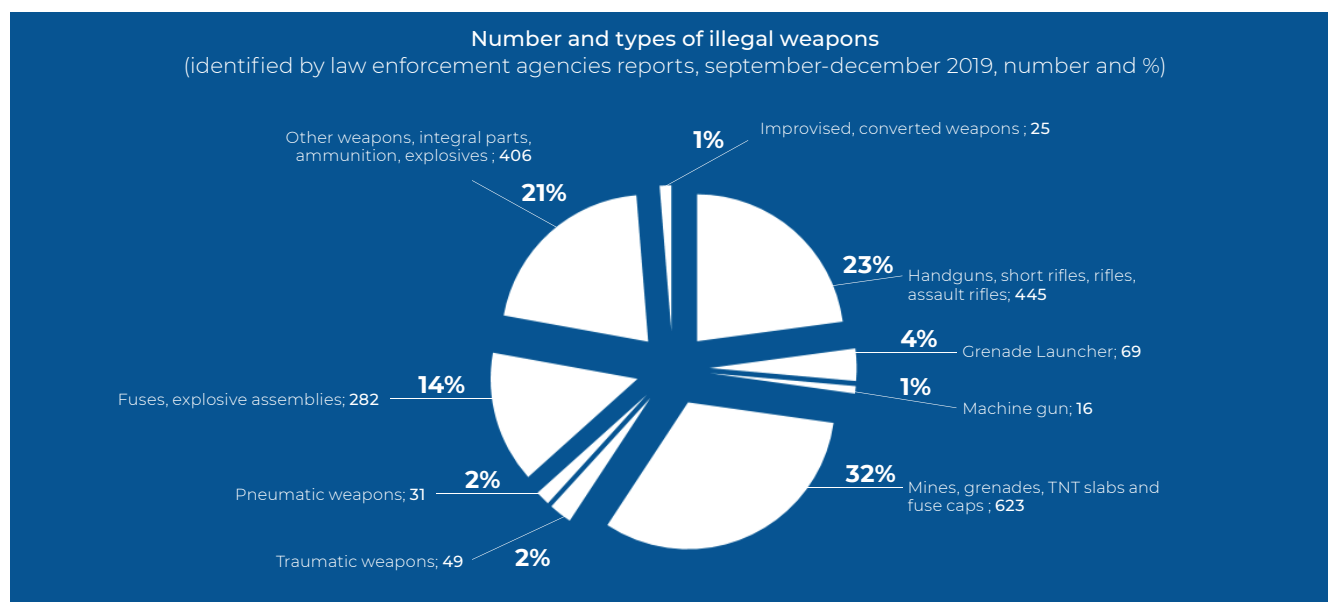
The next largest number of weapons identified/seized according to reports was **small arms (handguns, short rifles, rifles, assault rifles)**; 445 items have been identified.

According to the monitoring results **69 grenade launchers** were identified in weapons caches, civilian premises, vehicles, crime scenes involving criminal groups and the like.

The proliferation of these weapons and explosives is likely to be due to the ongoing armed conflict in the East of Ukraine and the access to such weapons by a large number of people in the combat zone.

Hunting rifles also constitute a significant number of illegal weapons.

16 machine guns, 49 traumatic weapons and 31 pneumatic guns were identified among other weapons.

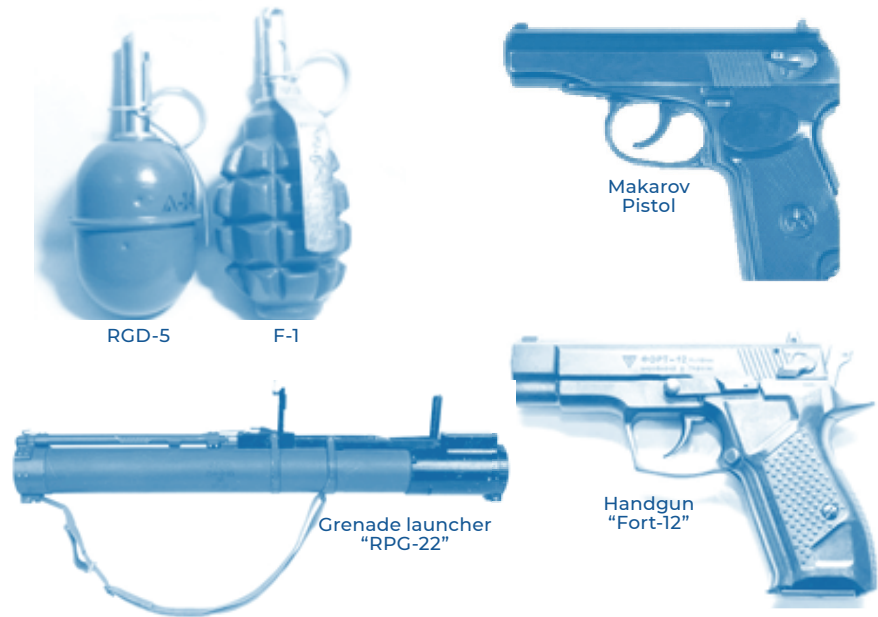


Following is the detailed breakdown of the identified weapons by type according to the information mentioned in the reports. As stated earlier, it was possible to identify the types and quantities of weapons in 522 cases out of 548 reports.

Analysis showed that **grenades** (439 items) and **handguns** (255 items) were the most commonly trafficked weapons.

Type of identified weapon	September	October	November	December	Total
unidentified small arms	4	0	7	2	13
converted handgun	5	7	5	8	25
rifle	6	3	7	15	31
assault rifle	50	80	50	75	255
handgun, revolver	16	27	52	40	135
hunting rifle	75	216	83	65	439
grenades	8	14	8	102	132
grenade body	3	2	1	11	17
mines (different type)	30	7	5	15	57
explosive assemblies	39	54	34	95	222
grenade fuses	57	51	30	50	18
TNT slabs and fuse caps	4	4	1	7	16
machine gun	4	22	24	19	69
grenade launcher	5	150	30	30	215
RPG rockets, shells	2	13	13	3	31
pneumatic weapon	9	17	9	14	49
traumatic weapon	1	6	0	4	11
improvised firearms	3	14	8	9	34
improvised or non-identified explosive devices	8861	17869	25138	15514	67382
ammunition (rounds)	21	54	11	9	95
integral parts (bolt assembly, loading cases, barrels, suppressors and the like)	4	4	2	21	31

Among the grenades «RGD-5» and «F-1» are the most commonly seized, and «PM», «Fort-12» are among the handguns seized. It should be noted that the «F-1» grenade has been in service since 1941 and is used in Ukraine and all armies of the former USSR countries. It was widely used in Africa and Latin America. The «RGD-5» grenade has been in service since 1954 and is used in the armies of Ukraine, as well as Russia, Estonia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Moldova, Bulgaria, Serbia, China, North Korea, Indonesia, Iraq and Iran.



The Makarov pistol («PM») was adopted by the armed forces and law enforcement agencies of the former USSR in 1951. After dissolution of the USSR the pistol remained in service with the army, law enforcement and other special agencies of Ukraine and the countries which were part of the USSR.

«Fort-12» pistol was manufactured in Ukraine, and is in service of law enforcement agencies of Ukraine,

some batches were delivered to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, are available to special forces of the Russian Federation after the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in 2014.

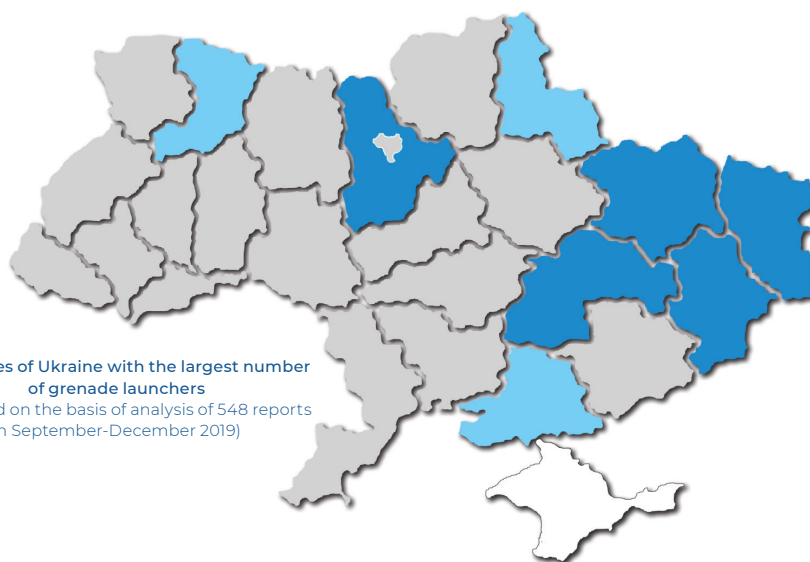
In addition, according to the results of the study there were identified Dehtiarov machine guns, RPK-74, grenade launchers («RPG-22» anti-tank rocket-propelled grenade, which are in service with the armies

of Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkmenistan and other countries of the former USSR, Bulgaria, India, Colombia, Peru). The presence of these types of weapons in illegal trafficking is a direct derivative of the influence of the armed conflict in the East of Ukraine.

The armed conflict and the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea have become a source of replenishment of the illegal trafficking of weapons with relatively easy access to it by civilians.

This is confirmed by current tendencies in the proliferation of these types of weapons among civilians not only in the combat zone but also in other Oblasts throughout Ukraine, in particular in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Rivne, Sumy, Kyiv and Kherson Oblasts.

Other common weapons that have been identified include hunting rifles, carbines, and traumatic «Zoraki» pistols (manufactured in Turkey), which are often converted.



Territories of Ukraine with the largest number of grenade launchers
(identified on the basis of analysis of 548 reports in September-December 2019)

3. ANALYSIS OF STATISTICAL DATA OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE OF UKRAINE

Official statistical data of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine are processed and published on a monthly basis in accordance with Order No.100 dated from October 23, 2012 in the form of the Unified Report on Criminal Offences³. According to the provisions of the internal Instruction of the Prosecutor General's Office on filling in the Unified Report, which is available to the Center, the data contained therein is cumulative.

In this study, the information from the Unified Report on Criminal Offences was analysed and structured by the following criteria:

- criminal offences committed with the use of weapons and ammunition;
- seized items of criminal activity;
- stealing, appropriation or extortion of firearms, ammunition, explosives or radioactive material, or obtaining them by fraud or abuse of official position (Article 262 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine);
- illegal use of weapons, ammunition or explosives (Article 263 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine);
- illegal manufacture, processing or repair of firearms or falsification, illegal removal or alteration of markings, or illegal production of ammunition, explosives or explosive devices (Article 263-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

According to the Prosecutor General's Office **295 criminal offences** were committed with the use of weapons and ammunition in September-December 2019, of which 105 criminal offences were committed with the use of firearms, 73 criminal offences were committed with the use of ammunition and explosives.

According to the data from the Unified Report, law enforcement officers **seized** in September-December 2019:

- **561 firearms** (there are more than 500 according to the monitoring data ↓);
- **43 grenade launchers and rocket launchers** (there are 69 grenade launchers according to the monitoring data ↑);

- **549 grenades** (there are 439 items according to the monitoring data ↓);
- **68 mines** (there are 17 items according to the monitoring data ↓);
- **10 improvised explosive devices** (34 items of improvised and unidentified explosive devices according to the monitoring data ↑);
- **10 items** related to gas and pneumatic weapons (there are 31 items of pneumatic weapons according to the monitoring data ↑);
- **62,236 rounds of ammunition** (there are at least 67,382 rounds of ammunition according to the monitoring data ↑).

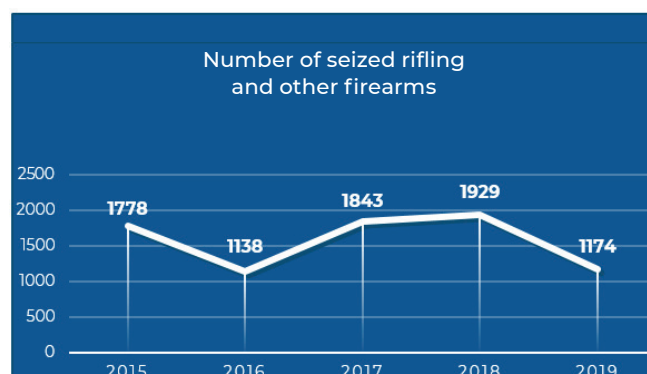
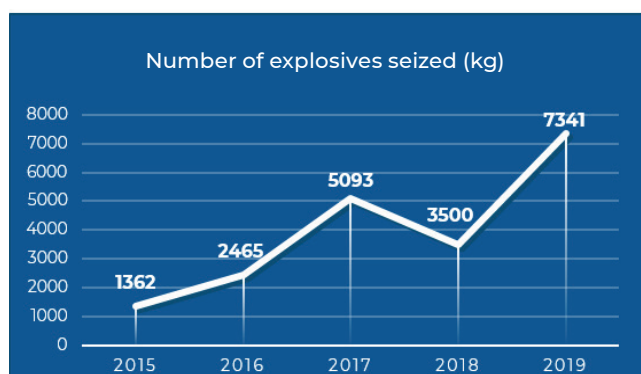
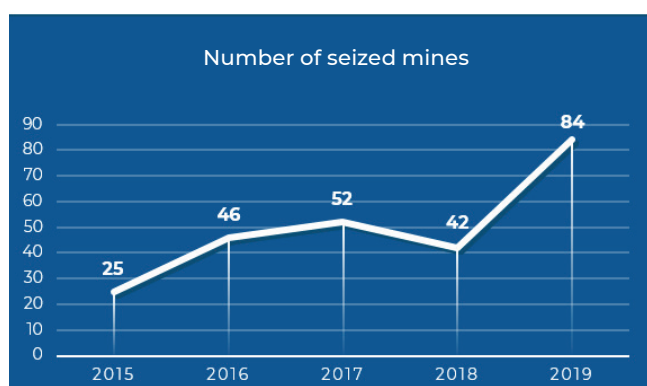
It should be noted that such difference between official statistical reports and information from public reports is a subject to additional detailed study.

Official statistical data from the Prosecutor General's Office confirm that a large number of illegal weapons and explosives continue to be in traffic in Ukraine.

At the same time, there has been a significant increase in the use of explosives. In particular, in 2019 **the number of seized explosives increased by 6 times compared to 2015**.

The tendency of using rifles and other firearms and grenades during the commission of crimes remains stable. This is indicated by the following data from official statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine for the period of 2015-2019⁴.

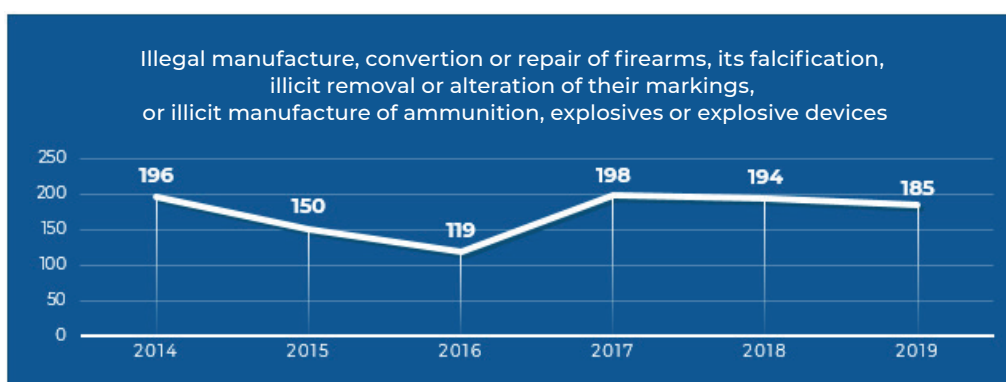
According to the Prosecutor General's Office the number of mines seized in 2019 is relatively small, but given the following information on the voluntary surrender of these explosives (276 items), it can be argued that their number among the population remains significant.



According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, **the number of crimes on the illegal manufacture or conversion of weapons and explosive devices** remains consistently high for 2014-2019⁵, despite continuous measures taken by law enforcement agencies to uncover illegal processing shops, seizures of such weapons and voluntary surrender actions.

A significant number of cases in 2019 were qualified as illegal use of weapons, ammunition or explosives by law enforcement agencies - **6,204 crimes**.

95 criminal proceedings of stealing, appropriation or extortion of firearms, ammunition, explosives or radioactive material, or obtaining them by fraud of abuse of official position were recorded in 2019.



4. ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN INDICATORS ON THE LINE OF THE PERMIT SYSTEM, FORMED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE

According to the order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine No. 622 dated from August 21, 1998⁶, the units of the National Police are conducting monthly monitoring of the registered, seized, voluntarily surrendered weapons as well as their illegal use (Main indicators on the permit system).

Regarding the permitting and accounting for weapons

According to this order, a person who has reached the appropriate age (18,21,25 years for different categories of weapons) has the right to obtain a permit to use hunting rifles, hunting smoothbore rifles, pneumatic weapons, cold and blank weapons. Also, a separate category is the so-called «award weapons», which is a departmental incentive award of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine «Firearms» and is a weapon of domestic or foreign production, including the weapon of non-military purpose⁷. It should be noted that similar incentive awards exist in the Security Service of Ukraine, Ministry of Defence, Department of State Security Service and other special purpose agencies of Ukraine.

A personal file shall be maintained for each person who owns a firearm hunting, as well as cold, award, pneumatic weapon (except for the departmental arms), devices.

According to the information provided to the Centre by the National Police, the main indicators of the permit system for 2018 and 11 months of 2019 (as of the last available date) have been analysed and the conclusion on the large number of weapons possessed by the population has been confirmed.

As of the end of 2018, there were 678806 owners of hunting firearms in Ukraine, accounting for 915,123 weapons, including 7060 award weapons.

For the 11 months of 2019, the number of owners of hunting firearms increased to 685,931 persons, accounting for 935,987 weapons, including 7,912 prize weapons (an 11% increase).

At the same time, the authorized units of the National Police issued 2.5 times more permits for the purchase and possession of weapons than in 2018: their number has increased from 64,054 to 157,845.

Regarding the illegal trafficking, seizure and voluntary surrender of weapons

Data for the first 11 months of 2019 show an increase of almost twice the number of weapons seized from illegal trafficking, as well as an increase of more than 3 times the voluntarily surrendered weapons.

Period	Seized				
	Weapons from illegal trafficking, total	Assault rifles	Carbines, rifles	Handguns	Ammunition from illegal trafficking
2018	842	29	48	481	96259
11 months 2019	1750	46	109	807	201023

According to the National Police, a total of 1868 firearms were seized in 2019, 81 of which were machine guns and rocket systems, 1934 grenades, 25 mines, 1832 units of ammunition and more than 162 000 rounds of ammunition. Of all the weapons possessed and voluntarily surrendered, 2/3 are registered weapons.

Among all indicators, the largest difference between 2018 and 2019 data was recorded in terms of the number of ammunitions, both voluntarily surrendered and seized. Thus, the number of voluntarily surrendered ammunition for 11 months of 2019 was 28.5 times higher than in 2018.

Period	Voluntarily surrendered						
	Firearms, total	Firearms, illegally possessed	Assault rifles, machine guns	Carbines, rifles	Handguns, revolvers	Registered weapons	Ammunition
2018	5058	1134	7	139	19	3924	16968
11 months 2019	16180	5426	149	932	204	10754	483633

The large number of weapons possessed by civilians is also reflected in the results of the National Police **Monthly Surrender of Weapons** in October 2019. The voluntary surrender included 1,000 items of army rifles, 489 grenades, 846 rounds, 276 mines and 43000 units of other ammunition (details will be provided in the following sections).

In fact, this number of weapons can also be considered as illegal, in combination with what we have established as a result of this monitoring.

Emphasis is placed on the data of the National Police on the **4 times increase** in the number of owners of registered weapons, who abuse alcohol, drugs and violate public order (from 1065 to 4399 persons). In addition, during the course of 11 months of 2019, nearly **90 crimes** were committed by owners of the registered weapons, in which **29 persons were killed (2.5 times more than in 2018)** and **42 injured (7 times more than in 2018)**.

5. CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WHO ILLEGALLY USED OR POSSESSED WEAPONS AND PERSONS AFFECTED

The monitoring data made it possible to categorize persons who had illegally used or possessed weapons (entities). The categories of entities have been defined in the manner in which they have been reported to the National Police on committed criminal offences, and the number of cases is the result of the processing of only those reports for the period from September till December 2019, where a category of entity can be identified. The total number of such reports is 154.

Thus, numerous cases of illegal use/possession of weapons recorded by law enforcement officers among youth (32 cases), persons who used weapons against neighbours, acquaintances (31) and against family members (21). Also, weapons were often illegally used by passers-by (21), servicemen/ATO participants (16), and drivers (14).

As for the servicemen, according to the Prosecutor General's Office in 2019 there have been recorded 236 cases of stealing, appropriation, extortion or fraudulent obtaining of weapons, ammunitions, explosive or other warfare substances, vehicles, military or special enginery, or other munitions, or obtaining them

The categories and number of persons who used or possessed weapons (from identified cases)	Number of cases				
	September	October	November	December	Total
servicemen, ATO participants	6	5	3	2	16
combatants	3	2	0	1	6
drivers	4	4	1	5	14
law enforcement officers	2	2	2	1	7
hunters	0	6	2	3	11
youth (18-25 y.o)	6	11	6	9	32
entities, that used weapons against family members	2	7	7	5	21
prisoners	0	1	1	0	2
foreigners	4	2	3	4	13
unemployed	0	1	2	0	3
reteeries	0	4	3	2	9
officials of enterprises, institutions, organizations	0	1	0	1	2
entities, that used weapons against neighbours, acquaintances	5	15	6	5	31
service sector representatives	0	0	0	1	1
children, teenagers	1	2	3	1	7
passers-by	5	6	5	5	21
members of public order formations	1	1	0	0	2
farmers	0	1	0	0	1
entrepreneurs	0	1	0	0	1
representatives of local authorities	1	1	0	0	2

by fraud or abuse of official position (criminal liability is provided for in Article 410 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

According to the Prosecutor General's Office, the ATO/JFO participants committed a total of **1,131 criminal** offenses for the period of 2019, the vast majority of these people are **Ukrainian citizens of 18-39 years old without higher education or vocational education, are able to work, but do not work and do not study.**

Information on cases of illegal trafficking and use of weapons among servicemen and ATO/JFO participants is contained in thousands of court decisions, including criminal convictions, in the Unified State Register of Court Decisions. Based on the results of the analysis of such decisions, the typical cases of illegal trafficking and use of weapons by a specified category of persons have been previously identified. These include transport of weapons from military service^{8,9}, the use of weap-

ons assigned to servicemen to resolve domestic conflicts¹¹, including family conflicts, illegal acquisition of weapons originating from the ATO/JFO zone¹², including the use of official position¹³.

In 13 cases illegal use of weapons was detected among foreigners. Such persons had citizenship of the Russian Federation, countries of the Caucasus region, Moldova (Transnistria) and most often were organizers or direct participants of criminal groups.

The categories of persons affected have been defined as they have been in reports of the National Police on Criminal Offenses and the number of cases is based only on those reports for the period from September till December 2019, where the category of affected person can be determined. The total number of such reports is 202.

The categories and number of persons affected (killed, injured)	Number of cases				
	September	October	November	December	total
local government	2	3	1	2	8
law enforcement officers	6	2	2	3	13
family members	0	5	8	6	19
service sector representatives	4	6	5	7	22
hunters	0	5	1	1	7
servicemen, ATO veterans	0	2	0	1	3
drivers	2	3	0	3	8
neighbors, acquaintances	4	10	7	4	25
children and teenagers	1	2	1	0	4
farmers	1	1	0	1	3
youth (18-25 y.o)	2	4	5	1	12
passers-by	1	3	0	7	11
foreigners	1	0	3	1	5
retirees	0	1	1	2	4
entrepreneurs	0	0	2	6	8
officials	1	0	1	0	2

Persons affected by the illegal use of weapons are often neighbours and acquaintances (25 cases), service providers (22), including postal workers, petrol stations workers, banking institution workers, cab drivers, family members (19), law enforcement officers (13), youth (12) and ordinary passers-by.

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The monitoring also revealed that among the affected persons are entrepreneurs, representatives of local authorities, drivers, and hunters during hunting seasons.

As a result of the monitoring, it was established that every 11th case of illegal use of weapons has a lethal end, and in each of the 7th case affected person suffers from injuries. Thus, out of 548 cases, at least 46 persons were killed and 75 were injured.

6. CIRCUMSTANCES OF ILLEGAL TRAFFIC AND USE OF WEAPONS

Monitoring data for the period from September till December 2019 indicate that weapons were most often seized in cases of aggravated criminal offenses (as provided by Article 67 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Thus, in 33% of the cases identified during the monitoring an offence was committed by the following entities:

- groups of persons, including criminal organizations - 90 cases (17% of the total number of cases)
- previously convicted persons - 55 cases (10% of the total number of cases)
- persons with alcohol intoxication - 38 cases (7% of the total number of cases)

Regarding other circumstances of committing criminal offenses with the use of weapons, it has been established that there is a consistent pattern of detection among persons **who use or trade in drugs and psychotropic substances**. The total number of such cases for the period from September till December 2019 was 73, which is 14% of the total number.

In addition, the results of the monitoring revealed a tendency towards the widespread use of weapons **during domestic conflicts** (50 cases) in relation to relatives, family members, passers-by, visitors of catering establishments, etc. Thus, **every 10th case** of illegal use of weapons was recorded during domestic conflicts. At the same time, both registered weapons, for which the owner has a permit, and illegal weapons are used during domestic conflicts.

The results of the monitoring also revealed new circumstances for the use of explosives and light weapons. For the period from September till December 2019, there were recorded **shootings** in public places, shooting or planting of explosives on the territory of households, shooting or laying of explosives in vehicles, as well as shooting of commercial premises. Such actions are most often resorted to in case of business conflicts, conflicts on professional grounds, revenge, entities of such illegal actions are representatives of

criminal groups, often young persons are among them. A total of **57 cases** have been identified, which accounts for 11% of the total number of reports analysed.

The use of explosives during the robbery of financial institutions, in particular banks, has become a new and sustained tendency in use of arms and explosives. Between the periods from September till December 2019, there were at least 16 cases of ATMs blow ups.

Circumstances of use of the weapon (September - December 2019)

Every 6th case

Crimes committed by a group of persons, including criminal organizations



Every 7th case

Person injured



Every 6th case

Weapons with drugs



Every 9th case

Shelling of a household, vehicle, commercial premises or a public place



Every 10th case

The crimes were committed by previously convicted persons



Every 10th case

Use of weapons during domestic conflict



Every 11th case

Person killed



7. STATUS OF POPULATION SAFETY AND LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (ACCORDING TO THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES)

The increase in the number of weapons in illegal trafficking has a **direct impact on perceptions of safety** in communities and the level of **confidence in state institutions** for personal and collective security. The number of cases of illegal weapons trafficking and the circumstances of their illegal use also provide insight into **the effectiveness/inefficiency** of the authorities, in particular the National Police, the Security Service, and as a result builds the level of confidence in these institutions.

This conclusion is correlated with the results of social studies conducted in 2019 by national and international organizations.

For example, according to the results of the sociological survey «Pidsumky-2019: public opinion» conducted by the sociological service of the Razumkov Center in cooperation with the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation for the period from 13 till 18 December 2019, during which 2017 respondents were interviewed, it was established that confidence and distrust in such institutions as the National Police, the Patrol Police and the Security Service of Ukraine are almost equally shared. Equally **45% of respondents** have confidence and distrust in the **National Police of Ukraine**, while 45% of respondents have confidence and 44% do not have it in the Patrol Police. Regarding the **Security Service of Ukraine**, 42% of respondents have confidence, and **45% of respondents do not** have it in this state institution¹⁴.

A significant number of illegal weapons and changes in the nature of crimes to the more dangerous one has significantly affected the **level of personal safety** of Ukrainians over the past year.

It is significant that according to the national survey of SCORE Index 2019, Ukrainians assessed the level of their personal (physical) security at **4.2-4.9 points out of 10**, which is a rather low indicator and indicates a sense of insecurity in communities. However, in 2018, according to a similar study¹⁵, this indicator was higher and was **5.5 points out of 10**.

The decrease in the assessment of the security level is directly related to the assessment of the crime rate by Ukrainians, as evidenced by the results of the mentioned sociological study «Pidsumky-2019: public opinion». In particular, **82.7% of respondents** believe that **the crime situation in Ukraine has changed for the worse or has not changed**, and only 7.7% of respondents believe that the crime situation has changed for the better.

At the same time, the majority of respondents do not see any prospects regarding the change in the situation this year either. Thus, 53.4% of respondents believe that the crime rate will not decrease in 2020¹⁶.

In general, sociological study has shown negative trends prevail in the balance of answers regarding the field of safety and in determining the level of confidence in law enforcement agencies.

8. SELECTIVE DATA OF MONTHLY MONITORING ON ILLEGAL TRAFFIC AND USE OF WEAPONS

8.1. SEPTEMBER 2019



The number of reported cases of illegal use of weapons (use, possession, trafficking, and caches) - **92 cases**, including:

✓ types and/or number of weapons identified - **89 cases**

? types and number of weapons not identified - **3 cases**



The territories where the largest number of cases of illegal arms use was found:

Odesa Oblast (16 episodes), Donetsk Oblast (13), Kharkiv Oblast (8), Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (7), Kyiv Oblast (5), Kyiv (5).



Location of weapons detection (number of cases):

public place - 45 cases, home - 43 cases, vehicle - 4 cases.



Categories and number of persons who used or possessed weapons (number of cases):

youth (6), neighbours, acquaintances (5), persons who used weapons against family members (2), passers-by (5), servicemen, ATO participants (6), drivers (4), foreigners (4), and law enforcement officers (2).

Type of identified weapon	Number of cases
Use of weapons	29
Possession of weapons	48
Threats with weapons	1
Theft and sale of weapons	5
Caches	9

Type of identified weapon	
converted handgun	4
rifle	5
assault rifle	6
handgun, revolver	50
hunting weapon	16
grenades	75
grenade body	8
mines (different types)	3
explosive assemblies	30
grenade fuses	39
TNT slabs and fuse caps	57
machine gun	4
grenade launcher	4
RPG rockets, shells	5
pneumatic weapons	2
traumatic weapons	9
improvised firearms	1
improvised or unidentified devices	3
ammunition (rounds)	8861
integral parts (bolt assembly, barrels, suppressors and the like)	21
unidentified small arms	4



Categories of affected persons (number of cases):

neighbours, acquaintances (4), in the service sector (4), law enforcement officers (6), drivers (2), youth (2), and local government representatives (2)

Killed - 5 persons
Injured - 8 persons

Circumstances of criminal activity	Number of cases, september
weapons and drugs	14
Vehicle shelling/laying of	2
service sphere	4
manufacture and sale of weapons	5
ATM blow up	2
professional activity (revenge, abuse of authority)	1
robberies, thefts, assaults	4
suicide	1
domestic conflict	8
house bombardment/laying of explosives	6

HIGH PROFILE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 2019

8.1.1. WEAPONS AND DRUGS

The largest number of cases of illegal possession of weapons in September was recorded among persons related to the distribution of drugs, psychotropic substances or cultivation of illegal plants: poppy and hemp.

Probably, through the use of weapons, the latter ensure their own security. Considering, that the monitoring was held in September in the period of so-called «harvesting» of plants, which fall under the category of plant-based narcotic drugs, a significant number of cases where law enforcement agencies seized drugs and weapons from detained persons were recorded during monitoring.



Photo from the website of National Police

For example, during an authorized search that happened on September 5 in the apartment of the 49-year-old man in Zhytomyr Oblast, law enforcement officers found unregistered weapons, ammunition, cannabis plants and dried cannabis¹⁷. A similar situation occurred in Kyiv Oblast. During a search about 100 grams of amphetamine, weapons and ammunition were found and seized in the house of a 42-year-old man¹⁸. A few cases recorded in Odesa Oblast: during the search in the house police found a converted handgun, dried plant material, and in backyard area – cannabis plants¹⁹. At the end of September, law enforcement officers of Kherson Oblast during search of the house found an improvised laboratory for production of (powerful and

dangerous drug), improvised firearm device, and disassembled traumatic weapon and 18 rounds of ammunition for it²⁰.

In general, similar cases were recorded in **Donetsk²¹, Zhytomyr²², Mykolaiv²³, Kyiv, Odesa, Lviv²⁴, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts²⁵**. There have also been cases of drug trafficking for weapons. A 36-year-old serviceman was detained by law enforcement officers in Odesa Oblast during an exchange of 100 grams of a narcotic substance for ten Makarov pistols²⁶.

8.1.2. USE OF WEAPONS BY FORMER ATO/JFO PARTICIPANTS

Servicemen and ATO/JFO participants through the **possible psychological problems, post-traumatic syndrome**, caused by participation in combat operations in the East of Ukraine, often resort to the use of weapons to solve their problems.

Thus, on September 18, ATO veteran Oleksii Belko stopped traffic across the «Metro» bridge in Kyiv, threatening to blow it up. To prevent human casualties, the «Metro» bridge was blocked, and the «Dnipro» metro station was closed. Oleksii Belko was detained by Special Forces «Kord» and «Alpha». No explosives were found on him, however discovered a pneumatic pistol, a hunting rifle and hunting rifling²⁷. This event, among other things, demonstrated the state of critical infrastructure protection, the ability of local government and law enforcement agencies to respond to the crisis situation in the city

8.1.3. PURCHASE OF WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES THROUGH THE INTERNET

In September there were several cases recorded when detained persons by law enforcement authorities noted, that the weapons were ordered **through the Internet** for personal protection^{28,29}. Such cases took place in Odesa and Donetsk Oblast.

8.1.4. USE OF WEAPONS DURING CONFLICTS

The use of weapons becomes a tool for resolving conflicts and disputes. In Zaporizhzhia Oblast, at the en-

trance to the building of the local council, the deputy head of the united territorial community was **shot skin-tight** from the assault rifle. Then the attacker fired a few more shots at point blank range when the man was already lying on the ground³⁰.

In Mykolaiv Oblast the 48-year-old man **shot three work colleagues** at once due to hostility relationships. According to the information from law enforcement agencies, the detainee has previously been caught by police over cases involving weapons trafficking³¹.

Disputes between neighbours and representatives of the service-sector, disputes on the road can end with a bullet wound³². Eight domestic conflicts involving the use of weapons were recorded in September.

On September 5, a 69-year-old resident of Vinnytsia was detained by officers of the Livoberezhna Police Department on suspicion of the attempted murder of a 73-year-old woman. A man fired his handgun at a neighbour during a domestic conflict, causing her injuries and being hospitalized.

8.1.5. BLOW UP OF ATMs AND BANK BRANCHES

Often enough criminals use various **explosive devices to receive money**. Several cases were recorded in Kharkiv Oblast in September when offenders attempted to **blow up ATMs**³³.



Photo from the website of National Police in Kharkiv Oblast

For example, there was an ATM blown up on Klochkivska Str. in Kharkiv on September 23. Investigators started criminal proceedings under Paragraph 2 of Article 194 (intentional destruction or damage to property). Another incident took place on September 6 in the village Slobozhanske, Kharkiv Oblast. The store employee reported about the incident. In order to seize the money, the attackers smashed glass on the shop window and blew up an ATM inside.

8.1.6. POSSESSION OF WEAPONS AS A HAZARD

According to the monitoring, at least **8 weapons caches** were discovered in September. For example, in Sumy Oblast a weapons cache was detected in which law enforcement officers seized 14 grenades, 2 charges for VOG, 25 UZRGM fuses, 10 detonator cords with fuses, 16 blasting caps, nine TNT slabs and seven powder charges for artillery ammunition. According to the data from the security services, destruction means were planned for use by attackers for the preparation and commission of crimes of an extremist nature, aimed at destabilizing the socio-political situation in the region. Resident of the area involved in possession of weapons was detained³⁴.

In Donetsk Oblast local resident informed the police about the unusual discovery: 10 grenades, more than a thousand ammo rounds, 6 TNT slabs and fuse caps were in a bag, left on the street on the outskirts of the city³⁵.

8.1.7. PASSERS-BY WITH WEAPONS

In a centre of Pokrov, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, law enforcement officers seized an RGD grenade from a man, who drank beer in a public place. The man carried it in his pant pocket³⁶. And again, in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, only in Kryvyi Rih this time a man walked around with a grenade and a handgun. Law enforcement officers were informed about a man who carried prohibited items on him by passer-by - they saw weapons on him when he was in one of the supermarkets³⁷.

8. SELECTIVE DATA OF MONTHLY MONITORING ON ILLEGAL TRAFFIC AND USE OF WEAPONS

8.2. OCTOBER 2019



The number of reported cases of illegal use of weapons (use, possession, trafficking, caches) - **180 cases**, including:

- ✓ types and/or number of weapons identified - 171 cases
- ? types and number of weapons not identified - 9 cases



The territories where the largest number of cases of illegal arms use was found:

Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (18 episodes), Kyiv Oblast (16), Kyiv (14), Zaporizhzhia Oblast (12), Volyn Oblast (10), Lviv Oblast (9).



Location of weapons detection (number of cases): public place - 80 cases, home - 82 cases, vehicle - 16 cases.



Categories and number of persons who used or possessed weapons (number of cases):

youth (11); neighbours, acquaintances (15); persons who used weapons against family members (7); hunters (6); passers-by (6); servicemen, ATO participants (5).



Categories of affected persons (number of cases):

neighbours, acquaintances (10), in the service sector (6), hunters (5), family members (5), and youth (4).

Killed - 20 persons
Injured - 22 persons

Type of identified weapon	Number of cases
Use of weapons	74
Possession of weapons	72
Threats with weapons	11
Theft and sale of weapons	6
Caches	17

Type of identified weapon	
converted handgun	0
rifle	7
assault rifle	3
handgun, revolver	80
hunting weapon	27
grenades	216
grenade body	14
mines (different types)	2
explosive assemblies	7
grenade fuses	54
TNT slabs and fuse caps	51
machine gun	4
grenade launcher	22
RPG rockets, shells	150
pneumatic weapons	13
traumatic weapons	17
improvised firearms	6
improvised or unidentified devices	14
ammunition (rounds)	17869
integral parts (bolt assembly, barrels, suppressors and the like)	54
unidentified small arms	4

Circumstances of criminal activity	Number of cases, october
weapons and drugs	16
Vehicle shelling/laying of service sphere	5
manufacture and sale of weapons	7
ATM blow up	3
professional activity (revenge, abuse of authority)	5
robberies, thefts, assaults	5
suicide	3
domestic conflict	17
house bombardment/laying of explosives	1

SURRENDER OF WEAPONS

From October 1 till October 31, the National Police held a month of voluntary surrender of weapons, ammunition and explosives. 7725 weapons were voluntarily surrendered to police units during the period of the event.

In addition, citizens surrendered 367.6 thousand rounds of ammunition for various weapons and explosive materials and devices. Surrendered explosives included 489 grenades, 846 shells, 190 fuses, 276 mines and 13 explosive devices.

Voluntarily surrendered weapons in October (according to National Police)	Number of items
rifled army	1000
rifled hunting	553
smoothbore hunting	4910
improvised weapon	204
grenades	489
ammunition	846
fuses	190
mines	276
explosive devices	13

The official websites of the regional departments of the National Police provided information on the types and quantity of weapons surrendered during the «Monthly Surrender of Weapons» in October.

HIGH PROFILE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN OCTOBER 2019

8.2.1. ILLEGAL USE OF WEAPONS BY A GROUP OF PERSONS

Increasingly, groups of individuals are becoming participants in events in which weapons are used. During October, **30 of such cases** were recorded in a course of the monitoring. The shooting in Kharkiv became a high-profile event, which took place on October 25 near the supermarket "Vostorh". According to the initial information, two unidentified persons fired at two men. One of them died on the way to the hospital, the other one was provided with necessary assistance by medics. Machine pistol with a suppressor was found near the crime scene. One of the attackers still had four combat grenades and a handgun³⁹. While being pursued by the police, a member of a criminal group blew himself up with a grenade. It was established to be previously convicted resident of Horlivka, Donetsk Oblast.

On October 5, foreign citizens opened fire against passers-by in Kyiv, after which they left the crime scene⁴⁰. On October 17, four unidentified men fired at a "Mercedes" in Dnipro, on Naberezhna Zavodska Str. The driver, born in 1992, died on the spot from a gunshot wound.⁴¹

In Kyiv Oblast, unidentified persons fired against the driver of a passenger car, after that they disappeared in an unknown direction on the vehicle. The incident was preceded by a traffic accident. The car, which was moving towards the victim, collided with the victim's car, after

what the unidentified persons opened fire. The police detained the organizer and two participants of the attack.

The 38-year-old private entrepreneur from Kyiv was the customer and the organizer of the murder. As it turned out, the personal motive for the crime was an unpleasant personal relationship with the victim. The perpetrator is a 41-year-old foreigner, during his search law enforcement officers found and seized a "TT" pistol with a magazine, 60 rounds of various calibres, a suppressor and three spare barrels⁴².

Such cases when entity of a crime was armed group of individuals were recorded in **Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Rivne, Kirovohrad, Odesa, Lviv, Sumy and Chernivtsi Oblasts**.

8.2.2. DOMESTIC CONFLICTS. ILLEGAL USE OF WEAPONS BY INTOXICATED PERSONS

Entities that use the weapon more often, less frequently - threaten or possess the weapon were found with alcohol intoxication. In October during the monitoring 24 cases were recorded in which persons who used weapons were intoxicated. Thus, on October 24, 2019, a 40-year-old man in a state of alcohol intoxication shot his 66-year-old father-in-law and 65-year-old mother-in-law with a hunting rifle, wounded his 8-year-old daughter and tried to kill himself by shooting himself in the face in the village Zavallia of Kamianets-Podilskyi district in Khmelnytsky Oblast⁴³.

Similar cases when entities were intoxicated were recorded in Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Sumy, Lviv, Kirovograd, Poltava, Rivne, Ternopil, Kharkiv, Kherson, Cherkasy and Chernihiv Oblasts.

8.2.3. WEAPONS AND DRUGS

During the monitoring **15 cases** were recorded, when during the searches of drugs law enforcement officers found weapons or vice versa.

For example, in Dnipropetrovsk, police found a batch of drugs worth more than UAH 2.2 million. During the searches 200 gr. of plastic explosive, an RGD-5 grenade and a blank gun with ammunition were also seized from the detainees with the participation of Special Forces unit "KORD"⁴⁴.



Photo from the website of National Police

Four residents of Chernivtsi Oblast, aged from 39 to 59, produced and sold heavy drugs in Bukovina: cannabis, amphetamine and cocaine, as well as sold firearms, explosives and ammunition⁴⁵.

On October 31 police seized more than 40 kg of hemp and weapons from a former law enforcement officer in Kharkiv Oblast. «Market» value of seized narcotic substances is more than UAH 1 million. The former police officer did not have special permission for weapons and ammunition, which were also found during the search⁴⁶.

Such cases, when the circumstance of the incident was the search and detection of weapons and drugs at the same time were recorded in **Kyiv, Lviv, Zaporozhzhia, Kirovohrad, Kherson, Odesa, Chernivtsi, Kharkiv and Mykolaiv Oblasts.**

8.2.4. WEAPONS AMONG YOUTH

During the monitoring in October, **11 events** were identified, the entities of which were young people (persons of 18-25 years old), as well as 2 events with adolescent entities (14-18 years). On October 13 a 15-year-old teenager accidentally shot his 13-year-old friend in the face with a pneumatic rifle, injuring his left eye during the game in Zhytomyr Oblast. It turned out that the weapon belonged to the uncle of the guy who fired the shot. As a result of the incident, the victim was seriously injured in the left eye⁴⁷.

Three people (21, 22 and 24 years old) drove into the farm in Rivne Oblast and began threatening the farmer and his three employees with a weapon in their hands. The incident took place shortly after the farmer's harvest - about 40 tons of soybeans, which were loaded into two trucks. The attackers ordered truck drivers to drive in the direction of the «Kyiv-Chop» highway⁴⁸.

Two residents of the Odesa Oblast (20 and 22 years old) were committing assault robberies against petrol stations and shops. While one of the attackers approached the cashier and, threatening with a handgun, demanded money, the other stayed behind the wheel to be ready to run away with the money⁴⁹.

Other cases in which the entities of incidents were young people and teenagers were recorded in **Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Volyn, Rivne, Chernihiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad and Mykolaiv Oblasts.**

8.2.5. WEAPONS BROUGHT FROM THE EAST OF UKRAINE

In October, **7 cases** of weapons use were recorded involving weapons brought from the East of Ukraine - from the area of Joint Forces Operation (JFO).

Thus, law enforcement officers found and seized a tube of RPG-22 anti-tank rocket launcher, about 300 grams of plastic explosive, four UZRGM-2 fuses, as well as more than 1000 rounds of various calibres from a 36-year-old resident of Kyiv at home and in the garage⁵⁰.

A resident of one of the villages of Cherkasy Oblast stored a large number of ammunition in his premises: three «F-1» grenades, two RGD-5 grenades, and fus-

es for UZRGМ grenades, seven signal bombs, RKG-3 anti-tank grenade, signal mine, smoke-puff charge, smoke grenade and 7.62 mm calibre ammunition. The objects detected come from JFO zone⁵¹.

In Lviv Oblast, law enforcement officers prevented a 45-year-old local resident from blowing up his own house, where he lived with his family. An RGD-5 grenade, a fuse to it and a smoke grenade, which was brought from JFO zone were seized from the man. This man was on military service in the 24th mechanized brigade and came home from the JFO zone on vacation. According to neighbours, he was often intoxicated, causing a conflict with his wife.



Photo from the website of National Police

8.2.6. BLOW UP OF ATMs AND BANK BRANCHES

In October, the tendencies of blowing up ATMs continued - during the monitoring 5 cases were recorded. For example, at night on October 12, 2019, in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, in the village Mykolaivka, Novomoskovsk district, an ATM of "Kredi Ahrikol bank" was blown up. The intruders threatened the security guard with weapons and stole money⁵². **Similar cases were recorded in Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv and Kharkiv Oblasts.**

8.2.7. TRAFFICKING AND SALE OF WEAPONS

Despite the fact that, in general, illegal trafficking is not a criminal offence in Ukraine, weapons trafficking are exception and establishes the liability provided in the Article 201 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

Illegal import of weapons from abroad was recorded within the framework of monitoring in October. Thus, the Security Service of Ukraine established that the

management of the Ukrainian private enterprises that specializes in the development of weapons has set up a scheme for the illegal import of the parts of combat firearms from abroad. For open-ended customs clearance of goods, they were imported under the guise of non-lethal weapons. Later on, the enterprise's facilities collected and delivered weapons to domestic markets and abroad under the guise of sporting goods. During the special operation, law enforcement officers seized a batch of integral parts for the conversion of more than 150 weapons at one of the customs posts of Kyiv Oblast. During the authorized searches at the place of residence of the defendants of the proceedings and production the office of the enterprise, investigators of Security Service of Ukraine seized more than 30 handguns, submachine guns, rifles, grenade launchers and grenades. They also found almost 3000 units of ammunition for small arms and other military weapons, as well as financial documentation confirming the signing of contracts for arms import abroad⁵³.



Photo from the website of SBU

8.2.8. HUNTING SEASON

Murders and injuries of hunters during hunting were recorded in Zakarpattia, Odesa, Rivne and Khmelnytskyi Oblasts. Incidents were recorded in the midst of the hunting season.

Resident of Kyiv was wounded during the hunting season in Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi district of Odesa Oblast. A 51-year-old entrepreneur from Lviv shot his friend with a rifle while hunting in Rivne Oblast.

8. SELECTIVE DATA OF MONTHLY MONITORING ON ILLEGAL TRAFFIC AND USE OF WEAPONS

8.3. NOVEMBER 2019



The number of reported cases of illegal use of weapons (use, possession, trafficking, and caches) - **145 cases**, including:

- ✓ types and/or number of weapons identified - **142 cases**
- ? types and number of weapons not identified - **3 cases**



The territories where the largest number of cases of illegal arms use was found:

Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (15 episodes), Odesa Oblast (15), Kyiv Oblast (12), Kyiv (10), Donetsk Oblast (10), Rivne Oblast (8).



Location of weapons detection (number of cases):
home - 66 cases, public place - 61 cases, vehicle - 18 cases.



Categories and number of persons who used or possessed weapons (number of cases):

family members (7), youth (6), neighbours, acquaintances (6), passers-by (5), servicemen, ATO participants (3), foreigners (3), seniors (3), hunters (6), and children/adolescents (3).



Categories of affected persons (number of cases):
family members (8), neighbours, acquaintances (7), in the service sector (5), youth (5), and foreigners (3).

Killed – 13 persons
Injured – 24 persons

Type of identified weapon	Number of cases
Use of weapons	53
Possession of weapons	69
Threats with weapons	10
Theft and sale of weapons	7
Caches	8

Type of identified weapon	
converted handgun	7
rifle	5
assault rifle	7
handgun, revolver	50
hunting weapon	52
grenades	83
grenade body	8
mines (different types)	1
explosive assemblies	5
grenade fuses	34
TNT slabs and fuse caps	30
machine gun	1
grenade launcher	24
RPG rockets, shells	30
pneumatic weapons	13
traumatic weapons	9
improvised firearms	0
improvised or unidentified devices	8
ammunition (rounds)	25138
integral parts (bolt assembly, barrels, suppressors and the like)	11
unidentified small arms	2

Circumstances of criminal activity	Number of cases, november
weapons and drugs	21
Vehicle shelling/laying of	4
service sphere	9
manufacture and sale of weapons	6
ATM blow up	1
professional activity (revenge, abuse of authority)	5
robberies, thefts, assaults	4
suicide	7
domestic conflict	2
house bombardment/laying of explosives	2

HIGH PROFILE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN NOVEMBER 2019

8.3.1. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SHELLING

According to the reports, a public transport was fired at with weapons while transporting passengers in Ternopil and Kyiv in November. For example, on November 8 in Ternopil, unidentified persons fired against a trolleybus going by the route No. 8 with passengers inside⁵⁴. After that, the intruders on the BMW car left the crime scene. On the night from October 31 to November 1 in Kyiv, unidentified persons fired against an express tram⁵⁵. In addition, in Lviv, unidentified persons fired at a garbage truck⁵⁶. As a result of the incidents, there were no casualties.



Photo: facebook.com/Dmytro Levchenko

8.3.2. VEHICLE SHELLING

Incidents of vehicle shelling or the laying explosives in cars have increased. For example, in Kharkiv Oblast, near the village in Velikoburluk district, the car of a local activist was shelled. In Kharkiv, a Toyota Camry, owned by a lawyer and a former employee of the Kharkiv Oblast prosecutor's office, exploded near a residential building. The owner of the car reported that the explosion was related to his professional activity, and he had already received threats before. A similar case took place in Kherson Oblast. An intruder in a state of alcohol intoxication made more than 20 shots at a car in in Kryvyi Rih. After that, the attacker barricaded himself in the house⁶⁰.

8.3.3. WEAPONS AND FOREIGNERS

Cases of weapons possession by foreign citizens also occurred in November. Thus, in Kyiv, law enforcement officers stopped a foreigner to check his documents. As it turned out, the person was carrying a gun with signs of conversion and drugs⁶¹. In Odessa, law enforcement officers detained a passer-by who turned out to be a foreigner - he carried four handguns in a bag⁶².

In Kharkiv, a 30-year-old citizen of Azerbaijan was injured in the evening and was taken to hospital with gunshot wounds in his stomach, forearms and legs. The person who fired against him was also a citizen of Azerbaijan. The conflict was of a mass nature - the police detained 14 persons - students of various higher education institutions.

On the same day, in Kharkiv, near "Studentska" metro station, citizens of Arab countries started shooting. One foreigner was injured in a course of it⁶³.

8.3.4. ILLEGAL WEAPONS TRAFFICKING: POST OFFICES, INTERNET, EXPRESS DELIVERY

Often attackers use post service and Internet to organize illegal weapons trafficking. In November, according to monitoring results, such cases were recorded in Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk Oblasts.



Photo from the website of National Police in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast

On November 6, a resident of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast was detained in the post office while sending 7 packages of ammunition to the customer. He placed ads on the sale of ammunition in the Internet. In total, 350 ammunitions of 5.6 mm calibre were seized⁶⁴.

In Donetsk Oblast, during the inspection of parcels in the express delivery department, police officers found 9 grenades with fuses, 5 explosive assemblies and more than 200 rounds of ammunition. The owner of the ammunition was a 36-year-old resident of Poltava Oblast⁶⁵.

8.3.5. ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING AND USE OF WEAPONS BY GROUPS OF PERSONS

In the framework of the monitoring, 23 cases of use of weapons in the course of crimes by groups of persons were recorded in November. Often, they include persistent criminal organizations.

In the evening of November 17, Zhytomyr border guards detained four citizens of Ukraine two high-pass cars, who tried to violate the regime and illegally enter the exclusion zone.

Residents of Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv Oblasts, as well as Kyiv were in the vehicles. During the vehicles search four items of rifled weapons of different calibres and one smoothbore short rifle of 22 calibre with ammunition to them were found⁶⁶.



Photo from the website <https://zhitomir-online.com/>

Another case of illegal possession of weapons occurred in Kharkiv Oblast. On November 12, a group of persons robbed a weapon shop in Kupyansk, from which the attackers took four air rifles, nine knives, seven shurikens, four binoculars and one monocular⁶⁷.

In Zakarpattia Oblast, the Security Service of Ukraine detained a group of members who systematically demanded money from businessmen and in a case of refusal to do so, set fire to businessmen's cars or fired against their shops from grenade launchers. The group was headed by a resident of Mukachevo, who had previously been convicted of grave and particularly grave crimes. During searches in the vehicles of members of the group, law enforcement officers seized handguns, hunting carbine, rifle, rounds ammunition of various calibre, cell phones and other evidence of illegal activity⁶⁸.

On 4 November, there was an armed assault on Odesa-Kyiv highway against businessmen who were carrying UAH 12 million in cash to Odesa and planned to spend it on the purchase of various goods. While stopping at a cafe, a minibus approached them, carrying a group of persons in camouflage uniforms and balaclavas. Threatening with weapons and firing in the air, the attackers took the money, cut the tires of the car, and then disappeared⁶⁹.

Total number of crimes committed by groups of persons in November was recorded in Kyiv, as well as Vinnytsia, Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Zhytomyr, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Kirovohrad, Luhansk, Lviv, Cherkasy, Sumy, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Rivne and Kharkiv Oblasts.

8.3.6. USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST REPRESENTATIVES OF SERVICE SECTOR

Often the victims of misuse of weapons are from the service sector. For example, representatives of the financial institution came to the place of residence of a Kyiv citizen in order to check the property, which became the property of the bank for reasons of non-payment of the loan. However, the debtor took out a traumatic handgun and fired two shots, striking one of the men in the leg⁷⁰. A similar case occurred in Mykolaiv Oblast⁷¹. In addition, such cases, where the victims were representatives of the service sector took place in Kyiv and Cherkasy Oblasts.

8.3.7. USE OF WEAPONS BY FORMER ATO/JFO PARTICIPANTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The monitoring has shown that weapons are often in illegally trafficked or may be misused by law enforcement officers (including former), servicemen and the ATO/JFO participants. 5 cases were recorded in November - in Kharkiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Mykolaiv, Kyiv and Rivne Oblasts.

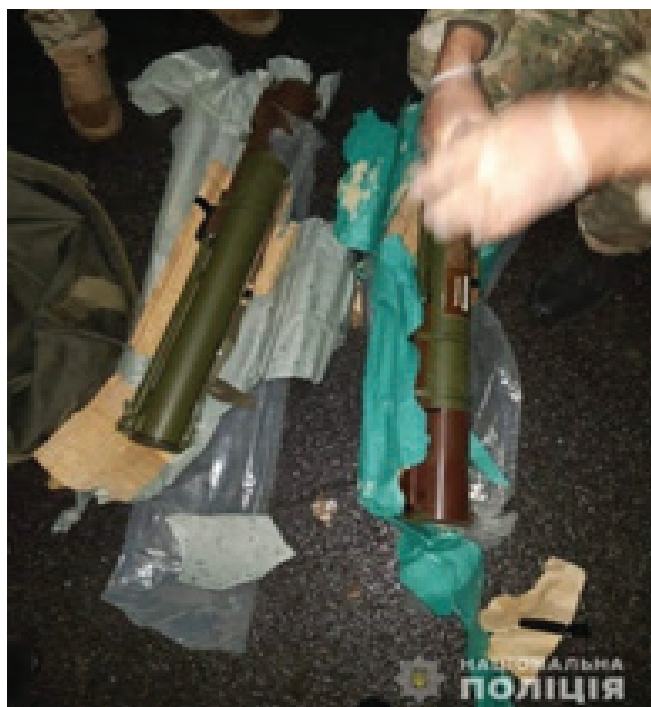


Photo from the website of National Police in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast

In November it was recorded that a serviceman of one of the units deployed to Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, after the end of rotation in JFO zone, illegally exported military means of destruction for further disposal. He was detained during an attempt to dispose three RPG-22 anti-tank rocket launchers, two light anti-tank grenade launchers, five F-1 grenades, three RGD-5 grenades and 400 gr. TNT slab. Two light anti-tank grenade launchers were seized during searches at the place of residence and in the vehicle⁷².

3 light anti-tank grenade launchers and 14 rounds of ammunition for Kalashnikov assault rifle were found from the former serviceman in Mykolaiv Oblast⁷³.

Former law enforcement officers with award weapons may also pose a danger. For example, in Rivne the patrol officers stopped an off-road vehicle with four men inside with signs of alcohol intoxication. Three of them had previous convictions, and one was a police colonel, a former law enforcement officer with an award weapon. Offenders resisted the police and caused them physical injuries⁷⁴.

8.3.8. DOMESTIC CONFLICTS. USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST THE FAMILY MEMBERS, CLOSE ASSOCIATES

Family members and close associates were among the categories most affected by the illegal use of weapons in November. There were 8 cases recorded.

For example, in Kharkiv, a 14-year-old teenager invited mother and brother of his girlfriend to a mall, with whom they had a conflict, and fired against a woman and her son in a mall, hitting the victims in the head⁷⁵.

In Rivne Oblast, as a result of the conflict, a man killed a woman and then shot himself in the neck⁷⁶.

8. BSELECTIVE DATA OF MONTHLY MONITORING ON ILLEGAL TRAFFIC AND USE OF WEAPONS

8.4. DECEMBER 2019



The number of reported cases of illegal use of weapons (use, possession, trafficking, and caches) - **129 cases**, including:

✓ types and/or number of weapons identified - **119 cases**

? types and number of weapons not identified - **10 cases**



The territories where the largest number of cases of illegal arms use was found:

Kyiv Oblast (18 episodes), Kyiv (13), Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (11), Zakarpattia Oblast (10), Donetsk Oblast (8).



Location of weapons detection (number of cases):

home - 68 cases, public place - 47 cases, vehicle - 112 cases, other - 2 cases.



Categories and number of persons who used or possessed weapons (number of cases):

youth (9), family members (5), neighbours, acquaintances (5), passers-by (5), drivers (5), foreigners (4).

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Type of identified weapon	Number of cases
Use of weapons	44
Possession of weapons	65
Threats with weapons	11
Theft and sale of weapons	5
Caches	5



Categories of affected persons (number of cases):

in the service sector (7), passers-by (7), family members (6), entrepreneurs (6), neighbours, acquaintances (4).

Type of identified weapon	
converted handgun	2
rifle	8
assault rifle	15
handgun, revolver	75
hunting weapon	40
grenades	65
grenade body	102
mines (different types)	11
explosive assemblies	15
grenade fuses	95
TNT slabs and fuse caps	50
machine gun	7
grenade launcher	19
RPG rockets, shells	30
pneumatic weapons	3
traumatic weapons	14
improvised firearms	4
improvised or unidentified devices	9
ammunition (rounds)	15514
integral parts (bolt assembly, barrels, suppressors and the like)	9
unidentified small arms	21

Killed - 8 persons
Injured - 21 persons

Circumstances of criminal activity	Number of cases, december
weapons and drugs	14
Vehicle shelling/laying of explosives	2
service sphere	4
manufacture and sale of weapons	5
theft of weapons, including for trafficking	2
ATM blow up	1
professional activity (revenge, abuse of authority)	4
robberies, thefts, assaults	1
suicide	8
hunting	6
domestic conflict	14
shelling in a public place	5
mass fight	0
house bombardment/laying of explosives	7
shelling of commercial premises	2

HIGH PROFILE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN DECEMBER 2019

8.4.1. HOUSE SHELLING

During September-December, there were recorded cases of house shelling, however the largest number have occurred in December. The reasons for these attacks were the victim's professional activity, revenge, intimidation of businessmen and domestic conflicts. A total of 7 cases were recorded in December in Zakarpattia, Mykolaiv, Vinnytsia, Kyiv and Ternopil Oblasts.

Thus, in Mykolaiv Oblast, local residents reported that on December 2 their mutual acquaintance came to them with a short rifle, fired pellets at the house and cars, and injured one of them⁷⁷.

In Kyiv Oblast, a worker laid an RGD-5 grenade in the yard of the employer's private premises, where he had been working on a construction site for several years. In his opinion, the employer did not pay him for the work⁷⁸.

In Mukachevo, Zakarpattia Oblast, on New Year's Eve, an unidentified person fired an object similar to a light grenade launcher, damaging the fence on the premises⁷⁹.

8.4.2. DOMESTIC CONFLICTS

Domestic conflicts, in which weapons become a way to resolve them, are becoming more and more common for Ukraine. Family quarrels, disputes between friends or colleagues, disputes between drivers and clashes in catering establishments can all end in firing. 14 cases that were included in the category of "domestic conflict" were recorded in December.

Accordingly, a man decided to take revenge for his father's accusations of theft. He waited for another man near the house, and shot him in the chest and ran away. The reason for this action was the conflict because the attacker's father allegedly stole the barbecue from the victim's premises. Son decided to take revenge on him because of these accusations⁸⁰.

A 38-year-old son killed his father during a fight in Poltava Oblast. A pensioner died in the hospital from the injury⁸¹.

On December 10, there was a conflict between two drivers at the crossroads in Lviv, during which one of them - a 23-year-old Lviv citizen - fired a handgun⁸².

In general, domestic conflicts with the illegal use of weapons were recorded in Mykolaiv, Zakarpattia, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernihiv, Poltava, Lviv, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson Oblasts, as well as in Kyiv.

8.4.3. ILLEGAL SALE WEAPONS

Cases of illegal sale of weapons continued to be recorded in December, as in previous months. So, for example, the Security Service blocked the illegal trafficking of large quantities of military means of destruction in Odesa Oblast. Two residents of the region illegally possessed for further trafficking special ammunition to Kalashnikov assault rifles and machine guns and Dragunov sniper rifles. They searched their clients through personal contacts among representatives of criminal groups. The criminals were detained while attempting to sell 400 rounds of 7.62 mm calibre ammunition. Five hundred rounds of ammunition for automatic weapons were seized during the search of the detainees' premises⁸³.

A similar case was recorded in Volyn Oblast. Attention should be drawn to the fact that such crimes occur in the border regions of Ukraine. Other cases of weapons trafficking were recorded in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts, which are located in the JFO zone or near it.



Photo from the website of SBU

8.4.4. THREATS WITH WEAPONS

Incidents where weapons are used to intimidate victims are most often occurred during robberies and domestic conflicts. The largest number of such cases was recorded during the monitoring in December - 11 cases.

In Chernihiv Oblast, a father complained about his 42-year-old son, who smashed a TV set and a house door, made a mess in a house, and when the patrol police response unit arrived, he threatened law enforcement officers with a handgun⁸⁴.

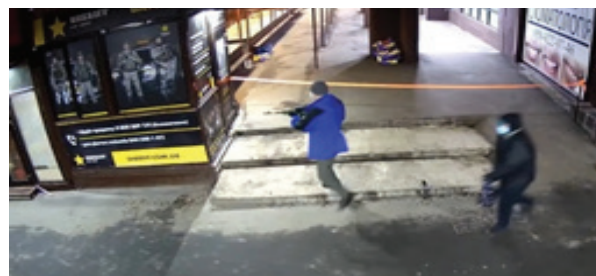
Police detained a group of extortionists in Cherkasy. The attackers, threatening the victim with a handgun, seized his car and forced him to write a loan note⁸⁵.

On December 8, 2019 in one of the shops in Lviv, a man, threatening with a handgun, seized the money from the cash register and ran away⁸⁶.

autopsy, the robbers opened fire against the police and tried to use diversionary grenades. Due to the professional actions of law enforcement officers, no one was injured⁸⁸;

➤ an attack on a farmer's house by a criminal group from Moldova (Transnistria) was also recorded⁸⁹;

➤ on December 31, 2019, a market in a district of Kyiv (Troieshchyna) was shelled. As a result of illegal actions of unidentified persons with the use of weapons and a smoke grenade several shops were damaged and there were no victims⁹⁰.



Similar cases, when the entities were groups of persons were recorded in Kyiv and Kyiv Oblast, as well as in Khmelnytskyi, Sumy, Mykolayiv, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Zakarpattia, Kirovohrad, Cherkasy, Odesa, Zhytomyr and Donetsk Oblasts.

8.4.6. POSSESSION OF WEAPONS AS A HAZARD.

Possession of weapons becomes a frequent category of events involving weapons. During the monitoring 65 cases were recorded in December.

Possession of weapons becomes a frequent category of events involving weapons. During the monitoring 65 cases were recorded in December. The most high-profile event is the detention in Luhansk Oblast of representative of a criminal group from one of the South Caucasus countries, previously declared wanted in Ukraine, who arrived in Luhansk Oblast under another name. There, the abuser had to coordinate the activities of criminal groups and established control over certain areas of legal and shadow business in the region. Through illegal activities, the foreigner planned to create a mechanism of influence on local government. The actions of this person were led and directed by Lotu Huli related to of the Russian Federation, who was convicted five times and now lives in the Middle

8.4.5. ILLEGAL WEAPONS TRAFFICKING AND USE ID WEAPONS BY GROUPS OF PERSONS

Increasingly, groups of individuals are becoming entities in weapons-related events. 26 cases were recorded during the monitoring in November.

Terrorism of business was a common activity of such groups in December. High-profile events:

➤ on December 1, 2019 in the centre of Kyiv the car of deputy Sobolev was shelled and his young child was killed⁸⁷;



➤ on December 13, 2019 in Kyiv Oblast criminal police officers together with the fighters of the «KORD» of the Main department of National Police of Zhytomyr Oblast detained four people during their attack on the house of the businessman. After the

East countries. During searches at the place of temporary residence of the abuser, law enforcement officers seized firearms and ammunition⁹¹.

The second high-profile event was the possession of weapons in Rivne - on December 18, 2019 the police officers seized more than 10.2 thousand weapons and ammunition that had been kept in the garage by a previously convicted 45-year-old man⁹².



Photo from the website of National Police

Among the atypical cases, there was identified a case of a pensioner possessing weapons. During the search in the premises of a 67-year-old man, police officers seized 17 weapons, 7 packages with ammunition of 7.62 mm calibre and about 180 rounds of other ammunition of various calibres⁹³.

Cases where the event category was the possession of weapons were recorded in Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy, Zakarpattia, Khmelnytskyi, Luhansk, Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kirovohrad, Kherson, Chernivtsi, Rivne, Kharkiv, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Volyn, Poltava, Ternopil, Zhytomyr, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa and Kyiv Oblasts, as well as in Kyiv.

In December, 5 cases of weapons possession were recorded in private caches - in Donetsk, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv Oblasts.

For example, on December 21, 2019, officers of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, Battalion of the special purpose police and the Rubizhne national police department in Luhansk Oblast discovered and seized near the

access roads of the territory of Rubizhne railway station 2 RPG-22 grenade launchers, RGD-5 and RGD-55 MB grenade shells, 18 flare slabs, smoke grenade and 5 cases of SM-UZ signal mines in the course of patrolling⁹⁴.

On December 30, 2019, in Donetsk Oblast police officers found 18 grenades, a smoke grenade and a signal rocket, which were hidden in a wood line. The man was collecting firewood and came across a cache of ammunition⁹⁵.



Photo from the website of National Police

8.4.7. THREATS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

On December 17, 2019 law enforcement officers detained a foreigner who was planning a terrorist attack in Kharkiv Oblast. The attacker planned to lay explosives with the capacity of 2 kg of tolite (TNT) in the immediate vicinity of the chlorine tank, which is technologically involved in the water treatment system. In the course of the special operation, representatives of the Security Service of Ukraine alerted the detonating of the explosive device and detained the intruder⁹⁶.



Фото з сайту СБУ

8.4.8. BLOW UP OF ATMs AND BANK BRANCHES

The tendency of blowing up ATMs that started in September continued in December - 3 cases were recorded in the course of monitoring.



Photo from the website 24tv.ua

Thus, on December 31, 2019, an unidentified person in the Kirovohrad Oblast damaged an ATM, which belongs to the LLC "Derzhavnyi oschadnyi bank Ukrainy" and stole funds in the amount of UAH 769360⁹⁷.

Similar cases have been reported in Vinnytsia and Kharkiv Oblasts.

8.4.9. WEAPONS AND DRUGS

During the monitoring 22 cases were recorded, when during the drug search the law enforcement officers found weapons.



Photo from the website of National Police

On December 11, 2019 in Zakarpattia Oblast a group of drug dealers were exposed, drugs and counterfeit cigarettes were imported to EU countries.

A quadcopter, which was used by the conspirators to transport goods outside the border, mobile phones, office equipment, weapons, optical devices and so on were found and seized at the place of residence of the traffickers⁹⁸.

Similar cases when weapons and drugs were found during the searches were reported in Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy, Zakarpattia, Donetsk, Kirovohrad, Chernivtsi, Luhansk, Kherson, Ternopil, Zaporizhzhia Oblasts, as well as in Kyiv.

8.4.10. USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST REPRESENTATIVES OF SERVICE SECTOR

There were 7 events identified in the course of monitoring related to the use and threat of weapons against service providers. Threatening with weapons was used in trade institutions, shops, the use of weapons - in taxis, public transport.

Thus, on December 24, 2019, an unidentified man with a mask ran into a local shop in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. Threatening with an object similar to a handgun, he forced the shopkeeper to give out the funds that were in the cash register. The intruder took approximately UAH 4000 and ran away⁹⁹.

Other cases involving weapons in the service sector were recorded in Lviv, Mykolaiv, Kyiv and Ternopil Oblasts.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Armed conflict and the occupation of part of the territory is a major factor determining the state of the illegal trafficking of weapons.

According to the results of the monitoring, it was recorded that a significant part of illegal weapons originates from sources that are (were) in the combat zone or in the immediate adjacent territories.

In general, the research conducted by the Center indicates that the number of weapons in illegal trafficking in Ukraine has significantly increased. This is confirmed both by data obtained during the monitoring and by statistical information of the PGO and the National Police. In particular, according to the PGO in the period from 2015 till 2019, **the number of seized explosives increased by 6 times** - from 1.3 tons to 7.3 tons. According to the National Police, the number of weapons **seized from illegal trafficking** in only 11 months of 2019 **doubled** compared to 2018.

The category of **explosive devices** (mines, grenades, fuse caps and TNT slabs) accounts for at least **623 items**, accounting for 32% of the total number identified in the study. The law enforcement officers most often identify explosive devices such as «RGD-5» and «F-1» grenades. Equally threatening is the high prevalence of **small arms** trafficking, which **accounts for 23% (445 items)** of the total number of weapons identified by the Center. The «PM» and «Fort-12» pistols remain the most common illegally trafficked models.

According to the results of the study, out of the total number of reports of identified illegal weapons (548), of which the type and kind of weapons can be identified, the largest number was recorded in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (51), Kyiv (47), Kyiv Oblast (46), Donetsk Oblast (39), Kharkiv Oblast (35), Odesa Oblast (29), Lviv Oblast (26) and Zaporizhzhia Oblast (24), and the lowest number was recorded in Khmelnytskyi Oblast (6).

The study showed almost equal number of cases of illegal possession (46%) and use (37%) of weapons and explosives.

In September-December 2019, reports on the proliferation of illegal weapons were often recorded in Donetsk Oblast (4), where the JFO takes place and adjacent Zaporizhzhia Oblast (2).

Illegal weapons proliferation was also reported in the border regions of Ukraine, in particular Chernivtsi Oblast (2), which borders Romania and Moldova and Volyn Oblast (2), which borders Poland and Belarus.

A relatively large number of illegal weapons were seized from the caches, and among the regions with the largest number of such reports six (!) border regions outside the JFO zone, in particular Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Sumy and Mykolaiv Oblasts.

There is a number of cases where active or former servicemen transport weapons from the combat zone to the rest of Ukraine.

The results of the analysis indicate a high probability of a connection between an increase in the number of cases/events with illegal weapons in Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Sumy, Mykolaiv and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts and a significant part of participants of ATO/JFO from these regions of Ukraine.

Information on individual events/cases involving active servicemen indicates a lack of control over the trafficking and handling of weapons, as well as an insufficient level of educational and preventive work in individual units of «power» agencies.

In addition, most of the persons involved in the events/cases of seizure or use of weapons are former combatants (veterans), which indicate the absence or inadequacy of measures to work with them after their return to peaceful life, in particular psychological assistance, assistance in finding employment, etc. The use of weapons by this category of persons in domestic conflicts, including family conflicts, is not uncommon.

It should be noted that conditions of access to illegal weapons have been facilitated not only for combatants but also for civilians.

The use of illegal weapons in conflict situations of various nature is another tendency that has been identified from the monitoring results. The presence of illegal weapons on one side of an economic or even political conflict may induce the other side to arm. This statement applies to both individual and group conflicts.

Relatively easy access to illegal weapons and their moderate purchase price can influence the change in the nature of some group conflicts from non-violent to violent ones.

The same is true for crimes committed with the use of weapons. Monitoring and statistical information indicate a shift in the nature of crimes to more dangerous one. Prominent examples include robberies of ATMs and bank branches through the use of explosive devices or the shelling of grenade launchers at cars or office premises.

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A common phenomenon for Ukrainian population has become the possession of a significant number of fuses, explosive assemblies for grenades and mines, their bodies, as well as TNT slabs, which is one of the consequences of the armed conflict, during which the combatants learned the skills of using weapons, conversion, manufacturing of improvised firearms and explosive devices. Information with step-by-step instructions on the manufacture of explosive devices and the use of other types of weapons can be easily found on the Internet, which, with relatively easy access to illegal weapons, also makes it possible for persons to use who have not directly participated in hostilities, including members of **organized criminal groups**.

The tendency to convert traumatic weapons into lethal and signal weapons, which came mainly from Turkey into other types, continues.

Particular attention is paid to the use of weapons and explosive devices against critical infrastructure - at airports, at water supply facilities, overpasses, etc.

In the course of the study, a number of regularities were identified which indicate the **threats of illegal weapons trafficking to personal and public security**. Thus, out of 548 analysed events, in **every 7th** case weap-

ons were identified together with **narcotic substances**, while **every 9th analysed case** it was **shelling** of a household, vehicle, commercial premises or a public place. **Previously convicted persons** were subjects of illegal possession or use of weapons in **every 10th case**, and **every 14th case** involved persons with alcohol intoxication. In addition, in **every 7th case** of illegal use of weapons, the victim **was injured** and in **every 11th case** the victim **was killed**.

In general, weapons are widely used by groups of persons who have organized to commit various offences, including in a socially dangerous manner. For example, in the period from September till December 2019, 548 cases of **illegal trafficking or use of weapons every 6th was related to the activities of such groups of persons**.

The most frequent cases of illegal use or possession of weapons were recorded among **18-25 years old persons**. It draws attention to the criminal activities of such a risk group as foreigners, which mainly includes citizens of the Russian Federation, countries of the Caucasus region and Moldova (Transnistria). Moreover, during the analyzed period, such persons were most often the organizers or direct participants of criminal groups.

Resilience and security in communities largely depend on easy access to weapons, its proliferation and use in conflict resolution.

Access to weapons by organized criminal groups, radical organizations and other formal and informal groups challenges the state monopoly on the use of force, including the use of weapons. Under such circumstances, informal centres of influence on economic, political and other socially important processes can be established separately from state and local authorities.

Proliferation and relatively easy access to illegal weapons for the large number of protest events involving persons with weapons skills, which were observed among the population in September-December 2019, are obvious risk factors that should be taken into account by both the organizers of protests and the authorities.

The large volume of illegal weapons of certain types, their moderate price and easy access may be an incen-

tive for the **activation of sustainable criminal groups, including transnational ones, in the issue of illegal weapons trafficking in or from Ukraine.**

Another important factor is the **lack of a proper legislative framework** to regulate weapons trafficking in Ukraine. Since 1995, the ownership of weapons and explosives has not been regulated by law but by a resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine¹⁰⁰, which establishes a list of property that cannot be owned by citizens on the territory of Ukraine. According to this resolution, weapons, ammunition (except for hunting and pneumatic weapons, and ammunition to it, as well as sporting weapons and ammunition to it, purchased by public associations with the permission of law enforcement agencies), explosives and explosive devices belong to the **types of property that cannot be owned**

by citizens. In the annex to the aforementioned resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, there is also a special procedure for the acquisition of ownership by citizens of certain types of property, including smooth-bore and rifled hunting weapons, gas pistols, revolvers and pneumatic weapons.

In this case, there is a need to amend the whole set of legal acts for the proper regulation of the ownership of weapons and weapons trafficking in Ukraine. At the same time, it should be noted that as of the moment of preparation of this study there are two draft laws in the Verkhovna Rada dated from September 2019 (the draft law No. 1222 dated from September 2, 2019 «On weapons» and the draft law No. 1222-1 dated from September 20, 2019 «On arms trafficking»¹⁰¹.

10. ANNEXES

10.1. Offences in the field of illegal trafficking and use of weapons under the national legislation of Ukraine

CRIMINAL CODE OF UKRAINE

Article 260. Creation of unlawful paramilitary or armed formations

1. Creation of paramilitary formations in contravention of Ukrainian laws, and participation in their operation, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of two to five years with or without forfeiture of property.
2. Creation of armed formations in contravention of Ukrainian laws, and participation in their operation, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of three to eight years with or without forfeiture of property.
3. Leadership in the formations specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, financing, supplying weapons, ammunition, explosives or military engineering to these formations, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years with or without forfeiture of property.
4. Participation in attacks on businesses, institutions, organizations or private individuals, as a member of formations specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of seven to twelve years with or without forfeiture of property.
5. Any such actions as provided for by paragraph 4 of this Article, where they caused death of people or any other grave consequences, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years with or without forfeiture of property.
6. Any person, who was a member of formations specified in this Article, shall be discharged from criminal under this Article for any actions provided for in paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article, if he/she has voluntarily abandoned any such formation and reported its existence to government agencies or local government authorities.

Note:

1. A paramilitary formation shall mean a formation or a group that has a military organizational structure, including the unity of command, subordination and discipline, and performs military exercise, line training and physical drills.
2. An armed formation shall mean a military group that is illegally armed with firearms, explosives or other weapons fit for use.

Article 262. Stealing, appropriation or extortion of firearms, ammunition, explosives or radioactive material, or obtaining them by fraud or abuse of official position

1. Stealing, appropriation or extortion of firearms (other than smoothbore hunting guns), ammunition, explosive substances, explosive devices or radioactive material, or obtaining them by fraud, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of three to seven years.
2. The same actions, if repeated, or committed by a group of persons upon their prior conspiracy, and also obtaining items listed in paragraph 1 of this Article through abuse of office, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.
3. Any such actions as provided for by paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article, that committed by an organized group,

and also brigandism for the purpose of stealing firearms (other than smoothbore hunting guns), ammunition, explosives or radioactive materials, and also extortion of any such items accompanied with violence dangerous to human life or health, -shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years with the forfeiture of property.

Article 263. Unlawful handling of weapons, ammunition or explosives

1. Carrying, storing, purchasing, producing, repairing, transferring or selling firearms (other than smoothbore hunting guns), ammunition, explosive substances or explosive devices without a permit required by law, -shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of two to five years.
2. Carrying, producing, repairing or selling of daggers, Finnish knives, brass knuckles or cold arms without a permit required by law, -shall be punishable by a fine up to 50 tax-free minimum incomes, or community service for a term of 120 to 240 hours, or arrest for a term of three to six months, or restraint of liberty for a term up of two to five years, or imprisonment for a term up to three years.
3. A person, who committed an offense created by paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article, shall be discharged from criminal liability, if that person voluntarily surrendered weapons, ammunition, explosive substances or explosive devices to the authorities.

Article 263-1. Illicit manufacturing, conversion or repair of firearms or falsification, illicit removal or alteration of their markings, or illicit manufacture of ammunition, explosives or explosive devices

1. Illicit manufacture, conversion or repair of firearms or falsification, unlawful removal or alteration of their markings, or illicit manufacture of ammunition, explosives or explosive device, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of three to seven years.
2. The same actions, if repeated, or committed by a group of persons, -shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.
3. Any such actions as provided for by paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article, if committed by a group of persons, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of eight to twelve years.

Article 264. Negligent storage of firearms or ammunition

Negligent storage of firearms or ammunition that caused death of people or any other grave consequences, - shall be punishable by restraint of liberty for a term up to three years, or imprisonment for the same term.

Article 410. Stealing, appropriation, extortion or fraudulent obtaining of weapons, ammunitions, explosive or other warfare substances, vehicles, military or special enginery, or other munitions, or abuse of official position

1. Stealing, appropriation, extortion or fraudulent obtaining of weapons, ammunitions, explosive or other warfare substances, vehicles, military or special enginery, or other munitions, or obtaining them by fraud of abuse of official position, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of three to eight years.
2. The same actions committed by a military official with the abuse of office, or repeated, or committed by a group of persons upon their prior conspiracy, or where they cause any significant damage, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.
3. Any such actions as provided for by paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article, if committed in state of special period, except martial law, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of five to twelve years.

4. Any such actions as provided for by paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article, if committed in state of martial law or in a battle, brigandism for the purpose of taking possession of weapons, ammunitions, explosive or other warfare substances, vehicles, military or special enginery, and also extortion of these items accompanied with violence dangerous to the victim's life and health, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years.

Article 414. Violation of rules related to handling of weapons, and also substances and objects of increased danger to the surroundings

1. Violation of rules on handling of weapons, ammunitions, explosive, radioactive and other substances and objects of increased danger to the surroundings, where it caused bodily injuries to the victim, - shall be punishable by service restrictions for a term up to two years, or custody in a penal battalion for the same term, or imprisonment for a term up to three years.

2. The same act that caused bodily injuries to several persons or death of the victim, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of two to ten years.

3. Any such act as provided by paragraph 1, where it caused death to several persons or any other grave consequences, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of three to twelve years.

Article 429. Unauthorized leaving of a battlefield or refusal to use weapons

Unauthorized leaving of a battlefield during a battle or refusal to use weapons in a battle, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.

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Article 439. Use of weapons of mass destruction

1. The use of weapons of mass destruction prohibited by international instruments consented to be binding by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of eight to twelve years.

2. The same act that caused death of people or any other grave consequences, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of eight to fifteen years, or life imprisonment.

Article 440. Development, production, purchasing, storage, distribution or transportation of weapons of mass destruction

Development, production, purchasing, storage, distribution or transportation of weapons of mass destruction prohibited by international instruments consented to be binding by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, - shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of three to ten years.

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Article 172-19. Violation of rules on handling weapons and substances and objects of increased danger for the environment

Violation of rules on handling weapons and substances and objects of increased danger for the environment, as well as radioactive materials, - shall be punishable by a fine of seventy to one hundred and forty-five non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens or arrest with detention in the guardroom for up to seven days.

Any such actions as provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article, if committed under conditions of a special period, - shall be punishable by a fine of one hundred forty-five to two hundred eighty-five non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens or arrest with detention in the guardroom from seven up to ten days.

Article 174. Shooting from a firearm or cold throwing or pneumatic weapon, devices for shooting cartridges equipped with rubber or similar in their properties propelling missiles of non-lethal action in the unaverted places for this purpose, as well as in the allowed places with violation of the established order.

Shooting from a firearm or cold throwing weapon, devices for shooting cartridges equipped with rubber or similar in their properties propelling missiles of non-lethal action or a pneumatic weapon of calibre greater than 4.5 millimetres and a bullet flight speed of more than 100 meters in second, in the unaverted places for this purpose, as well as in the allowed places with violation of the established order, - shall be punishable by a fine of one hundred to one hundred fifty non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens with confiscation of the weapons, devices for shooting cartridges equipped with rubber or similar in their properties propelling missiles of non-lethal action and ammunition.

Article 190. Violation by citizens of the procedure of acquisition, possession, transfer or sale of firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons to other persons

Acquisition, possession, transfer or sale of firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons over 4.5 mm calibre and the bullet speed more than 100 meters per second without the corresponding document of the permit issued by the authorized state body, - shall be punishable by a fine of seven to ten non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens with confiscation of the weapons or without it.

The same actions, committed by a person who has been subjected to an administrative penalty for one of the violations provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, - shall be punishable by a fine of ten to fifteen non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens with confiscation of the weapons.

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Article 191. Violation by citizens of the procedure of possession, carrying or transportation of award weapons, firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons and ammunition.

Violation by citizens of the procedure of possession, carrying or transportation of award weapons, firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons over 4.5 mm calibre and the bullet speed more than 100 meters per second and ammunition without the corresponding document of the permit issued by the authorized state body on possession of this weapon, - shall be punishable by a fine of seven to ten non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens with confiscation of the weapons or without it.

The same actions, committed by a person who has been subjected to an administrative penalty for one of the violations provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, - shall be punishable by a fine of ten to fifteen non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens with confiscation of the weapons and ammunition.

Article 192. Violation by citizens of the terms of registration (re-registration) of an award weapons, firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons and the rules of its registration.

Violation by citizens of the terms of registration (re-registration) of an award weapons, firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons over 4.5 mm calibre and the bullet speed more than 100 meters per second or without the corresponding document of the permit issued by the authorized state body on possession of this weapon rules of their registration in the authorized body of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in case of change of residence, - shall be punishable by a fine of five to seven non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens.

Article 193. Evasion from realization of firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons and ammunition

Evasion from realization of firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons over 4.5 mm caliber and the bullet speed more than 100 meters per second and ammunition by citizens, who had their permit revoked by the authorized state body for their possession and carrying, - shall be punishable by a fine of five to seven non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens with the paid seizure of weapons and ammunition.

Article 195. Violation of the rules for the possession or transportation of firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons and ammunition by employees of enterprises, institutions and organizations

Violation of the rules for the possession or transportation of firearms, cold or pneumatic weapons over 4.5 mm calibre and the bullet speed more than 100 meters per second and ammunition by employees of enterprises, institutions and organizations responsible for their protection, as well as their use of the specified weapons and ammunition not for their intended purposes, - shall be punishable by a fine of ten to fifteen non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens.

The same actions, committed by a person who has been subjected to an administrative penalty for one of the violations provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, - shall be punishable by a fine of fifteen to twenty non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens.

Article 195-1. Violation of the procedure of development, manufacture, realization of special means of self-defence

Violation of the procedure of development, manufacture, realization of special means of self-defense, - shall be punishable by a fine of three to five non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens with confiscation of means of self-defence or without it.

The same actions, committed by a person who has been subjected to an administrative penalty for one of the violations provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, - shall be punishable by a fine of four to seven non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens with confiscation of means of self-defence or without it.

10. ANNEXES

10.2. Links

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