

## **A MESSAGE FROM WIN WITHOUT WAR ABOUT ONE ASPECT OF ANOTHER WAR-FOR-PROFIT: THE GUN LOBBY'S ARMS EXPORTS**

Not only do we face this war at home, as mass shootings of children, the elderly, people on the street and in gathering places like schools, churches, synagogues, restaurants and bars become such a daily occurrence that we no longer blink when we hear of the latest one. **U.S. based gun manufacturers also continue to reap their profits by exporting their malignant wares abroad.** Here is a message from Win Without War, with a link to a petition to President Biden:

Today, weapons like semi-automatic rifles and pistols can now be exported overseas with few checks to ensure they don't go to regimes that abuse human rights or fall into the hands of drug cartels and terrorist groups. As many as 620,000 U.S.-made firearms were shipped abroad last year alone.

**As Republicans in Congress and in states like Florida and Texas tighten borders and limit the movement of migrants, this explosive increase in firearm exports has exacerbated instability and violence across Latin America.** Right now, the United States is a key supplier of firearms that end up in the hands of criminals, drug cartels, and oppressive security forces across countries including Mexico, El Salvador, Haiti, and the Philippines. The United States continues to be the sole source of over half of the world's guns — including many that end up in countries with few controls over where, how, and by whom they are used. But that can change. President Biden promised in 2020 that he would reverse a Trump policy and return authority over gun exports to the State Department.

**With enough people-power, we have a chance to pressure Biden to keep his promise and curb the free flow of guns. Sign now if you agree: Tell President Biden to issue an Executive Order to reverse Trump's decision and strengthen oversight on gun exports!** <https://civicshout.com/p/tell-biden-stop-the-cross-border-arms-trade-and-save-lives>.

In 2020 the United States' loose firearms export policies were wrenched wide open when — at the request of the gun lobby — the Trump administration shifted oversight of firearms exports from the State Department to the Department of Commerce. **This simple regulatory change opened the floodgates, and by the end of the year nearly 530,000 U.S.-made guns would be sent around the globe.**

By moving regulatory authority of these weapons back to the State Department, Congress can ensure that there is proper oversight, for the long-term. This won't end the epidemic of gun violence altogether — but it will help save lives by ensuring less weapons are available to spread it.

Despite the clear need for action, powerful lobbying groups like the National Rifle Association (NRA) continue to oppose any efforts to regulate firearms exports. Instead, they prioritize the profits of gun manufacturers over the lives of people suffering from the consequences of the cross-border arms trade.

President Biden recently announced policy steps to implement stricter rules on arms sales and has issued a series of action steps to curb domestic gun violence. That tells us that he's focusing on the issue right now. **So while he's at it — we have a window of opportunity to get as loud as we can so that he finally keeps his campaign promise to restore the rules that make it much stricter to export rifles and pistols.** Together, we can make a difference and put an end to the dangerous and irresponsible export of small arms that wreak havoc on vulnerable communities around the world.

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***RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR***  
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