



The Firing Line

by

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The U.N. Arms Trade Treaty and the Second Amendment

It has been reported that two days after the presidential election, President Obama instructed Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to sign the United Nations Arms Trade treaty. Worries that this international treaty will infringe upon our Second Amendment rights has spurred a flurry of activity online, causing an outcry from shooters, hunters and collectors.

But is the reaction to this proposed treaty justifiable, or merely paranoia?

The fact is that Hillary Clinton has NOT signed the UN Arms Trade Treaty. In fact, the language of that treaty has not yet been finalized. When the first draft of the treaty was presented at a UN conference in July of 2012, several countries, including the United States, declined to support a vote on the draft and it was tabled to give the dissenting countries time to further study the treaty.

New talks will begin in March of 2013, and the Obama administration has supported those talks. But what, exactly, does the treaty say? We don't yet know the final language, but the theory behind the treaty is to limit the international sales of arms between countries, which would indicate that arms sales between individuals do not fall under the intent or scope of the treaty.

Opponents to the treaty, including Dick Morris, Reuters and Investors.com claim that by signing the UN treaty, President Obama will be free to use the State Department to bypass Congress and subject all US citizens to the tenets of the treaty, thereby eliminating our Second Amendment rights.

The text of the treaty "*reaffirms the sovereign right and responsibility of any State to regulate and control transfers of conventional arms that take place exclusively within its territory, pursuant to its own legal or constitutional systems.*" Meaning that even if the treaty should pass, our second amendment rights would trump any attempt by the UN to control American guns.

Political commentator and author Dick Morris claims that, "*the UN is setting up an elaborate mechanism to stop, by treaty, sales and exports of guns and grenades by private*

companies and individuals around the world. This regimen will necessitate a UN oversight governing body with broad enforcement powers and is a backdoor way to enact global gun controls.” He goes on to state that “since the US accounts for 40 percent of all small arms exports, it is squarely aimed at us. The treaty amounts to a backdoor way to achieve through international action gun controls that could never pass the US Congress.”

The fact of the matter is that no international treaty signed by the President of the United States or his representatives can be enacted without the advice and consent of the United States Senate. Since it takes a two thirds majority vote to ratify any treaty, and since 45 Republicans sit in the Senate, along with several anti-gun control Democrats, passage of such a treaty seems highly improbable.

Nevertheless, it is the opinion of *The Firing Line* that any proposed gun control, whether it be within our borders or on the international stage, creates a ‘camel’s nose under the tent’ scenario, whereby if you allow the camel to get his nose under the tent, you will soon find him in control of the tent.

With that in mind, *The Firing Line* encourages all members of the Nevada Firearms Coalition, and all Nevada gun owners, to vigorously oppose this proposed treaty by contacting our Representatives and our Senators to voice that opposition.

Gun control advocates have long sought to limit our ability to own firearms, and will do so by any means possible. Only we, the people can stop them.