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# 740,000

## 740,000 PEOPLE DIE, EACH YEAR, FROM "AR"

By Paul Gallant, Alan Chwick, & Joanne D. Eisen

It is often difficult to identify how the firearm-prohibitionists lie, because sometimes the lies are subtle, and are often camouflaged to appear to benefit the public welfare.

But sometimes, their lies are easily spotted.

In an attempt to frighten the world's States into signing onto an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), a report entitled *The Global Burden of Armed Violence* (or GBAV\*) was published in 2008. The anti-gun media latched onto the figure the GBAV authors conjured up – 740,000 global deaths per year from "armed violence" – and ran with it.

The report was intended to exaggerate the deaths associated with weapons, and create public hysteria. The scam was easy to see – if only one would actually read the report.

GBAV gave the world a new factoid: 740,000 people die, each year, from "armed violence." Almost without exception, the media publicized this figure, juxtaposed with photos of firearms. The inclusion of the photos of firearms, rather than tanks and/or artillery, helped ensure that the blame for those 740,000 deaths would be placed on civilian gun owners.

Early on in the GBAV report, one can see a gross distortion of the facts, simply through the inclusion of a category called "Indirect Conflict Deaths." It is the title of Chapter 2. The number of indirect conflict deaths claimed by GBAV was 200,000. Its authors admit that none of these

deaths meet the definition of armed violence, stating "These indirect victims of war *do not die violently*" (emphasis ours). Yes, 200,000 fake numbers were added into the total of 740,000 violent

deaths – 27 percent! – and uncritically accepted as gospel by the media and anti-gun groups.

We're not making this up: we lack both the imagination and dishonesty to create such an outrageous lie.

We believe that the GBAV authors knew they were lying, and that they didn't expect anyone to read or criticize their report.

A prime example of indirect conflict deaths occurred in Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon. In 2009, the Tamil Tigers were soundly defeated by the army of Sri Lanka, after a 30-year-long rebellion.

The Government of Sri Lanka then trapped non-combatant civilians in "containment camps," and denied them life-sustaining necessities. The British media reported that thousands were dying from lack of food, water and medicine, but the Government of Sri Lanka denied mistreating the civilians. The UN finally admitted knowl-

edge of these 40,000 non-violent deaths.

Chapter 4 of GBAV describes 490,000 deaths from "non-conflict armed violence" – that is, intentional homicide. When we repeatedly asked GBAV and UN personnel for the data they used so we could check the math, they refused our requests. This non-scientific and evasive behavior raised a lot of red flags.

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