

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FACTS & FIGURES

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Arming 'Islamic State' – facts and figures

- Amnesty International has catalogued more than 100 different types of **arms and ammunition originally sourced from at least 25 countries** being used in Iraq and Syria by the armed group calling itself Islamic State (IS).
- **IS has used its arsenal to commit a horrific catalogue of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law.** IS fighters have abducted civilians, including peaceful activists and media workers, and have committed acts of torture and ill-treatment including rape and other sexual and gender-based violence. They have summarily killed captured government soldiers and members of other armed groups, and have also used child soldiers.
- IS gained most of its arms by **seizing stocks from the Iraqi military.** Its arms were also acquired through **battlefield capture, illicit trade and defections of fighters in Iraq and Syria.**
- After taking control of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, in June 2014, **IS fighters acquired a windfall of internationally manufactured arms from Iraqi stockpiles,** including US-manufactured weapons and military vehicles which they paraded on social media.
- A large proportion of IS's arms were originally sourced by the Iraqi military from the **USA, Russia and former Soviet bloc states,** in the 1970s to 1990s. Most of Syria's arms have come from Russia, the Soviet bloc and Iran.
- The **Iran-Iraq war (1980-88)** was a seminal moment in the development of the modern global arms market, when **at least 34 different countries supplied Iraq with weapons** – 28 of those same states were also simultaneously supplying arms to Iran.

- After a lull in arms transfers to Iraq due to a UN arms embargo in 1990, there was a **massive rise in arms imports to Iraq following the US-led military intervention in 2003.**
- **More than 30 countries – including all permanent members of the UN Security Council – have supplied the Iraqi army with military equipment over the past decade** – a period in which substantial amounts of military equipment has ended up in the hands of insurgent groups, including IS and its precursors.
- **Between 2011 and 2013, the USA signed billions of dollars worth of arms contracts with the Iraqi government. By 2014 it had delivered more than US\$500 million worth of small arms and ammunition.** Deliveries continue as a part of the fulfilment of the US Department of Defense's US\$1.6 billion Iraq Train and Equip Fund which includes 43,200 M4 rifles.
- On **15 August 2014, UN Security Council Resolution 2170** reaffirmed an existing arms embargo on IS and the armed group Al-Nusra Front, an al-Qa'ida affiliate.

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