criminal proceedings and are directly aimed at confirming or refuting the circumstances that are part of the main subject of evidence are identified. Such examinations are forensic-medical (must be appointed in all cases where people were hurt by the event), forensic mining (appointed in cases where the event under investigation took place in a face or directly related to coal mining) and examination of the causes and consequences of violations of life safety and labor protection requirements (assigned in cases when the investigated event took place on the surface (not in a face), and is associated with related technological processes in the coal industry). If necessary, in combination with the above can be assigned fire-fighting, man-made explosions, forensic and other examinations.

For these examinations, the main tasks, peculiarities of appointment and typical issues to be solved solve in proceedings for violation of safety rules in the coal industry are described. It is established that a number of other examinations can be appointed in separate criminal proceedings situationally in order to solve additional tasks and to confirm or refute specific circumstances which have value not in all cases. Such examinations are forensic psychological, forensic soil, forensic handwriting, trasological examinations, technical examination of documents etc.

Keywords: safety violations, coal industry, criminal offense, special knowledge, forensic examination.

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OPEN SOURCES REVIEW ON SALW ILLEGAL USE AND SEIZURES IN UKRAINE (2019)

The article provides an analysis of crime related to firearms, ammunition and explosives. It is written based on the results of the study of information on this category of crimes collected in open sources (law enforcement websites and media news resources). In contrast to the departmental statistics and narrative reports that serve certain tasks of law enforcement agencies, the present analysis attempts to describe additional qualitative characteristics for this category of crimes in order to identify more specific trends and determine the impact of the situation in south-eastern Ukraine caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. Relying on his experience of work in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) projects, the author of the study attempts to adapt and apply the principles of collecting of qualitative information from open sources, which are used to collect information on drug-related crimes for the Drug Monitoring Platform in the Afghan Opiate Trade Project (AOPT). The study covers all types of crimes related to firearms, ammunition and explosives, both those in which the weapon is the subject of a crime (illegal possession, sale, smuggling), and crimes in which a weapon or explosive used as an instrument of crime (murder, attempted murder, armed robbery, property damage, hooliganism). The study also includes cases of illegal use of traumatic firearms, which within the

existing criminal legislation of Ukraine are classified as hooliganism. The article provides summary table on prices for certain types of weapons and ammunition in the regions of Ukraine based on the results of successful operations of weapons purchasing realized by law enforcement agencies. In general, the materials presented in the article are an additional source of criminalistics information and can serve as a basis for further analysis and research.

Key words: illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives; illegal sale of weapons, illegal possession of weapons, ammunition and explosives; illegal use of weapons, illegal arms market, price of illegal weapons.

Formulation of the problem. Military actions in Eastern Ukraine between the Armed Forces of Ukraine and controlled by Russian Federation armed units, consisting of both the regular army and mercenaries recruited from the local population of Donbass and regions of Russia, continue for six years. Of course, the consequences of this imposed on Ukraine conflict are manifested in all aspects of life in the country. They cause problems of the humanitarian plan, such as internally displaced people (IDP), declining living standards, and inability of the state to fulfil their social programs and ensure the safety of the citizens in non-controlled by the government areas, deterioration of the environmental situation. Among other issues can be identified an increase in the circulation of illegal weapons and explosive devices, which results from leakage of weapons from the conflict zone and illegal smuggling from the other countries. This increase triggers a whole series of negative phenomena, such as rise in the commission of crimes related to the use of weapons and explosives, in particular, armed attacks against citizens and fatal accidents resulted from these attacks; suicides of the demobilized military action participants, and the deaths of their family members from weapons that were brought from anti-terrorist operations region; increase in cases of use of arms in opposition to law enforcement officers; use of weapons at raider seizures of property; casualties due to accidental getting of weapons into the hands of ordinary citizens and especially children and unsafe handling with weapons or explosives; hooligan actions with the use of firearms, grenade launchers, explosive devices and substances [1, c. 295].

The data published on the website of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine (until 02.01.2020, the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine [2].) allowed to quantify the registered offenses related to illicit trafficking and use of weapons, as well as the number of weapons and ammunition seized in criminal proceedings (Table 1; 2). However, after the change of the information policy of the OGPU (PGOU) in 2018, access to a certain array of information on the primary registration of this category of offenses was limited, thus complicating the analysis without a formal appeal to the OPU.

Table 1.

Crimes committed with weapons. General Prosecutor Office data.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		2019
Total number of crimes committed with the use of weapons	761	2523	1576	579	583	n/a		n/a
riffled	633	2362	1446	491	506	n/a		n/a

smoothbore	128	161	130	88	77	n/a		n/a
assassinations	62	320	194	95	66	n/a		n/a
armed robberies	100	411	194	85	53	n/a		n/a
use of explosives	65	112	60	48	43	n/a		n/a
assassinations with the use of explosives	1	6	0	2	1	n/a		n/a
Illicit handling (possession) of weapons, ammunitions or explosives, Art. 263	6929	728	7409	6307	8002	6272		6002

Table 2.

Seizure of weapons and ammunition. General Prosecutor Office data

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Smooth-bore	91	118	98	61	85	84	60
Rifled	620	1 159	1 066	764	1 130	1 100	854
Other fire-arms	982	1 051	805	467	995	978	920
Grenade and rocket launchers	0	38	112	20	62	59	64
Cartridges	67 854	128 580	202 142	174 954	278 238	271 141	204 899
Hand grenades	116	1 615	2 099	2 698	1 935	1 918	1 889
Mines	17	44	26	61	57	48	84
IEDs	216	958	59	44	46	60	46
Steel arms	2 036	1 711	982	578	1 020	764	732
Gas and pneumatic arms	573	64	24	35	36	22	34
Explosives (kg)	3 544,00	1 677,09	1 292,12	5 803,61	4 603,13	5 730	7 341,6

Meanwhile, statistics based on the specific needs of law enforcement agencies show only general trends in the increase or decrease of certain types of crimes or seizures of weapons and do not provide data for a qualitative assessment of offenses related to the illicit trafficking and use of small arms and light weapons. Dry quantitative statistics do not provide information on the circumstances of the use of arms and weapons, possible motives of criminals, other qualitative indicators, studying and monitoring of which would help to understand better the phenomena and develop and implement appropriate response measures.

In addition, statistics do not cover certain data on the use of arms and weapons, or do not let to single out individual cases from the general array, such as hooliganism with traumatic firearm, which in fact is illegal use of this type of firearm, including planned mercenary crimes and crimes with fatal consequences.

Analysis of recent publications. The topic of illegal arms trafficking in Ukraine is covered in the works of F. Kirilenko, A. Zagorulko [3], A. Martyniuk [4], N. Sklyar, P. Usyk [5], Y. Tsebinoga, V. Vintsuk [6] and others. Still the majority of them are based on the assessment of the above mentioned limited data from official statistics and the presentation of individual cases. They do not answer questions about the regional prevalence of a particular crime in relation to a particular type of weapon. It remains unclear under what circumstances the weapon was seized? Whether it was confiscated from criminals, found in caches or handed over by citizens? Research from the Center for Security Studies "CENSS" also uses open source analysis, but focuses on other aspects [7]. There is a need to fill information gaps in this category of offenses, and conduct a more detailed analysis, which determines the relevance of this article. Based on these tasks, this study was conducted using innovative methodic.

Formulation of goals. The aim of the study is to obtain additional qualitative data on offenses related to the illicit handling and use of small arms and light weapons and, based on their analysis to develop a number of recommendations on possible ways to reduce negative trends. Through the publication of the obtained data, draw the attention of stakeholders to the further development of such studies and involve relevant international projects in joint activities to prevent the illegal proliferation of weapons in Ukraine.

Expected results

Analytical materials on illicit trafficking and use of small arms and light weapons. The main risks and priorities in threatening trends will be outlined.

Methodology of the study

The work is based on the study of information from open sources in the Internet. Due to the fact that crimes related to illegal trafficking and use of arms and weapons are the most resonant in society, reports of this type of offenses regularly appear on the newsstands of online publications, as well as official websites of law enforcement agencies.

The study consists of two parts a) collection and processing of qualitative data; b) analysis of aggregated data.

Presenting the main material. Data collection and analysis were realized with the help of specially designed research matrix in the MS Excel Office program. The principles of data collection are built on the model of data collection on drug-related crimes for the Drug Mapping Platform [8]. This tool is maintained by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime under the Paris Pact Initiative and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project and used to examine trends in the illicit drug flows and sales of drugs from producing countries to major consuming countries based on analyses of individual drug seizures [9].

Data on offenses were entered into the matrix according to the following information fields:

- Source of information on offenses (media sites and official sites of law enforcement agencies);
- Location (region, town / district)

- Category of events related to weapons and munition (17 types of events)
- Links with organized (international) crime groups
- Quantitative data on arms, weapons and ammunition used for committing a crime, or been seized by type of arm/weapon and explosive devices (pcs), explosives (kg), ammunition (shells, grenades and ammunition - pcs).
- Data on the origin of arms/weapons (if available, for example, from the armed conflict zone or from abroad);
- Data on places of concealment of arms/weapons;
- Data characterizing the offenders (foreigners, links with illegal armed groups, servicemen, recidivists, criminal dignitary (thief in law));
- Other circumstances of the crime (contract killing, criminal showdowns, connection with other crimes, unusual or uncommon way of committing the crime, etc.).

Data on crimes were collected on the information resource "Ukrnet" (<https://www.ukr.net/>), in the section "Events", on the resource "RBC-Ukraine" (<https://www.rbc.ua/ukr/>), "Magnolia TV" (<https://magnolia-tv.com/>) and in the news sections of the official websites of the National Police (<https://www.npu.gov.ua/>), the Security Service (<https://ssu.gov.ua/>) and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (<https://dpsu.gov.ua/>). Most of the media in their articles refer to the sources on the official websites of law enforcement agencies. During the daily screening of these sources in period from 1st January till 31st December 2019, 372 events related to illicit trafficking or use of weapons were collected for the study. The study included offenses committed with weapons (illegal handling and use, armed robbery, terrorism, hooliganism, etc.) throughout Ukraine except for the Russian-occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The crimes committed by the Russian occupation forces¹ (servicemen of the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the Russian Federation) in Donbass on the demarcation line in eastern Ukraine were not taken into account, but the weapons concealed by the representatives of these formations in the territory controlled by the Ukrainian government were taken into account.

Based on the public resonance, the study included cases of use of traumatic weapons in violation of the established regulations, when they have lethal consequences or people were injured.

For the convenience of analysis and wider information coverage, all events were divided into three provisional clusters. The first, most interesting for our study, included events related to the illicit trafficking of weapons (weapons are subject matters of a crime).

- Possession of weapons
- Sales of weapons
- Smuggling of weapons
- Theft of weapons
- Concealment of weapons (without identified persons involved).

The second cluster includes cases of criminal activity in which arms/weapons were used to commit a crime (weapons are instruments of crime). The following events have been included in this cluster.

¹ The terminology of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine is used (V.B.).

- Murders;
- Offences using hand grenades;
- Offences using grenade launchers;
- Terrorist attacks;
- Robbery of ATMs using explosives;
- Armed resistance to police;
- Mercenary-violent crimes with weapons;
- Destruction of property;
- Hooliganism;
- Violation in use of traumatic arms;

The third cluster included events with arms, weapons or explosives in which people injured themselves or committed suicide:

- Suicides using weapons or explosives.
- Careless handling of arms, weapons or explosives with fatalities or injuries.

The following categories were used to account for seized weapons and ammunition: "Pistols" includes self-loading pistols, revolvers, traumatic pistols, as well as traumatic pistols converted into combat weapons.

"Assault rifles, submachine guns, carbines" includes automatic and semi-automatic arms, assault rifles, submachine guns, semi-automatic rifles and carbines, hunting rifles such as "Saiga"¹, as well as sniper rifles, regardless of the type of reloading.

"Machine guns" - all types of machine guns.

"Grenade launchers" - handheld grenade launchers, handheld anti-tank rocket launcher RPG-22, RPG-26 type and similar, underbarrel grenade launchers, magazine-fed grenade launcher, automatic grenade launcher, infantry rocket-propelled flamethrower, anti-tank guided weapon, man-portable air-defence systems. The latter in view of the particular danger are taken into account separately.

"Artillery installations" - installations for firing artillery shells, anti-aircraft installations, installations of rocket and recoilless artillery.

"Hunting shotguns, 'sawn-offs'" - smoothbore guns, small-calibre sport rifles, sawn off hunting shotguns.

"Weapon parts" - due to the complexity of accounting single parts, only the number of cases of illegal circulation of parts to small arms was recorded.

"Grenades for grenade launchers" - grenades for handheld grenade launchers, underbarrel, magazine-fed and automatic grenade launchers.

"Hand grenades" - all types of hand grenades

"Mines, improvised explosive devices" - all types of industrial mines, improvised explosives.

"Shells" - shells for the barrel and rocket artillery

"Explosive (kg)" - military explosives, explosives removed from reactive armour of armoured vehicles, gunpowder.

"Ammunition" all types of ammunition for combat, hunting, sports and traumatic weapons, Flaubert cartridges.

¹ The hunting rifle was created on the basis of Kalashnikov assault rifle (V. B.).

The study examined 372 facts related to the use of firearms and ammunition recorded in period from 1st January till 31st December 2019, of which 246 facts (66.31%) were related to the illicit trafficking of weapons (possession, sale, smuggling, detection of weapons), 97 facts (26.15%) illegal use of weapons and ammunition and 27 facts (7.28%) about accidents and suicides from firearms, ammunition and explosives. According to information taken from the Internet, law enforcement agencies seized: 329 pistols and revolvers; 144 assault rifles, submachine guns and carbines; 7 machine guns; 235 grenade launchers; 1 artillery installation; 55 hunting rifles and "sawn-offs"; 1713 grenades for grenade launchers; 1735 hand grenades of all types; 40 artillery shells; mines and improvised explosive devices – 213; 336.5 kg explosives; and 227992 pieces of various types ammunition (Table 3).

Table 3.

Seizure of weapons and ammunition. Internet publication data 2019.

Pistols and revolvers	329
Assault rifles, submachine guns, carbines, sniper rifles	144
Machine-guns	7
Grenade launchers	235
Artillery installation	1
Hunting shotguns, "sawn-offs"	55
Weapons parts (cases of)	229
Grenades for grenade launchers	1713
Hand grenade	1735
Shells	40
Mines, improvised explosive devices	213
Explosives (kg)	336,462
Ammunition (pcs)	227992

Possession

Among the 226 facts that were classified as illicit circulation of the arms and weapons, 119 facts (48.78%) were related to the illegal possession of arms, weapons or ammunition. Apart from the cases when the offenders intended to possess weapons, this category includes the facts in which the investigative bodies at the time of entering the data into the Unified State Pre-trial Investigations Register had not proved the fact of sale or attempted sale by offenders. The most common subject of illegal storage are hand grenades. A total number of 71 of this kind of cases were recorded, in which 744 grenades were seized. The largest amount of possession in an individual case is 200 grenades (Chernihiv region [10]). In 24 cases only one grenade was possessed, in 10 cases – in 2 grenades and in 11 cases – in 3. In addition, in 30 cases together with grenades illegally possessed small arms, in 13 cases grenade launchers were seized, in 10 cases grenades for grenade launchers, and in 4 cases simultaneously were seized hand

grenades, grenade launchers and grenades for grenade launchers. There were recorded 13 facts of possession of grenades for grenade launchers and seized 255 pieces (Table 4). The largest amount of possession in an individual case is 130 pieces (Kharkiv region [11]).

Table 4.

Possession by types of weapon/ammunition. Open sources data 2019.

Region	Cases number	Hand-grenade	Rocket-grenade	Grenade Launcher	Automatic rifle	Pistols	Machine-gun
Vinnitsia	4	3	1	0	1	0	0
Volyn	4	3	0	0	0	2	0
Dnipropetrovsk	12	6	1	2	4	9	0
Donetsk	12	8	1	4	3	4	1
Zhytomyr	6	5	0	0	0	3	0
Zakarpattia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zaporizhia	8	3	0	1	1	5	0
Ivano-Frankivsk	3	1	1	0	1	1	0
Kyiv-City	14	6	0	1	5	5	1
Kyiv-Region	15	8	1	3	2	4	0
Kirovograd	3	3	0	1	1	1	0
Luhansk	5	3	2	1	1	1	0
Lviv	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mykolaiv	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Odesa	3	1	1	0	2	2	0
Poltava	3	2	0	0	1	1	0
Rivne	3	3	2	2	1	2	0
Sumy	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ternopil	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Kharkiv	8	7	1	2	3	1	0
Kherson	2	1	1	0	1	1	0
Khmelnitsky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cherkasy	4	2	0	0	2	2	0
Chernivtsi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chernigiv	4	2	1	0	0	0	0
Всього	119	71	13	17	30	46	2

In total there were 17 cases of seizure of all types of grenade and rocket launchers, with 90 pieces in number. The largest number of grenade launchers seized in an individual case was 35 units (Rivne region [12]).

Among the facts of illegal possession of small arms pistols dominate - 40 cases with 114 pieces. Automatic and semi-automatic small arms - 30 cases, 86 units. In two

cases, 3 machine guns were seized (Donetsk (2) and Ivano-Frankivsk regions (1)) (Table 5).

Table 5.

Number of seized weapon items. Open sources data 2019.

Region	Hand-grenade	Rocket-grenade	Grenade Launcher	Auto-matic rifle	Pis-tol	Ma-chine-gun
Vinnitsia	10	21	0	1	0	0
Volyn	7	0	0	0	6	0
Dnipropetrovsk	16	2	2	5	22	0
Donetsk	33	5	9	7	9	2
Zhytomyr	18	0	0	0	8	0
Zakarpattia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zaporizhia	39	0	1	1	7	0
Ivano-Frankivsk	7	3	0	4	1	1
Kyiv-City	17	0	1	7	10	0
Kyiv-Region	38	12	17	3	9	0
Kirovograd	13	0	1	2	1	0
Luhansk	62	12	5	6	1	0
Lviv	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mykolaiv	0	0	0	1	1	0
Odesa	5	1	0	7	5	0
Poltava	4	0	0	1	1	0
Rivne	219	56	40	18	23	0
Sumy	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ternopil	19	0	0	0	1	0
Kharkiv	23	130	14	19	2	0
Kherson	1	12	0	2	2	0
Khmelnitsky	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cherkasy	7	0	0	2	5	0
Chernivtsi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chernigiv	203	1	0	0	0	0
Total	744	255	90	86	114	3

In the regional context, the dominant place in the possession of weapons cases takes Kyiv-city with 15 cases. There are 14 cases in Kyiv region, 12 cases each in Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk regions. Kyiv-city, Kyiv region, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Kharkiv regions are also in the first place in terms of the number of cases of seizure of hand grenades and automatic arms. However, Rivne region ranks first in the number of seized pieces. Kharkiv, Kyiv,

Luhansk and Dnipropetrovsk regions are also taking leading position in number of seized weapons.

According to the analysis of data available in the media in 10 cases, law enforcement agencies note that the arms and weapons fell into the illegal possession of citizens from the war zone in the East of the country. In one case, the seized hand grenades were Russian Federation made¹.

In all cases, only males were involved in the possession of weapons. In 11 cases, the members of organized crime groups were detained for possession of arms. The largest group consisted of six people. In addition, in 6 cases the weapons were possessed by small criminal groups of 2-3 people. In 3 cases, the seizure of weapons took place during the detention of criminal leaders (including 2 "thieves in law"). Among the detained criminal groups: 1 group was engaged in looting of elite houses, 2 - manufacturing and sale of drugs, 1 - sale of drugs and sale of counterfeit dollars, 1 extremist group which was engaged in destabilization in the country and was controlled from the territory of the Russian Federation (Odessa) [13]. In three cases, weapons were seized from citizens of other countries. According to law enforcement agencies media reports in 4 cases the seizure of weapons was connected with an assassination attempt or preparation for assassination, in 1 case in connection with preparations for a terrorist attack coordinated from the territory of the Russian Federation [14], in 3 cases weapons were seized from drug dealers (in all cases there were hand grenades), in 2 cases - from members of illegal armed formation in the east of Ukraine (terrorists supported by Russia), in 1 - from a military serviceman.

Several subgroups can be distinguished in accordance with the goals of offenders for possessing weapons:

1. Weapons or ammunition were accidentally got by citizens and they kept them just in case for personal use (self-defence).

2. Weapons were purposefully purchased or stolen by citizens for possible personal use (self-defence).

3. Weapons were purchased, stolen or manufactured for further sale, but the fact of sale is not procedurally documented by law enforcement (it can be assumed based on the number of units possessed, the characteristics of the offender and other circumstances).

4. Weapons were kept by persons who belong to a criminal environment and use it to commit crimes or to protect themselves from other criminal groups.

5. Stolen or concealed trophy weapons were seized from persons involved in hostilities in eastern Ukraine (veterans and volunteers) and who keep them in order to organize resistance (guerrilla warfare) in the case of a full-scale military invasion of Russian Federation into Ukraine.

6. Weapons were possessed by persons involved in pro-Russian illegal armed formations, or by persons recruited by the Russian special services for carrying out sabotage and terrorist activities on the territory of Ukraine.

¹ In many cases, the Ukrainian Armed Forces and Russian mercenaries use weapons from Soviet-made stocks. But in some cases, more modern models of weapons and ammunition are removed, which indicate Russia's direct involvement in the conflict (V. B.).

Sale

From 245 reports on the Internet on illicit turnover of arms and weapons, 61 (24,92%) are the facts of sale or attempt to sell weapons or ammunition. This information appears as a result of law enforcement agencies' "operation of buying", apprehension of criminals and seizure of weapons. According to the media, in 34 cases the subject of sale are hand grenades, in 29 cases – pistols, in 23 – explosives, 18 – automatic and semi-automatic rifles, submachine guns, 14 – all types of grenade (rocket) launchers, 6 - grenades for grenade launchers, 3 - mines and improvised explosive devices, 2 - machine guns, 1 - artillery shells. In 41 cases, the subject of sale was ammunition for various weapons. In total, according to information published by law enforcement agencies in the media, the criminals tried to sell 285 hand grenades, 56 grenades for grenade launchers, 40 charged grenade launchers, 140 pistols, 40 automatic and semi-automatic rifles and submachine guns, 4 machine guns, 40,4 kg of explosives, 3 mines, 3 artillery shells and 28,535 rounds of ammunition (Table 6).

Table 6.

Number cases of selling by types of weapon/ammunition.
Open sources data 2019.

Region	Cases number	Hand grenade	Rocket grenade	Grenade Launcher	Automatic rifle	Pistol	Machine gun
Vinnitsia	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Volyn	3	1	0	0	0	1	0
Dnipro petrovsk	5	4	1	1	3	3	0
Donetsk	5	4	1	0	1	1	1
Zhytomyr	2	0	1	0	1	1	0
Zakarpattia	4	2	0	2	2	2	0
Zaporizhia	3	1	0	2	0	1	0
Ivano-Frankivsk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kyiv-City	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Kyiv-Region	4	2	0	0	2	4	0
Kirovograd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luhansk	5	4	0	4	0	0	0
Lviv	2	1	0	1	0	1	0
Mykolaiv	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Odesa	9	6	0	0	2	5	0
Poltava	3	3	0	0	1	2	0
Rivne	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sumy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ternopil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kharkiv	6	3	2	1	1	3	0
Kherson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Khmelnytsky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cherkasy	2	0	0	0	2	1	0

Chernivtsi	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Chernyiv	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Total	61	35	6	13	18	29	2

In terms of regional sales of weapons and ammunition, the largest number of attempts to sell weapons took place in Odessa - 9, Kharkiv - 6, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk and Luhansk 5. By the number of automatic/semi-automatic weapons sold: Donetsk region - 6 units (the largest number in an individual case [15]), Kyiv-city - 5 units, in Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Odessa and Chernihiv regions 4 units each. Pistols: 25 units were seized in Odessa, 24 in Zakarpattia, 18 in Lviv, and 16 in Dnipropetrovsk. The largest number of seized in an individual case was 20 pistols (Zakarpattia region [16]). The largest number of hand grenades attempt to sell in the Luhansk region - 71 units. In the Kharkiv region - 51 grenades, in the Dnipropetrovsk region - 28. The biggest party of grenades for grenade launchers was in the Luhansk region - 41 (in a separate party) [17]. The largest number of grenade launchers was seized in the Luhansk region - 29 units, as well as biggest single party - 22 units. In Ivano-Frankivsk, Sumy, Ternopil, Kherson and Khmelnytsky regions, the facts of sale of weapons or ammunition have not been recorded.

Only in 1 case a female was involved in the sale of weapons (sale of 2 grenades in Dnipropetrovsk) [18], in all other cases men were detained. According to published characteristics, in 11 cases the sale of weapons was carried out by members of organized criminal groups, one of these groups had international ties and included foreigners [14]. In 3 cases, the OCGs were consisted of servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, or the group included the military personnel. Also in 8 cases the crime was committed by groups of 2-3 people.

The main source of weapons and ammunition remains the war zone in eastern Ukraine and nearby districts in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. By the time of publication of police information in the media, in 11 cases law enforcement agencies established that weapons and ammunition came from the area of military action, in 5 cases the weapons were stolen from armory of the military units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The most outstanding example of selling is when servicemen of a military unit in Luhansk region attempted to sell 22 grenade launchers, 40 hand grenades, 0.6 kg of TNT and 5,500 rounds of ammunition [19]. In two cases, police officers sold stolen ammunition for small arms. Law enforcement agencies initiated 2 criminal cases for the small arms manufacturing and 7 cases for alteration of small arms. In majority cases traumatic and noise pistols are remodelled for use live ammunition. In 4 cases, semi-automatic hunting rifles based on the Kalashnikov assault rifle were converted into automatic weapons, which is prohibited by the law of Ukraine. There was also a case of sale of a semi-automatic hunting rifle, which was stolen from a private home (Table 7).

Table 7.

Number of seized weapons and ammunition. Internet data 2019

Regions	Hand grenade	Rocket grenade	Grenade launcher	Auto-matic rifle	Pistol	Machine gun
Vinita	0	0	0	0	4	0
Volyn	2	0	0	0	1	0
Dnipropetrovsk	28	4	2	3	16	0

Donetsk	18	2	0	6	3	1
Zhytomyr	0	0	0	4	4	0
Zakarpattia	2	0	2	2	24	0
Zaporizhia	14	0	3	0	4	0
Iv-Frankivsk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kyiv-City	7	0	0	5	6	0
Kyiv	25	0	0	4	14	0
Kropivnytskyi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luhansk	71	41	29	0	0	0
Lviv	2	0	1	0	18	0
Mykolaiv	5	0	0	0	0	0
Odesa	34	0	0	4	25	0
Poltava	7	0	0	3	9	0
Rivne	2	0	0	0	0	0
Sumy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ternopil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kharkiv	51	6	1	2	6	0
Kherson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Khmelnitskyi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cherkasy	0	0	0	2	2	0
Chernivtsi	17	3	1	1	4	0
Chernyiv	0	0	1	4	0	3
Total	285	56	40	40	140	4

Sale of grenades for grenade launchers and automatic grenade launchers (VOG type) [20, 21] create some concern as this type of grenade may be used as improvised air-delivered munitions to drop from consumer-grade unmanned aerial vehicle (quadcopters). On the line of contact with the Russian occupation forces, there were several cases when these charges, after equipping them with primitive stabilizing plumage, were purposefully dropped from UAV to positions and rear communications of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. In early 2020, an ambulance [22] and a journalist's car were targeted and damaged in this way [23]. This modus operandi expands the possibilities for terrorist attacks.

The price of weapons

Illegal arms market may not keep any set or recommended prices. Each case of selling has its peculiarity. Data on the prices of certain types of weapons or ammunition can be obtained from law enforcement agencies that have made operation of purchase from criminals or from the testimonies of criminals detained for illegal handling of weapons during the investigation. In each case of an illegal transaction, the price may depend on many factors:

- If weapons sale is a "professional" activity of the offender or the weapon accidentally fell into the hands of the seller and is an additional way to obtain income;
- Availability and relatively free access to sources of weapons and ammunition (service in armoury departments of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, information on weapons caches, personal altering or manufacturing of weapons);
- How urgently it is necessary for the seller to get rid of the weapon, or on the contrary for the buyer to obtain the weapon;

- If a seller and a buyer of the weapon know each other personally, or do they interact through mutual acquaintances;
- Proximity to the combat zone or military units;
- If it is direct delivery or resale.

Law enforcement agencies do not always provide information in the media about the value of weapons or ammunition that were "purchased" during the operational purchase.

Another problem is that data on the cost of weapons can be provided as a whole for a batch that included different types of weapons or ammunition, which makes it difficult to understand the cost of a particular unit of weapon.

The cost may vary depending on the specific circumstances mentioned above. According to the available data, a summary table was compiled and it indicates the value of the consignment of weapons as a whole, and in some cases, where it was possible, for a separate unit of weapons.

According to these data, the cost of a hand grenade varies from 300 to 2,500 Ukrainian hryvnias (UAH), a hand-held anti-tank grenade launcher from 3.3 to 15,000 UAH. Converted from a starting or traumatic to a combat pistol costs around 7 000 hryvnias. Sniper rifle costs 20 000 UAH.

Even data on mixed batches of weapons provide information on the relatively low cost of hand grenades and grenade launchers (Table 8).

Table 8.

Prices for individual weapons. Internet data 2019.

Region	Batch		Single unit	
	Items of batch	Cost of the batch	Item	Cost of the unit
Cherkasy	1 AK 1000 rounds AK	1000 USD		
Luhansk	15 hand grenade 1,6 kg TNT 1520 rounds AK	20 000 UAH		
Luhansk	3 RPG-26	10 000 UAH	1 RPG-26	3 333 UAH
Lviv			1 RPG-22	15 000 UAH
Lviv			1 converted pistol	6 000-7 000 UAH
Zhytomyr	2 AK 1 PM pistol and silencer	65 000 UAH		
Donetsk			1 SVD Sniper rifle	20 000 UAH
Donetsk	1 AK	30 000 UAH		

	1RPK machine gun			
Zhytomyr	0,2 kg TNT 100 rounds AK	1,5 000 UAH		
Kharkiv	15 hand grenades 5 VOG grenades 5 powder cartridges 728 rounds AK 2 mine detonators	10 000 UAH		
Kharkiv			1 hand grenade	300 UAH
Kharkiv	2 hand grenades	1 200 UAH	1 hand grenade	600 UAH
Odesa	15 hand grenades	14 000 UAH	1 hand grenade	933 UAH
Donetsk	2 hand grenades	5 000 UAH	1 hand grenade	2 500 UAH
Kharkiv	3 converted pistols	23 000 UAH	1 converted pistols	7 666 UAH
Zakarpattia	1 PPS sub-machine gun 1 revolver	32 000 UAH		
Poltava	2 RPGs	10 000 UAH	1 RPG	5 000 UAH
Poltava	10 hand grenades 0,6 kg TNT 2500 rounds AK	15 000UAH		
Poltava	30 hand grenades 13 RPGs	50 000 UAH		
Vinnytsia			1 pistol «Unique»	13 000 UAH
Zaporizhia	1 RPG 85 rounds AK	90 000 UAH		
Donetsk			1 hand grenade	400 UAH

Concealment of weapons

According to the studied data, during 2019, law enforcement agencies uncovered 44 caches of weapons. Most of these hideouts are related to the military actions in the east of the country. As a result of intensive and dynamic hostilities that took place in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in 2014-2015, a large number of various weapons and ammunition remained on the places of war clashes.

Furthermore, some types of weapons, especially small arms and ammunition, in cases of urgent retreat and inability to take with were hidden on the spot by both sides of the conflict. A significant number of concealment were made by the local population immediately after the fighting.

Judging on the method of arrangement and types of concealed weapons, it can be concluded that some concealment were set up later by reconnaissance and sabotage groups of the Russian occupation forces in Donbas for use them in sabotage and terrorist activities [24]. The largest number of concealment places is in Donetsk (15) and Luhansk (15) regions. In the Zaporozhye region 3 hiding places were revealed, also in eight other regions 1-2 hiding places were revealed.

Weapons hideouts at the revote from the clashes line regions were likely set up by either criminal groups or groups of patriotic citizens (former military and volunteers) who feared a large-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine and hide weapons to organize guerrilla resistance.

Hand grenades and firearms ammunition are prevailing by numbers concealment in which this items were found, in 34 and 32 cases respectively. In 21 hiding places grenades for grenade launchers were hidden, in 19 cases grenade launchers and anti-tank systems were hidden, explosives – in 12 cases and mines – in 9 cases. Automatic assault rifles (AK-74) only in 3 cases (Table 9; 10).

Table 9.

Revealed impersonal caches by types of weapon/ammunition.
Open sources data 2019.

Region	Cases	Hand-grenade	Rocket-grenade	Grenade Launcher	Automatic rifle	Mine	Explosives	Rounds
Vinnitsa	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	2
Dnipropetrovsk	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	2
Donetsk	15	11	7	4	0	2	3	10
Zaporizhia	3	2	1	2	0	0	0	3
Luhansk	15	11	9	8	2	3	5	12
Lviv	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Odesa	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Rivne	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	2
Sumy	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kherson	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Khmelnit-sky	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	44	34	21	19	3	9	12	32

Table 10.

Number of concealed weapons/ammunition in impersonal cache.
Open sources data 2019.

Region	Hand- gre- nade	Rocket- gre- nade	Grenade Launcher	Au- to- matic rifle	Mine	Ex- plo- sives	Rounds
Vinnitsa	9	9	1	0	2	0	2 750
Dnipropetrovsk	3	0	4	0	0	0	3 510
Donetsk	131	45	7	0	2	4,2	16 757
Zaporizhia	8	2	7	0	0	0	2 250
Luhansk	124	1 293	24	2	12	1,85	43 402
Lviv	5	0	0	1	0	0,4	0
Odesa	6	0	0	0	1	1,25	0
Rivne	163	34	36	0	0	3,6	8 220
Sumy	14	2	0	0	0	0	0
Kherson	3	17	0	0	5	0,4	16 000
Khmelnytsky	185	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	651	1 402	79	3	22	11,7	92 889

In terms of the number of seized units, 1402 grenades for grenade launchers were found in hideouts, 1293 of them were seized in the Luhansk region, the largest single seizure was 1163 grenades [25]. Almost all 651 hand grenades were seized in four oblasts: Khmelnytsky – 185, Rivne – 163, Donetsk – 131, Luhansk – 124. The largest a separate batch of 148 hand grenades was seized in Rivne region [12]. From 79 grenade launchers, 36 were seized in Rivne region, 24 in Luhansk region, and 7 both in Donetsk and Zaporizhia regions. The largest individual seizure is 35 grenade launchers in Rivne region [12]. The largest number of seized firearms ammunition (43402 rounds) was in Luhansk region.

Abandoned or tumbledown houses or industrial buildings are prevail as places for hiding the weapons.

Smuggling of weapons

Among the 20 cases of smuggling of weapons, ammunition and components to weapons, there was not a single case that could be related to international or organized arms trafficking. Only in 1 case there was an attempt to transfer 1 Kalashnikov assault rifle (AK) to Poland, the rest of the cases concerned the smuggling of pistols (8), ammunition for small arms (12), and components for small arms (6). In 2 cases, traumatic pistols were smuggled into Ukraine for further conversation into combatting one.

There are eight remarkable cases when weapons (pistols) or ammunition in small quantities were smuggled into Ukraine hidden in cars exported from the United States.

If we discard several cases where weapons or ammunition were lost or forgotten in the car, we can assume that there is testing of channels for the transfer of prohibited goods by sea.

Armed crimes

Among the studied data, 98 crimes were attributed to this cluster, where weapons or explosive devices were used to commit a crime, among them in certain categories: 14 murders, 5 - attempted murders, 5 - terrorist attacks (one attempt was prevented), 15 crimes committed with the use of grenades (hooliganism and or damaging of property), 3 with the use of grenade launchers (damaging property), 9 robberies of ATMs using explosives, 8 facts of armed resistance to law enforcement, 12 armed robberies, 7 facts of hooliganism (firing in public place), 20 violations of the use of traumatic weapons (in court qualified as hooliganism) which caused injury or death.

A large number of events using grenades, grenade launchers and explosives are noteworthy. In addition to 15 cases where grenades for hooligan or other motives fell into private households, in 3 cases murder and suicide were committed by detonating a grenade. In 4 cases, grenades were thrown by criminals at law enforcement to prevent arrestment, in 1 case a hired killer blew himself up with a grenade during police pursuit.

One assassination attempt was made using a grenade. In 4 cases, the terrorist attacks were carried out using explosives, 3 of them were car bombing. The facts of possession of grenades by street drug pushers are widespread.

Separately noteworthy are 9 cases of ATMs robbery by exploding, which indicates not only the supply of a significant amount of explosives to the illegal market, but also the presence of people who know how to handle it properly. In Kharkiv region, 5 ATMs were blown up. This region is adjacent to Donetsk and Luhansk regions, furthermore most of the rotation of troops from the line of clashes passes through the region. In addition, there were 2 cases in Zaporizhia region, which also borders with Donetsk region, and 1 case both in Vinnytsia Oblast and Kyiv-city (Table 11).

Table 11.

Armed crimes. Internet data 2019

Crimes committed with the use of weapons	98	
Murder	14	14,29%
Attempted murder	5	5,10%
Terroristic act	5	5,10%
Offences with the use of hand grenade	15	15,31%
Offences with the use of grenade launchers	3	3,06%
Robbery of ATMs by exploding	9	9,18%
Armed resistance to police	8	8,16%
Mercenary-violent crimes with weapons	12	12,24%
Violation in use of traumatic arms	20	20,41%
Hooliganism	7	7,14%

Law enforcement reports contain information about 8 armed robberies, 1 fact of kidnapping by an armed group and 1 armed extortion. There are also 7 cases of hooliganism, when people in a state of intoxication opened fire with hunting weapons on the street or in public places.

As a result of 20 cases of misuse of traumatic weapons (usually classified as hooliganism), 27 people were injured and 1 person was killed. In one case, a traumatic weapon was used in an assassination attempt, the perpetrator fired several shots at the victim, but the victim survived [27].

In one case a woman for unknown reasons was seriously injured with traumatic gun near a currency exchange office, which may indicate an attempted robbery, which for some reasons was not completed.

Suicides and accidents

All 8 reported suicides were committed by exploding hand grenades. A suicide attempt was also made with a traumatic pistol, but the man survived.

As a result of careless handling of grenades (14 cases) 11 persons (1 child) were killed and 21 persons (6 children) were injured. Careless handling of improvised explosive device (3 cases) cause death of 3 people including 2 children and 1 person was wounded. Two people were injured in the detonation of 1 mine (Table 12).

Table 12.

Suicides and accidents

Lethal cases and injuries caused by weapons	27	
Suicides using weapons or explosives	9	33,33%
Careless handling of weapons or explosives	18	66,67%

Findings.

1. The combat clashes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine with the Russian occupation forces in Donbas, and especially their hot phase in 2014-2015, are a major factor in the growth of illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives in Ukraine. Weapons left on the battlefield, as well as the weapons, which frequently leaks from a large number of military units concentrated in the east of the country, fall into the hands of ordinary citizens. The threat of a full-scale military invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine, as well as fears of worsening criminal situation, encourages citizens to illegally possess weapons and organize hideouts in case of guerrilla resistance and to ensure personal self-defence.

2. Getting into the illegal possession of citizens of such means of destruction as hand grenades, grenade launchers, rocket-propelled grenades and a large number of explosives significantly change the criminal situation in the country. The number of incidents and crimes involving hand grenades has increased significantly. During 2019 in 200 cases, grenades are the subject or instrument of the crime. The grenades killed 20 people and 80 were injured, were used in 9 suicides and in 15 cases grenades were simply thrown into private households for no apparent reason. Cases of using civilian quadcopters for delivery and aimed dropping of grenades are of concern to law enforcement.

3. The increase of people who completed military service and got military experience in handling weapons and explosives, as well as reduction of moral barriers in the use of weapons create additional difficulties in the field of criminal offenses related to weapons. Threatening indicators of these changes are contract killings and terrorist attacks with the use of explosives, a significant number (9) of cases of ATM blasting, use of hand grenades in armed resistance to law enforcement.

4. Significant concealed arsenals with a big number of weapons of widespread destruction and explosives create additional risk of getting these items into the hands of members of organized crime, both with interregional and international ties. The deteriorating economic situation in the country could lead to an increase in crime, and as consequences in demand for weapons. Weapons collected or stolen for reasons of resistance to Russian aggression could be sold and smuggled under these conditions.

5. In general, there is low public awareness of arms legislation and criminal liability for illegal weapons possession, rules for the safe handling of weapons and explosive devices and substances, or any unknown objects that may be explosive devices. As a result, there is a substantial number of deaths and injuries from weapons and explosives, with a large proportion of affected children.

Conclusions. Summing up the results of the study, a number of conclusions should be formulated.

1. The decisive factor in reducing the negative consequences of the leakage and illicit trafficking in weapons is the cessation of Russian aggression and the establishment of control over the Russian-Ukrainian border. In this context, the strategy chosen by the Ukrainian side to involve the world community in influencing the Russian Federation until the full end of the conflict and the restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty must continue. An important component of this strategy is to inform international organizations about the real state of arms trafficking and the crime associated with hostilities and the related negative consequences.

2. Combating organized crime in the field of illicit weapons trafficking requires improved coordination, cooperation and strengthening the capacity of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies involved in this area. Acquisition of new analytical and practical skills in planning, organizing and conducting special activities aimed at detecting, preventing and stopping the illicit trafficking in weapons. Acquaintance and training of operative officers to work with the latest technologies and modern techniques. Development of the corresponding direction of canine service.

3. Real steps to organize Territorial defense units can be an alternative to the illegal accumulation of weapons by the population. The regulated opportunity for patriotic circles to undergo training in handling weapons, training the interaction in the unit, as well as a guaranteed opportunity to have access to weapons in a short time, if necessary, could eliminate the need for their illegal possession. The development of the institute of Territorial defence involves the preparation and formation of the necessary legal framework.

4. A large number of cases of accidental acquisition of weapons and ammunition by citizens require planning and implementation of measures aimed at protecting citizens

from the consequences of illicit trafficking in weapons and their illegal use. Targeted programs, especially in Donetsk and Luhansk and adjacent regions, must be initiated to reduce the risks of careless handling of weapons.

5. Development of a network of civil society organizations and targeting / mobilizing its work to reduce the risks associated with the illegal circulation of weapons and explosives. Raising public awareness on issues related to combating illicit trafficking in weapons, security measures in case of detection of weapons or explosives, in cases of illegal use of weapons in public places and first aid for victims of negligent handling of explosives and weapons, or because of shooting in crowded places.

6. Development and implementation of programs aimed at training civil society activists, volunteer organizations and civil society organizations working with veterans of the anti-terrorist operation in the east of the country to prevent suicide and death of their families. Creating sites and conditions for providing social and psychological assistance to this category of citizens.

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ОГЛЯД НЕЛЕГАЛЬНОГО ОБІГУ ЗБРОЇ ТА БОСПРИПАСІВ В УКРАЇНІ ЗА ДАНИМИ ВІДКРИТИХ ДЖЕРЕЛ (2019)

У статті надається аналіз злочинності, пов'язаної з вогнепальною зброєю, боєприпасами та вибухівкою. Огляд підготовлений за результатами дослідження інформації про дану категорію злочинів, зібраної з відкритих джерел (сайти правоохоронних органів та ресурси новин засобів масової інформації). На відміну від відомчої статистики та нарративних звітів, які обслуговують певні завдання правоохоронних органів, у представленому аналізі зроблена спроба описати додаткові якісні характеристики для даної категорії злочинів з метою визначення більш характерних трендів, а також з'ясувати вплив ситуації, яка склалася на Південному Сході України внаслідок збройної агресії Російської Федерації.

Спираючись на свій досвід роботи у проєктах Управління ООН з наркотиків і злочинності, автор дослідження робить спробу адаптувати та застосувати систему збору якісної інформації з відкритих джерел, яка використовується для збору інформації про злочини, пов'язані з наркотиками для Моніторингової платформи з наркотиків у Проєкті протидії афганським опіатам (АОПР).

Дослідження охоплені всі види злочинів, пов'язані з вогнепальною зброєю, боєприпасами та вибухівкою: як ті, у яких зброя є предметом злочину (незаконне зберігання, збут, контрабанда), так і злочини, у яких зброя або вибухівка постає знаряддям злочину (вбивства, замах на вбивство, збройні пограбування, пошкодження майна, хуліганство).

У дослідження включені також випадки протиправного використання вогнепальної травматичної зброї, які в межах чинного кримінального законодавства України віднесені до категорії хуліганства.

За результатами успішних оперативних закупівель правоохоронними органами зброї підготовлену звідну таблицю щодо цін на окремі види зброї та боєприпасів по регіонах України.

У цілому матеріали, викладені в статті, є додатковим джерелом криміналістичної інформації і можуть служити основою для подальшого аналізу та досліджень.

Ключові слова: незаконний обіг зброї, боєприпасів та вибухівки; незаконний збут зброї, незаконне зберігання зброї, боєприпасів та вибухівки; протиправне використання зброї, нелегальний ринок зброї, ціна на нелегальну зброю.

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ОБЗОР НЕЛЕГАЛЬНОГО ОБОРОТА ОРУЖИЯ И БОЕПРИПАСОВ В УКРАИНЕ ПО ДАННЫМ ОТКРЫТЫХ ИСТОЧНИКОВ (2019)

В статье представлен анализ преступности, связанной с огнестрельным оружием, боеприпасами и взрывчаткой. Обзор подготовлен по результатам исследования информации о данной категории преступлений, собранной в открытых источниках информации (сайты правоохранительных органов и новостные ресурсы средств массовой информации).

Опираясь на свой опыт работы в проектах Управления ООН по наркотикам и преступности, автор исследования делает попытку адаптировать и применить систему сбора качественной информации из открытых источников, которая используется для сбора информации о преступлениях, связанных с наркотиками, для Мониторинговой платформы по наркотикам в проекте противодействия афганским опиатам (АОПР). В целом материалы, изложенные в статье, являются дополнительным источником криминалистической информации и могут служить основой для дальнейшего анализа и исследований.

Ключевые слова: незаконный оборот оружия, боеприпасов и взрывчатки; незаконный сбыт оружия, незаконное хранение оружия, боеприпасов и взрывчатки; противоправное использование оружия, нелегальный рынок оружия, цена на нелегальное оружие.