

Guided light weapons reportedly held by non-state armed groups 1998-2013¹

Report current as of March 2013



Countries or territories in which groups are or were active	Non-state armed groups	MANPADS							ATGWs								
		Unspecified ²	SA-7 Grail (9K32 Strela 2 & 2M) ³	SA-14 Gremlin (9K34 Strela-3)	SA-16 (9K310 Igla1) / SA-18 (9K33 Igla)	FIM-92 Stinger	HN-5	Blowpipe	Other ⁴	Unspecified	AT-3 Sagger (9M13 Maljutka)	AT-4 Sprigot (9M11 Fagot)	AT-5 Spandrel (9M13 Konkurs)	AT-7 / AT-13 Sakhorn-2 (9M15 Meis 1 and 2)	AT-14 Sprigun (9P83 Konkret)	MILAN	Other
Afghanistan	■ Al-Qaeda Cell	○							○								
	■ Haqqani Network	○							○								
	■ Jamiat-e-Islami		●	●				○	○								
	■ Jumbish-e-Mili		●						○								
	■ Northern Alliance (NA)							○	●								
	■ Taliban		●			●	●	●	●		○					○ ⁵	
Algeria	■ Al-Qaeda Organization of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)		○						○								
	■ Armed Islamic Group (GIA)					○											
	■ Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSCP)		●														
Angola	■ National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)		●	●	●	●		●									●
Burundi	■ Unspecified		●														
Chad	■ Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD)		●					○	○	○		○					
	■ Rassemblement des Forces pour le Changement (RFC)		●					○	○								
Colombia	■ National Liberation Army (ELN)	●				○											
	■ Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC)		● ^Δ	○ ^Δ					○ ^Δ		○ ^Δ						
Côte d'Ivoire	■ Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI)/Forces Nouvelles		●														
	■ Pro-Gbagbo Armed Groups								○								
Democratic Republic of the Congo	■ Unspecified				●	○			○								
	■ National Congress for the Defense of the Congolese People (CNDP)		●						○								
Egypt	■ Sinai Bedouins	○							○								
Ethiopia	■ Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)	●															

■ Groups active as of March 2013

■ Groups defeated, dormant, or seized, or incorporated into government, as of March 2013

Δ Updated since last release

● Higher likelihood of possession (at least two sources, a photo of the holding, or a peer reviewed source from the Small Arms Survey)

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Georgia	■ South Ossetia Separatists																	○
	■ The Abkhazian Congregation of the Caucasus Emirate		●		●													
Guinea	■ Guinean Dissidents-2000-2001		●															
Iran	■ Jundallah/People's Resistance Movement of Iran (PRMI)	○																
Iraq	■ Unspecified	●	●	●	●				●		●	●	●				●	●
	■ Ansar Al-Islam	●								●								
	■ Asaib Ahl al-Haqq	○																
	■ Islamic State of Iraq (including al-Qaeda Iraq)		●							●								●
	■ Jaish al-Mujahideen	○																
	■ Kata'ib Hizballah								●									
Kashmir	■ Mahdi Army	○																
	■ Harkat ul-Ansar (HUA)		●															
	■ Hizbul Mujahideen ^Δ		● ^Δ															
Kenya	■ Al-Qaeda Cell		●															
Kosovo	■ Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK)		●															○
Lebanon	■ Hezbollah		●	●	●	○			●		●	●	●	●	●			●
	■ Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-Gen. Command (PFLP-GC)	●	●															
Liberia	■ Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD)		●															
Libya	■ Revolutionary Brigades ⁶		● ⁷						● ^Δ		●	● ^Δ	●	● ^Δ	● ^Δ	●		
Macedonia	■ National Liberation Army (NLA)/Macedonian UÇK		●	○	●													○
Mali	■ Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)		●															
	■ Comité National pour le Redressement de la Démocratie et la Restauration (CNRDR)		●										●					
	■ Mouvement pour l'Unité et le Jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest (MUJAO) ^Δ		○ ^Δ															
	■ Mouvement National de Libération de l'Asawad (MNLA)		●															

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		Unspecified ²	SA-7 Grail (9K32 Strela 2 & 2M) ³	SA-14 Gremlin (9K34 Strela-3)	SA-16 (9K30 Iqbal-1) / SA-18 (9K30 Iqbal)	FIM-92 Stinger	HN-5	Blowpipe	Other ⁴	Unspecified	AT-3 Sagger (9M13 Maljutka)	AT-4 Spirit (9M11 Fagot)	AT-5 Spandrel (9M13 Konkurs)	AT-7 / AT-13 Sakhorn-2 (9M15 Meli-1 and 2)	AT-14 Spriggan (9P13 Komar-E)	MILAN	Other
Mauritania	■ Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb Cell (AQIM)	○															
Mexico	■ Los Zetas								○								
	■ Unspecified		○ ^Δ													○ ^Δ	
Moldova	■ Unspecified		○	○													
Myanmar	■ United Wa State Army (UWSA)		●				●										
	■ Shan State Army		●														
Niger	■ Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)								○								
	■ Mouvement des Nigériens pour la justice (MNJ)		●													○	
Nigeria	■ Boko Haram		○														
Pakistan	■ 'Army of the Pure': Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT)	●															
	■ Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan	●															
Palestinian Territories	■ Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas)		● ^Δ			○			○			●			●		
	■ Palestinian Authority		●			○				●							
	■ Palestinian Islamic Jihad		●						○								
Philippines	■ Moro Islamic Liberation Front	○															
Russian Federation	■ Chechen rebels /Caucasus Emirate		●		●	●			○								
Saudi Arabia	■ Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)		●														
Sierra Leone	■ Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC)		●	○								●					
	■ Revolutionary United Front (RUF)		●	●							●		●				
Somalia	■ Al-Shabaab	●	●		●					●			●			● ^Δ	
	■ Ahlu Sunna wal Jamaa		○														
	■ Islamic Courts Union (ICU)	●	●		●				●								
	■ Somali National Alliance	●															
	■ United Somali Congress/Somali Salvation Alliance	●															
South Sudan	■ Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)		●				●									●	
	■ South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA)		○														

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Somaliland	■ Unilaterally declared government		● ^Δ															
Spain	■ Basque Homeland and Freedom (ETA)		○															
Sri Lanka	■ Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)		●	●		○	●											
Sudan	■ Sudanese Revolutionary Front (Darfur's rebels alliance)		●															
	■ Sudan People's Liberation Army - North (SPLA-N) ^Δ																● ^Δ	
Syria	■ 'Free Syrian Army' / Anti-Government Armed Groups ⁶		●	○ ^Δ	● ^Δ				● ^Δ	●	● ^Δ		● ^Δ	○ ^Δ	○ ^Δ			
Turkey	■ Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)		●			●							○					
Uganda	■ Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)		● ^Δ								○							
United Kingdom	■ Irish Republican Army (IRA)		●															
Yemen	■ Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)		● [?]															
	■ Huthis	○							○ ^Δ									
	Number of groups believed to have held this specific system	Low estimate ¹⁰	11	48	6	10	4	4	2	6	6	8	5	4	5	3	4	5
		High estimate	21	56	11	10	11	6	6	8	26	9	8	5	5	4	8	5
	Number of groups believed to have held this type of weapon since 1998	Low estimate	57								19							
		High estimate	77								41							
	Number of active groups believed to be holding or having held this type of weapons since 1998	Low estimate	35								10							
		High estimate	51								27							
	Number of groups believed to have held guided light weapons since 1998	Low estimate	59															
		High estimate	82															
	Number of active groups believed to be holding or having held guided light weapon since 1998	Low estimate	36															
		High estimate	57															

Source: Lazarevic (2008); Rigual (2013b).

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Notes

1. This table is the product of desk research conducted by the Small Arms Survey and based on a wide range of reports, press statements, and author correspondence with acknowledged experts in the field of proliferation, light weapons, conflicts, and/or non-state armed groups. It is a consolidated version of a table previously published in *Small Arms Survey* (2008, pp. 32-33). It is current as of March 2013.
2. The category 'unspecified' refers to MANPADS or ATGW systems reported in public sources, but for which the specific type has not been mentioned or specified.
3. The weapons' labels used here follow the US designations and the NATO code-names. The types of weapons presented in the columns intend to reflect the most frequently seen weapons, but this list could be subject to change as the findings evolve. Less frequent systems are reported under 'Other' (see note 3). Further, even though a lot of attention has been accorded to report as accurately as possible the type of weapons held by groups, it must be specified that some types can be easily confused (such as sub-categories of the same model, like the SA-7 a and b; or in the cases of same models from different producers, such as the SA-7 of Russian manufacture, and the HN-5 produced in China).
4. The category 'other' refers to weapons reportedly possessed by only a small number of non-state armed groups. They include: the Misagh (or Mithaq) and QW-1 Vanguard MANPADS in service with Iraqi armed groups and with Hezbollah; the Redeye, reportedly possessed by UNITA in Angola and the FARC in Colombia, the Anza-2 seen in Libya, and the Chinese FN-6 possessed by Syrian anti-government armed groups. For ATGWs, reports indicate that Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda in Iraq and UNITA are believed to have possessed the TOW; Hezbollah reportedly possess further the Toophan and the Raad-T; and SPLA-N in Sudan are confirmed to hold the Red Arrow-8.
5. A MILAN has indeed been found in Afghanistan. The group to whom it would belong is unsure however, even though the Taliban would be the most likely owner (see for instance Schroeder and King, 2012, p. 334).
6. The most recent studies on armed groups in Libya recognize the high heterogeneity in the diverse groups that recently emerged following the revolution. Brian McQuinn, for instance, depicts a typology of four different types of groups currently operating in Libya (McQuinn, 2012). However, given the current lack of information on the actual weaponry of each type of groups, the present study considers the 'revolutionary brigades' as a whole, acknowledging nevertheless the pitfalls of such a choice. The data on each type of groups would be update as more reliable information occurs.
7. Most of the MANPADS found in Libya are SA-7b type, according to the United Nation Security Council, 2012, *Consolidated working document on the implementation of paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 2012 (2011) 16 March*. Res S/2012/178, p.6. However, given the difficulty to distinguish between the two types of weapons (SA-7a and b) in situations with a lack of access to stockpiles, it has been decided here to conflate the two weapons under the same label, SA-7.
8. Several groups' names in Syria have emerged and are now well known in Syria. Nevertheless, correspondents in the region have also highlighted the extremely fluid situation regarding groups' identities and weaponry. The Small Arms Survey thus keeps, for now, the broader label of Free Syrian Army to avoid mistakenly attributing weapons holding to the wrong groups.
9. Videos of AQAP militants carrying MANPADS have been released in 2011. However, the specific type of weapons is hard to specify (it has been supposed to be SA-7, SA-14 type, or even a foreign variant such as the Chinese HN-5).
10. The high estimates include all the reported possessions of guided light weapons by non-state armed groups included in the table (both full and empty circles). The low estimates only include the most reliable estimation of possession (full circles only).

References

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