

Illegal possession and manufacture of firearms

Abstract

Topic of this thesis is illegal possession and manufacture of firearms, mainly focused on illegal manufacture of firearms. Key method of firearms manufacture, which is introduced to the reader, is 3D printing.

First chapter contains the historical evolution of laws pertaining to illegal possession and manufacture of firearms, with the bulk of the chapter dedicated to 20th century.

Second chapter deals with the currently used regulation of illegal possession and manufacture of firearms, from international contracts, through European law to administrative and criminal law. Some shortcomings concerning criminal law, stemming from changes in gun laws, are brought to the attention of the reader.

Third chapter focuses on the known scope of illegal possession and manufacture of firearms. It contains police statistics from Czechia and surrounding countries and numbers of charged and sentenced for illegal possession and manufacture of firearms. Aside from that, it deals with gun crime, number of legal guns, number of missing and lost guns and the number of guns given up during gun amnesties.

The following chapter explains the “traditional” methods of illegal manufacturing of firearms. It depicts selected cases of improvised manufacture of guns, and introduces the most important types of homemade firearms. Those are weapons like pipe shotguns or Luty submachine gun. Following these the chapter deals with reactivation of deactivated guns, reconverting guns once converted to blank firing back to their original state and conversion of blank firing weapons to enable projectile firing.

Fifth chapter focuses on 3D printing and 3D printed guns. It provides overview of the current models of 3D printed firearms. The sixth chapter sums up the fifth and contains some possibilities of limiting spread of 3D printed firearms.

Key words: Illegal possession and manufacture of firearms, 3D printing, illegal firearms