

A Tale of Two Rifles:

The proliferation of F2000 and AK-103 self-loading rifles exported to Libya in 2004 – 2009

2016

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Cover image: Militants from the al-Quds Brigades of Palestinian Islamic Jihad hold an F2000 rifle with LG1 grenade launcher and an AK-103 rifle during a parade in Gaza, in 2015 (photo credit: Palestine Today).



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Abbreviations & Acronyms

AK Avtomat Kalashnikova ('Kalashnikov automatic rifle') [Russian]

AKM Avtomat Kalashnikova Modernizirovanniy ('Kalashnikov automatic rifle,

modernised') [Russian]

ARES Armament Research Services

ATGW Anti-tank guided weapons

AUG Armee-Universal-Gewehr ('universal army rifle') [German]

Cmd Commande ('order') [French]

DFLP Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine

FMJ Full-metal jacket

FNH Fabrique Nationale de Herstal ('National Factory of Herstal') [French]

IS Islamic State

Lance-Grenades 1 ('Grenade Launcher 1') [French]

LYD Libyan Dinar

MANPADS Man-portable air defence systems

MENA Middle East and North Africa

NTC National Transitional Council (Libya)

PIJ Palestinian Islamic Jihad

PNA Palestinian National Authority

PRC Popular Resistance Committees (Palestine)

SIPRI Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

SR Semi-rimmed

STANAG Standardization agreement (NATO)



Introduction

During the Libyan Civil war of 2011, observers noted the presence of two weapons previously unseen in the region: the FN Herstal F2000 and IZHMASH (now Kalashnikov Concern) AK-103 self-loading rifles. These two weapons, amongst others, served as 'flag items' during the aftermath of the civil conflict, and their proliferation has been documented throughout states in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. These weapons have been observed together in Gaza, for example, where images show various militant groups armed with both AK-103 and F2000 rifles. In this Research Report, ARES is making a portion of our data relating to the proliferation of these rifles publicly available. The report will provide information regarding the technical characteristics of the rifles in question, data related to their export to Libya, and an assessment of their further proliferation following the conflict in 2011, both within Libya and the broader MENA region.

A self-loading rifle is one with an action which extracts and ejects the fired cartridge case immediately after firing, and chambers a new round from the weapon's feed device. These rifles may be semi-automatic or automatic (Ferguson et al., 2015). Self-loading rifles were first widely adopted during and after the Second World War, generally serve as the primary infantry arm for a nation's armed forces, and are in widespread use with non-state armed groups (see ARES, 2015 for a fuller discussion). Self-loading rifles are durable manufactured goods. With relatively minor care they can be stored for long periods of time and suffer only minimal degradation. Common damage is easy to repair, and it is not uncommon for such a weapon to have a service life of many decades (McCollum, 2014).

From March of 1992, UN Security Council Resolution 748 established an arms embargo which prevented the legal export of arms and munitions to Libya. This was reinforced by embargoes or de facto embargoes in several other states including the European Union, United Kingdom, and United States. In August 1998, Security Council Resolution 1192 provided for a suspension of UN sanctions against Libya once Libya had taken steps to resolve accusations of support in the bombing two foreign airliners. In April 1999, Security Council Presidential Statement S-PRST-1999-10 noted that these conditions had been fulfilled and suspended, but did not lift, sanctions against Libya. Once Libya had accepted responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials, agreed to pay compensation, committed to further cooperation with investigators, and denounced terrorism, Security Council Resolution 1506 of September 2003 lifted the arms embargo (SIPRI, 2012).

Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities in February 2011, The UN Security Council adopted Security Council Resolution 1970, establishing a new arms embargo on Libya. On 16 September 2011, UN Security Council Resolution 2009 allowed the transfer of arms to the newly-recognised National Transitional Council (NTC), under the condition that such transfers were approved by the Sanctions Committee² (SIPRI, 2014). Available evidence indicates that the rifles addressed within this Research Report were supplied during the period between September 2003 and February 2011, during which

² "It also allowed transfers of small arms, light weapons and related materiel, temporarily exported to Libya for the sole use of United Nations personnel, representatives of the media and humanitarian and development workers and associated personnel, notified to the Committee in advance and in the absence of a negative decision by the Committee within five working days of such a notification" (SIPRI, 2014).



¹ ARES uses the term 'flag items' to describe materiel in a given area which is readily distinguished from the materiel known or expected to be documented in the same area. Generally, these are items which are not covered in reference material, arms and munitions baselines assessments, and similar. Such items are often visually distinctive and stand out from other items.

time Libya was not under an international arms embargo. Further, the exporting companies appear to have transferred the arms in question before other applicable Belgian/EU or Russian sanctions were applied. At the time of writing, several states maintain an arms embargo on Libya, including the EU, UK, and US, whilst the UN embargo remains in force with modifications made to under Security Council Resolutions 2095 and 2174 (State, 2013). Russia lifted its national sanctions in May 2012 (*Sputnik*, 2012).

Key Findings

It is important to note that there are some limitations in the data set gathered for this report. It is, by necessity, a primarily opportunistic approach and has the inherent limits of such a collection method. Nonetheless, this report contains significant data points. Recognising these limitations, this report presents the following key findings:

- Both F2000 and AK-103³ self-loading rifles serve as useful 'flag items' for tracking the proliferation of small arms from the Libyan conflicts of 2011-present;
- 367 F2000 rifles and LG1 grenade launchers were exported to Libya from Belgium in 2009. However, of much greater significance is the significant quantity of AK-103-2 rifles, of which as many as 230,000 may have been exported from Russia from 2004 onwards;
- F2000 rifles and LG1 rifles have been documented in Gaza, in the hands of four non-state armed groups, as well as with militants in Sinai, Egypt;
- The AK-103 has proliferated widely from Libya, having been recorded in the hands of state and non-state armed groups in Gaza, as well as in the hands of Islamic State affiliates in Libya and Sinai, Egypt, and seized in counter-proliferation operations in Mali, Tunisia, and Niger.

³ In particular, AK-103-2 variants.







Photo 1 (L) A Libyan rebel fighter displays AK-103 (left) and F2000 self-loading rifles in Misrata, Libya in 2011 (photo credit: C.J. Chivers/New York Times).

Photo 2 (R) Fighters from the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades of Hamas display F2000 (left) and AK-103 (right) self-loading rifles in Gaza in 2012 (photo credit: Ezzedeen AL-Qassam Brigades – Information Office).

The F2000 Self-Loading Rifle & LG1 Grenade Launcher

The F2000 is a self-loading rifle chambered for 5.56 x 45 mm and produced by *Fabrique Nationale de Herstal* (FN Herstal) of Belgium. It was developed by FN Herstal in the late 1990s, and first marketed in 2001. Some 80,000 are believed to have been produced to date (ARES, 2015). Employing a gas operating system and general arrangement similar to the Steyr AUG, the F2000 makes even more extensive use of polymer throughout. It was designed as a modular weapon system with controls operable from either side. The latter feature addresses common user concerns over the firing of bullpup weapons (with operating parts close to the user's face) from the left shoulder. Most unusually, empty cases are not immediately ejected to one side, but are redirected into an ejection chute parallel to the barrel, in a fashion similar to some firearms mounted inside armoured fighting vehicles. The light weight of the weapon's working parts results in a high rate of automatic fire of approximately 850 rounds per minute (FN Herstal, n.d.(a)).

The F2000 is presently made available by FN Herstal in three configurations. The Standard model features a 400 mm barrel and a 1.6x magnification optical sight protected beneath a distinctive bulbous polymer cover. This is removable, and the slightly-recessed polymer M1913 Picatinny rail may be used to install any compatible sight. The Standard TR model adds a three-position M1913 rail to the fore-end, whilst the Tactical TR additionally incorporates a flat-top M1913 rail in place of the Standard model's optical sight and cover (FN Herstal, n.d.(b)). FN Herstal formerly offered a Tactical model without the three-position rail (Francotte et al., 2008).

The F2000 series of rifles are fed from NATO STANAG-compliant 30-round detachable box magazines. The curved fore-end may also be removed and replaced by the LG1 underbarrel grenade launcher. The LG1 ('LG' standing for *Lance-Grenades*, French for 'grenade launcher'), is marketed as the GL1 on FN Herstal's website. The LG1 is chambered for 40 x 46SR mm low velocity grenades, making it compatible with many cartridges developed by a range of manufacturers. An FN Herstal-designed bayonet is also available.

F2000 Standard Technical Specifications

Calibre: 5.56 x 45 mm Overall length: 690 mm Barrel length: 400 mm

Weight w/ empty magazine: 3.8 kg

Magazine capacity: 30 Muzzle velocity: 900 m/s Cyclic rate: 850 rpm

Source: FN Herstal, n.d.(b)





LG1 Technical Specifications

Calibre: 40 x 46SR mm

Overall length of rifle with LG1⁴: 727 mm

Barrel length: 230 mm Weight (empty): 1.2 kg Magazine capacity: 1 Muzzle velocity: 76 m/s

Source: FN Herstal, n.d.(c)



Exports to Libya

In May 2008, FN Herstal signed a deal worth more than 12 million EUR with the Gaddafi government (Spleeters, 2012). The contract included, amongst other arms and ammunition, 367 F2000 rifles each fitted with an LG1 underbarrel grenade launcher (see Annexe 1). The deal also included 367 P90 submachine guns, 367 Five-seveN handguns, 50 Browning Hi-Power 'Renaissance' handguns, 30 Minimi light machine guns, 2,000 FN 303 less-lethal launchers⁵, and more than 1 million rounds of differing ammunition types, including 5.7 x 28 mm SS190 ball (FMJ) and SB193 subsonic, and 5.56 x 45 mm SS109 ball cartridges. The contract also included M27 links for 5.56 x 45 mm cartridges, presumably for use with the Minimi light machine guns, and more than 20,000 high explosive 40 x 46SR mm grenades for the LG1 modules.

According to Damien Spleeters, at the time a Belgian reporter covering the deal, it was approved by the Walloon regional government the day after the regional elections in 2009. The weapons went on to equip the 32nd Reinforced Brigade of the Libyan Army, popularly known as the 32nd 'Khamis' Brigade, after its commanding officer Khamis Gaddafi. The official request indicated that the arms were to be used to "escort humanitarian convoys to Darfur". One source familiar with the deal notes that the inclusion of the 2,000 FN 303 less-lethal launchers was critical to having the export license approved.

Documents recovered by Human Rights Watch and shared with ARES shed some light on the specific details, including serial numbers, of the FN Herstal weapons exported to the Gaddafi government in Libya, in 2009. These documents were recovered from a military base in the Salahaddin district, Tripoli, shortly after it fell to rebel forces in August 2011.

⁵ The FN 303 is a purpose-designed, semi-automatic weapon which uses compressed air to propel impact projectiles (some with secondary effects) out to approximately one hundred metres. See FN Herstal, n.d.(d) for further details.



⁴ Assuming F2000 Standard.

Table 1 Known serial numbers of F2000 rifles and LG1 grenade launchers exported to Libya in 2009

Order date	May 2008		
Order number	CONTRACT N	O 20/2008	
FN reference #	102760		
Total number of rifles	367		
Number of rifles per case	5		
Total # of cases ⁶	74		
Known case numbers	456	462	481
Serial numbers	081103	081285	081181
(F2000) ⁷	081131	081286	081182
	081138	081287	081183
	081178	081288	081184
	081213	081289	081185
Serial numbers (LG1)	005677	005613	005801
	005678	005618	005802
	005679	005619	005806
	005681	005620	005807
	005682	005622	005808
Lowest F2000 serial documented	81103		
Highest F2000 serial documented	81442		
F2000 serial range	339		
Lowest LG1 serial documented	5613		
Highest LG1 serial documented	5808		
LG1 serial range	195		

Sources: FN Herstal shipping documents; ARES, 2016.

The rifles delivered to Libya under a 2009 contract are FN Herstal F2000 Standard Base B models. The 'Base B' designation refers to a bayonet lug which is pinned onto the barrel. All rifles except one were documented with LG1 grenade launcher modules attached. The F2000 rifles and LG1 grenade launchers delivered in 2009 were engraved in Belgium with name of the 32nd Brigade (see Photo 3), as were other weapons delivered as part of the contract in question. Additionally, many of these rifles and grenade launchers have been documented bearing barcode stickers applied by FN Herstal (see Photo 4). Note that 'Cmd' (an abbreviation for the French commande, or 'order') on these barcode stickers is followed by '102760', the order number listed on the shipping documents under 'Ref FN' field (see Annexe 1). Both the 32nd Brigade markings and the barcode stickers are useful identification features of rifles supplied under this contract.

Many of the F2000 rifles documented by ARES within Libya have been fitted with detachable sound suppressors. Whilst no F2000 rifles in Libya have yet been observed with the standard 1.6x optic removed, limited numbers have been documented with additional optical sights, including EOTech and Aimpoint models⁸, attached to the right-side rail of the LG1.

⁸ It should be noted that copies of popular weapon sights are often documented in Libya, with most originating in China.



⁶ Estimated on a basis of 5 rifles per case, based on shipping records, giving a total of 73.4 (74) cases.

⁷ Includes only serial numbers directly listed on shipping documents. Other serial numbers have been recorded, see Table 4.



Photo 3 Markings in Arabic script on an FN Herstal LG1 grenade launcher indicating the weapon was intended for use by the 32^{nd} Reinforced Brigade of the Libyan Army (photo credit: François Mori / AP Photo).



Photo 4 A barcode sticker applied to an F2000 rifle documented in Libya in 2011. Note the serial number (081292) and order number (102760) listed below the barcode (photo credit: Damien Spleeters).

ARES interviewed several fighters in Libya who captured F2000 rifles during the 2011 Civil War, as well as a number of parties involved in the trade of illicit F2000 rifles over the past two years. The unanimous opinion is that the F2000 has served as a 'status weapon' commanding a value in excess of its operational utility by virtue of its distinctive appearance, connection with the Gaddafi regime, and limited availability. The Belgian FN Herstal F2000 had been widely misidentified by Libyan rebels and was known by many as the "French FN".

The AK-103 Self-Loading Rifle

The AK-103⁹ is a comparatively modern variant of the venerable Russian *Avtomat Kalashnikova* (AK) family of small arms, chambered for the 7.62 x 39 mm cartridge of its progenitor. It forms part of the so-called 'AK-100 series' of rifles designed and introduced by IZHMASH (now Kalashnikov Concern) in the early 1990s. Whilst visually distinctive from earlier models, its mechanical design remains substantially that of the *Avtomat Kalashnikova Modernizirovanniy* (AKM), an updated AK series rifle introduced in 1959. The general appearance of the AK-103 is similar to the AK-74M, featuring the same black synthetic (glass-reinforced polyamide) furniture and magazines, and a black phosphate finish on metal parts. The AK-103 is fitted with the muzzle brake, folding solid-polymer stock, and left-hand side optical sight rail common to rifles of the AK-100 series¹¹ (Ferguson & Jenzen-Jones, 2014). The muzzle device, solid stock, and standard optic mount go some way towards improving the potential accuracy of the rifle.

Although the 7.62 x 39 mm cartridge has been largely replaced in Russian military service by the 5.45 x 39 mm round, there remains a significant worldwide demand for rifles chambered for the former calibre. As such, the AK-103 was developed primarily for the export market, although it has seen some limited adoption within Russia¹². In addition to chambering the 7.62 x 39 mm cartridge held in significant stockpiles and widely available globally, the AK-103 also accepts all existing AK magazines in this calibre. This logistic simplicity, along with the rifle's familiar manual of arms, makes it an attractive option for users already fielding earlier AK type rifles. The AK-103-2 variant is equipped with a three-round burst mechanism, a feature intended to increase hit probability and conserve ammunition in automatic fire.

AK-103 Technical Specifications

Calibre: 7.62 x 39 mm Overall length: 943 mm

Length w/ stock folded: 705 mm

Barrel length: 415 mm

Weight w/ empty magazine: 3.6 kg

Weight w/ loaded magazine: 4.1 kg

Magazine capacity: 30 Muzzle velocity: 715 m/s Cyclic rate: 600 rpm

Source: Kalashnikov Concern, 2016



¹² Primarily with various Spetsnaz GRU (Russian Army) and Spetsnaz MVD/OSNAZ (Ministry of the Interior) units, as well as limited use by the FSIN (Federal Penitentiary Service) (Jenzen-Jones, 2012b).



⁹ Sometimes written 'AK103' or 'AK 103'.

¹⁰ The so-called AK-100 series is generally considered to be comprised of the AK-74M, AK-101, AK-102, AK-103, AK-104, and AK-105. There is no rifle designated the 'AK-100' (Ferguson & Jenzen-Jones, 2014). Further developments include rifles such as the AK-9, chambered for 9 x 39 mm (Jenzen-Jones, 2012b).

¹¹ The muzzle brake design is shared with other full-length rifles in the AK-100 series (AK-74M and AK-101). A different muzzle device is used on the AK-102, AK-104, and AK-105.

Exports to Libya

In late 2003 or early 2004, The Gaddafi government in Libya began negotiations with Russia for the purchase of a range of arms and munitions, including anti-tank guided weapons (ATGW) and manportable air defence systems (MANPADS). These deals included a sizeable but ultimately unknown quantity of AK-103-2 self-loading rifles exported under a 2004 contract numbered 27/2004P/343406131003-411443. It has also been reported that Libya had an agreement with Russia to produce AK-103 rifles under license, however it is not clear whether this speculation is accurate, or how this deal had progressed – if it all – before the outbreak of the 2011 conflict (Jenzen-Jones, 2012b). It is not uncommon for license production to be preceded by purchases of the same item type.

An assessment of shipping documents, packaging, and images shared with ARES by Human Rights Watch and other sources operating within Libya indicates that Libya placed at least three orders for AK-103-2 rifles under the umbrella of one contract, issued in April 2004. The first order for which there is evidence, placed in September 2004, was for some 60,000 rifles, each delivered complete with four magazines, a bayonet, cleaning kit, sling, and oil bottle. In July 2007, just over 36,000 additional rifles were ordered. Images of AK-103-2 packaging documented in 2011 indicate that at least 11,380 cases of rifles were slated to be delivered under the same 2004 contract. By the time the Libyan Civil War broke out in 2011, as many as 230,000 modern Russian AK-103-2 rifles were present in Libya. It is important to note that it is not clear if all of cases were delivered. The total number of AK-103-2 rifles exported from Russia to Libya has not yet been confirmed. At the time of publication, the Russian government has not yet responded to an ARES request for information.

Table 2 Summary of known AK-103-2 orders under 2004 contract

		Ord	ler 1		Ord	ler 2	Order 3
Order date		06/09	9/2004		10/07	7/2007	Unknown
Order number		P/34340613	1003-411443		P/34340613	1003-411443	Unknown
Case number ¹³	805	1526	1745	2356	1760	2497	6524
Total # of cases	5003	5003	5003	5003	3001	3001	11380
Packing date	23/03/2005	31/03/2005	05/04/2005	08/04/2005	26/02/2008	30/11/2007	Unknown
Serial	041372441	041381481	041368089	051365009	081365524	071487974	Unknown
numbers	041364445	051369204	041379933	051360514	081373705	071492210	
	041369608	041365423	051362370	051386093	081375725	071493697	
	041374059	051372221	051364678	051373363	081379603	071494473	
	041366723	051373913	051360720	051361451	081381673	071494487	
	041371354	051370165	051373429	051363488	081383720	071494575	
	041368133	051375620	051372027	051369701	081384170	071496681	
	041372767	051380412	051374881	051360521	081384373	071497049	
	041370440	051380022	051387826	051387841	081384417	071498208	
	041375058	051383836	051383287	051375739	081384475	071498688	
	041373632	051383982	051382215	051376877	081384565	071498737	
	051377186	051385217	051384479	051388675	081385118	071499200	

¹³ This refers to the specific case number outline in the shipping documentation (see Annexe 2). A 'case' of AK-103 self-loading rifles refers to the wooden outer packaging, containing 12 rifles.



Contract

Date of contract: 19/04/2004

Date of earliest known order: 06/09/2004 Date of second known order: 10/07/2007 Date of third known order: Unknown

Number of rifles per case: 12 Number of cases: 19,384

Total number of rifles: approx. 232,608 Lowest serial number: 41364445 Highest serial number: 81385118

Range: 40,020,673

Order 1

Number of rifles per case: 12 Number of cases: 5003

Total number of rifles: approx. 60,036 Lowest known serial number: 41364445 Highest known serial number: 51388675

Range: 10,024,230

Order 2

Number of rifles per case: 12 Number of cases: 3001

Total number of rifles: approx. 36,012 Lowest known serial number: 71487974 Highest known serial number: 81385118

Range: 9,897,144

Order 3

Number of rifles per case: 12 Number of cases: 11,380

Total number of rifles: approx. 136,560 Lowest known serial number: Unknown Highest known serial number: Unknown

Range: Unknown



Proliferation within the MENA Region

Whilst many combatants kept their personal firearms after the Civil War, and others turned theirs over to the transitional government, some sold these weapons for profit or gave them away. An arms dealer in Misrata told ARES that he was directly responsible for a shipment of AK-103-2 and F2000 rifles to Gaza. "We sent them to help the people of Gaza", he said. The weapons in question were not sold, but gifted to a contact in Gaza to demonstrate solidarity against Israel. "We have to support Gaza, Israel is the cause of the problems in the Arab region", the arms dealer told ARES sources¹⁴. Given the high price of the rifle (more than 5000 USD immediately following the conflict, and substantially more now), the dealer would only accept the F2000 as a donation; most fighters considered them too valuable to part with (Jenzen-Jones, 2015). Whilst the arms dealer refused to disclose the exact route used for this illicit transfer, it is likely to have followed a known route through the Sinai Peninsula¹⁵.

On the 2 October 2012 the al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), displayed one F2000 rifle with LG1 grenade launcher and a number of AK-103 rifles amongst various other small arms and light weapons during a parade in Fatah, southern Gaza (Jenzen-Jones, 2012a). After this first appearance of these weapons in Gaza, both have been documented in the hands of several militant brigades in Palestine and more broadly within the MENA region over the following years (see Table 3 and photos 5 to 9).

The F2000 and AK-103 have both been exported in very minor numbers to countries other than Libya within the MENA region. Saudi Arabia, for example, is the only known state in the region to have purchased both of these weapon systems. It is also the only MENA state to have purchased the F2000 in significant quantities, purchasing some 55,000 rifles in 2005 (Kemp, 2009). Some sources have indicated AK-103 rifles are in limited service with the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces and Iranian naval commandos (Jenzen-Jones, 2012b). Proliferation out of Libya represents a far more likely path for both the F2000 and AK-103 rifles documented in Gaza and elsewhere.

F2000 rifles & LG1 grenade launchers

F2000 rifles likely to have originated in Libya have primarily been documented during parades within Gaza. All of the rifles documented in Gaza have been fitted with an LG1 grenade launcher, whilst none have featured a sound suppressor. It should also be noted that no more than two distinct rifles have been seen in any one image or closely linked series of images, and that many fighters often pose with the same rifle. It is likely that there are only very limited numbers of F2000 rifles in Gaza. Numerous other small arms and light weapons have been illicitly trafficked from Libya to Gaza, including significant quantities of AK-103 rifles.

¹⁵ Interviews with a confidential source in Libya.



¹⁴ Interviews with a confidential source in Libya.

 Table 3 Palestinian militant brigades documented with F2000 rifles during parades since 2012

Group	Year/s
Palestinian Islamic Jihad	2012; 2013; 2015
(al-Quds Brigades)	
Hamas	2012; 2014; 2015
(Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades)	
Popular Resistance Committees	2013
(Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades)	
Democratic Front for the Liberation of	2014; 2015
Palestine (National Resistance Brigades)	

Source: ARES, 2016.





Photo 5 (L) An F2000 rifle fitted with LG1 grenade launcher in the hands of a militant from the al-Quds Brigades of Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza, 2012 (photo credit: al-Quds Brigades).

Photo 6 (R) An F2000 rifle fitted with LG1 grenade launcher in the hands of a militant from the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades of Hamas in Gaza, 2014 (photo credit: PalTimes).



Photo 7 An F2000 rifle fitted with LG1 grenade launcher in the hands of a militant from the Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades of the Popular Resistance Committees in Gaza, 2013 (photo credit: Palestine Today).



Photo 8 An F2000 rifle fitted with LG1 grenade launcher in the hands of a militant from the National Resistance Brigades of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Gaza, 2014 (photo credit: DFLP).

These firearms have also been documented in the hands of militant groups in Eastern Libya and in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt. Videos showing at least one F2000 rifle in the hands of a militant faction aligned with the Islamic State in Libya were briefly available on YouTube in mid-2015 before being removed. A news report from September 2015 shows an F2000 rifle amongst other arms and munitions seized by the Egyptian armed forces from suspected terrorists in central Sinai (see Photo 9) (Almasry Alyoum, 2015).



Photo 9 An F2000 rifle (centre) amongst arms and munitions captured from suspected terrorists in central Sinai, Egypt in September 2015 (photo credit: Almasry Alyoum).

Table 4 Serial numbers of F2000 type rifles documented in Libya since 2011

Primary Serial Number (left-hand side)	LG1 serial number ¹⁶ (left- hand side)	Country where documented	Year documented	Source ¹⁷
081177	005800	Libya	2011	Confidential source†
081247	Unknown	Libya	2011	Zohra Bensemra / Reuters (in Taylor, 2011)
081292	005748	Libya	2011	Damien Spleeters†
081442	005[?]0[?]	Libya	2015	Confidential source
Unknown	005721	Libya	2011	Francois Mori / AP Photo (in AP Images, 2011)

Taken from ARES, 2016

These serial numbers all reflect F2000 type rifles which have been diverted into the illicit sphere (having been documented in the hands of non-state armed groups or seized during illegal transit). Further information on these cases may be available to share with interested parties, on a case-by-case basis. Likewise, the author would welcome the submission of any further data to: ArmsID@armamentresearch.com

¹⁷ ARES maintains a conflict material database (ARES CONMAT database), from which these sources are drawn. Sources marked with a dagger symbol (†) represent personal correspondence with the author.



 $^{^{16}}$ Note that these rifles have all been documented with an LG1 auxiliary grenade launcher fitted. The LG1 bears its own serial number.

AK-103 rifles

AK-103 rifles have been documented with much more regularity, and in more substantial numbers within Gaza and the broader MENA region, than F2000 rifles and LG1 grenade launchers. As many as 34 distinct rifles have been documented during one event (see Table 5), and the AK-103 has been observed in a wide range of marches, public events, and propaganda videos outside of the larger military parades (ARES, 2016). Of the militant brigades documented in possession of the AK-103 rifle, Hamas' *Izz ad-Din al-Qassam* Brigades have displayed significantly higher quantities than other groups. AK-103 rifles have also been documented in service with the Palestinian National Authority's Preventive Security Force, with up to 8 rifles documented at one event. It should be noted that there is substantial crossover between militant groups and Palestinian National Authority law enforcement units (Hauslohner, 2010; Issacharoff, 2015). In a handful of instances AK-103 rifles have been documented fitted with different models of underbarrel grenade launcher.

There is some evidence to suggest that the AK-103 is considered by Palestinian militant groups as a more prestigious weapon than earlier AK type rifles. AK-103 rifles have been documented in the hands of some of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades' more 'elite' formations, including their naval commando unit (see Photo 10). This unit, perhaps best known for an unsuccessful assault on an Israeli beach near Zikim in July 2014, has been frequently pictured with AK-103 rifles (Crowcroft, 2014). These appear to constitute the primary weapon system for this unit, and are featured heavily in propaganda and recruitment videos, 'martyrdom posters', parades, and even in a statue erected in Gaza to commemorate fallen members of the unit (see Photos 11 and 12).



Photo 10 Militants from the 'naval commando' unit of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades of Hamas armed with AK-103 rifles in Gaza, 2014 (photo credit: Mahmud Hams/AFP).



Photo 11 (L) A 'martyrdom poster' from 2014, commemorating the death of Bashar al-Ahmed, a member of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades' naval commando unit. In the image, he is armed with an AK-103 rifle (photo credit: 'Abu Khattab').

Photo 12 (R) A statue commemorating fallen members of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades' naval commando unit. Note AK-103 rifle design (photo credit: Palestine Today).

 Table 5 Palestinian organisations documented with AK-103 rifles during parades since 2012

Group	Year/s	Number of rifles observed ¹⁸
Hamas (Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades)	2012; 2013; 2014; 2015	34
Palestinian National Authority (Preventive Security Force)	2015; unknown year ¹⁹	8
Palestinian Islamic Jihad (al-Quds Brigades)	2012; 2013; 2015	8
Popular Resistance Committees (Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades)	2013; 2014	5
Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (National Resistance Brigades)	2014	2

Source: ARES, 2016.

¹⁹ Several images of Preventive Security Force personnel armed with AK-103 rifles have been documented. One source claims they were taken in 2014, however ARES has not been able to independently verify this.



¹⁸ This is the highest total number of individual rifles observed at any one parade/public event. These figures do not necessarily represent the number of rifles held by these groups. It should also be noted that there remains the possibility of a 'crossover' of weapons and personnel between groups.



Photo 13 Militants from the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades of Hamas armed with AK-103 rifles in Gaza, 2014 (photo credit: Ezzedeen AL-Qassam Brigades – Information Office).



Photo 14 Members of the Preventive Security Force of the Palestinian National Authority, some armed with AK-103 rifles, in Gaza, 2015 (photo credit: Preventive Security Force).





Photo 15 A militant from the al-Quds Brigades of Palestinian Islamic Jihad armed with an AK-103 rifle in a tunnel between Gaza and Israel, 3 March 2015 (photo credit: Mahmud Hams/AFP).



Photo 16 Militants from the Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades of the Popular Resistance Committees armed with AK-103 rifles in Gaza, 2013 (photo credit: Palestine Today).



Photo 17 A militant from the National Resistance Brigades of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Gaza, 2014 (photo credit: DFLP).



Photo 18 Militants aligned with the Islamic State armed with AK-103 rifles in Libya, 2015 (photo credit: Islamic State).

AK-103 rifles have proliferated outside of Libya (see Table 6). The UN Panel of Experts on Libya has documented AK-103-2 rifles in Mali, Tunisia, and Niger, and ARES intelligence further indicates their presence in other states including Algeria, Chad, and Egypt. Several are visible in a video released in April 2015 which shows Islamic State militants executing Ethiopian Christians in Libya (see Photo 18).

Table 6 Serial numbers of AK-103 type rifles documented in the MENA region since 2011

Primary Serial Number (left-hand side)	Identified as AK-103-2 model? ²⁰	Country where documented	Year documented	Source ²¹
050457971	Yes*	Mali	2013	Msan et al., 2014
051448067	Yes	Libya	2011	Confidential source†
051463378	Yes*	Mali	2013	Msan et al., 2014
051466055	Yes*	Niger	2013	Msan et al., 2014
051478522	Yes	Libya	2011	Peter Bouckaert†
071360716	Yes	Libya	2011	Damien Spleeters†
071387264	Yes	Libya	2011	Damien Spleeters†
071397957	Yes	Libya	2016	Confidential source
071464557	Yes	Libya	2011	Confidential source†
081362103	Yes	Libya	2011	Peter Bouckaert†
081383707	Yes	Libya	2011	Peter Bouckaert†
081427816	Yes	Libya	2011	Peter Bouckaert†
0[?][?]867231	Yes	Libya	2015	Confidential source

Taken from ARES, 2016

These serial numbers all reflect AK-103 type rifles which have been diverted into the illicit sphere (having been documented in the hands of non-state armed groups or seized during illegal transit). Further information on these cases may be available to share with interested parties, on a case-by-case basis. Likewise, the author would welcome the submission of any further data to: ArmsID@armamentresearch.com

²¹ ARES maintains a conflict material database (ARES CONMAT database), from which these sources are drawn. Sources marked with a dagger symbol (†) represent personal correspondence with the author.



²⁰ Entries marked with an asterisk (*) indicate that ARES was not able to independently verify this identification.

Illicit Circulation within Libya

Both AK-103 and F2000 rifles fitted with LG1 grenade launchers remain available on the illicit market in Libya. ARES has documented five F2000 rifles offered for sale in Libya during 2015; all were fitted with LG1 grenade launchers. One example was documented as recently as 10 December 2015 (ARES, 2016). These have proven to have a local value of more than 10,000 Libyan Dinars (LYD) (approximately 7,300 USD) per rifle, with one example offered for as much as 18,000 LYD (13,000 USD). Ammunition for the F2000 rifles in Libya is comparatively scarce, and equally inflated in value -5.56×45 mm cartridges have been sold at 6 to 7 LYD (4.30 to 5 USD) per round , whilst 40×46 SR mm cartridges can command as much as 110 LYD each (80 USD). This is only slightly cheaper than the high prices documented shortly after the Libyan Revolution, in late 2011 through to mid-2012, which suggested 5.56×45 mm cartridges sold for 8 LYD (5.80×10^{-2}) or more per round (ARES, 2016; Jenzen-Jones, 2013).

AK-103 rifles remain widely available in Libya. ARES has documented more than forty examples offered for sale during 2015, with most priced between 1400 and 2000 LYD (approximately 1000 to 1450 USD), whilst 7.62 x 39 mm cartridges have been documented at prices ranging from 0.80 to 1.10 LYD (0.58 to 0.79 USD). During the 2011 Civil War, 7.62 x 39 cartridges were widely available at prices around 0.25LYD (0.18 USD). There is also compelling evidence to suggest noteworthy numbers of AK-103 rifles have been damaged or destroyed. Dozens of the weapons have been documented having suffered significant fire damage, with many in a non-serviceable condition as pictured. However, more than a dozen examples of refurbished AK-103 rifles have also been documented in Libya, sporting a wide range of replacement furniture; some had components co-opted from other AK type rifles, whilst others featured replacements produced newly fabricated from metal, plastic, or wood (ARES, 2016).



Annexe 1 – FN Herstal Documents

No. 456 Order CONTRACT NO 20/2008 FN Ref 102760 LBY / LBY				PACKING LIST	IST			§
Hockingslip	K	No.: 456			Order	: CONTRACT NO 20/2008		
uct Catalogue No. P/N NSN 90-BASE-B 3488900200 3488700200 3488001313 3488001131 3AZINE 30 CARTRIDGES 3486010030 1005-13-120-4320 3488001131 3AZINE 30 CARTRIDGES 3489200010 1005-13-119-0344 3468900030 NTENANCE ROOL .223 3468900030 1005-13-119-0268 34680005677 34680005677 9468N005678 3468N005679 3468N005681 3468N005681 3468N005682	00 (cm) 60 (cm) 33 (cm) 80 (m²)	Gross Weight Net Weight	80° E0	45.000 (kg) 33.000 (kg)	FN Ref Packings.	102760		
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PURCHASE DEPARTMENT	GASER BEN GASHIR	TRIPOLI	LIBYA	Order: CONTRACT NO 20/2008	
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Annexe 2 – Rosoboronexport Documents

Экспор Exporte	FSUE "Rosoboronexport"			УПАКОВОЧ PACKING L			5
	Контракт № Contract No. 27/2	2004/P/343	40613100	13		of 19.04	4
Грузоп Consign	Заказ-наряд Order-narjad олучатель ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ЗАКУПОК ТРИПОЛИ, J нее PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT TRIPOLI	No. P/343 ТИВИЯ	40613100	3-411443		of 06.09.20	004
			Лист Sheet	1	Листон Sheets	в 1	1
Марки и номера Marks and numbers	Наименование товара Description of goods	Ед. изм. Unit of measurement	Количество товара Quantity	Macca, kr брутто/ нетто Mass, kg gross/net		Вид груз. мест Туре of packages	Howep Mccra Package Nos
1.	7,62 мм автомат Калашникова АК-103-2 (индекс 6П45.C6-02) 7,62-mm Kalashnikov assault rifle AK-103-2 (index 6П45.C6-02)	796 шт.	12	90/59		812 ящик	b/ c/ d
	No. 041372441 041368133 No. 041364445 041372787 041369608 041370440 041374059 041375058 041366723 041373632 041371354 051377136	pcs				case	
	Maraзин под патрон 7,62x39 Magazine to 7,62x39 cartridge	.4.	48				
	Штык-нож в сборе Knife- bayonet assembly	.*.	12				
	Шомпол	-"-	12				
	Cleaning rod Принадлежность в пенале (пенал в сборе, прогирка, отвертка, выколотка, ёрш в сборе) Ассеssory in the container (container assembly, pull-	.*.	12				
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1003002 5 Экспортер ФГУП "Рособоронэкспорт" УПАКОВОЧНЫЙ ЛИСТ PACKING LIST M434/1/1/IZ/ 1526 Exporter FSUE "Rosoboronexport" Контракт № 27/2004/P/343406131003 19.04.2004 Contract No. of Заказ-наряд № Order-narjad No. P/343406131003-411443 06.09.2004 Грузополучатель ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ЗАКУПОК ТРИПОЛИ, ЛИВИЯ Consignee PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT TRIPOLI, LIBYA Лист Листов Sheet Sheets Марки и номера оличество товар Вид груз, мест Howep wecra Package Nos Масса, кг neasuremen Marks and Type of packages Quantity Unit of брутто/ Наименование товара нетто Description of goods Mass, kg gross/net Ι., 7,62 мм автомат Кадашникова АК-103-2 (индекс 796 12 90/59 812 6П45.C6-02) IIIT. ящик b/c/d 7.62-mm Kalashnikov assault rifle AK-103-2 (index 6П45.C6-02) 041381481 051375620 pcs case 051369204 051380412 041365423 051380022 051372221 051383836 051373913 051383982 051385217 051370165 Магазин под патрон 7,62х39 48 Magazine to 7,62x39 cartridge Штык-нож в сборе 12 Knife- bayonet assembly Шомпол 12 Cleaning rod Принадлежность в пенале (пенал в сборе, протирка, 12 отвертка, выколотка, ёрш в сборе) Accessory in the container (container assembly, pullthrough, screwdriver, drift, brush assembly) Ремень для ношения стрелкового оружия .#_ 12 Sling for carrying small arms Масленка 12 Oiler Marking: PACKING LIST Nº434/1/1/IZ /b (434 - Consignee's country code, approved in Russia, EXPORT 1 - number of the item acc to the Appendix No 1 to the Contract, 1 - No of the Exporter's shipment Lot, Contract No 27/2004/P/343406131003 IZ – indication of the manufacturer Port of loading: Oktyabrsk, CIS Port b - packages No of the manufacturer Lot) Port of destination: Tripoli Libya Shipment Lot No: 1/IZ Supplier: FSUE "Rosoboronexport" (1 - No of the Exporter's shipment Lot IZ - indication of the manufacturer), Concern "Izhmash" JSC Customer: Procurement Department Case No: b/c/d Tripoli Libya (b – packages No of the manufacturer Lot, Shipment Lot No: 1/IZ c - total quantity of the packages in the manufacturer Lot, Case No: 1526/5003/5003 d - total quantity of this manufacturer's packages which have been delivered to the Consignee, taking into account this Lot of Gross weight / net weight, 90/59 the manufacturer's equipment) Goods contract index: 343406131003-01 Подпись Signature Пата



1003002 5 УПАКОВОЧНЫЙ ЛИСТ ФГУП "Рособоронэкспорт" Экспортер PACKING LIST Nº434/1/1/IZ/ FSUE "Rosoboronexport" Exporter 1745 Контракт № 19.04.2004 Contract No. 27/2004/P/343406131003 of Заказ-наряд № OT Order-narjad No. P/343406131003-411443 of 06.09.2004 Грузополучатель ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ЗАКУПОК ТРИПОЛИ, ЛИВИЯ PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT TRIPOLI, LIBYA Consignee Листов Лист Sheet Sheets одичество товара Марки и номера Howep meera Package Nos Масса, кг Marks and Eg. #3M. Unit of брутто/ Наименование товара нетто Description of goods Mass, kg gross/net 812 7,62 мм автомат Калашникова АК-103-2 (индекс 796 90/59 1. 6IT45.C6-02) шт. яшик b/c/d 7,62-mm Kalashnikov assault rifle AK-103-2 (index 6П45.Cб-02) 041368089 051372027 DC5 041379933 051374881 No. 051387826 051362370 051364678 051383287 051382215 051360720 051373429 051384479 Магазин под патрон 7,62х39 48 Magazine to 7,62x39 cartridge 12 Штык-нож в сборе Knife- bayonet assembly 12 Помпол Cleaning rod Принадлежность в пенале (пенал в сборе, протирка, 12 отвертка, выколотка, ёрш в сборе) Accessory in the container (container assembly, pullthrough, screwdriver, drift, brush assembly) Ремень для ношения стрелкового оружия 12 Sling for carrying small arms .. 12 Масленка Oiler Marking: PACKING LIST No434/1/1/1Z /b (434 - Consignee's country code, approved in Russia, 1 - number of the item acc to the Appendix No 1 to the Contract, EXPORT 1 – No of the Exporter's shipment Lot, Contract No 27/2004/P/343406131003 IZ- indication of the manufacturer Port of loading: Oktyabrsk, CIS Port b - packages No of the manufacturer Lot) Port of destination: Tripoli Libya Shipment Lot No: 1/IZ (1 - No of the Exporter's shipment Lot Supplier: FSUE "Rosoboronexport" IZ - indication of the manufacturer), Concern "Izhmash" JSC Customer: Procurement Department Case No: b/c/d Tripoli Libya (b - packages No of the manufacturer Lot, c - total quantity of the packages in the manufacturer Lot, Shipment Lot No: 1/IZ d - total quantity of this manufacturer's packages which have Case No: 1745/5003/5003 been delivered to the Consignee, taking into account this Lot of Gross weight / net weight, 90/59 kg the manufacturer's equipment) Goods contract index: 343406131003-01 Подпись Signature Дата Date



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Marks and numbers	Наименование товара Description of goods	Ед. изм. Unit of measurement	Количество товара Quantity	Macca, Kr брутто/ нетто Mass, kg gross/net	Sileets	Вид груз. мест Туре of packages	Homep mecra Package Nos
01145.00-0	Kalashnikov assault rifle AK-103-2 (index	796 шт.	12	90/59		812 ящик	b/ c/ d
No.	051365009 041369701 051360514 041360521 051386093 051387841 051373363 051375739 051361451 051376877 051363488 051388675	pcs				case	
Magazine to	од патрон 7,62x39 о 7,62x39 cartridge	_"-	48				
Штык-нож Knife- bayo	в сборе onet assembly	_"_	12				
Шомпол Cleaning ro		_"-	12				
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Ремень для	rift, brush assembly) но вения стрелкового оружия rrying small arms	_"_	12				
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