

The NCACC has authorised the export of a number of 40mm multiple grenade launchers to Syria.

There is a deal pending authorisation by the NCACC to export thousands of 7.62 mm sniper rifles to Syria.

The multiple grenade launchers are capable of firing lethal or anti-riot ammunition and can be used in combat, policing or peacekeeping missions.

The sniper rifles are used to ensure the accurate placement of bullets at longer ranges than small arms and are normally used against human targets.

We should not be exporting weapons systems or military support equipment to Syria.

Syria was rated as 6.5 (“Not Free”) and does not report to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. Syria was also rated as one of the world’s most repressive regimes and one of the “Worst of the Worst 2009” by Freedom House.

Syria is also considered by the United States to be a “state sponsor of terrorism” meaning that it allegedly “repeatedly provides support for acts of international terrorism”.

3.4 Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Deal Status	System	Description
Authorised	Multiple grenade launchers (40mm)	A multiple grenade launcher is capable of firing lethal or anti-riot ammunition and can be use in combat, policing and peacekeeping missions.
Authorised	Upgraded assault rifles	An assault rifle is designed for combat situations with selective fire modes including semi-automatic or fully automatic modes, and is used as a standard weapon for the infantry in most militaries.

The NCACC has authorised the export of more than a thousand 40mm multiple grenade launchers to Venezuela.

The NCACC has also authorised the export of thousands of upgraded assault rifles to Venezuela.

We should not be exporting weapons systems and military support equipment to Venezuela.

Venezuela was rated as 4.0 (“Partly Free”) by Freedom House and its last report to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms was in 2002.

There is also a concern that arms exported to Venezuela are finding their way to Farc guerillas in Columbia.

3.5 Zimbabwe (Republic of Zimbabwe)

Deal Status	System	Description
Pending	7.62 mm ammunition	Ammunition used in various assault rifles.
Pending	9 mm ammunition	Ammunition used in various hand guns.

There is a deal pending authorisation by the NCACC to export more than a million rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition to Zimbabwe.

There is also a deal pending authorisation by the NCACC to export more than a million rounds of 9 mm ammunition to Zimbabwe.

We should not be exporting weapons systems and military support equipment to Zimbabwe. The European Union has an arms embargo against Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe is rated as 6.5 (“Not Free”) by Freedom House and it does not report to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. Zimbabwe was rated as one of the most repressive societies in the world and one of the “Worst of the Worst 2009” by Freedom House.

3.6 North Korea (Peoples Republic of Korea)

Deal Status	System	Description
Authorised	Radar warning receivers for antennae used on submarines.	Radar warning receivers are used to detect emissions from radar systems and can be used by submarines to identify and evade aircraft.

The NCACC approved a marketing permit for a company based in our country that exhibited and demonstrated radar warning receivers for submarine antennae over a period of less than six months in North Korea.

We should not be selling weapons systems or military support equipment to North Korea.

The United Nations and the European Union have arms embargoes against North Korea.

North Korea is rated as 7.0 (“Not Free”) by Freedom House and does not report to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. North Korea was also rated as one of the most repressive societies in the world and one of the “Worst of the Worst 2009” by Freedom House

4. Action Steps

The DA calls on NCACC chairperson Jeff Radebe to urgently convene a meeting of the new committee in order to do the following:

- investigate the arms deals that have been authorised by the committee in respect of Libya, Syria and Venezuela, and stop the export of weapons systems or military support equipment if it has not already been delivered;
- investigate the arms deals that are pending authorisation by the committee in respect of Iran, Syria and Zimbabwe, and stop the export of the weapons systems or military support equipment to those countries;
- investigate the issuing of permits to the company that exhibited and demonstrated military support equipment in North Korea; and
- release the annual reports for 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

The DA will also call for NCACC chairperson Jeff Radebe, NCACC deputy-chairperson Naledi Pandor and members of the secretariat to appear before the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans to explain what corrective action will be taken at the NCACC.

5. Conclusion

What is going on is wrong.

We are about to provide thousands of aviator G-suits to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran.

We have sold multiple grenade launchers and glide bombs that can be used to deliver nuclear, biological or chemical weapons to Muammar Gaddafi of Libya.

We have sold multiple grenade launchers and want to provide thousands of sniper rifles to Bashar al Assad of Syria.

We have sold more than a thousand multiple grenade launchers and thousands of upgraded assault rifles to Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

We have allowed a company to exhibit radar warning receivers for submarines in North Korea. And what about the consequences?

If we do not stop the sniper rifle deal with Syria, how long will it be until state of the art sniper rifles produced in our country will be used to fire on people in Israel?

And if we do not stop the deal with Zimbabwe, how long will it be until state-of-the art ammunition produced in our country will be used to fire on people in Zimbabwe?

This is just plain wrong.

And it must stop.