

## 6.1 FIXED OR MOUNTABLE MULTIPLE BARREL LAUNCHERS

### Key Technical Features

The range of the launcher and number of barrels varies. Current models typically have between 2 and 36 barrels, although some have more. Some models can be stacked to increase the number of barrels.

These launchers can be stand-alone or mounted onto vehicles, such as 4x4 vehicles, unmanned ground vehicles, or seafaring vessels.

Launchers can also be mounted onto permanent structures such as prisons, or other buildings.

The launchers can be manually operated via direct operator contact or via remote control.

The nature of these weapons allows for individual, sequential, or simultaneous firing of kinetic impact munitions or chemical irritants, resulting in rapid fire or bursts of fire.

### Human Rights Concerns

These launchers can be inaccurate and can be affected by weather conditions, increasing the risk of head or upper body injury.

If fired at close-range, these weapons can cause severe injury or death.

Their use could lead to injuries resulting from panic and stampedes, particularly when used in larger enclosed areas or where only a small or limited exit is provided.

Their use fulfils no legitimate law enforcement purpose that cannot be achieved through less harmful means.

### Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies

UNODC and OHCHR: "Weapons that fire multiple projectiles at the same time, or that otherwise cannot be targeted at a specific individual, should never be used due to the risk of injury to bystanders."<sup>118</sup>

### Examples of Existing Controls

Some national export control regimes include these weapons on their list of equipment that requires an export licence.

As some countries class these weapons as 'civilian' or 'policing' rather than 'military', they are not always adequately controlled and reported.

The EU may prohibit the export of these weapons under its sanction regime when the objective of the sanctions is to prevent the export of weapons that might be used for internal repression in the destination state.

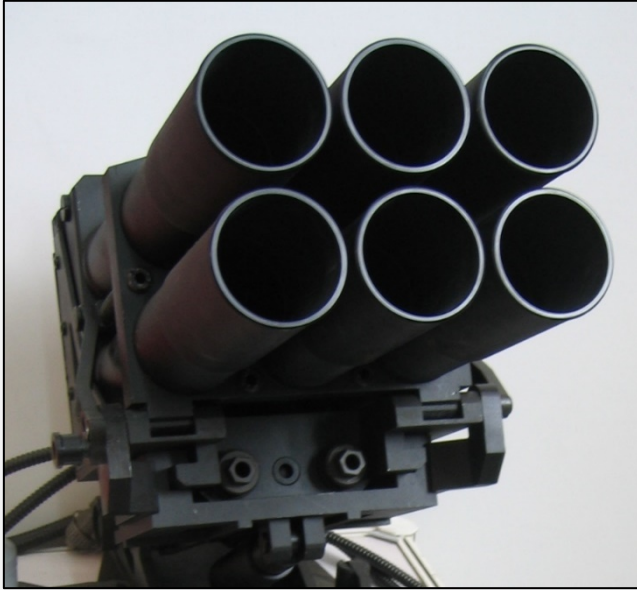
### Proposed Control

Manufacture should be controlled.

Trade and transfer should be controlled.

Use should conform with international human rights standards.

<sup>118</sup> UNODC and OHCHR, *Resource book on the use of force and firearms in law enforcement*, 2017, p. 94.



◀ **Multiple barrel less lethal grenade launchers**



◀ **Stackable multi barrel less lethal grenade launchers**

## 6.2 AERIAL LAUNCHERS

<b>Key Technical Features</b>	These weapons consist of a launcher attached to a manned or unmanned aerial vehicle, which can disperse chemical irritants over a wide area.
<b>Human Rights Concerns</b>	<p>Aerial vehicles may not allow for sufficient accuracy in targeting to ensure lawful use.</p> <p>Any aerial vehicle must remain under meaningful human control, and all decisions to launch less lethal projectiles must be carried out by a human operator for accountability purposes, and to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.</p> <p>Use of these weapons can be indiscriminate, if used at a demonstration, bystanders can be affected even if they are not the target.</p> <p>If munitions are dropped over or launched directly at an individual or group, the kinetic energy of any impact of the projectile or munition carries a risk of unnecessary injury amounting to excessive force. This risk is significantly greater when munitions are dropped from a great height or a cartridge is launched from a weapon.</p>
<b>Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies</b>	UNODC and OHCHR: "Weapons that fire multiple projectiles at the same time, or that otherwise cannot be targeted at a specific individual, should never be used due to the risk of injury to bystanders." <sup>119</sup>
<b>Examples of Existing Controls</b>	<p>The EU Anti-Torture Regulation controls the export of this type of equipment.</p> <p>The US CCL controls the export of this type of equipment.</p>
<b>Proposed Control</b>	<p>Manufacture should be controlled.</p> <p>Trade and transfer should be controlled.</p> <p>Use should conform with international human rights standards.</p>

<sup>119</sup> UNODC and OHCHR, *Resource book on the use of force and firearms in law enforcement*, 2017, p. 94.



▲ An unmanned aerial vehicle with launcher attached

## 6.3 HAND-HELD LAUNCHERS

<b>Key Technical Features</b>	<p>The design of hand-held launchers varies, and they can be single-, double-barrel or multi-shot launchers.</p> <p>These launchers allow for individual or sequential firing of kinetic impact projectiles or chemical irritants, resulting in rapid fire or bursts of fire.</p>
<b>Human Rights Concerns</b>	<p>These launchers can be inaccurate and affected by weather conditions, increasing the risk of head and upper body injury.</p> <p>When multi-shot launchers are used in automatic fire mode, they are particularly inaccurate, and it is difficult to accurately target an individual.</p> <p>If these weapons are fired at close-range, they can cause severe injury or death.</p>
<b>Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies</b>	<p>To the best of Omega’s knowledge, there are no statements or standards from human rights bodies on this specific type of equipment, but standards on the use of kinetic impact projectiles and chemical irritants more generally apply.</p>
<b>Examples of Existing Controls</b>	<p>Some national export control regimes include these weapons on their list of equipment that requires an export licence. As some states class these weapons as 'civilian' or 'policing' rather than 'military', they are not always adequately controlled and reported.</p> <p>The EU may prohibit the export of these weapons under its sanction regime when the objective of the sanctions is to prevent the export of weapons that might be used for internal repression in the destination state.</p>
<b>Proposed Control</b>	<p>Manufacture should be controlled.</p> <p>Trade and transfer should be controlled.</p> <p>Use should conform with international human rights standards.</p>



◀ **Single-shot less lethal grenade launchers**



◀ **Two-barrel less lethal grenade launcher**



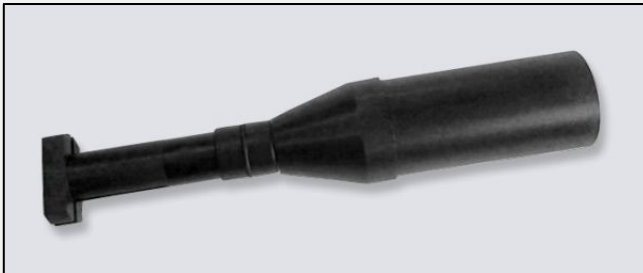
◀ **Multi-shot less lethal grenade launcher**

## 6.4 LAUNCHING CUPS

<b>Key Technical Features</b>	<p>Launching cups are a metal attachment that fit over the barrel of the shotgun or rifle.</p> <p>A less lethal grenade is then inserted into the launching cup and a blank cartridge fired, which expels the grenade.</p> <p>The cups can be fitted to the barrels of conventional shotguns or assault rifles, turning them into less lethal weapons.</p>
<b>Human Rights Concerns</b>	<p>These weapons can be inaccurate and affected by weather conditions, increasing the risk of head and upper body injury.</p> <p>If fired at close range, this weapon can cause severe injury or death.</p>
<b>Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies</b>	<p>To the best of Omega’s knowledge, there are no statements or standards from human rights bodies on this specific type of equipment, but standards on the use of kinetic impact projectiles and chemical irritants more generally apply.</p>
<b>Examples of Existing Controls</b>	<p>Some national export control regimes include these weapons on their list of equipment that requires an export licence. As some states class these weapons as 'civilian' or 'policing' rather than 'military', they are not always adequately controlled and reported.</p> <p>The EU may prohibit the export of these weapons under its sanction regime when the objective of the sanctions is to prevent the export of weapons that might be used for internal repression in the destination state.</p>
<b>Proposed Control</b>	<p>Manufacture should be controlled.</p> <p>Trade and transfer should be controlled.</p> <p>Use should conform with international human rights standards.</p>



▲ Launching cup with 38mm grenade



◀▲ Launching cup with 38mm grenade



## 6.5 SHOTGUNS

<b>Key Technical Features</b>	Shotguns are usually 12 gauge, and can be single- or double-barrelled.
<b>Human Rights Concerns</b>	<p>Shotguns can fire both less lethal ammunition and lethal ammunition (See <a href="#">p. 45</a>).</p> <p>Shotguns can be inaccurate and affected by weather conditions, which increases the risk of head and upper body injury.</p> <p>If fired at close range, shotguns can cause severe injury or death.</p>
<b>Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies</b>	To the best of Omega’s knowledge, there are no statements or standards from human rights bodies on this specific type of equipment, but standards on the use of kinetic impact projectiles and chemical irritants more generally apply.
<b>Examples of Existing Controls</b>	<p>Some national export control regimes include these weapons on their list of equipment that requires an export licence. As some states class this equipment as 'civilian' or 'policing' rather than 'military', they are not always adequately controlled and reported.</p> <p>The EU may prohibit the export of these weapons under its sanction regime when the objective of the sanctions is to prevent the export of weapons that might be used for internal repression in the destination state.</p>
<b>Proposed Control</b>	<p>Manufacture should be controlled.</p> <p>Trade and transfer should be controlled.</p> <p>Use should be in line with international human rights standards.</p>



▲ Various shotgun designs