

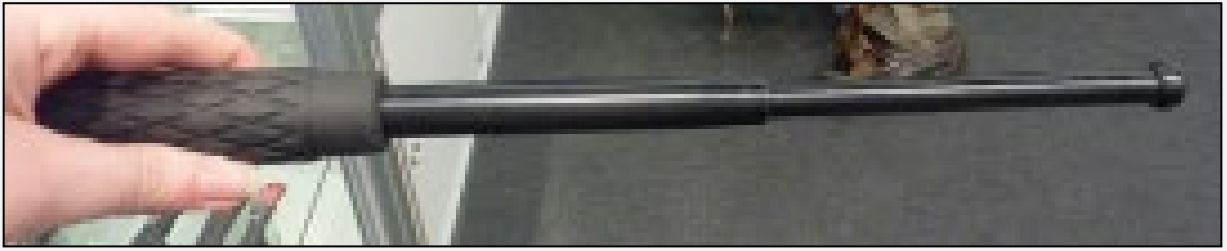
3.1 BATONS

Key Technical Features	<p>There are 3 main types of batons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight baton – length varies from approx. 20cm to 2m. Often made of rubber, plastic, or wood. • Side-handle baton (also known as a tonfa) – straight baton with the addition of a side handle. Often made of plastic or aluminium. • Telescopic or extendable baton – usually extends up to 2- or 3-times the retracted length. Typically made of aluminium.
Human Rights Concerns	<p>Batons are widely misused by law enforcement officials to inflict unnecessary or excessive force through beating. Law enforcement officials require training to use them safely, if not, serious injury can occur.</p> <p>Force from side-handled and longer batons is harder to control, and they can be used to inflict greater injury.</p> <p>If driven 'end on' into the target individual, batons can cause bleeding and serious injury, including injuries to internal organs. Overarm strikes and strikes to the head and other vulnerable areas increase the risk of serious injury or death.</p> <p>Batons are sometimes used to apply dangerous restraint techniques, particularly neck holds that restrict breathing.</p>
Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies	<p>OHCHR: "Neck holds using batons should not be employed, as they present an especially high risk of death or serious injury as a result of compression of large blood vessels or the airway."⁸⁶</p> <p>OHCHR: "Batons shall not be used against a person who is neither engaged in nor threatening violent behaviour; such use is likely to amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, or even torture."⁸⁷</p> <p>CPT: "recommends that the use of techniques involving physical force which may impede airflow through the respiratory tract be prohibited."⁸⁸</p>
Examples of Existing Controls	<p>The US CCL controls the export of this equipment.</p>
Proposed Control	<p>Can be manufactured.</p> <p>Trade and transfer should be controlled.</p> <p>Use should be in-line with international human rights norms.</p>

⁸⁶ OHCHR, *UN Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement*, 2020, para 7.1.5.

⁸⁷ OHCHR, *UN Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement*, 2020, para 7.1.5.

⁸⁸ CoE: CPT, *Report to the Slovenian Government on the visit to Slovenia carried out by the CPT from 31 January to 6 February 2012*, 19 July 2013, CPT/Inf (2013) 16, para. 67.



▲ **Extendable baton**



▲ **Side-handle baton**



▲ **Straight baton**

3.2 SPIKED BATONS

Key Technical Features	A baton with sharp spikes (or other protrusions), usually made from metal, but can be made of other materials such as hardened rubber, plastic, or wood.
Human Rights Concerns	<p>The use of spiked batons amounts to excessive force or cruel or inhuman treatment, possibly amounting to torture, as they cannot be used without inflicting excessive and unnecessary pain.</p> <p>Their use fulfils no legitimate law enforcement purpose that cannot be achieved through less harmful means.</p>
Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies	<p>Special Rapporteur on Torture: spiked batons are listed as a type of inherently cruel, inhuman or degrading weapon.⁸⁹</p> <p>OHCHR: "The use of [spiked batons] is widely considered to violate international human rights law. They should not be used in law enforcement"⁹⁰</p>
Examples of Existing Controls	<p>The EU Anti-Torture Regulation prohibits the trade in this equipment.</p> <p>The US CCL controls the export of this equipment.</p>
Proposed Control	<p>Manufacture should be prohibited.</p> <p>Transfer should be prohibited.</p> <p>Use should be prohibited.</p>

⁸⁹ UN HRC, *Extra-custodial use of force and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: note / by the Secretary-General*, 2017, para. 51.

⁹⁰ OHCHR, *UN Human rights guidance on less-lethal weapons in law enforcement*, 2020, para 5.1.



▲ Metal baton with spikes along length of shaft



▲ Rubber baton with spikes at the head

3.3 SPIKED SHIELDS AND OTHER SPIKED ARMOUR

Key Technical Features	<p>A flat, convex, or concave shield with spikes attached to the face.</p> <p>Body armour, such as arm guards, with protruding spikes.</p>
Human Rights Concerns	<p>The use of spiked shields or spiked armour amounts to excessive force or cruel or inhuman treatment, possibly amounting to torture, as they cannot be used without inflicting excessive and unnecessary pain.</p> <p>Their use fulfils no legitimate law enforcement purpose that cannot be achieved through less harmful means.</p>
Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies	<p>Special Rapporteur on Torture: spiked shields are listed as a type of inherently cruel, inhuman or degrading weapon.⁹¹</p>
Examples of Existing Controls	<p>The EU Anti-Torture Regulation prohibits the trade in spiked shields.</p>
Proposed Control	<p>Manufacture should be prohibited.</p> <p>Transfer should be prohibited.</p> <p>Use should be prohibited.</p>

⁹¹ UN HRC, *Extra-custodial use of force and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: note / by the Secretary-General*, 2017, para. 51.



▲ Spiked shield



▲ Spiked body armour

3.4 WEIGHTED BATONS AND WEIGHTED GLOVES

Key Technical Features	<p>There are two main types of weighted batons:</p> <p>Slapper - a flat device consisting of metal (spring steel) encased in thick leather and used for slapping or striking a person.</p> <p>Billy club - a short baton consisting of spring steel encased in leather, sometimes weighted at one end with lead shot, and used for striking a person.</p> <p>Weighted gloves are usually made of leather, and have powdered steel or lead sewn into the material over the knuckle, fingers, or back of the hand.</p>
Human Rights Concerns	<p>The additional kinetic energy generated from the weight of the gloves or baton is likely to cause significant injury, especially if used on vulnerable areas of the body.</p> <p>Their use fulfils no legitimate law enforcement purpose that cannot be achieved through less harmful means.</p>
Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies	<p>To the best of Omega’s knowledge, there are no statements or standards from human rights bodies on this specific type of equipment.</p>
Examples of Existing Controls	<p>The US CCL controls the export of batons.</p>
Proposed Control	<p>Manufacture should be prohibited.</p> <p>Transfer should be prohibited.</p> <p>Use should be prohibited.</p>



▲ **Weighted glove**



▲ **Slapper**



◀ **Billy club**

3.5 WHIPS

Key Technical Features	<p>A whip is a firm, flexible stick, usually made of leather or other flexible material, or a stick with a piece of fabric or rope attached.</p> <p>Some types of whip may have multiple thongs and/or incorporate barbs, spikes, knots, or hooks, or may be plaited with wire.</p> <p>Sjamboks are a type of heavy whip traditionally made of leather but now also made of other materials, such as plastic.</p>
Human Rights Concerns	<p>Whips are most often used to carry out corporal punishment.</p> <p>Whips cause lacerations and other injuries, which may lead to permanent scarring. Lack of medical attention or unsanitary conditions can lead to infection.</p> <p>Their use amounts to excessive force or cruel or inhuman treatment, possibly amounting to torture, as they cannot be used without inflicting excessive and unnecessary pain.</p> <p>Use of whips fulfils no legitimate law enforcement purpose that cannot be achieved through less harmful means.</p>
Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies	<p>EU: As part of its commitment to combat torture, the EU urges third countries to abolish all types of judicial corporal punishment.⁹²</p> <p>UN HRC: "it is the firm opinion of the Committee that corporal punishment constitutes cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment contrary to article 7 of the Covenant."⁹³</p> <p>European Court of Human Rights: judicial corporal punishment (whipping) breached Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.⁹⁴</p>
Examples of Existing Controls	<p>The EU Anti-Torture Regulation prohibits the trade in whips with multiple lashes or thongs and whips that are fitted with barbs, hooks, spikes, etc.</p> <p>The US CCL controls the export of this equipment.</p>
Proposed Control	<p>Manufacture should be prohibited.</p> <p>Transfer should be prohibited.</p> <p>Use should be prohibited.</p>

⁹² EU, *Guidelines to EU Policy Towards Third Countries on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, 2019 Revision of the Guidelines, 16 September 2019, para 1.1.b.

⁹³ UN HRC, *George Osbourne v. Jamaica*, CCPR/C/68/D/759/1997, 13 April 2000.

⁹⁴ *Tyrer v. The United Kingdom*, 1978.



▲ Multiple lashed whip (Cat O' Nine Tails) © OwenX_



▲ Sjambok © OwenX