

# PERSISTENT PERILS

## Illicit MANPADS in the MENA Region

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# Outline

- Background information
- Methodology and data sources
- Regional overview
- Continued proliferation of advanced MANPADS
- Increasing prevalence of illicit Chinese-designed MANPADS
- Iran as a source of illicit MANPADS

# Background: what is a MANPADS?



Grip Stock



Thermal Battery



Launch Tube



Missile



SA-7b

Photo sources: C.J. Chivers; US State Department

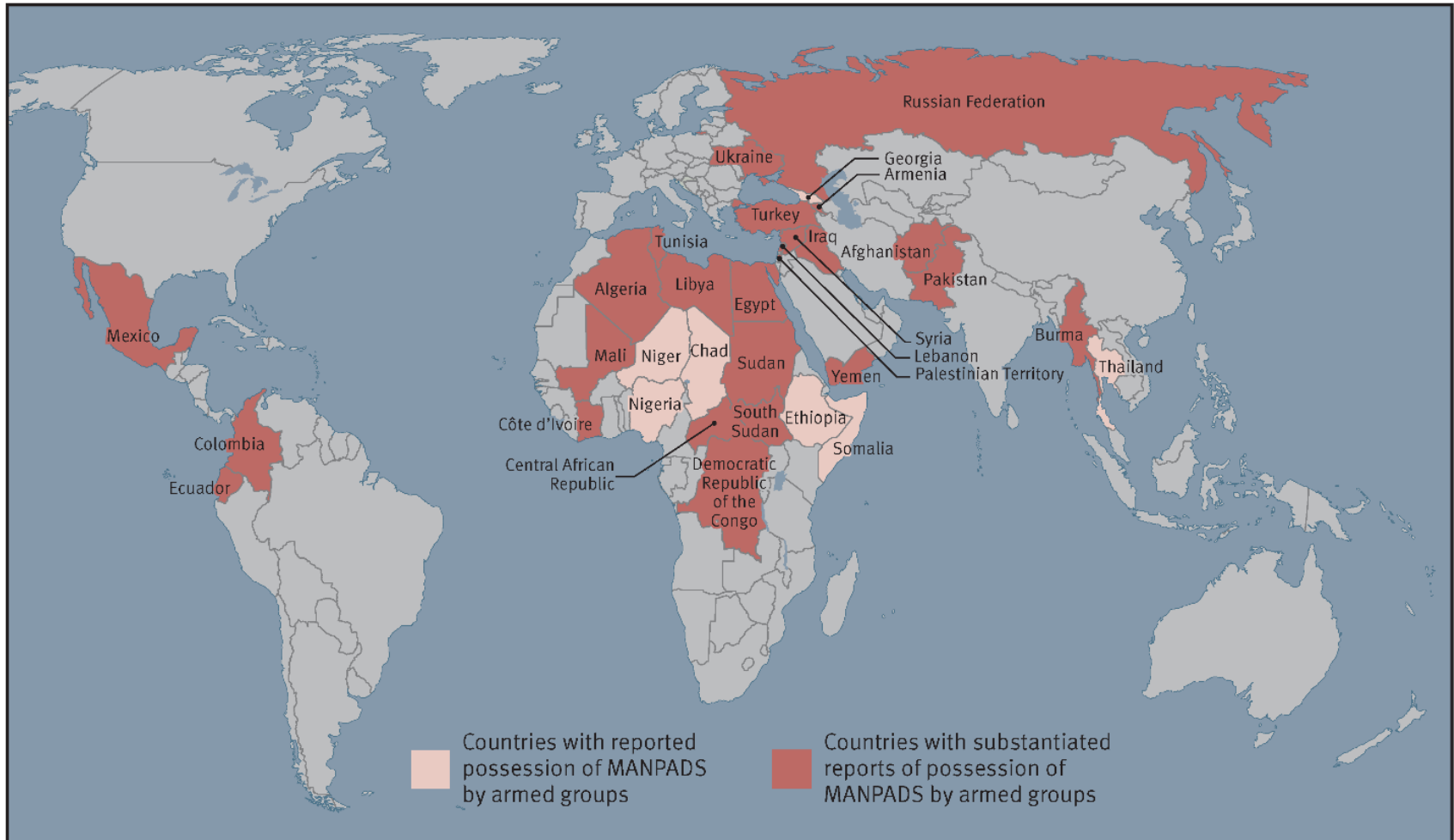
# Background: the MANPADS Threat



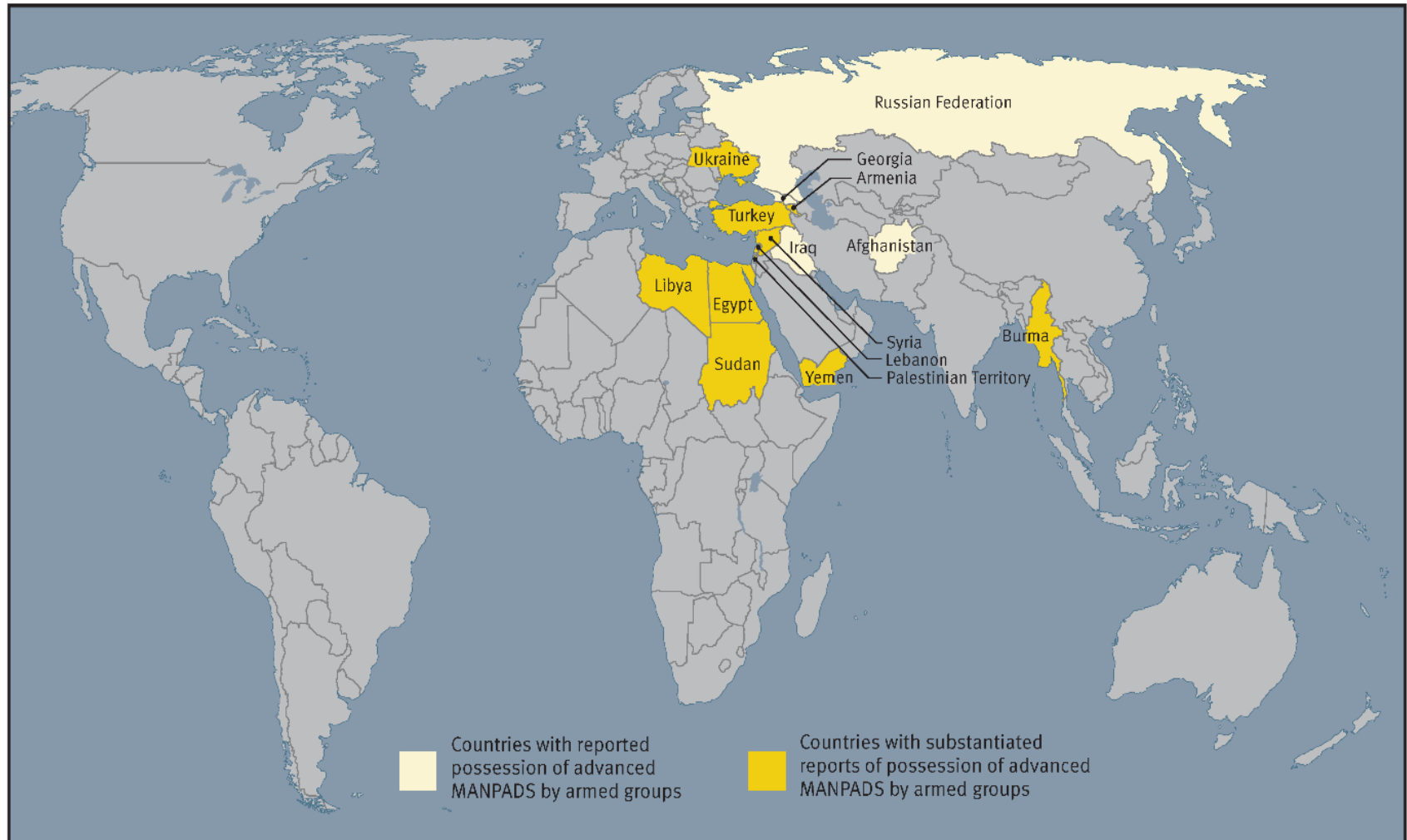
# Methodology and data sources

- Primary data source: Small Arms Survey's *Database of Illicit MANPADS*
  - Global database with more than 400 unique reports of illicit possession, transfers, and use of MANPADS from 2011 to the present
  - These reports include 237 incidents of illicit MANPADS activity in the MENA region from 2015 to mid-2023
- Supplemented with information from a wide array of other sources, including key informant interviews.

# Illicit possession and transfers of MANPADS, 2011-2021



# Illicit possession and transfers of advanced MANPADS, 2011-2021



# The MENA Region: Illicit MANPADS Hotspot

- 237 reports of illicit MANPADS in 13 of 26 MENA states
- 12 different models
  - Chinese-designed: HN-5, QW-1 (Misagh-1\*/Anza II), QW-18 (Misagh-2\*), FN-6
  - North Korean-designed: HT-16
  - Soviet/Russian-designed: Strela-2, Strela-2M, Strela-3, Igla-1, Igla, Igla-S
- No other region comes close



# Continued proliferation of advanced MANPADS

## Elements for Export Controls of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)

(Agreed at the 2003 Plenary and amended at the 2007 Plenary)\*

Recognising the threats posed by unauthorised proliferation and use of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems, especially to civil aviation, peace-keeping, crisis management and anti-terrorist operations, Participating States affirm that they apply strict national controls on the export of MANPADS.

### 1. Scope

- 1.1 These Elements cover:
  - a) surface-to-air missile systems designed to be man-portable and carried and fired by a single individual; and
  - b) other surface-to-air missile systems designed to be operated and fired by more than one individual acting as a crew and portable by several individuals.
- 1.2 National export controls apply to the international transfer or retransfer of MANPADS, including complete systems, components, spare parts, models, training systems, and simulators, for any purpose, by any means, including licensed export, sale, grant, loan, lease, co-production or licensing arrangement for production (hereafter “exports”). The scope of export regulation and associated controls includes research, design, development, engineering, manufacture, production, assembly, testing, repair, maintenance, servicing, modification, upgrade, modernisation, operation, use, replacement or refurbishment, demilitarisation, and destruction of MANPADS; technical data, software, technical assistance, demonstration, and training associated with these functions; and secure transportation, storage. This scope according to national legislation may also refer to investment, marketing, advertising and other related activity.
- 1.3 Any activity related to MANPADS within the territory of the producing country is subject to national laws and regulations.



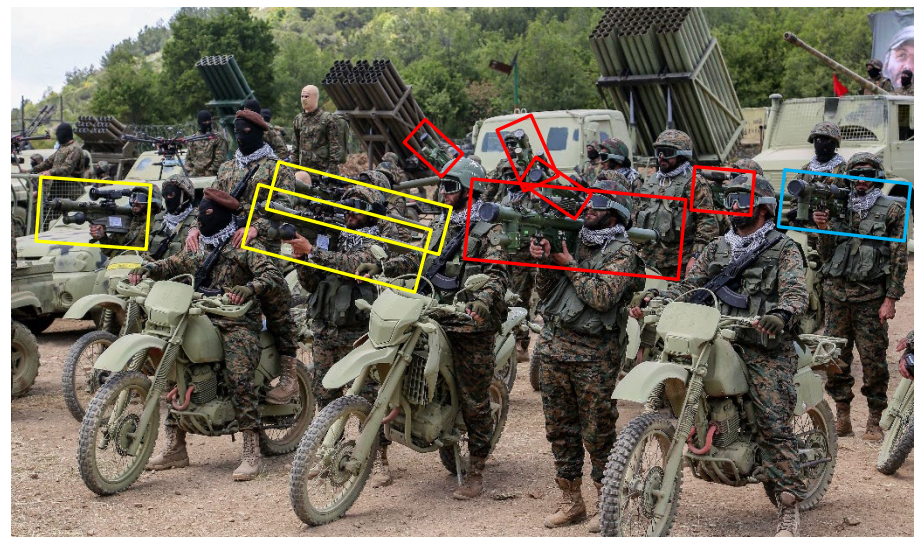
**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**



# Continued proliferation of advanced MANPADS

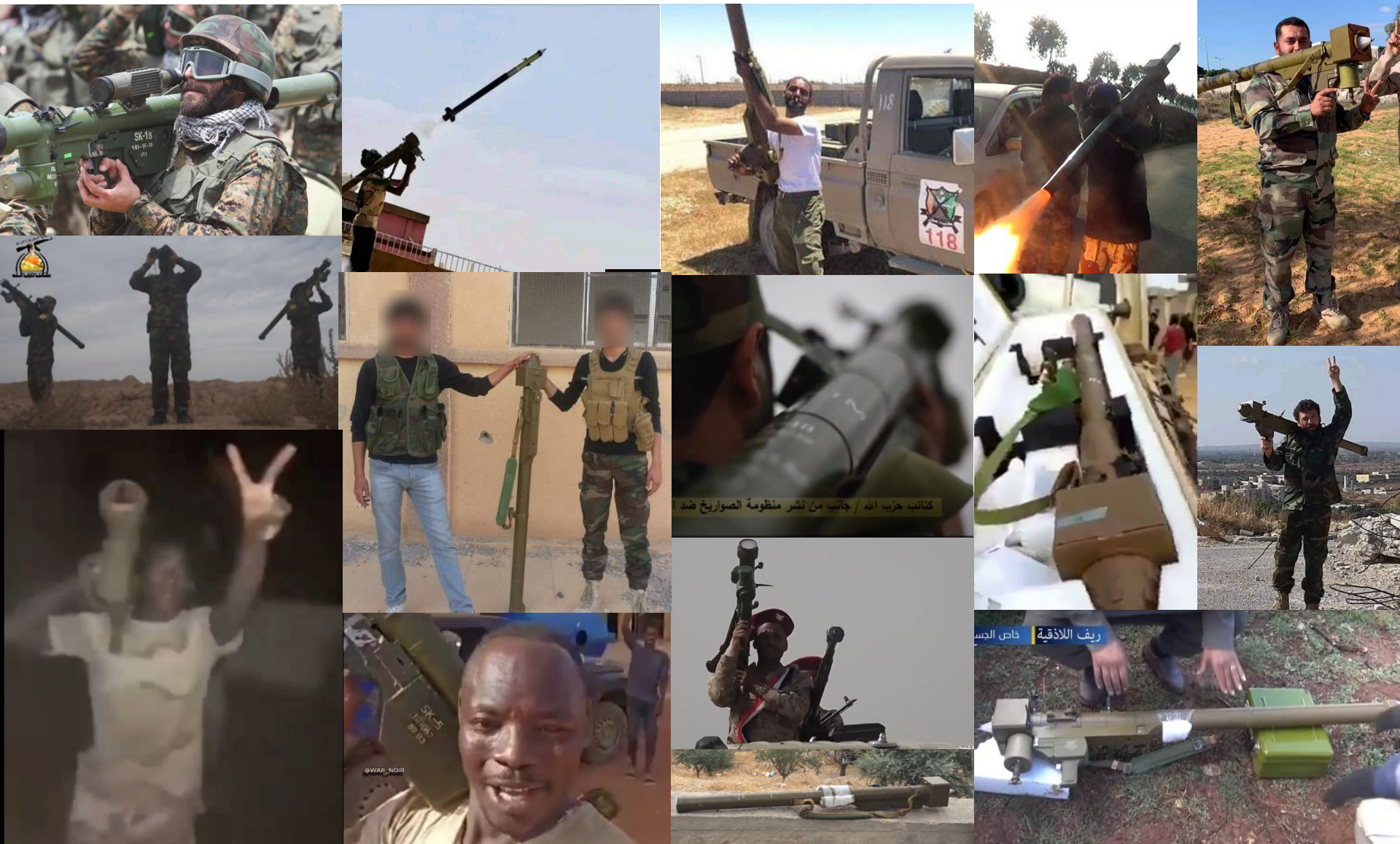
- Six different models of advanced MANPADS in the possession of armed groups in nine states from 2015 to 2023.
  - At least four of these models had not been documented outside of government control prior to 2011
- Multiple models of advanced systems in at least seven states
- Multiple groups in possession of advanced systems in at least six states

# Continued proliferation of advanced MANPADS





# Increasing prevalence of illicit Chinese-designed MANPADS



# Iran as a source of illicit MANPADS



Hezbollah



Hamas



Kataib Hezbollah



The Houthis

Thank you.  
Questions?

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