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## Opposition Mounts To U.N. Gun Control Treaty

By PAUL BEDARD

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Senate opposition is growing to President Obama's support for a United Nations effort that could bring States and slap America's gun owners with severe restrictions.

At last count, 55 senators, including 10 Democrats, have signed letters to the president and Secretary oppose the Arms Trade Treaty . The treaty must win a two-thirds majority to win passage, meaning the language isn't changed. [See photos of the Obamas abroad.]

Kansas Republican Sen. Jerry Moran is leading the largest group of opposition. He sent a letter signed I president not to move on the treaty.

"Our country's sovereignty and the Second Amendment rights of American citizens must not be infringed," wrote in the letter. "Today, the Senate sends a powerful message to the Obama Administration: an Arms ownership of civilian firearms will fail in the Senate. Our firearm freedoms are not negotiable."

The treaty, which the Bush administration had opposed, deals with the international trade of arms. It would cover firearms likes those used by collectors and sportsmen and women. [Read *NRA Boss: Obama's Gone in* .

The goal of the treaty is to come up with internationally recognized rules governing the trade of guns a world's largest exporter of arms.

To sooth concerns, the administration has said that it would sign the accord only if all other states agree the international treaty as a first step toward home-grown gun control.

The senators and groups like the National Rifle Association argue that it would essentially gut the Second international authority to control American gun ownership.

A final version of the treaty is expected to be finished next year.

The NRA has made killing the treaty their top goal.

"As we have for the past 15 years, the NRA will fight to stop a United Nations Arms Trade Treaty that is American gun owners," said Chris Cox, the NRA's top lobbyist. He said that Moran's letter "sends a clear message to bureaucrats who want to eliminate our fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms. Clearly, a civilian arms within its scope is not supported by the American people or their elected U.S. Senators. S freedom. We are grateful for his leadership and his tenacious efforts on this issue, as well as the 44 other refusal to compromise on our constitutional freedoms."

- *See photos of the Obamas abroad.*
- *See "NRA Boss: Obama's Gone in 2012."*
- *Read more about gun control and gun rights.*

**Tags:**NRA, Barack Obama, gun control and gun rights

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