Vatican Calls for Weapons Sales Limits to Protect Civilians

BISHOPS' CONGRESS – The Vatican is calling for limits on global arms sales in a bid to protect civilians from the devastating impact of war and conflict. The appeal comes as security officials warn that the threat of terrorism remains high, with armed groups exploiting various parts of the world.

The appeal was made in a statement released by the Vatican's Secretariat of State, which said: "The world is in a state of war, and the arms trade is a major source of conflict. The arms trade must be regulated to protect civilians and the environment.

"We call on governments to work towards a global arms trade treaty that limits the supply of arms to conflict zones. This treaty should be strengthened to include measures to combat arms smuggling and the illegal trade of arms.

"We also call on the United Nations to take a lead role in this process, working with member states to develop a robust framework that ensures the protection of civilians.

"We urge the international community to support the process and to align the interests of military and civilian actors to work towards a more peaceful world."