



PRIO

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# Illicit prices, conflict and trafficking

25 November 2016

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Independent • International • Interdisciplinary

# Research on firearms trafficking at PRIO

- Project started in 1997
- Systematic data collection from media sources
  - *Currently machine coding 33 000 articles*
- Collect official data on seizures
  - *Worked on a recent UNODC study*

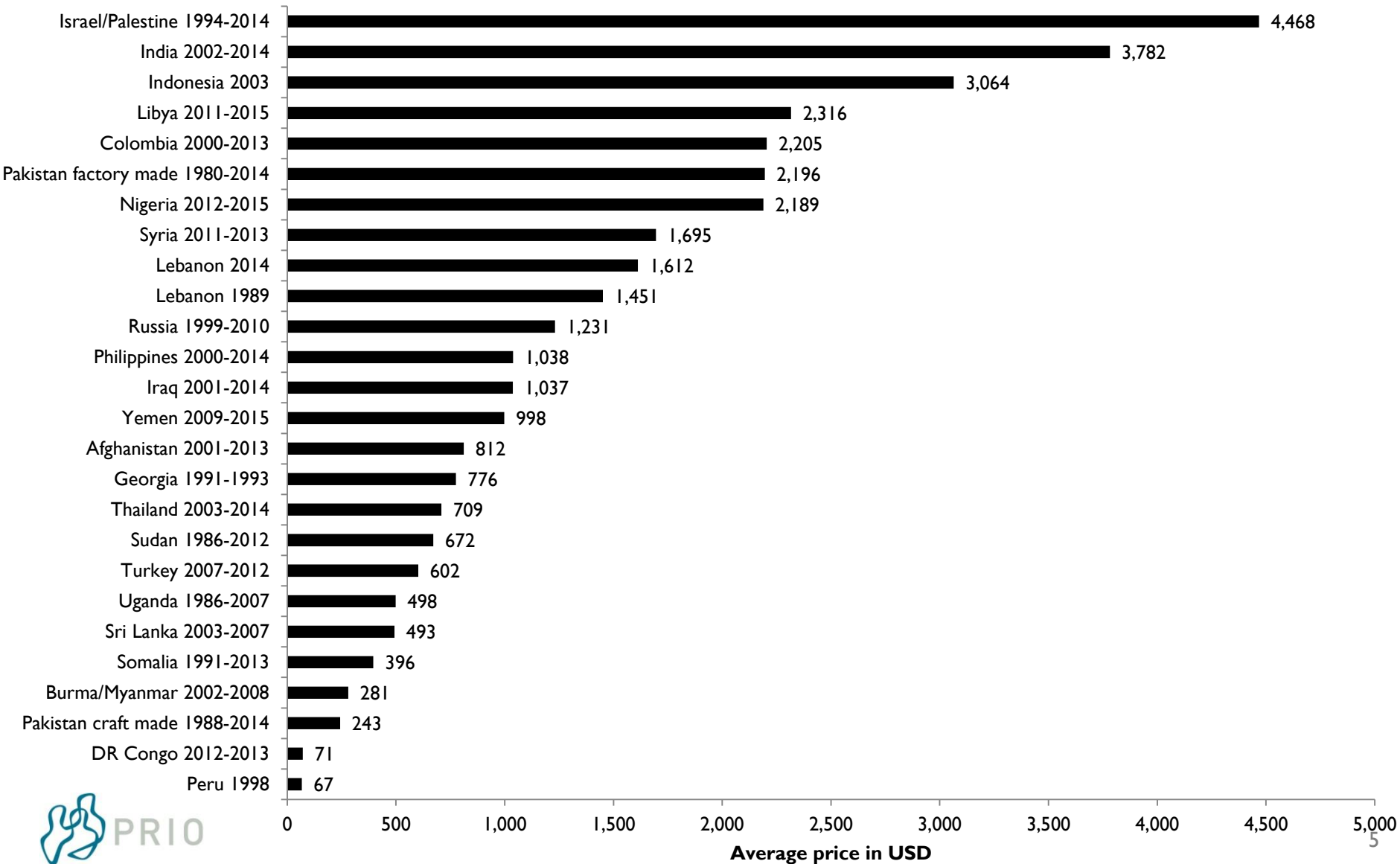
# New dataset on illicit prices

- Some 3800 separate price observations
  - *Most from 2000-2016*
- Obtained from open sources
  - *Press articles, UN investigations, research reports and books*
- Focus upon conflict areas
- All types of small arms and light weapons (including ammunition)

# Automatic rifles

- 727 price observations for automatic rifles
- 24 states involved in armed conflict
- Average reported illicit price is USD 1 489 (constant 2010)

# Average reported prices



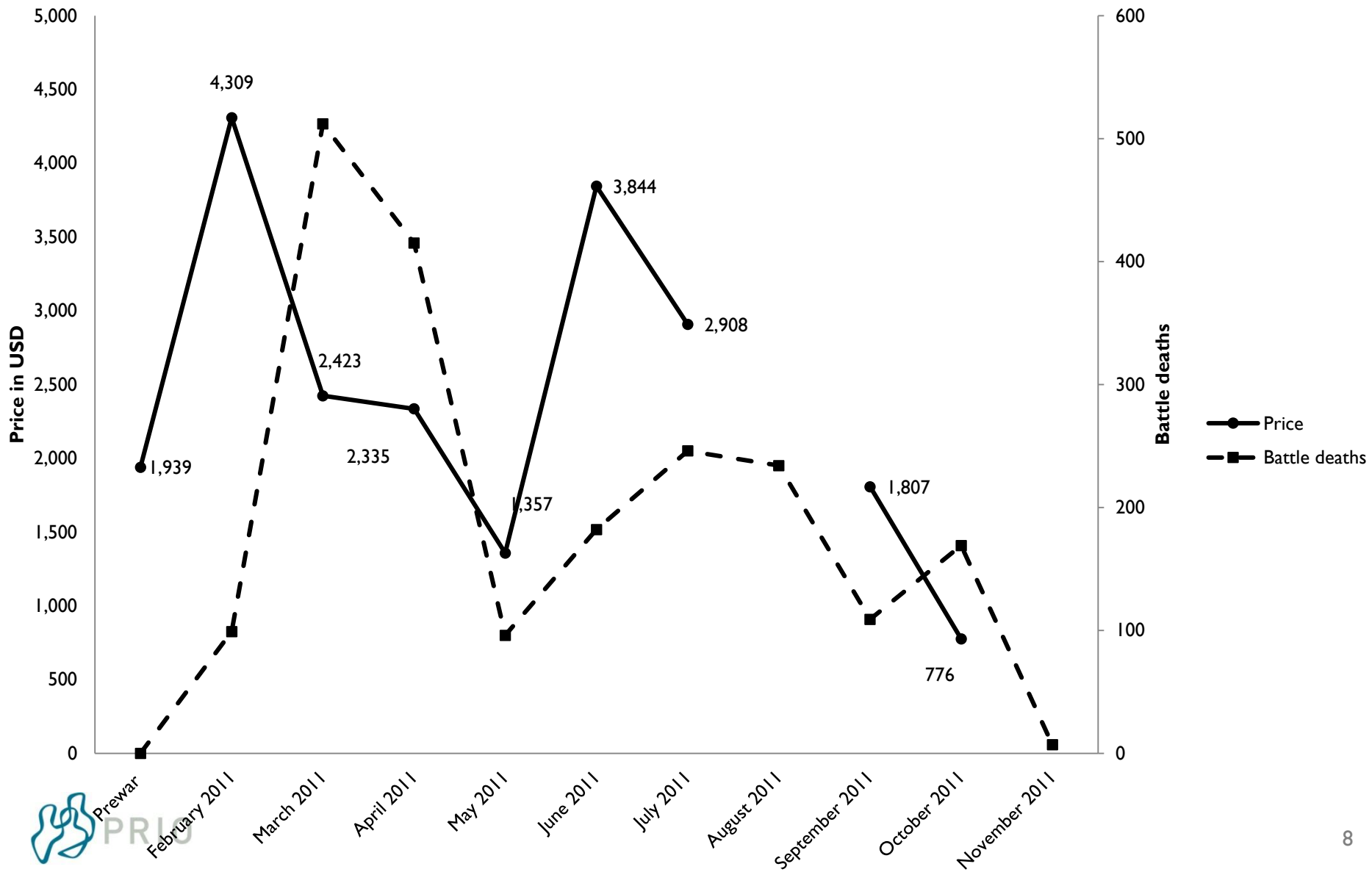
# Comparing prices and conflict intensity

- Examine changes in price over time
- Compare with data on battle deaths (UCDP)

# Afghanistan 2001-2013

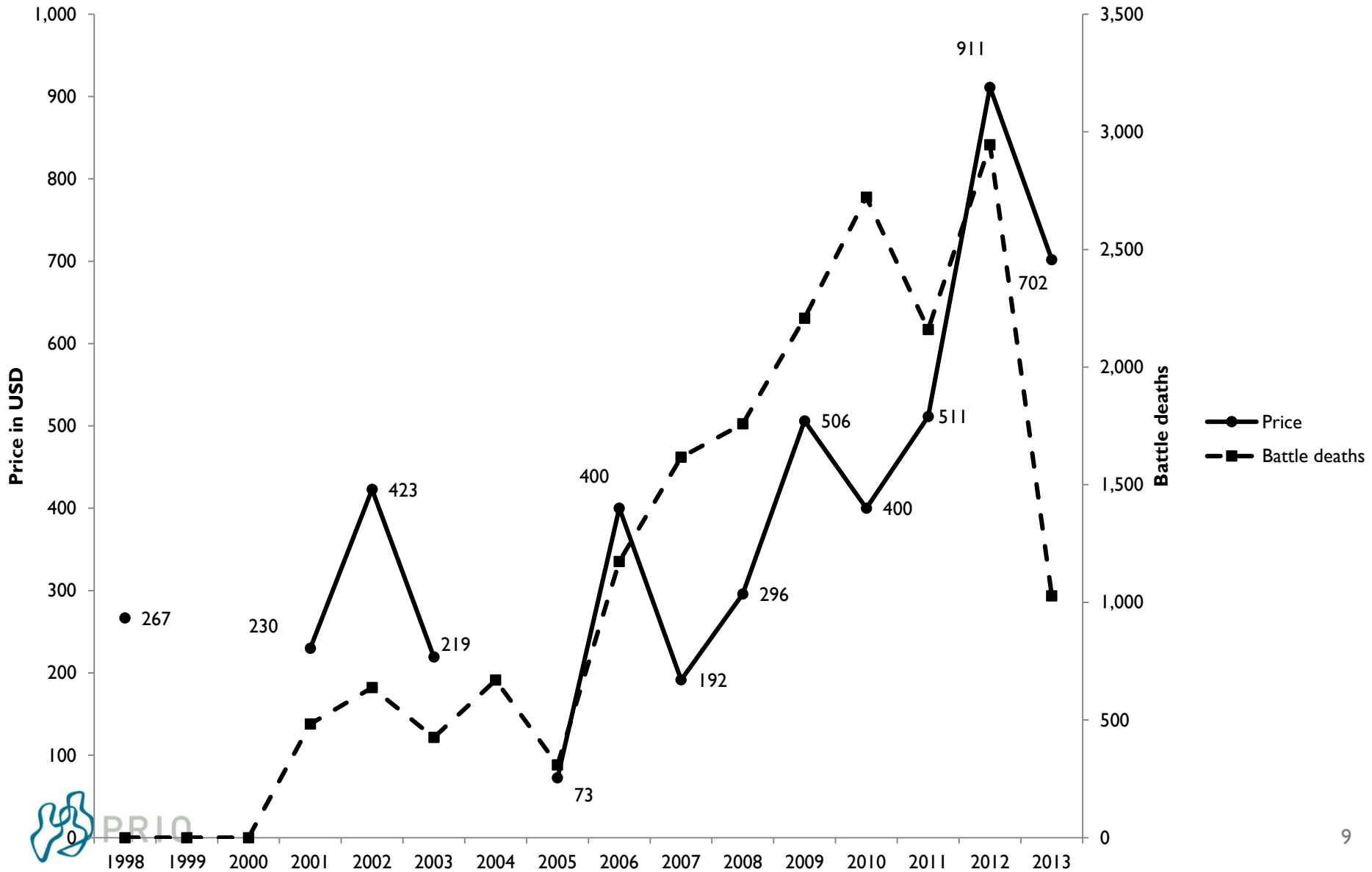


# Libya 2011





# Somalia 2001-2013



# Conclusions

- Large differences in prices between conflicts
  - *Trafficking occurs but not enough to level prices*
  - *No global illicit market*
- Increases in prices accompany increases in fighting
  - *Rise in demand not met by increased supply*
- Laws and regulations work, to a certain extent