

7. One million of us

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The Million Faces Campaign
Kenya**

To be delivered in **English**

My name is Julius Arile

I know that one million people from 160 countries around the world have given their photos and self-portraits to the Million Faces Petition to demand tougher controls on the international arms trade.

That is a significant number - because since the Control Arms campaign was launched in October 2003, about a million people have died from armed violence. Those victims of the unregulated arms trade cannot speak out. But the one million people who have given their pictures to the petition have done so.

I am the millionth face, the millionth person to join the petition. So I am here today, because my country, Kenya, has suffered a great deal as a result of the small arms problem.

In my area, West Pokot, in the Rift Valley, illegal firearms are easily available, and these arms are highly destructive. I know, because I had an AK-47. I have raided for livestock. I can tell you that when a young warrior gets hold of a firearm, he thinks of no other means of livelihood, apart from violence.

I have seen many of my friends die this way. There are better alternatives. That's what I am here at the United Nations to tell you. I traded in my AK 47 in 2004, in exchange for an athletic training kit. I am being trained to engage in professional athletics and this is so much better.

We have collected One million faces, with one message and that is control arms. We owe people like me from all over the world this one thing.

Thank you.