

How ShieldPNG engages with law enforcement.

ShieldPNG seeks to make non-violent dispute responses more appealing and violent responses less appealing to those considering it. That includes increasing the likelihood of criminal justice for those who commit serious violent crimes.

Most mass killings (5 or more people) in PNG **do not result in any convictions**. Many do not see arrests. Convictions for gun smuggling and illegal assault rifle possession are also rare. There are several reasons for this and we are trying to assist on each where we can.

01 Easier for witnesses to provide evidence

Some arrests and prosecutions are not possible because of a lack of evidence that can be used. Sometimes that is because witnesses are afraid or unable to provide their evidence to the police.

ShieldPNG is trying to assist by offering anonymous ways of submitting evidence that can be used without needing a witness statement, such as photos and videos of an offence being committed, as well as information that can lead to a conviction or seizure, such as where illegal assault rifles are hidden. Currently this evidence can only be submitted through our online forms. We are adding more options, including WhatsApp, shortly.

Some evidence showing who is committing a deadly offence is already online, such as images of people showing off their illegal M16s, or people committing SARV. We encourage people to notify us of these when they find them so that they can be added to the incident database. We also have volunteers who are looking for this evidence.

We are working on ways to make it easier to give a detailed witness statement. This includes voice to text transcription in Tok Pisin and English. We will release it to the public as soon as has been thoroughly tested and is ready.

EVIDENCE THAT CAN BE USED WITHOUT A WITNESS STATEMENT



Photos and videos of an offence being committed



Where illegal assault rifles are hidden



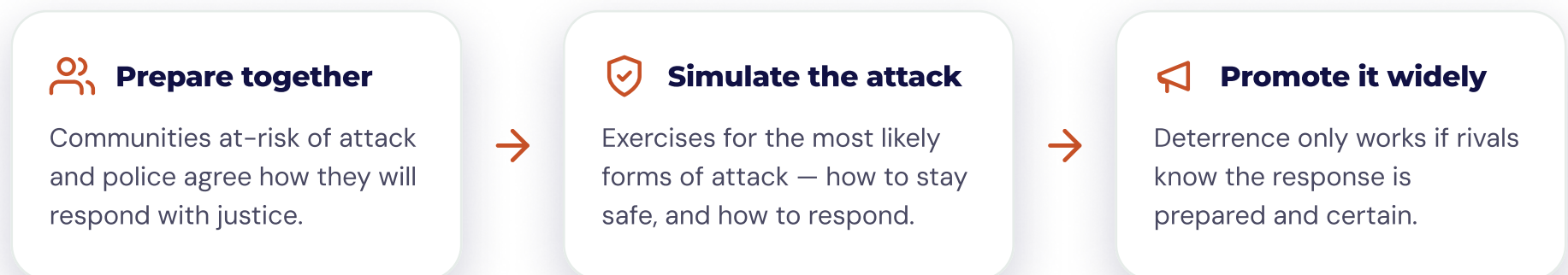
Images already online of illegal M16s or SARV



Voice to text statements in Tok Pisin and English · soon

02 Justice as deterrence

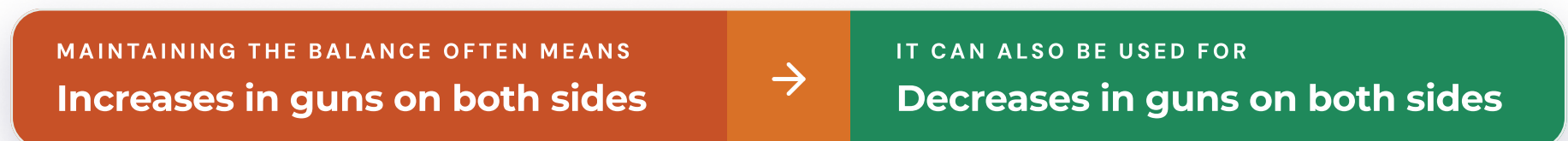
Justice only works as a deterrence if attackers believe it is likely they will go to jail. So ShieldPNG is keen to work with communities at-risk of attack and police to prepare for how they will respond with justice in the event of an attack and to promote that widely. This can be done through simulation exercises for the most likely forms of attack, so that everyone is clear on how best to protect themselves during it and how to respond.



03 Rivals disarming together

Armed clans typically want to maintain access to similar levels of firepower as their rivals – maintaining the balance. This often leads to increases in guns on both sides, though it can also be used to decrease guns on both sides.

ShieldPNG encourages both sides to surrender arms together through our Peacemaker system.



04 Supporting criminal justice prosecution when witnesses are afraid to testify

There are a range of reasons why witnesses are reluctant to testify in cases involving mass killings and tribal fights. That makes it difficult to convict the killers for homicide or crimes under the Inter Group Fighting Act, leaving some to instead seek violent payback. There are additional criminal justice options which are under utilised in PNG and less reliant on community witnesses.

ShieldPNG seeks to gather and share information with anyone interested in justice, including police and prosecutors, on these additional options. They include prosecuting:

- killers for illicit possession of firearms and ammunition which has **life imprisonment** as the maximum penalty for unlawful possession, with 50 years and 20 years as lower tiers
- 'flipping' less involved fighters to testify against those more responsible for killing, such as warlords and those providing illegal high-powered guns