KINETIC IMPACT PROJECTILES

**History**
The kinetic impact projectiles used in protests were sawed-off guns of U.S. law enforcement that were shot against rioters in the United States and Lima, Peru.

**Deployment Mechanism**
In some deployments, muzzle velocities of live ammunition are lower due to the lack of rifling in kinetic impact projectiles (KIPs), which can make them more effective for crowd control.

**How They Work**
KIPs work by transferring kinetic energy from a weapon to a projectile. KIPs are typically designed to impart a narrow cone of destruction to a target and to be effective at short ranges. KIPs are, however, inaccurate at longer ranges and ineffective at preventing the use of other less lethal means of crowd control.

**Bullets**

1. **Direct Trajectory**
   - Ranges: 0 to 20 meters
   - Characteristics: Obtuse or sharp nose shape, higher velocity
   - Effects: Less penetrating than rubber-coated metal bullets

2. **Oblique Trajectory**
   - Ranges: 0 to 20 meters
   - Characteristics: Flat or pointed nose shape, lower velocity
   - Effects: More penetrating than rubber-coated metal bullets

**Findings**
- **Direct-Path** bullets have a direct line of impact from the muzzle to the target.
- **Oblique-Path** bullets have a more lateral trajectory.

**Health Effects**
KIPs can cause blunt or penetrating trauma. Penetrating injuries are those that penetrate the skin or cause deep blunt trauma injury. Blunt injuries are those that cause internal damage without breaking the skin.

**Injuries**
- **Penetrative Injuries**
  - Skin and soft tissue: Lacerations, abrasions, bruises.
  - Musculoskeletal system: Fractures, dislocations.
  - Internal: Organ injury, bowel perforation.
- **Blunt Injuries**
  - Skin and soft tissue: Contusions, abrasions, lacerations.
  - Musculoskeletal system: Fractures, dislocations.
  - Internal: Organ injury, brain injury.

**Policy Recommendations**
- **Indiscriminate KIPS That Fire Multiple Projectiles, Such as Shotgun Bullets, Should Be Prohibited in the Context of Protests.**
- **Rubber-coated metal bullets are not safe and should be prohibited.**
- **Some types of KIPS are able to provide a less lethal and accurate alternative.**

**Human Rights**
KIPs are aimed at targets who are perceived to be threatening or dangerous. KIPs can be used in a variety of situations, including protests, rioting, and during law enforcement operations.

**Kinetic Impact Projectiles (KIPS)**
Kinetic impact projectiles are commonly known as rubber and plastic bullets, and they are used for crowd-control purposes by law enforcement worldwide in multiple forms and are shot from myriad types of guns and launchers. The findings of a systematic review of medical literature carried out by Physicians for Human Rights indicate that KIPS cause serious injury, disability, and death. Physicians for Human Rights indicate that KIPS are inherently inaccurate when fired from afar and therefore can cause unintended injuries to bystanders and strike vulnerable bystanders at close range, they are likely to be lethal. Therefore, KIPS are not an appropriate weapon to be used for crowd management and specifically for dispersal purposes.