

CAAT NEWS



JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020 • ISSUE 257

UK, STOP ARMING POLICE VIOLENCE



PLUS

Tear gas sales to the US **P7-9**

Arms sales to Saudi Arabia **P3**

COVID-19 and the arms trade **P13**

CAAT NEWS

JULY – SEPT 2020

We hope that all of you are safe and well. We apologise to anyone that did not receive the last issue of CAAT News. Due to the COVID crisis we did an online edition, but did not have email addresses for all of our readers. You can find it on the CAAT News website, caat.org.uk.

Unfortunately, UK arms sales are in the spotlight again due to the

brutal killing of George Floyd and the repression that followed it. Arms sales to Saudi Arabia have also been back in the news with the government announcing that it is resuming sales. We are looking at all available options to challenge this. You can find out more about both stories in this latest issue.

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Campaign Against Arms Trade works to end the international arms trade. The arms business has a devastating impact on human rights and security and damages economic development. Large-scale military procurement and arms exports only reinforce a militaristic approach to international problems.

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ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA

On 7 July, the government announced it was to resume licensing arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition bombing Yemen.

This is an incomprehensible decision. Thousands of Yemeni people have been killed by five years of bombing, many more by hunger and disease. Now Yemen faces COVID-19 with a health system shattered by war.

Despite this terrible human impact – and despite UK rules which prohibit the licensing of arms exports where there is a clear risk they might be used in violations of international humanitarian law – the UK government has done all it can to keep the weapons flowing to Saudi Arabia, the largest buyer of UK weapons.

The UK has licensed billions of pounds of arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition since the bombing began: at least £5.3 billion in published figures, but with billions more sold under the secretive ‘Open Licensing’ system. We hoped change might at last be in sight with CAAT’s landmark victory at the Court of Appeal in June 2019, after years of legal battle.

The Court ruled that the Government had failed to properly assess the risk of weapons exported from the UK being used in violations of international humanitarian law in Yemen. It ordered the Government to retake all its previous decisions to license weapons sales in a lawful way. In the meantime, no new arms exports could be licensed for use in the war on Yemen.

However, although hundreds of millions of pounds worth of new arms sales were put on hold, other weapons sales continued under pre-existing licences while the review took place, meaning



BAE Systems could still maintain the warplanes bombing Yemen.

The Government also immediately appealed the Court’s decision. A hearing at the Supreme Court was scheduled for November 2020.

The Government has concluded that war crimes committed in the attacks on Yemen were “isolated incidents” – and announced that it would immediately begin “the process of clearing the backlog of licence applications

Now, after taking more than a year to complete the review ordered by the Court, the Government has concluded that war crimes committed in the attacks on Yemen were “isolated incidents” – and announced that it would immediately begin “the process of clearing the backlog of licence applications for Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners.”

We are appalled by this decision.

The Saudi-led forces have bombed weddings and funerals, market places and warehouses, schools and hospitals. These are not isolated incidents but a pattern of repeated breaches of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). There have been hundreds of these so-called isolated incidents, and thousands of people have been killed in them.

The continuation of arms supplies to the Saudi-led coalition, despite evidence of repeated breaches of IHL, recorded since the first day of the bombing campaign, exposes the failures of UK and international arms export controls, when governments value arms company profits more than human lives.

At the time of writing we are considering this new decision with our lawyers and exploring every avenue to stop these sales. Please check caat.org.uk/stop-arming-saudi for the latest updates.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

HONG KONG



Credit: Studio Incendo / Source Flickr

An investigation by CAAT and the Independent found that the UK College of Policing was providing training to the Hong Kong police as recently

as 2019. The Hong Kong authorities have inflicted a brutal crackdown on pro-democracy campaigners. [The Independent, 02/06/2020](#)

MILITARY SPENDING

According to new data from our friends at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, total global military expenditure rose to \$1917 billion in 2019. The total for 2019 represents an increase of 3.6 per cent from 2018 and the largest annual growth in spending since 2010. The five largest spenders in 2019, which accounted for 62 per cent of expenditure, were the United States, China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia. This is the first time that two Asian states have featured among the top three.

[SIPRI, 27/04/2020](#)

The Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has committed to spending \$270 billion over the next decade on military capabilities. This includes a focus on missiles, cyber capabilities and a high-tech underwater surveillance system.

[ABC News, 30/06/2020](#)

The Unite trade union and the Aerospace, Defence & Security group, a trade body for arms companies, have both called for the UK government to bring forward military spending in order to help the sector to respond to the COVID pandemic.

[The Guardian, 21/06/2020](#)

Newspaper reports suggest that the UK government's ongoing military review could see the army reduced by 20,000 personnel and the cancellation of some major military projects. The Prime Minister's adviser, Dominic Cummings, is allegedly pushing for funding to be moved from conventional weapons and towards cyber warfare.

[Metro, 06/07/2020](#)

COVID-19

The COVID pandemic closed factories in Mexico that were providing equipment for US arms production. Despite the health risks, the Pentagon publicly called for the factories to be re-opened to minimise disruption to the US arms industry.

[Defense News, 21/04/2020](#)

ARMS FAIRS

The COVID pandemic has seen the cancellation of major arms fairs across the world. However, at the time of writing, the UK government is preparing to attend events from September 2020.

[Defence & Security Organisation, 10/07/2020](#)

TEAR GAS

Safariland, a US arms company, has said that it will cease production of tear gas. The company has said that it is selling its Defense Technology unit, which makes rubber bullets, batons and stun grenades as well as tear gas.

[CBS News 10/06/2020](#)

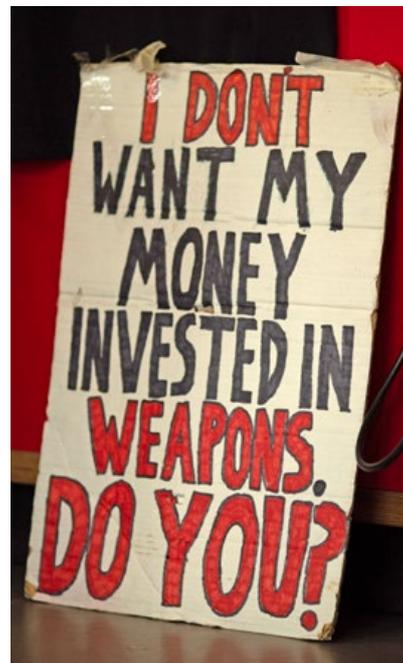
CORRUPTION

The former South African President, Jacob Zuma, has withdrawn a legal bid to stop a major corruption trial. The charges against Zuma related to a major arms deal that took place in 1999. Zuma is alleged to have taken bribes of four million rand (\$220,000) related to a \$3.4bn arms deal with a French arms company Thales when he was deputy president.

[Al Jazeera, 29/04/2020](#)

UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

This is the last piece by our outgoing Universities Coordinator, [Ibtehal](#), and includes her reflections and memories from her two years at CAAT. We wish Ibtehal all the best and want to thank her for all of the great work she has done in building the universities network.



It's been an incredible two years of campaigning. The arms trade is a system that upholds racist, colonial, patriarchal, oppressive systems and needs to be challenged wherever we find it. Here are some of my highlights:

Students across the country are researching the many ways that their universities are working with the arms trade

Conference at the Gates

Protesting outside one of the world's largest arms fairs (DSEI), students, organisers and academics came together to re-think and act on the militarisation and securitisation of the spaces that we occupy in society and the consequential impacts. This was a reminder that (un/)learning is not limited to university buildings and that our protests can be educational and creative.

Film screenings

Screenings at different universities of films concerning the arms trade and international solidarity brought students together and built momentum to resist militarism on campus.

Marketisation X Militarism: resistance on the picket line

By bringing anti-arms trade to the picket line, students exposed the many ways in which universities are militarised spaces (including USS pension schemes of academics investing in numerous arms companies).

Events

By holding events concerning the arms trade and empire, neo-colonialism, Israeli apartheid, and climate change/justice, we've explored how the arms trade collaborates with so many lethal industries and causes so much harm.

Reporting

Students across the country are researching the many ways that their universities are working with the arms trade. This has led to reports on cultural training delivered to the Ministry of Defence, to unethical sources of research funding, investments and the revolving door between academia, the arms industry and the Government. The recent training for students across the country on *How to Investigate Your University* in collaboration with Corporate Watch has inspired and provided students with skills to expand their research.

Solidarity

From protests against the "Security & Policing" arms fair outside the Home Office, to the Bahri Yanbu ship delivering weapons to Saudi Arabia outside the port of Tilbury, students have focused on solidarity in all their campaigning, whilst emphasising the role their institutions play in building and legitimising the arms trade. Referring to the two million children without education in Yemen, Ben, a student at Oxford, asked BAE Systems in an online action, "Why is my education facilitating the disruption of the education of millions of others?"

Are you interested in coordinating campaigning with students and organising against militarism on campus? Keep your eyes open for the job opening of the Universities Coordinator soon!



Credit: Dan Aasland / Source Flickr

UK ARMS SALES TO THE US

May saw the appalling killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. He was killed by racist and violent police officers, one of whom was kneeling on his neck for 8 minutes, 46 seconds, while he was pinned to the ground. His final words, "I can't breathe", underline the brutality of his murder.

The weeks that followed have seen mass protests taking place across the US. Hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets to oppose the violence and racism that led to the killing. They have been met by heavily militarised police officers who have inflicted terrible abuses against campaigners, activists, and journalists.

The violent crackdown and use of rubber bullets and CS gas on peaceful protestors in the United States has shone a light on the increased militarisation of the police. Tear gas, which can cause serious injuries, miscarriage, and even death, is a chemical weapon banned for use in war, yet it is widely used against civilians from Gaza to Minneapolis. US law enforcement agencies have received \$7.4 billion in military equipment transferred from the armed forces since 1997, under the 1033 Program, contributing to their aggressive and violent response to protests.

Police violence and racism is not new, nor is it exclusive to the US. Many of these issues will be familiar to people in the UK and beyond. It is time for police forces and politicians from across the world to consider their own roles

and the systematic inequality that they are responsible for.

The UK's role in US repression

The USA is the second biggest buyer of UK arms in the world. The US is one of the world's largest buyers of UK arms, with almost £6 billion worth of arms licensed since 2010. This includes all weapons categories. The end user is not published, so no distinction is made between the military and police, but it is likely that some will be for police forces.

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Since 2010 the UK has licensed £2 million worth of Security and paramilitary police goods to the US, this includes anti-riot shields and other equipment that could be for police use. The Government has also licensed £800 million worth of small arms and £18 million worth of ammunition sales to the military and police, including crowd control ammunition, CS hand grenades, and tear gas.

Many of the tear gas and "crowd control ammunition" sales were done via the opaque and secretive Open Licence system. This means that the value of exports is not published and nor is the end user. These licences allow for an unlimited volume of equipment to be exported over a fixed-term period. Moreover, the Open General Export Licence (OGEL) issued in relation to the UK-US Defence Cooperation Treaty allows registered companies to export tear gas and other anti-protest equipment without limit and without further licencing indefinitely.

Between 2009 and 2018, the UK signed contracts worth £14.8 billion for arms sales to the US and Canada, according to the Government's Defence and Security Organisation, compared to just £5 billion worth of export licences issued.

According to the consolidated criteria for arms exports "The government will not grant a licence if there is a clear risk that the items might be used for internal repression." By any reasonable interpretation this should have seen these arms sales suspended.

TEAR GAS SELLING REPRESSION

The UK has licensed at least £34 million worth of tear gas sales to over 50 countries over recent years

The US is not the only country for which the UK has licensed sales of tear gas. An investigation by CAAT and the Independent found that the UK has licensed at least £34 million worth of tear gas sales to over 50 countries over recent years, with 202 unlimited-value open licence since 2008, including to some of the world's most abusive regimes and dictatorships.

In 2014 the Hong Kong police used UK-made tear gas against pro-democracy campaigners. In the aftermath of the crackdown the UK government pledged to take the abuses into account before approving licences to Hong Kong in future. Unfortunately, within 12 months the UK was again allowing the export of tear

gas to the Hong Kong authorities. Last summer the same equipment was used again, with the same horrific results.

Likewise, in 2011 UK-made tear gas was used against protesters by Egyptian forces, aiding a bloody crackdown that killed more than 800 people. It has been sold to Greece, where tear gas has been used against refugees, and to France, where tear gas was used against Black Lives Matter protests in Paris.

The UK doesn't just license the sale of weaponry. It actively promotes the sale of "crowd control equipment" – and with it, the militarisation of policing – through multi-million pound arms fairs like Defence and Security Equipment International and Security & Policing.

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST RACISM IN THE UK

Even if the UK government was to revoke arms export licences to send the US government a message, it certainly does not have any moral high ground on the issues of state violence and racism.

As we demand an end to the licensing of arms of the type used to shut down Black Lives Matter protests, and justice for George Floyd's family, we must also recognise the need to address our own racism problem in the UK.

For countless decades, black people have been fighting for an end to the deeply entrenched racial discrimination and inequality affecting the lives of black people and people of colour in the UK, rooted in our colonial past. This includes police violence, poorer health or education outcomes, the inaction over the lives lost at Grenfell, and the focus of immigration detention and deportation policies on people of colour. As journalist Afua Hirsh puts it, "the racism that killed George Floyd was built in Britain".

As well as the continued demands for justice for the people living the experience

of racism every day, research from the Race Disparity Audit, the Lammy Review, the Equality Commission, and the UN's Special Rapporteur on Racism, E. Tendayi Achime, all points to the same persistent exclusion and marginalisation of racial and ethnic minorities. For example, stop-and-search rates between 2018 and 2019 show that black people are now nearly 10-times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than white people.

Stop-and-search rates between 2018 and 2019 show that black people are now nearly 10-times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than white people

The stakes could not be higher. It is vitally important that we don't just challenge the arms sales, we also challenge the policies, structures and mindset that allowed them in the first place.



Credit: Martin Pettitt / Source Flickr

HOW YOUR GROUP CAN SUPPORT BLACK LIVES MATTER

We've had questions from a lot of people in our network about how to engage with the issues of police violence and systemic racism raised by the Black Lives Matter movement in their CAAT meetings.

This piece attempts to answer these questions. It is written for the white folks in our network, especially white group coordinators, with some reflection questions to ask yourselves when tabling this at meetings.

Be aware there is a lot of rage and grief, and people are hurting. Be thoughtful about if and how this will come up on your agenda, and how you will structure and facilitate it. Who is in your group, and how might they be affected? If you are a predominantly white group, what will you need to have a conversation about racism respectfully and with accountability?

It might be topical to include this as a meeting agenda item, but for many people this isn't news, it's their lived reality – and it's not new. Is this the first time your group is talking about this issue, and if so what does that mean? Think about how your group will commit to ongoing anti racist work, even after the news cycle moves on. What will you do in two months from now, six months, a year? What changes will you make to your work?

The US has a particular history,

but it's a UK issue too. Educate yourself on the UK context, and your area's local history of racism and police violence. Look for local organisations and educators working in your area.

If you are using content from black educators and people of colour, recognise that folks are doing an incredible amount of free labour right now. Pause before you reach out to someone and ask for something: have you checked out the wealth of open-access resources available online instead? If you're on a black educators page and you've found their content useful, look to see if they have a patreon or paypal address that you can pay for the content with. Some people don't want direct donations, but may also be asking people to donate to community bail funds or other fundraisers when accessing materials, so look for this too.

When reposting content, consider how you can share materials so you're amplifying messages effectively. Whose content are you reposting? Have you given an attribution for the original post? If you are posting or reposting Black Lives Matter content on your social



Credit Lorie Shaul / Source Flickr

Think about how your group will commit to ongoing anti racist work, even after the news cycle moves on. What will you do in two months from now, six months, a year?

media channels, do you have a clear policy for how you will deal with comments so you don't provide a social media platform for racism? How will you decide when to engage with comments and when to delete or hide them? Who in your group will do that, and what support will they need to do this?

Parliamentary Opposition

There have been widespread protests in the UK, while a change.org petition calling for an end to the sale of tear gas and rubber bullets to the US was signed by over 750,000 people.

Labour MP Dawn Butler organised a letter signed by 166 MPs calling for sales to be suspended and an investigation

into whether UK-made arms have been used against protesters. The letter was signed by MPs from across all opposition parties, and even a few Conservative MPs. There were also statements of opposition from Labour Foreign Secretary Lisa Nandy and the Leader of the Opposition, Keir Starmer.



Credit Chris McAndrew / Source Parliament.uk

LOCAL NETWORK

This is the last issue for our current local outreach Coordinator, [Kat](#), who has been with us for over 6 years. We want to thank her for all that she has contributed to CAAT and wish her all the best in everything she does next.

Arms Fair postponed!

Activists challenging the Three Counties Defence & Security Expo (3CDSE) have been celebrating success over the summer. The organisers of the fair, scheduled for July 2020, were pushing ahead with plans for the event despite the ongoing pandemic.

Melanie Jameison, Founder of Malvern Individuals for Peace, has been part of the resistance to the Three Counties Defence & Security Expo for several years. She explains:

“The Three Counties Showground is an idyllic location with a backdrop of the Malvern Hills on the Worcestershire-Herefordshire border. Three years ago it became the venue for a Defence & Security Expo giving rise to the formation of Malvern Individuals for Peace (MIPs) and a consultation with CAAT to get a better idea of the track record of exhibitors and sponsors. Our first role was to inform residents that this event was taking place (there

was no publicity, outside the sector) then to gauge local opinion and finally to organise protest.”

Rebecca Tully, who lives in the area and has been helping to bring together groups and individuals challenging the fair, said, “At the beginning of lockdown, we had a Zoom meeting with activists from our area and other campaigners

Activists used local media to raise their objections to the fair, and successfully captured the front page of several local papers protesting the plans for the fair to go ahead

from across the UK. We are a small group, so we'd decided to join together with activists from across the country to discuss what we were doing about different arms fairs. We heard from activists as far afield as Farnborough and Glasgow about what had worked for others when they were challenging arms

fairs in their location, and I was excited to be linking with others.

“Towards the end of the call I mentioned how hard I thought it would be when ‘all this was over’ to convince people NOT to build our economy with arms. One person on the call mentioned how utterly wrong it is, pushing ahead with something like the Defence Expo in the midst of such a massive public health crisis – and we realised that this in fact was our angle! It was a press release to that effect that got us on the front page of the local papers.”

They used local media to raise their objections to the fair, and successfully captured the front page of several local papers by protesting the plans for the fair to go ahead. Organisers were quickly forced to announce they would postpone to February 2021. As well as raising awareness locally through their great media action, this also gives activists more time to plan their resistance!

Goodbye from Kat

After more than six years at CAAT, I'm moving on to a new role with the Bristol-based group AdBlock and working as a freelance campaign skills trainer! It's been an incredible few years: seeing the Stop the Arms Fair network grow and go from strength to strength, participating in so many inspiring and successful campaigns, and working with so many of you folks who have been both comrades and friends. I will still be around CAAT as an activist, so I will see you on the streets!

It's been an incredible few years working with so many of you folks who have been both comrades and friends



Hello from Kirsten

Kirsten Bayes has joined the staff as Local Outreach Coordinator. She may be a familiar face to some of you as she has worked for CAAT twice before: in Training and Events, and Local Outreach on temporary contracts. She has also been part of CAAT's Steering Committee for several years. She is a long-term organiser against the DSEI arms fair, as part of the Stop the Arms Fair Network. She is also Vice Chair of the Nuclear Information Service, and of Reading Pride, and is on the board of several other non-profits. Prior to joining CAAT, she worked as a trainer and facilitator, as a University lecturer, and in IT and marketing management roles. You can contact her on kirsten@caat.org.uk.



GLASGOW UNIVERSITY AND THE ARMS TRADE

In recent editions of CAAT News we have reported on the action that Glasgow students have taken in their campaign for Glasgow University to end its investment in the arms trade. Here, **David Broomfield** of the Glasgow University Arms Divestment Coalition updates us on the latest developments.

At the end of June, the University of Glasgow decided to retain the bulk of its £3m investments in some of the world's largest arms companies, including BAE Systems, Airbus and Boeing. The decision to keep profiting from the arms trade was made despite a fierce campaign by the student group Glasgow University Arms Divestment Coalition (GUADC) and concerned members of the community. As has been pointed out again and again, the huge arms corporations that the University has chosen to invest in are accused of serious war crimes across the world.

This contradicts the University's own public commitment to a Socially Responsible Investment policy (SRI), which made very specific promises to students and the public about any future investments. For example, the University of Glasgow has committed to divesting from the oil and gas sectors, while instructing its fund managers not to invest in the tobacco industry "because of the harm smoking causes". If the University thinks smoking is harmful, maybe it should ask BAE what their bombs are doing to children in Yemen?



In place of substantive action, the University has assured us that the Principal will write to the arms companies involved, to ask if their activities are "fully compatible with their publicly stated values"

In place of substantive action, the University has assured us that the Principal will write to the arms companies involved, to ask if their activities are "fully compatible with their publicly stated values". A letter from the Principal is likely to scare a teenager skipping school – it is

unlikely to work on the CEO of an arms company.

The reality is that there is no way to make ethical investments in the arms trade. The University might think that writing sternly worded letters and asking the Government to double-check where weapons are likely to do their killing is enough, but a genuinely ethical response would involve immediate divestment. The University knows this – yet it has chosen cheap gestures and profits over the lives of innocent people.

Unfortunately, the University of Glasgow is not the only major UK university that holds significant investments in the arms trade. Many others, including many of the influential Russell Group, still profit from the arms trade and have their research shaped by these same companies.

Regardless of the decision, we will continue our campaign. With the support of the people of Glasgow and with organisations like CAAT, we hope that there will be a day when all universities in the UK are fully divested from the arms trade.

Introducing Emma

CAAT has appointed its first ever Scotland Coordinator! Emma has spent the last few years as an organiser at an anti-nuclear weapons campaign in Scotland and with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. As a disability advocate, she pushes for further accessibility within activist spaces to let everyone have a voice in our movement and would love to

chat with you about it! Supporting and developing local campaign groups across Scotland, Emma has also been active in the Scottish trade union movement campaigning against zero-hour contracts and as part of the COVID-response team in the last few months. She is currently researching defence diversification across Scottish manufacturing. You can contact her on emma@caat.org.uk.



PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

Since Easter, Parliament has settled into a new routine following the General Election, Brexit and the Labour leadership elections as well having to work out how to function in a time of coronavirus. We are finding out which new MPs are interested in international affairs, including the arms trade.

Select Committees

The Select Committees, comprised of backbench MPs from across the parties who monitor each government department, have now been set up. In July, the Committees on Arms Export Controls (CAEC), formed from members of the Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committees. The absence of representatives of the International Development Committee reflects its disappearance, at least in its current form, when the Department for International Development is merged with the Foreign Office. The new CAEC Chair is the Conservative MP Mark Garnier. He has indicated that arms exports to Saudi Arabia will be on the CAEC agenda. This contrasts with the Chair in the last Parliament, who, bizarrely, would not allow discussion of these.

Integrated Review

In February Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced an Integrated Security, Defence, International Development and Foreign Policy Review. Individually and jointly with Rethinking Security of which it is part, CAAT made submissions to the Defence and Foreign Affairs

Committees, which are examining aspects of the Review. CAAT is calling for the Review to focus on real sustainable security, rather than assuming that security equates with military preparations and responses.

The work of the Review itself was paused because of coronavirus, but restarted in July. It is expected to report in the autumn along with the Comprehensive Spending Review.

CAAT is calling for the Integrated Review to focus on real sustainable security, rather than assuming that security equates with military preparations and responses

Labour frontbench team

CAAT is working with Emily Thornberry again in her new role as Shadow International Trade Secretary. She has been collaborating with her LibDem, Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru and Green counterparts to first press the International Trade Secretary Liz Truss over the long-delayed review into arms exports to Saudi Arabia and then to raise concern over its “business as usual” conclusion.

Other new shadow Ministers relevant to CAAT’s work are Lisa Nandy, Shadow Foreign Secretary, and John Healey, Shadow Defence

Secretary as well as Fabian Hamilton who remains in the Foreign Affairs team as Shadow Peace and Disarmament Minister.

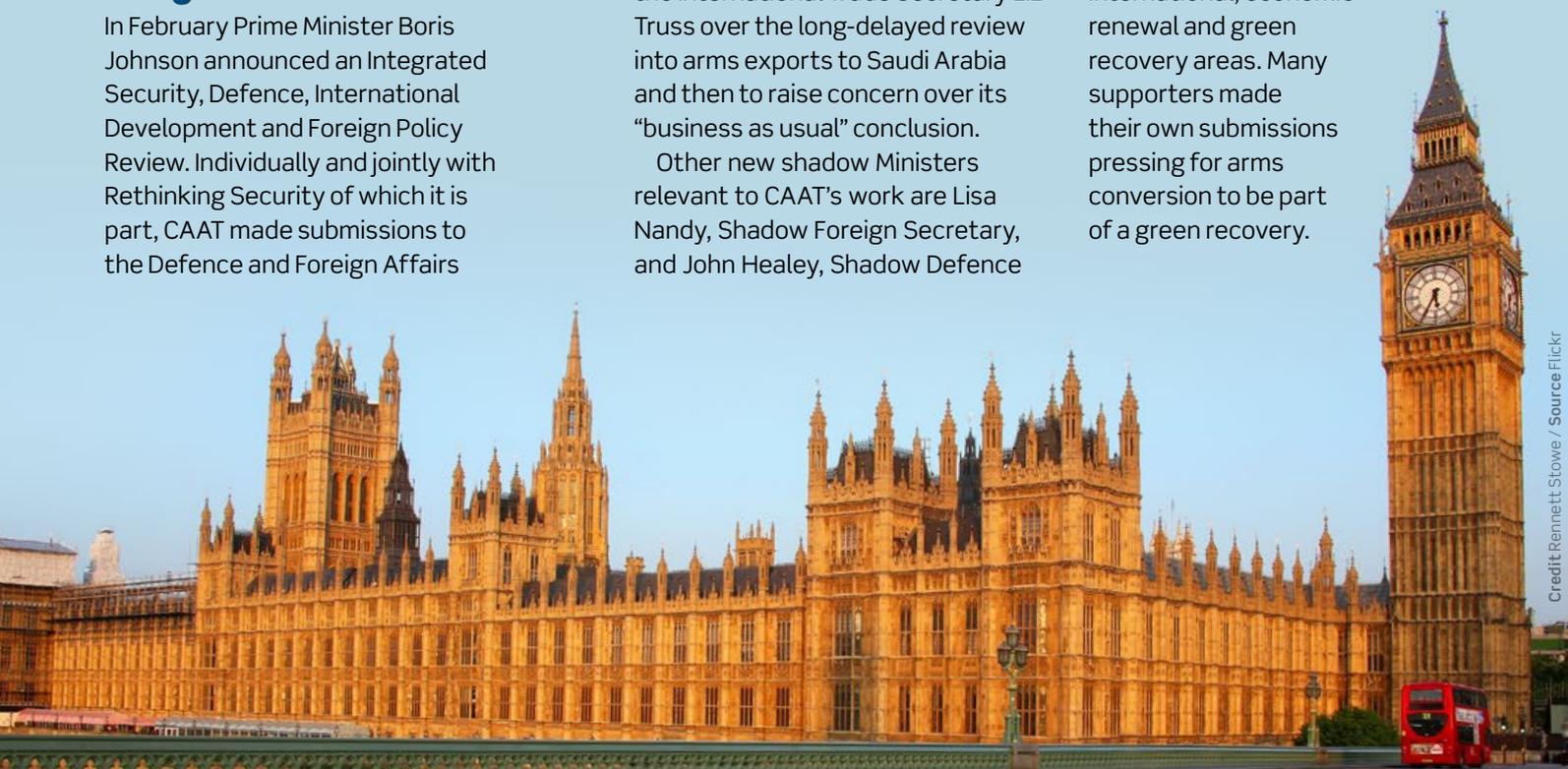
Riot control equipment

The death of George Floyd put UK exports of riot control equipment, to the United States and more generally, on the Parliamentary agenda. MPs, including Conservatives, asked dozens of questions on the issue.

As highlighted on P10, Labour’s Dawn Butler organised a letter to Liz Truss signed by 167 MPs from across the political spectrum calling for exports of riot control equipment to the US to be stopped pending an inquiry.

Labour Policy consultation

The Labour Party has been consulting on its policy post-coronavirus. CAAT made submissions to its international, economic renewal and green recovery areas. Many supporters made their own submissions pressing for arms conversion to be part of a green recovery.



Credit: Rennett Stowe / Source Flickr

CORONAVIRUS AND THE ARMS TRADE

As the COVID-19 pandemic hits many of the UK's industries, with almost daily news of jobs lost, the aerospace industry, which also produces UK weapons, has not escaped unharmed.

At companies like Airbus, and Rolls Royce, which build jet engines, the civil aviation side of the business has been hit hard by job losses as demand for air travel has flatlined. Industry leaders have responded by lobbying for an increase in military spending, to boost their remaining business. The Guardian reported in June that the Ministry of Defence backed plans to accelerate Government spending on key military projects. Faced with tens of thousands of job losses, some unions are also backing the plans.

Our research shows that many of the skills used in arms manufacturing are transferable to offshore wind and tidal power

CAAT and its allies in the Build Back Better Campaign coalition are calling for the Government to radically rethink where public funds go as we rebuild our economy from this crisis. Going back to "business as usual" means climate disaster, exploiting key workers' rights, and making a profit from arms that fuel war and oppression. We must use this opportunity to make the long but necessary transition from building weapons to building the renewable energy and sustainable technologies that we need.

In June the Trade Union Congress released a report "Rebuilding after the recession – a plan for decent jobs", that

demanded investment in training, retraining and diversification to create tens of thousands of new green jobs and prevent a recession.

We must use this opportunity to make the long but necessary transition from building weapons to building the sustainable technologies that we need

We recently encouraged supporters to feed into Labour's National Policy Forum consultation, to call for Labour to include arms conversion in its plans for a Green Recovery for the Coronavirus crisis. Thanks to all of you who added pressure on Labour as they prepare to present their policy proposals to the Government. We'll let you know if your calls were taken on board.

BAE attempt to escape scrutiny with online AGM

Every year, CAAT supporters attend the Annual General Meeting of BAE Systems, the UK's biggest arms company, to hold its leadership to account. The meeting could not take place this year.

No doubt the company was glad to avoid awkward questions about its £15 billion in revenue from Saudi Arabia since 2015, as uncovered by CAAT earlier this year. Yet, as Yemen now has to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic – its health system already devastated by five years of war – scrutiny of BAE is as critical as ever.

We held our own "meeting" online to expose BAE's dodgy deals in another shameful year. Among our friends and partners adding their voices was Ameen, an Arabian human rights activist, whose powerful testimony condemned BAE as a "partner-in-crime with the Saudi regime". "Do you think you can wash your hands of what is happening in my home?" he said. "Your weapons bring nothing but terror, wars and instability."

Reem from Medact highlighted the recent investigation by Yemeni organisation Mwatana for Human Rights, challenging BAE on its continued sales to Saudi Arabia despite repeated attacks on health facilities and workers in Yemen, a clear violation of international humanitarian law.

Watch the videos and find out more at blog.caat.org.uk/2020/05/07/questions-for-bae/



Credit Tim Dennell / Source Flickr

ARMS TO ISRAEL

In June the Israeli government announced that it was going to push ahead with the illegal and immoral annexation of large parts of the West Bank. This followed Donald Trump's proposed deal, which was branded the "deal of the century" but would be catastrophic for Palestine.

One group of institutions that has become a focus for campaigners is universities. In this issue our friend Huda from the Apartheid Off Campus campaign tells us more about the campaign and why we need to oppose the occupation in every way we can.

Apartheid Off Campus (AOC) is a student-led initiative to end university complicity with the Israeli occupation and practices of apartheid against the Palestinian people. It opposes the complicity of companies and institutions that facilitate, supply and finance Israel's arms trade and illegal settlement economy.

UK universities invest hundreds of millions of pounds into companies and institutions that profit from Israeli human rights violations and AOC is fighting to end this, following the examples of the campaign to end UK complicity with Apartheid South Africa and the fossil-free campaigns for Climate Justice.

AOC aims to activate international solidarity by ending

the normalisation of Israel's human rights abuses, recognising connections between our campaign and other struggles for justice as part of an intersectional campaign. The ultimate aim is to decolonise our universities, recognising apartheid as a practice of colonialism, specifically of settler-colonialism in Palestine, and for UK universities to own up to their complicity with it and then work to implement necessary change.

Apartheid Off Campus aims to build a student-led grassroots movement to raise awareness of the Palestinian struggle and Israeli abuses in the occupied territories

To do this, we have three demands for UK universities.

- 1** Divest from all companies that supply and/or finance Israel's illegal settlement economy and Israel's arms trade.
- 2** Break the links by ending partnership, sponsorships or

other agreements with complicit institutions and companies.

3 Adopt a pledge to be apartheid-free including a commitment against all forms of discrimination, including Israel's denial of Palestinian rights.

The aim is to build a student-led grassroots movement to raise awareness of the Palestinian struggle and Israeli abuses in the occupied territories so that students can lead the efforts to kick Israeli apartheid off of their university campuses and have their universities implement Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Arming Apartheid

There is a close political and military relationship between the UK and Israeli governments. Since 2015, the UK has licensed over £376 million worth of arms to Israel. Licences include:

- £183 million worth of ML22 licences (military technology)
- £98 million worth of ML10 licences (Aircraft, helicopters, drones)
- £16 million worth of ML4 licences (Grenades, bombs, missiles, countermeasures)
- £4.6 million worth of ML6 licences (Armoured vehicles, tanks)
- £1.8 million worth of ML3 licences (ammunition)
- £1 million worth of ML1 licences (small arms)



**APARTHEID
OFF CAMPUS**

TAKING ACTION

This year CAAT is running its first ever Reading Group series! The idea is to delve deeper into some of the profound issues connected to the global arms trade over the course of six weeks with the help of some of the UK's brightest critical thinkers. The events began in July, but are still running. Videos of previous events can be found on CAAT's Youtube channel.

Week 4 Thursday 6th August
Borders & Migration & the Arms Trade

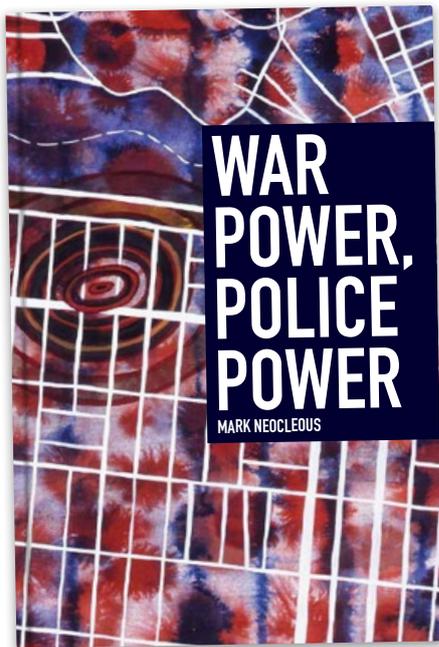
with Dr. Nadine El-Enany

Week 5 Thursday 13th August
Coronavirus and the Arms Trade

with Reem Abu-Hayyeh (MedAct)

Week 6 Thursday 20th August
Climate Justice & the Arms Trade

You can sign up for events at caat.org.uk/events.



Mark Neocleous – Introduction: War Power, Police Power: one of the books we will be discussing

THEY SAID IT

“Wacko John Bolton’s ‘exceedingly tedious’ (New York Times) book is made up of lies & fake stories. Said all good about me, in print, until the day I fired him. A disgruntled boring fool who only wanted to go to war. Never had a clue, was ostracized & happily dumped. What a dope!”

Donald Trump Tweets about the dismissal of his former Secretary of State, John Bolton, 18/06/2020

“Sin is resilient stuff, that’s where the money is.”

Russ Mould, of investment firm AJ Bell on investing in unethical industries, including arms. Daily Telegraph, 21/04/2020

“You are the professional head of the armed forces. Please nip back to the department and ask them to sort themselves out because, if not, Cummings is going to come down and sort you out his own way; you won’t like it.”

Conservative MP Mark Francois urges General Sir Nick Carter, chief of the defence staff, to ensure that his department is better organised, The Times, 09/07/2020

Re-introducing Jon

CAAT's new Operations Manager, Jon Nott, should be a familiar face for many readers (or at least a familiar name at the end of emails), as he has spent the past 18 months as our Supporter Development Co-ordinator. Jon moved to his new role in June and will now be managing our finances and personnel

function, and ensuring that our office (and home working) environment are best suited to support the vital campaigning, research and fundraising done by the rest of the team. “I’m really excited to be starting my new role,” says Jon, “The first priority is to recruit a new Supporter Development Co-ordinator.”





You can donate to CAAT by either visiting our website at **caat.org.uk**, or completing the form below (in block capitals) and returning it to:
Freepost RSYR-UCBS-GHEE, CAAT, Unit 4, 5-7 Wells Terrace, London, N4 3JU

Donations direct to CAAT are the most useful for the campaign, but if you send a Charities Aid Foundation cheque please make it payable to TREAT (Trust for Research and Education on Arms Trade) making clear that you wish for your donation to support CAAT's research programme. Unlike CAAT, TREAT is a registered charity (No.328694).

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel: Email:

I would like to receive the CAAT News quarterly magazine by post: Yes No

I would like to receive updates about the campaign and urgent action opportunities by email: Yes No

I would like to receive occasional updates about the campaign by post: Yes No

REGULAR DONATION



A direct debit is the most convenient and cost effective way to support CAAT. Just £5 a month makes a real difference.

INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY TO PAY BY DIRECT DEBIT

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society:

Banks/building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some kind of accounts.

Address of Bank/Building Society:

Postcode:

Name(s) of account holder(s):

Bank/building society a/c no. Sort code:

I wish to donate £_____ every
 month quarter annually

Reference (CAAT use only)

Please pay Campaign Against Arms Trade Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Campaign Against Arms Trade and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s):

Date:

SINGLE DONATION

I wish to donate £_____ to CAAT and enclose a cheque or have completed my credit/debit card details.

CARD DETAILS

Credit/debit card type (please tick appropriate box): Mastercard Visa Visa Delta

Cardholder's name:

Credit/debit card number:

Start date: Expiry date: Security number: (3 digit number on back of card)