

CAAT*news*

Protesters on Bahrain's Pearl roundabout called for peace and democracy. UK-made armoured vehicles were sent by Saudi Arabia to repress the protests



WHY IS THE UK STILL ARMING TYRANTS?

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**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
ARMS
TRADE**



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IN THIS ISSUE...

Welcome to this issue of CAATnews

The big story for this issue is DSEi (Defence & Security Equipment International), one of the world's largest arms fairs, which takes place in London this September. While a range of campaign activities will take place during the event, CAAT's big focus is the Day of Action on 13 September.

This is our chance to show arms dealers and the world that the arms trade is not OK; selling arms to dictators and conflict zones is not

OK; carrying on business-as-usual when that business directly links to recent scenes of repression in the Middle East and North Africa is not OK.

Articles throughout this issue give useful background to issues around DSEi and pages 8 and 9 outline opportunities to get involved in CAAT's plans for the event. We'd love it if you could join in, in one way or another.

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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.

Export policy questioned

Ann Feltham reviews Parliamentary activity around UK arms exports to North Africa and the Middle East.

"Between 27 January and 9 March this year more than 150 previously granted arms export licences were revoked. That serves to highlight the scale of the previous misjudgment. Why, however, are those revocations limited to just four countries – Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Bahrain? Why have there been no revocations of arms exports to Syria, for example? Why, too, have there been no revocations of arms exports to Saudi Arabia, whose British-made armoured personnel carriers have rolled into Bahrain and are therefore complicit, as it were, in the appalling abuses of human rights there? Of course, I understand that Saudi Arabia is big money, is big oil, and is useful intelligence, but can the Government really justify such a blatant degree of inconsistency in their revocations policy?"

You may not be surprised to be reading these words in CAATnews. However, they were not written by us, but spoken by a former Conservative Defence Minister, Sir John Stanley MP, during a Commons debate on North Africa and the Middle East on 16 May. Sir John is now Chair of the Committee on Arms Export Controls (CAEC), which is made up of members from four Commons' Committees – Business, Innovation and Skills, Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development – that have an interest in the arms trade.

Critical report

The first CAEC report of this Parliament was published in April. This report, which has been published annually since 1999, is the first such Government report to ask how a policy of promoting arms exports can be reconciled with "the staunch upholding of human rights".



Video still of Saudi Arabia National Guard armoured vehicles being deployed to Bahrain to help crush pro-democracy protests. The vehicles were manufactured in the UK by BAE Systems. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI-aqBjj7UQ)

CAAT has always argued that the two are irreconcilable. Successive UK governments have put arms company interests first. As a consequence, as CAEC remarked: "Both the present Government and its predecessor misjudged the risk that arms approved for export to certain authoritarian countries in North Africa and the Middle East might be used for internal repression."

Legal letter

As Sir John asked, why have some export licences to a number of Middle Eastern countries to which the UK supplies military equipment been withdrawn, but not those to Saudi Arabia? In the quote above he supplied part of the answer. CAAT might add that Saudi Arabia is also a huge customer for UK arms.

However, there is a legal presumption of equality and CAAT's lawyers have written to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking him to look again at all

existing export licences with regards to Saudi Arabia. By the time you read this, we should have had his response. The latest news, together with a copy of CAAT's legal letter, can be found on our website at www.caat.org.uk.

.....
See page 10 for a summary of figures for UK sales to Libya, Bahrain, Egypt, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia.

The Government continues to support arms sales to human rights abusers and conflict zones. In September it will be providing financial and political support for an international arms fair in London. Join us on 13 September as we say that "This is NOT OK". See centre pages for more information.

Revolving door

Former defence secretary **Geoff Hoon** has been appointed executive senior vice-president of helicopter company AgustaWestland's international business. Previously, Hoon told reporters that he looked forward to translating his "knowledge and contacts" into money.

Private Eye described the appointment as "the latest senior move between the Ministry of Defence and the industry that milks it," while Parliament's public accounts committee has referred to a "cycle of failure" that has created a £36bn hole in the equipment budget.

A Transparency International spokesperson said that the

appointment underlined the need for reform of "revolving doors" between Westminster and the corporate world, saying that it could lead to a rise in corruption and undermine trust in the public sector. The organisation has called for the creation of a statutory body to regulate the employment of ministers, MPs and civil servants once they leave office.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 16/5/11 & 18/5/11; *PRIVATE EYE*, 27/5/11; *TIMES*, 17/5/11

Admiral **Alan West**, counter-terrorism minister in Gordon Brown's government has joined Primetake plc. The company makes "less than lethal baton rounds" and advertises "sniper grade Omega ammunition".

It appeared at this year's IDEX, the Middle East's biggest arms fair.

PRIVATE EYE, 10/6/11

Last summer, Princess Anne's husband Vice-Admiral **Tim Laurence** quit as chief executive at Defence Estates, in which role he managed Ministry of Defence (MoD) spending on barracks, bases and building contractors. Much of this has been privatised.

Laurence has now joined two consultancy firms with MoD contracts, Capita Symonds and PA Consulting. Capita Symonds is bidding for the contract to run the MoD's property portfolio: familiar territory for Laurence.

PRIVATE EYE, 13/5/11; *MAIL ONLINE*, 23/5/11

Corruption?

Arms company Thales and the French government have been told to pay €630m in damages to Taiwan to settle bribery allegations linked to the 1991 sale of six frigates. French taxpayers will have to pay approx €460m of the bill as the French government acted as guarantor to 72.5 per cent of the frigate contract.

DEFENSE NEWS, 10/6/11; *JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY*, 22/6/11

The Serious Fraud Office has begun investigating alleged bribery of Saudi officials by a UK-based unit of European arms group EADS. The probe is focussed on a £2bn contract to provide communications and intranet services for the Saudi National Guard.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 30/5/11

Greek investigators allege that more than \$140m in bribes were paid by German submarine maker Ferrostaal to local politicians and officials to facilitate a controversial \$1.5bn submarine deal. A Greek former defence minister is amongst those named as recipients of bribes.

UPI.COM, 28/3/11; *DEFENSE NEWS*, 16/4/11

Count Alfons Mensdorff-Pouilly has been awarded almost £400,000 in compensation after being held in custody for six days as part of a Serious Fraud Office investigation into a BAE Systems deal. The Austrian count was released after BAE struck a deal over alleged bribery charges. He went on to complain that prison-issue pants had breached his human rights.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, 28/5/11

Mercenaries

Erik Prince, founder of mercenary firm Blackwater, has helped set up a mercenary army of foreign troops for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) through the company Reflex Responses. The force, largely composed of Americans, was described by the *New York Times* as "a volatile element in an already combustible region". It is not clear whether the project has official US support.

Reflex Responses is developing a giant complex in the UAE desert to train troops for other governments as well.

NEW YORK TIMES, 14/5/11

Former SAS soldiers and other employees of mercenary companies have allegedly been sanctioned by the UK government to provide on-the-job training to the largely civilian and inexperienced rebel troops in Libya. It is also alleged that the mercenaries provided information for NATO to help identify targets on the ground.

GUARDIAN, 1/6/11; *DAILY MIRROR*, 1/6/11

BAE on Brazil trip

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg led a trade trip to Brazil in June, pledging to double British exports to the country by the end of this Parliament. The delegation included Trade Minister Lord Green on a mission to help BAE Systems win some Navy ship-building contracts, alongside Martin Bennett of BAE Systems.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 21/6/11



Russia supplies US

Russia's state arms exporter Rosoboronexport is to supply 21 Mi-17 helicopters to the US for use in Afghanistan. Last year the US lifted a 2005 ban on trading with the company.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 31/5/11

MBDA

Prospects for exports of MBDA missiles have increased following its use in Libya, with reports that both France and the US were impressed by "performance" there.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 8/6/11

Ukraine

Ukrainian state company Ukrspetsexport has signed one of its largest contracts in the last 15 years: a deal worth \$100m to sell 200 tanks to Ethiopia.

EN.RIAN.RU, 9/6/11

US exports

The US plans to export \$46.1bn in weapons this year, nearly doubling its 2010 sales figure.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 11/6/11

Ark Royal

The Royal Navy's former flagship Ark Royal (pictured above) was listed for sale on the Disposal Services Authority's website earlier this year. With just one click you could 'Add to Cart' this prestigious vessel.

DISPOSAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, 24/6/11

Drones

A Ministry of Defence report "The UK Approach to Unmanned Aircraft Systems" has accepted that ethical issues are raised by the use of unmanned aircraft, or drones. It warned of the dangers of an "incremental and involuntary journey towards a Terminator-like reality" and said that the UK must quickly establish a policy on what will constitute "acceptable machine behaviour".

Separately, US-based General Atomics, maker of Predator and Reaper drones, announced a new London office in March. The UK presence was described by a company spokesperson as "emblematic" of its commitment to drone contracts with the Ministry of Defence.

GUARDIAN, 17/4/11; JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 27/4/11

Arms data update

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has recently published its 2011 Yearbook.

The tables below, drawn from the Yearbook, show the top military spenders for 2010, arms export rankings for 2010, and arms company rankings for 2009. Further details are available at www.sipri.org.

Top military spenders (\$bn)

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. USA | 698 |
| 2. China | 119 |
| 3. UK | 60 |
| 4. France | 59 |
| 5. Russia | 59 |
| 6. Japan | 55 |
| 7. Saudi Arabia | 45 |
| 8. Germany | 45 |
| 9. India | 41 |
| 10. Italy | 37 |

Largest suppliers

| | |
|------------|-----|
| 1. USA | 30% |
| 2. Russia | 23% |
| 3. Germany | 11% |
| 4. France | 7% |
| 5. UK | 4% |

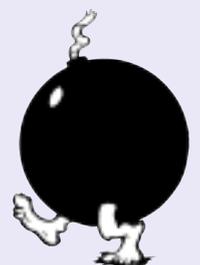
Share of global arms exports

Note: considers only major conventional weapons

Largest arms companies

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| 1. Lockheed Martin | 33.4 |
| 2. BAE Systems (UK) | 33.3 |
| 3. Boeing | 32.3 |
| 4. Northrop Grumman | 27.0 |
| 5. General Dynamics | 25.6 |
| 6. Raytheon | 23.1 |
| 7. EADS (trans-Europe) | 15.9 |
| 8. Finmeccanica (Italy) | 13.3 |
| 9. L-3 Communications | 13.0 |
| 10. United Technologies | 11.1 |

Note: companies are US-based, unless indicated otherwise



Disarming DSEi

The "Get Ready for the Arms Fair" planning event took place on 12 June. Blogger Kirsten Bayes took part.

I spent the day with some of the most amazing people I have ever met. They were gathered together to work out what to do about the world's largest arms fair, Defence & Security Equipment International, or DSEi, which is taking place in London on 13–16 September this year.

DSEi is a particularly poisonous event. It has a history of governmental invites to representatives from dreadful regimes; it draws on massive public subsidies, and it uses British servicemen and women to demonstrate tanks, guns, ships to international arms dealers. All this in support of multi-billion corporate profits.

Standing in opposition to this madness were the people I spent time with today. In my time away from it, the global justice movement has moved forward. It is much more calm, assured and professional these days, yet still has the idealism and kindness of earlier times, and this

could be seen in the organisation of the day's events. Break-out rooms, open space sessions, Powerpoint presentations: in some ways it was like any company seminar. But with D-locks, helmets, concrete blocks and "bust cards" (useful information in case of arrest) as training equipment.

But the people, the people! The philosopher Antonio Damasio calls conscience the highest achievement of human consciousness, and the people there embodied it. Giving up the comforts of a family Sunday, here were people ready to march, run, charge unarmed against the most powerful of vested interests. Willing to lock-on, die-in, opt-out, act-up; to meet the most negative power with the most positive, and inspire others to do the same. And they were just lovely with it.

Many plans were developed, networks established, much laughter shared. The revolution may not be televised, as Gil Scott Heron would have it, but I can say for sure that there will be cake – that and ordinary people, capable of extraordinary things, standing up to tyranny.

Just because it's legal doesn't make it moral

Manchester Against Militarism reports on one of their first actions since they formed earlier this year.

We did some successful leafleting outside a seminar organised by the Government's arms sales unit, the UKTI Defence & Security Organisation. We managed to hand a leaflet to almost every participant and had banners and placards at the entrance. Our leaflet challenged participants: "Just because it's legal doesn't make it moral."

The leaflet went on: "We believe that people of the future will look back at this country's history of manufacturing and exporting 'defence and security' products in much the same way we look back on the trade in human beings. Thankfully, anti-slave trade campaigners were not deterred from their protests by the fact that the slave trade was legal and sanctioned by the government of the day... There are better ways to make a living."

Treasury die-in

Ian Pocock of London CAAT writes:

On Tuesday 12 April London CAAT organised a protest to coincide with the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. Ten of us turned up outside the Treasury and engaged with passers-by and Treasury staff.

A die-in on the steps and across the entrance attracted a lot of attention and was an eye-catching way to make our point. Inventive chants such as "Welfare not Warfare", "A&E not BAE" and "Sure



Start not War Start" also helped, as did the loud-hailer!

UK military expenditure in 2010 was £38.95bn. This is equivalent to 1.5 million nurses or 1.34 million

teachers. I know which I would rather the money is spent on – as did loads of people who used Twitter to put pressure on the Treasury that day!

At the BAE gates



On a beautiful Maundy Thursday afternoon, Penarth Christian Network CAAT held a prayer vigil outside the main gate at the BAE Systems arms factory at Glascoed near Usk.

Prayers were said for an end to the arms trade and for those who continue to suffer as a result of exports of arms to unjust regimes. Flowers were placed around the perimeter fence in memory of all people killed or injured by weapons

sold through the arms trade, or living in fear because of them.

The vigil was most uplifting and well attended, with even a visitor from Portugal.

The group in Penarth will be taking part in the Christian Network Day of Prayer with hundreds of others across the UK on 11 September. See page 9.

PAUL WESTMACOTT



Edinburgh CAAT worked with St John's Church on Princes Street to get this fantastic mural painted in time for Edinburgh's hosting of armed forces weekend

Raising a stink at the Baby Show

The company Clarion Events, which owns the DSEi arms fair, also hosts the consumer-friendly Baby Show. At the end of May, activists in Birmingham made sure the connection didn't go unnoticed. "Stop the Baby Killers" reported:

Why?

Some of us set up an info stall and spent two days leafleting outside Mothercare in central Birmingham, as Mothercare is one of the principal sponsors of the Baby Show. Many people turned away from the shop in disgust and some went inside and asked the management why they were supporting arms dealers. Most people were interested in talking about the issues and Mothercare had a very quiet day's trading.

Security

On the weekend of the Baby Show we were outside, giving out info and talking to people as they arrived and left. Despite security staff trying to sideline us we were visible and vocal and everyone attending was made aware that the Baby Show is run by arms dealers.

.....
Indymedia also reported on the Baby Show as follows:

'Despite ridiculously high levels of security, anti-arms trade activists managed to enter the recent Baby Show in Birmingham. The backstage area of the main stage and the stands of principal sponsors were attacked with stink bombs. Disrupting the sanitised consumer fest that is the Baby Show is part of the ongoing mobilisation against the weapons trade in all its forms.'

DSEi: Be there on 13

Defence & Security Equipment International, known as DSEi, is one of the world's largest arms fairs – and one of the sickest manifestations of the global arms trade. It returns to London this September. Join us to stop it.

All the latest killing technology

Acres of weaponry, from fighter jets and battleships to drones and tear gas, will be on display to thousands of visitors in an immense arms dealing extravaganza. As a "trade exhibition" DSEi doesn't allow buyers to take their purchases away on the day and there's no cash-desk at the exit – but it's where "relationships" are forged and deals are done. As its promotional literature says, it's "a place to do business."

Boosting arms companies' profits

Despite the recession, those who profit from the arms trade are already rubbing their hands in anticipation of a bumper year. As conflict rages on in Libya, the editor of *Defence Analysis* said that the conflict there "...is turning into the best shop window for competing aircraft for years. More even than in Iraq in 2003." Arms trade researchers at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute noted that "...interstate and internal tensions provide drivers for demand."

Arming repressive regimes

In 2009, official UK government invites to DSEi included military delegations from Bahrain, Egypt, Libya and Saudi Arabia – all governments with a long record of repressing their populations long before the events of the Arab Spring.

In September, the Government will once again use taxpayers' money to oil the wheels of the international arms trade. Join us to stop it.



(Clockwise from top left): The UK government's area at DSEi 2009 was bizarrely modelled on a demolished house; Israel hosted a pavilion of its "battle-tested" weapons just months after its attacks on Gaza in 2008-09; "Apologies for the inconvenience"; Disarm DSEi protest at the arms dealer's dinner; Man browses the range of machine guns on offer.

September 2011



Tuesday 13 September is the first day of the arms fair and is the Day of Action called by the Stop the Arms Fair Coalition. There will be a range of actions taking place. Read on to find out how you can get involved, but check stopthearmsfair.org.uk for details of other groups' plans too!

Mass lobby of Parliament

2011 is the first time that Parliament is in session during DSEi. This presents a massive opportunity to challenge MPs on the reality of the government-supported arms trade. Join CAAT at 11.30am on Tuesday 13 September to lobby your MP.

Visual demonstration

We need you to help us highlight what is going on at the arms fair in a really visual and effective way. Join CAAT to take part in a visual demonstration near Parliament at 11.00am on 13 September.

Creative direct action

CAAT supporters can gather at 2.30pm on the day to head towards the arms fair to take creative, non-violent direct action. Let us know if you would consider taking part.

I want to take part!

Please let us know. Email outreach@caat.org.uk or call the office and we'll make sure you have details of the day (meeting points, tips on lobbying your MP etc) as soon as they're confirmed. Get others to come too! Help organise a group from where you live to come to London for the Day of Action. CAAT can put you in touch with other supporters in the area, provide you with leaflets and offer speakers for public meetings.

Can't make it?

Book to visit your MP in your constituency and help us collect thousands of signatures against the arms fair. [ANNE-MARIE O'REILLY AND SARAH WALDRON](#)



Christian? Get your community involved!

This year's CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer marks the beginning of the arms fair week, and a poignant date ten years from the attacks on the twin towers: **Sunday 11 September 2011**. CAAT Christian Network has produced a pack of materials to help your community pray for an end to the arms trade. Call the office or download a copy from www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/christian.

Arab Spring – UK shame



There is a direct link between UK arms sales to the Middle East and the brutal suppression of popular protest, says Kaye Stearman.

The figures are in and the record is shameful. The UK has sold weapons to deeply abusive governments. Until recently the UKTI Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) listed Libya as a “priority market”. In 2010 the UK approved licences for £217 million of military and dual-use goods. Now UK planes are again involved with Libya – bombing it from the air.

Bahrain

In 2010 the UK licenced £8.8 million worth of weaponry to the small island state of Bahrain, whose ruling elite has tortured and imprisoned its own people. Its giant neighbour Saudi Arabia is happy to assist by sending British-made Tactical armoured vehicles over the border.

Tunisia and Egypt

Tunisia, the country that initiated the Arab Spring, dramatically increased UK arms and dual-use exports in 2009–10 to £10.6 million. Egypt took £23.4 million worth in 2008. The UK government has since revoked 160 arms licences to Libya, Bahrain, Tunisia and Egypt – a belated and pathetic response.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia remains by far the UK’s largest customer. In 2010 the UK approved arms and dual-use export licences to the value of £425 million to add to the billions-worth of weapons already sold. The Saudi government is deeply worried that the Arab Spring fever will infect its own population, especially the Shia in the east. So far, Saudi weaponry has been used principally against its neighbours Yemen and Bahrain, but if discontent continues its arsenal may be turned on its own people.

Photo: Child at protest in Tahrir Square. Photo: Ryan McGovern

Sri Lanka

Channel Four’s documentary ‘Sri Lanka’s Killing Fields’ graphically exposed the atrocities inflicted on civilians by the military in 2009. It is very likely that UK arms were used by government forces during the final three-week siege. During the “ceasefire” from 2005 to 2008, the UK government approved arms

‘They said it’



“We’re never going to be loved in the UK because of the scale and size of the company and the business we’re in. We just want to be valued and trusted. If we get that, that’s a major step forward – I don’t sit here believing we’re going to get huge accolades publicly for what we do.”

IAN KING, BAE CEO, *TELEGRAPH*, 16 MAY 2011

“A person employed by BAE Systems has without Saab’s knowledge signed for us an unknown contract, signed for us up until now unknown transactions as well as signing the audited and apparently inaccurate financial statement for 2003.”

HÅKAN BUSKHE, SAAB PRESIDENT, 16 JUNE 2011

“Fighter jet sales are always, always, political matters”.

ERIC TRAPPIER, DASSAULT AVIATION, *THE NATIONAL*, 27 JUNE 2011

“I would have stayed four weeks had I known that.”

COUNT ALFONS MENSENDORFF-POUILLY, AUSTRIAN ARMS LOBBYIST, AWARDED £372,000 COMPENSATION FOR ONE WEEK’S FALSE IMPRISONMENT IN FEBRUARY 2010 (SEE PAGE 4).

export licences worth £18 million to Sri Lanka, including £8.5 million in 2006. The UK has continued to export weapons: £700,000 worth in 2009 and £1 million in 2010.

CAAT is calling for an immediate embargo on arms sales to Sri Lanka and an examination of the UK’s past record on arms exports, especially during the “ceasefire” period.

BAE (not) in Manchester

Students and staff at Manchester University organised a spontaneous protest against BAE Systems when it was revealed that the company was on campus to run an "industrial mathematics" workshop and fund more research projects. The entrance to the seminar room where the event was due to take place was blocked and leaflets were handed out to those attending.

Within half an hour (and after many attempted room changes) BAE staff were spotted leaving campus. A massive congratulations to all those involved for sending a clear message to BAE Systems and the university!

This protest raised an important academic debate. Mathematics lecturer George Wilmers emailed everyone in his department suggesting that "Many academics are paying scant attention to the consequences of their research, providing only that someone is prepared to pay them to carry it out," and challenging them to confront consciously the social implications of their activities.

The email resulted in much discussion. Many academics found that they were less comfortable with the role played by BAE and other arms companies and the way in which their research contributes to this.

Goodbye Abi

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Abi, who is leaving her post as Coordinator of CAAT's Universities Network. This has been a hugely successful academic year for the network – in no small part due to Abi's fantastic work. We'd like to thank her and wish her all the best for the future.

Abi says: "I can't believe how fast the year has gone or how many amazing successes CAAT and the Universities Network have had. It has been an immense privilege to be a part of this. I will never forget my time here or the many wonderful people I've met. In friendship, Abi."

York St John University exposed

CAAT helped expose York St John University as providing training for foreign military officers from countries with poor human rights records including China, Libya and Sudan. The *Guardian* carried the story on 2 June, and York media have continued to ask questions.

Former lecturer Dr Hisashi Nakamura was key to this story coming to light. He had long been concerned about the university's activities and had asked many

questions while in post, without success. After leaving, Nakamura exposed the activities that had been conducted at the university.

The university released a statement saying that the training (paid for by BAE Systems) was for "peace and conflict resolution". However, a Freedom of Information request by Nakamura revealed that the aim of the programme was to provide "English Language Training for key decision makers from the Central &

Eastern Europe (CEE) region... an area that would be making significant defence expenditure over the coming years."

Academics highlighting the lack of ethics on campuses seems to be a growing trend. The *Guardian* said that these "disclosures will intensify the debate around universities and their relationships with oppressive regimes." They certainly will.

ABI HAQUE

Petition hand-in

Students from the Universities Network handed in the petition to "Cut military spending not education" at 10 Downing Street on 31 May.

A big thank you to everyone who signed the petition. We'll provide you with updates when we get a response.



Action

- Download our Student Union motion to end arms company recruitment on campus.
- Check when arms companies plan to visit, order a campaigning pack and get planning for next year.
- Graduating? Why not sign up our main CAAT Ebulletin (see page 15).

Tanzania payments

The Commons' International Development Committee (IDC) is following up on the "plea bargain" from arms company BAE Systems that followed the Serious Fraud Office's investigation of them. Pleading guilty to "false accounting" with regards to a £30 million radar sale to Tanzania, BAE said it would make an ex-gratia payment of £29.5million "for the benefit of the people of Tanzania".

The "plea bargain" was agreed in February 2010 and the court heard the case in December 2010, but it was not until the BAE AGM on 4 May 2011 that we learned BAE was to set up an advisory board to consider how the payment might be made. This board comprises four BAE staff, plus two others, neither with a background in development work.

The payment

The IDC has now published written evidence given to it on the matter. Astoundingly, it seems that, back in February 2010, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) asked the Department for International Development (DfID) for its advice "on an appropriate mechanism for ensuring that the money was used for the benefit of the people of Tanzania while

ensuring propriety and transparency".

During the ensuing months, DfID worked with the Tanzanian Government to present the SFO, in November 2010, with a detailed proposal that the money would be spent to boost the resources available to schools to buy essential teaching materials and to improve classroom facilities and teachers' accommodation. The proposal also set out how the payment would be monitored and would be subject to independent evaluation and audited to international standards.

Questions over BAE involvement

This was news to CAAT. It is unclear why the SFO did not urge the court to accept the DfID/Tanzania proposal or why it is letting the guilty party, BAE, decide how the money should be spent. A delegation of Tanzanian MPs, visiting London, have expressed their fury about this.

Together with The Corner House (with whom we have worked on issues arising from the BAE corruption inquiry), CAAT has written to the International Development Committee asking it to raise these issues with the SFO, DfID and BAE. This is likely to have happened by the time you read this. ANN FELTHAM

Party conferences

- "Who benefits from the arms trade?" meeting with Lib Dems for Peace and Security on Monday 19 September from 8pm to 9.15pm in Room 103, Jurys Inn, Birmingham.
- "It's NOT OK" meeting on the arms trade at the Labour Party Conference with the Christian Socialist Movement on Monday 26 September from 1pm to 2pm at Liverpool Friends Meeting House. ANN FELTHAM



Will Self at the National Gathering

Saturday 29 October, 10am-4.30pm, Conway Hall, London: £7 waged / £3 unwaged

CAAT is delighted to host author and satirical political commentator Will Self at this year's National Gathering. A long-standing opponent of the arms trade, under New Labour his documentary 'Addicted to Arms' set out to discover why the arms industry was doing so well. Come along and hear his take on the coalition Government.

Rarely have the UK's weapons sales seen as much scrutiny as in the last year: only 7 per cent of people think it was right to have armed Gaddafi; and people were outraged that Cameron continued his tour of the Middle East with arms dealers in tow when UK weapons were being turned on pro-democracy protesters.

The day will be a great chance to continue this scrutiny, meet other campaigners and take part in diverse workshops. These will include talks from Libyan activists, a crash course in creative action, an introduction to drones and the "Playstation mentality", the workshop 'Film is My Weapon of Choice' and lots more!

.....
Registration is from 9.30am. Cost includes tea, coffee and a delicious veggie lunch. Book now! Return the enclosed flyer or visit www.caat.org.uk/nationalgathering. Have a laugh as well: book for the benefit comedy gig for CAAT later in the evening with Josie Long and Robin Ince.

National Gathering 2011 sponsored by:



New light thrown on BAE at AGM

Kaye Stearman reports on BAE Systems' 2011 Annual General Meeting.

Like a vampire, BAE reacts badly to sunlight. So when the bright light of the Arab Spring illuminated the company's nefarious activities, it took on a distinctly queasy pallor. The occasion was the BAE Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 4 May, when CAAT shareholders took their yearly opportunity to question the company's board directly.

"Opportunities"

BAE has grown rich from its profitable arms sales to the absolute monarchs and dynastic dictators who comprise its customer base in the Arab World. Repression is good for business. BAE wrote in its annual report: "Regional tensions combined with enduring high oil prices result in robust budgets and increasing opportunities." Under questioning, Chairman Dick Olver would not accept that this statement was "inappropriate". Nor did BAE think it wrong that Chief Executive Ian King accompanied Prime Minister Cameron on his Middle East trade tour in February, even as democracy protesters were being brutalised.

Libyan and Saudi sales

Did Olver think it was a good idea for BAE to participate in a \$200 million contract to sell anti-tank guided missiles manufactured by MBDA Missiles (in which BAE is a major shareholder) to Libya in 2007? Olver replied that this was legal at the time, so there were no concerns. What about the use of BAE Tactical armoured vehicles by the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG) in Bahrain in March 2011? Olver looked genuinely bemused. Yet the deal whereby SANG ordered 261 of the Tactics in 2006 was prominently featured in BAE's Annual Report.

In the best vampire tradition, BAE's board displayed a total lack of



BAE Sinister. See this and other spoof BAE ads on the CAAT website

interest, concern or apology for the victims of their destructive activities.

Shed more light

In the weeks after the AGM there have been several developments which throw new light on BAE's vampire nature.

17 May – Following the \$400 million fine from the Department of Justice in 2010, the US State Department announced that it was fining BAE \$79 million as settlement of a long-running corruption investigation. The size of the fine was determined by the frequency and type of violations, the fact that they were "systematic, widespread and sustained for more than ten years" and the fact that they were "authorised by its former most senior management".

However, BAE must be relieved. The fine is payable over three years and will be reduced by \$10 million. Even better, the US government will lift its temporary ban on BAE export licence applications.

18 May – After an investigative expose on Sweden's TV4, Saab

announced that it would investigate allegations of a secret fund to pay agents to facilitate the sale of Gripen fighter jets to South Africa. BAE was a major shareholder in Saab (it has since sold its remaining stake). The payments of 50 million kroner (around \$8 million) identified by Saab were channelled through a subsidiary company called Sanip and were directed to Fana Hlongwane, adviser to former Defence Minister Joe Modise. Saab denied any wrongdoing, stating that it knew nothing of the payments and BAE was responsible.

The claims have received widespread media coverage in Sweden and South Africa with calls in both countries for further investigations. Shamefully, there has been little media coverage in the UK. Definitely more light needed.

17 June – Six months after they were fined £29 million for "accounting errors", BAE announced its Advisory Board to transfer funds to Tanzania (See story on page 12).

Support CAAT with no cost now!

When it comes to your Will, it's only right that your family comes first in your thoughts. But that doesn't mean you can't also leave a gift to a cause close to your heart.

Legacy

Including a gift to CAAT in your Will is a way of ensuring that the campaign remains strong, with no cost to you now. Because CAAT is a small organisation, leaving a legacy to the campaign will make a really

big difference. Every gift in every Will makes a difference, however large or small.

If you have already made your Will, then it is a simple process to update it.

Please let us know if you have already included CAAT in your Will.

For further information please contact Henry at henry@caat.org.uk, call 0207 281 0297 or write to CAAT, 11 Goodwin Street, London, N4 3HQ. Thank you.



War comic raises funds



War: The Human Cost is a 260-page comic book and music CD showing the realities of conflict and the unethical practices of those who profit from it. From first-hand accounts through to biting satire, this globe-spanning anthology features 67 artists from 19 countries, including contributions from Steve Bell and Spain Rodriguez.

The creator, Sean Duffield, will kindly donate part of the proceeds from this anthology to CAAT.

You can purchase the comic for £12 from the CAAT shop at www.caat.org.uk or by using the donation page on the back of CAATnews.

HENRY MCLAUGHLIN

Pedal power

What a fantastic route, what amazing things we saw and what gruelling hills we climbed! Nine friends set off on 26 May to pedal part of the Camino Del Cid and 587 miles across Spain to raise funds for CAAT.

Burgos is the starting point of the Camino, and so we dutifully posed with a huge statue of El Cid before pedalling off for our first day. This brought us to St Domingo De Silos, just in time to hear the monks singing perfect Gregorian chant in the cathedral. It was a surreal contrast after spending a sweaty day on the bikes.

There's lots more to tell so if anyone would like to know more about the trip, please contact me on katebyrne@hotmail.com, or see my account on the CAAT blog at blog.caat.org.uk.

Many, many thanks to all who sponsored me, it was incredibly generous of you. KATE BYRNE

CAAT supporters have raised funds by taking part in sponsored walks, runs and cycles in recent years. If you could help raise funds for CAAT by taking part in a sponsored event please email henry@caat.org.uk.

Participate in CAAT – here's how

Subscribe to an email list

Sign up to receive the monthly CAAT bulletin with the latest news and events, and receive press releases. Contact enquiries@caat.org.uk or visit www.caat.org.uk/lists.

Make a donation

Our supporters' donations enable us to strive for a world without arms trading. Without your help, there would be no campaign. Support CAAT by sending us a cheque, setting up a regular payment, or by taking part in a fundraising event.

Campaign locally

CAAT's campaigns are effective because people like you take action around the country. The "to do" list on this page gives a few ideas, but if you'd like to do that bit more for CAAT in your area why not consider one of these roles?

- **Join or start a local CAAT group** – why not start with a street stall or public meeting?
- **Become a Supporter Media Activist** – with the help of monthly briefings from CAAT.
- **Join the CAAT Speakers Network** – help spread the word!
- **Become a Local Contact** – co-ordinate local campaign activities or keep a local campaign group updated on CAAT's work.
- **Become a Key Campaigner** – receive campaigner updates from CAAT and help spread the word about CAAT in your area.

More information on how to campaign locally can be found at www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/local.

Order a copy of the Local Campaigns Guide or find out more about these campaigner roles by contacting outreach@caat.org.uk.

Universities Network

Join our vibrant network of students and staff taking action for clean investment, stopping the arms trade's graduate recruitment and exposing the arms trade's research involvement in universities.

- Visit our Universities Network wiki – universities.caat.org.uk

- Join the Universities Network and get the monthly ebulletin: www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/universities/getinvolved.php
- Contact universities@caat.org.uk for any questions or if you want to share a planned action.

CAAT Christian Network

Share CAAT issues with your Christian community. Take part in the Day of Prayer on 11 September. Order a pack or download it from www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/christian/

Bring your enthusiasm

CAAT is always looking for people to participate in sponsored events to raise much-needed funds for CAAT. So if you would like to run, walk, cycle or do any other sponsored activity which can bring in money, please email henry@caat.org.uk



Campaigners' "to do" list

- Book 13 September off work to take part in the Day of Action against the arms fair (see pages 8–9).
- Let us know you are coming to the Day of Action! Call the office or email outreach@caat.org.uk to get more info on where to meet on the day, how to lobby your MP, and find out whether you'd like to take part in direct action in the afternoon.
- Get mobilising! Order materials to distribute in your area, help collect signatures for our petition, and encourage others to join you for the Day of Action.
- Book for the National Gathering on 29 October and make sure you get to attend the workshops of your choice!
- And why not also book for the benefit comedy gig for CAAT later on in the evening of 29 October with Josie Long and Robin Ince.
- Students: see ideas for action on page 11.
- If you are Christian, take part in the Day of Prayer on 11 September (See page 9).

Donate today!

You can donate to CAAT by either visiting our website at www.caat.org.uk, or by completing the form below (in block capitals) and returning to: CAAT, Freepost, LON4296, London, N4 3BR.



Name

Address

Postcode

- I enclose a cheque for £___ made payable to CAAT.
 I wish to donate £___ by credit/debit card and have completed my card details.
 Please send me the CAATnews quarterly magazine.
 Please send me CAAT's monthly email bulletin.
 I wish to set up a Direct Debit (complete form below)
 I'd like information on setting up a legacy to CAAT.
 I enclose £12 for *War: The Human Cost* comic.

Telephone number

Email address

Card details

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

Solo Switch/UK Maestro Visa Visa Delta

Credit/debit card number:

Cardholder's name

Start date Expiry date

Security number (3 digit number on back of card)



A direct debit is the most convenient and cost effective way to support CAAT. £10 a month will make a real difference.

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Instruction to your Bank or 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.

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Name(s) of account holder(s)

Bank/building society a/c no.

Sort code

I wish to donate £_____ every month/quarter/annually (please delete).

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

