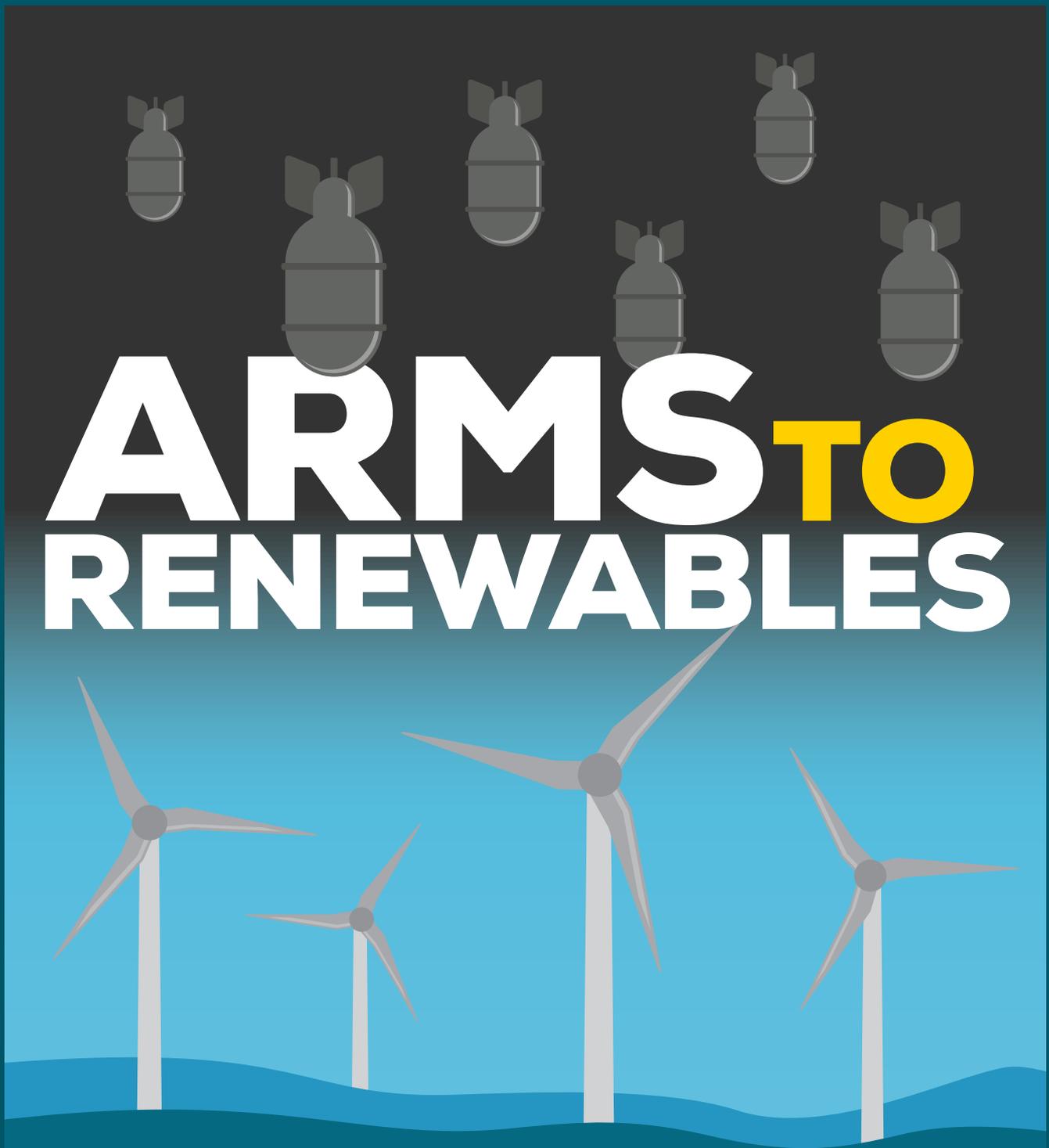


CAAT NEWS



JANUARY - MARCH 2015 • ISSUE 235

A graphic illustration on a dark background. At the top, several grey bombs of various sizes are arranged. Below them, the text "ARMS TO RENEWABLES" is written in large, bold, white letters, with the word "TO" in yellow. At the bottom, several grey wind turbines are shown against a light blue sky and a dark blue ground line.

ARMS TO RENEWABLES

www.a2r.org.uk

PLUS

Action in 2015
P8-9

Lobby your election
candidates **P11**

National
Gathering **P13**

CAAT NEWS

JANUARY –
MARCH 2015

It's looking like 2015 will be another busy year for campaigning against the arms trade, with lots of opportunities for action throughout the coming months.

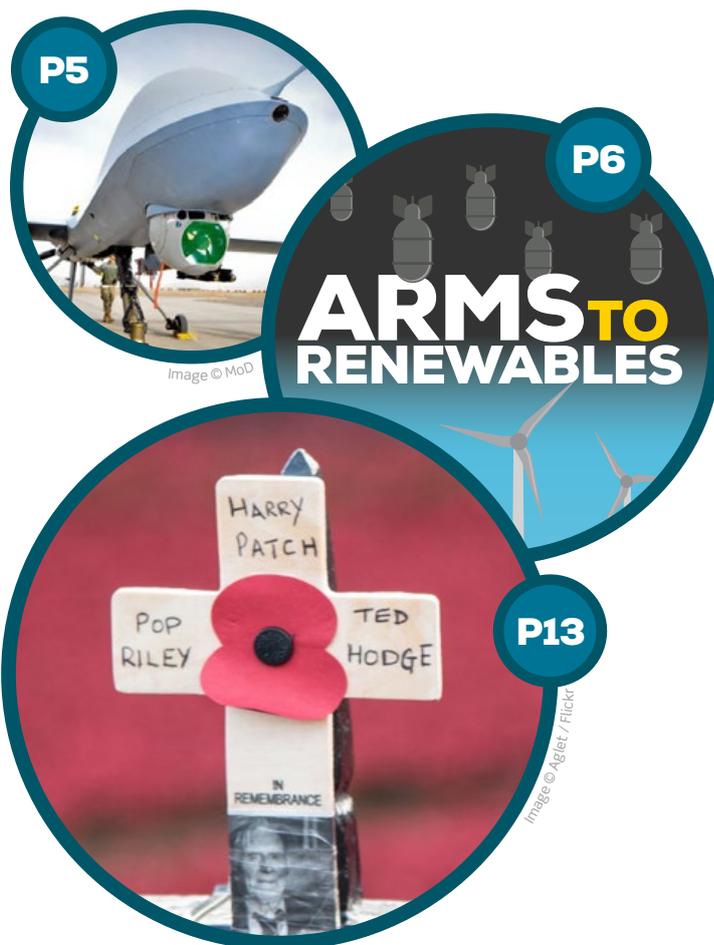
Page 3 highlights why it's so important to keep up the campaign: the international community's attempt at regulation is hugely inadequate and doesn't represent the step

change in governmental priorities that's needed to end this trade. With a General Election taking place in May it's an excellent year for putting this directly to prospective policy makers. See page 11 for CAAT's suggestions on points to raise.

2015 is also a DSEI year – this arms fair is due to take place in London in September, and CAAT will be there too to stop it!

CONTENTS

- 3 Creating real change
- 4-5 Arms trade shorts
- 6 Arms to renewables
- 7 Update on 2014
- 8-9 Action in 2015
- 10 Interview
- 11 General election
- 12 Stop arming Israel
- 13 Public institutions; National Gathering
- 14 Fundraising; They said it
- 15 Disinvestment; Taking action
- 16 Donate



EDITOR Melanie Jarman

DESIGN Chris Woodward

PROOFREADER John Moseley

LEGAL CONSULTANT Glen Reynolds

PRINTED BY Russell Press on 100% recycled paper using only post-consumer waste.

THANK YOU also to our dedicated team of CAAT NEWS staffers.

The content and views expressed in articles, advertisements and promotional material included within CAAT NEWS by other organisations are not necessarily endorsed or supported by CAAT. Any related enquiries or concerns should be addressed to the relevant organisation.

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.

Campaign Against Arms Trade, Unit 4, 5-7 Wells Terrace, London, N4 3JU

Tel: 020 7281 0297

Email: enquiries@caat.org.uk

Web: www.caat.org.uk

To receive this issue of CAAT NEWS in large print please call 020 7281 0297

ENDING BUSINESS AS USUAL

More rules won't change the global arms trade; we need to challenge the systems which support and perpetuate it.

A new era?

The UK government has called the passing into force of the international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) at the end of 2014 “an important moment in history.” But the problem we face is not that rules were lacking: it's that the focus of states is on promoting arms sales rather than restricting them.

Legitimising the status quo

For the UK government, the ATT helps to legitimise the status quo. The treaty seeks to regulate – rather than restrict – arms sales. The Government has said that it won't introduce new obligations for the UK and argued that the treaty “helps create a level playing field for the legitimate defence industry” and will actually be “good for business.”

More rules won't stop arms sales

Meanwhile the Government also reassured customers in the Middle East that the treaty would not stop them acquiring arms from the UK as it “will not add anything” to the UK's existing rules.

These rules are supposed to prevent the export of arms that would be used for internal repression or human rights abuses but they've done nothing to halt sales to Saudi Arabia, one of the world's most repressive regimes. The Government refused to revoke arms export licences to Israel during devastating assaults on Gaza last year despite admitting some were for equipment that could be used in the attacks.

Challenging the root causes

Ultimately, it is not more rules that will change this situation; it



Clear evidence that UK-made tear gas was turned on democracy protesters in Hong Kong in 2014 did nothing to stop sales. Image © Pasu Au Yeung

We must not be fobbed off with excuses about the “rigorous” rules the UK has adopted and must tell decision makers that it is deeds, not words, that count

is pressure and challenge to the system that puts arms sales ahead of human rights and a fairer, more peaceful world.

We must not be fobbed off with excuses about the “rigorous” rules the UK has adopted and must tell decision makers that it is deeds, not words, that count (see page 11 for key points for lobbying MPs and parliamentary candidates).

We also need to change the priorities of government – currently focused on supporting arms companies as they go about their deadly business. We must highlight, expose and challenge the Government's actions as cheerleader and sales team for the arms industry. DSEI, a massive arms fair supported by the Government, is a prime example – see pages 8–9 for how to help stop it.

We need a radically different approach to security. CAAT's Arms to Renewables campaign offers a positive alternative as shifting resources to renewable energy would mean more and better jobs for skilled engineers and a safer world (see page 6).

An industry that profits from death and insecurity needs public support to continue. It sees the ATT as an opportunity to present the arms trade as a legitimate business. This is the same reason it sponsors cultural institutions and even tries to establish itself as part of the education system – and why our actions to ensure it can't present itself as a respectable part of society are vital (see pages 8–9 for more ways to help continue successes so far in driving the arms trade out of public spaces).

Making change is never easy, but it is essential. We have another busy year ahead but there is a role for all of us if we are to shift priorities from militarism and war to creating a better and safer world.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

BAHRAIN BASE

The UK is to establish its first permanent military base in the Middle East since formally withdrawing in 1971. The Bahrain base will host ships

including destroyers and aircraft carriers and its presence increases the prospect of UK arms sales to Bahrain. **BBC, 6/12/14; Defense News, 13/12/14**



Image © MoD

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

German arms company Rheinmetall has accepted a fine of €37m rather than face a court case after a subsidiary bribed Greek officials to buy an air defence system.

Irish Times, 11/12/14

The Airbus Defence and Space unit is being investigated for allegations of bribery involving contracts with Saudi Arabia and Romania.

Defense News, 3/12/14

An Italian court gave a former Finmeccanica chair and chief executive jail sentences for falsifying invoices in a case linked to the sale of AgustaWestland helicopters to India, although they were cleared of more serious corruption charges. India is continuing a separate investigation into the scrapped helicopter contract.

Reuters, 9/10/14

NIGERIA

Norway has sold a fleet of decommissioned battleships to a former leader of the militant Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta. Known as Tompolo, the former insurgent has more recently won lucrative Nigerian government contracts. The deal went through UK-based CAS Global, which a Norwegian paper alleged was used to evade Norwegian export licence requirements.

Premium Times, 13/12/14

LEBANON

In December the French president ordered the acceleration of a delivery of arms to the Lebanese Army. This was paid for by a \$3bn Saudi grant.

The Daily Star, 13/12/14

UAE

The UK backed a fair hosted by Dubai police in October, despite the use of torture by UAE police, including on UK citizens. UKTI and the UK Embassy hosted a reception for fair participants on the eve of the event.

Reprive, 2/11/14

INDONESIA

The Eurofighter presence at the 2014 Indo Defence Show opened up the possibility of Typhoons being assembled in Indonesia, which aspires to modernise its Air Force, although the ability to realise this aspiration has been questioned.

Defense News, 3/11/14

ATT

A United Nations Arms Trade Treaty came into force in December although major weapons producers Russia, China, India and Pakistan haven't signed. CAAT is concerned that the treaty may legitimise arms sales and instead highlights the need to reveal and oppose Government military export promotion.

Reuters, 24/12/14; caat.org.uk/issues/att

ISRAEL

The Israeli government is selling Israel Military Industries as part of a privatisation drive. Possible buyers include foreign companies and also Israel's Elbit Industries.

Haaretz, 13/12/14

JOBS

In its 2010 bid for an armoured vehicle contract, General Dynamics pledged to "safeguard or create" 10,600 UK jobs. By the time the contract was finally awarded last September, this number had reduced to 1,300 – 12 per cent of the original pitch.

Sunday Times, 4/1/2015

EMBARGOES END

Ten Boeing Apache attack helicopters have been delivered to Egypt following the lifting of a US-imposed embargo on military aid.

Airforces Monthly, January 2015

The US has lifted a 40-year ban on arms sales to Vietnam, allowing sales of maritime equipment (only to meet what the US referred to as a “specific need” – lack of capacity in the South China Sea.

Agence France-Presse, 3/10/14

DRONES

Italian drones are to patrol football games and demonstrations following a deal struck between the Italian Air Force and the country’s police forces.

Defense News, 17/12/14



Image © MoD

FRANCE-RUSSIA

France has indefinitely put on hold the delivery of a Mistral-class helicopter carrier to Russia. The Russian training boat and staff that were training with the ship have left, and Russia is poised to start legal proceedings against France.

Meanwhile 20 Russian firms took part in the biennial Euronaval expo in France in October, undeterred by the EU arms embargo against Russia.

BBC, 25/11/14; IHS Jane’s 360, 18/12/14;

The Moscow Times, 27/10/14

F-16 UPGRADES

BAE Systems lost a contract to upgrade South Korea’s F-16 jets after concerns the deal could cost more than expected due to it being treated as a “Foreign Military Sale” in the US. It paves the way for South Korea to pursue a similar upgrade deal with original manufacturer Lockheed Martin, and raises concerns over the ability of non-original equipment makers like BAE to compete in the market to upgrade F-16s.

Reuters, 5/11/14; Telegraph, 6/11/14

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SAYS

“By acting now, we will not only maximise our chances of avoiding catastrophic climate change, we will increase our resilience and create huge new opportunities for growth and innovation in our economies.”

Philip Hammond, Foreign Secretary, 9/10/2014

WHERE THE GOVERNMENT’S R&D MONEY GOES



That is, 25 times more on arms*

WHERE THE TRADE & INVESTMENT EFFORT GOES

“UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) works in line with the Government’s Industrial Strategy ... The table below shows the number of civil service staff working in our core sector teams in our HQ, and the budget allocated to each team”

	Staff numbers	2014/15 budget (£ million)
Advanced Manufacturing	6	1.3
UKTI Agri-Tech Organisation	3	1.3
UKTI Automotive Investment Organisation	2	2.0
Construction	10.5	1.5
Consumer & Retail	9	2.3
Creative Industries & Global Sports	12	2.7
UKTI Education	10	1.1
Energy	20	2.6
UKTI Financial Services Organisation	6	2.0
Healthcare UK	8	1.6
Information Economy	11	3.0
Innovation Gateway	2	1.7
UKTI Life Science Organisation	6	2.6
UKTI Offshore Wind Investment Organisation	1	1.1
UKTI Defence and Security Organisation	128	10.5

Hansard, 11.11.2014

*Figures for 2013 from the UK Government and the International Energy Agency. See caat.org.uk/issues/jobs-economy.

A NEW VISION OF SECURITY

The official justification for the Government's unquestioning support for the arms trade is that it is vital to safeguard "national security". CAAT's new Arms to Renewables campaign argues that we must shift priorities to tackle the root causes of insecurity.

What is security?

For individuals in the UK and all over the world, security means having basic needs met and feeling safe in our homes and communities.

In contrast, the Government views security almost exclusively through a military lens. The National Security Strategy (see page 11) is based on military force and the projection of power.

Security means having basic needs met and feeling safe in our homes and communities

Current policy

Spending vast amounts of money on military procurement and pushing arms sales doesn't enhance security, it fuels conflict, supports repression and makes the world a more dangerous place.

For example, military action in Iraq and Afghanistan has resulted in greater instability and an upsurge in violent extremism.

Political situations change, often rapidly, and the Government cannot control how weapons it sells now may be used in future. The UK was still pushing arms sales to Libya in the days before its military intervention, later bombing some of the weapons that it had provided.

Arms sales to authoritarian regimes such as Saudi Arabia support human rights abuses, both directly through the use of UK-supplied weaponry, and indirectly, as a signal of political support for repressive state action.

Impact at home

High military spending and subsidies for the arms trade don't just tear apart lives in distant places; they come at the expense of meeting needs at home. In the face of public service cuts and record numbers of people relying on food banks, UK ministers used last year's NATO meeting to call for higher military spending, warning against prioritising social welfare spending.

Real security

Real security requires tackling the root causes of insecurity. The short-term approach of military threats marginalises the "drivers of insecurity" such as climate change and inequality.

CAAT's research shows that the UK renewables industry has huge potential. If we shift priorities we could export technologies that help address the causes of insecurity, instead of creating future conflict.

But this requires the skills of arms trade workers, and the level of government support currently devoted to the arms trade.

Take action

See page 11 for info on lobbying your election candidates and new MPs to create pressure for a wider vision of security, which reflects human needs and tackles the root causes of insecurity.

Also visit a2r.org.uk and see pages 8–9 for action ideas.



FIVE GREAT THINGS CAAT ACHIEVED IN 2014

Together we are taking on the arms trade and having an impact. Here is a whistle-stop tour of some of the best things we achieved in 2014, with many thanks to everyone who made it possible!

1 Natural History Museum turns down arms dealers' dinner

The organisers of the Farnborough International arms fair wanted to hold their opening reception at the Natural History Museum. We campaigned when the Museum hosted arms dealers two years ago and it worked: this time it refused the booking.

The reception moved to the Science Museum, but we turned up to greet them with activists from Bahrain, Syria and Palestine. The protest meant it had to close its doors to the arms dealers.



2 Comic Relief will never again invest in arms companies

In 2013 a BBC investigation found that Comic Relief held large investments in BAE Systems. At first they defended the investment, but following public pressure they agreed to review the policy.

CAAT sent the review panel the comments of over 1200 supporters. In May, Comic Relief announced that its new policy would prohibit investment in arms companies.



3 We helped Stop the Shipment

We worked with Bahraini and South Korean activists and succeeded in stopping a shipment of 1.6 million gas cannisters to Bahrain! The South Korean government announced that due to political instability and pressure from campaigners they would end tear gas exports to the regime.

4 Exposing and challenging the UK's military ties with Israel and tear gas in Hong Kong

When attacks on Gaza killed over 2000 people, we exposed the UK's military ties with Israel. We helped to fuel debate and secured front page coverage of UK arms sales to Israel.

In the autumn we worked with journalists to uncover the UK tear gas being used against pro democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

5 Arms fair owners struggle to find a buyer

Since 2008, Clarion Events has run the DSEI arms fair. Clarion's owners have been trying to sell the company, but are finding it hard to get a buyer "because of its involvement in the arms business". Stop the Arms Fair and CAAT activists occupied their offices to further deter potential buyers with the promise "Buy Clarion, get us free".



CHALLENGE THE ARMS TRADE IN 2015

ARMS COMPANIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Arms companies like to present themselves as being at the forefront of science and engineering. The arms industry is increasingly working with schools and young people to promote careers in the arms trade.

A growing area is sponsorship of University Technical Colleges (UTCs), a new form of academy school. UTCs allow local arms companies to directly influence the curriculum and running of schools. Four schools with arms company involvement are set to open in 2015 and it's vital to challenge them before they become established.

Campaigners are also taking action against weapons manufacturers sponsoring science events like the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham and the Edinburgh Science Festival.

Universities are another prime target: by funding research projects arms companies ensure that good links are maintained and lots of students are willing to work for them. However, attempts to buy legitimacy are set to be met by fierce resistance from a growing number of students and staff who are calling for their institutions to cut ties with the arms trade.

COMING UP THIS YEAR

7 March

No War, No Warming bloc at the Time to Act Climate March

Meet at Lincoln's Inn Fields, London at noon and look out for CAAT's banner!

21 March

CAAT's National Gathering at Conway Hall, London

Come along for an exciting and informative day. See page 13.

13 April

Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Vital public services are being cut, yet UK military spending is among the highest in the world – take action.

4-19 April

No arms sponsorship of Edinburgh Science Festival

Contact caatedinburgh@live.com to get involved in their campaign during the Science Festival.

6 May

Put arms company BAE under pressure at its AGM

It may be just before the election, but that's not going to let them off the hook! Email action@caat.org.uk if you'd like to attend.

ARMS TO RENEWABLES

The huge resources that support the arms trade could instead support renewable energy. This would mean better jobs for workers and for all of us: jobs in an industry that is growing, not declining; that creates a safer, not a more dangerous, world.

- Take a look at our animated website and share it to spread the message far and wide: arms-to-renewables.org.uk.
- Organise a "People's Budget" stall in the week of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (11–18 April) to uncover people's real priorities.
- Lobby MPs and candidates as the General Election approaches (see page 11).
- Let CAAT know if you're a trade union member and can help grow support for Arms to Renewables in the trade union movement.
- Book an Arms to Renewables talk or get in touch for support to organise a "People's Inquiry" event, bringing local groups together to talk about real priorities for a secure future.



For more info on anything on this page contact Kat or Anne-Marie on action@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297

ADE

STOP THE ARMS FAIR!

London's DSEI arms fair plays host to dictators and warmongers browsing the latest killing technology from 1500 arms companies. The business done at the arms fair fuels repression and conflict the world over. The arms fair is booked for 15 – 18 September but we plan to do all we can to stop it. You can help:

- Find out if a company in your town will be there and challenge their business: caat.org.uk/resources/mapping.
- Invite Stop the Arms Fair to run a workshop in your town to plan local action.
- Organise a coach to come to London for the mass action (date tbc).
- Form an affinity group to take direct action to stop the arms fair during its set up on 5 – 14 September.
- Keep an eye on stopthearmsfair.org.uk for training events and actions.

DISARM OUR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Arms companies are hiring rooms at museums, galleries and historical buildings – even cathedrals.

It's good for business to invite clients to prestigious locations. And by buying into our public institutions, arms companies also buy the impression of public respectability.

People around the country are taking action to “disarm” our public institutions. 2014 saw action at the London Transport Museum, research into Bristol Museums, and activists asking venues across the UK not to host arms company events.

Have a look online at our info table to see if your local cultural institution is connected to the arms industry. We'll have a new action guide ready in the spring, so get in touch if you'd like to order a copy.

ARMING ALL SIDES: REMEMBERING THE ROLE OF THE ARMS TRADE IN FUELLING WW1

This year marks the centenary of the disastrous Gallipoli Campaign in World War 1. After eight months of engagement, in which about half a million people were injured or killed, British and French troops were forced to withdraw from Ottoman territory. The UK government plans a commemoration of the campaign on 24–25 April. We think it's also important to remember that, thanks to the arms trade, British soldiers were killed by British weapons at that time.

CAAT's Arming All Sides project has unearthed important case studies to highlight the arms trade's role in the horror of WW1. Explore the website armingallsides.org.uk and get in touch to book a speaker.

7 May

General Election

See page 11 for CAAT's election priorities and please press candidates and MPs on these issues in the run up to May. Contact outreach@caat.org.uk for support.

May–July

Visit your new MP

Educate your new MP and make sure that ending weapons promotion is top of their priorities list. Look out for resources nearer the time.

13 Sept

CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer

As the week of the London arms fair begins, join with Christian communities across the UK in prayer and action.

5–18 Sept

DSEI, London's huge arms fair

Come to London to challenge the setting up of the arms fair and join in our day of mass action (date tbc).

Autumn

People's Inquiries

Let CAAT know if you'd like to host an event to bring local groups together to talk about real priorities for a secure future. More details to follow.

A worker for a company that produces arms in the South West of England speaks to Matthew Burnett-Stuart from CAAT about his experience. The interviewee wished to remain anonymous as he is currently in employment at the arms company.

WORKING FOR THE ARMS TRADE

How did you come to work for an arms company?

Mostly thanks to their efficiency – I was applying to any firm I could think of that did engineering, and the first two replies and interviews were both with arms companies. My current employer offered me a job before most others had even asked me to interview. I was just happy to get a job.

Do you have ethical concerns about your job?

I regularly question what I'm doing here. If I had found an alternative I'd have left by now. I knew other people in my intake who, like me, had just got into the first apprenticeship that would take them. However, there were also definitely some who had specifically chosen the role because it is an arms firm and they perceived the technology to be more interesting, or just to "support our lads".

If I had found an alternative I'd have left by now. I knew other people in my intake who, like me, had just got into the first apprenticeship that would take them.

Our research estimates that moving towards renewable energy could produce nearly twice as many jobs as the arms trade. Do you think arms companies workers would welcome this?

I'm not sure about skilled manual workers, but I imagine that engineers would probably be quite flexible. There would need to be a lot of education about what work with renewables is like for them to welcome the move.

Most people are in a similar situation to me – tied down to a house, likely to have a family, enjoying the day-to-day work they do (ignoring the end product), and cautious about what work outside the company they could get. It's a concern I have myself – can I find a similar job elsewhere? Never mind

a similar job that pays something in the region of what I'm on now (I would take a pay cut for the right role, but can only afford to lose so much). I'm just struggling to find a similar role at the moment. Education, particularly if it comes via trade union involvement, would help a lot.

Every year the arms trade spends a great deal on trying to recruit graduates. Do you think this can be challenged?

The first step is to try and get the names of firms that work in renewables into public consciousness. Even now, the only firm I can think of that I'm certain manufactures renewable technology is Siemens, and it's not their only interest. Showing that the technology is cutting edge and pushing boundaries would help too. Also, while it's not necessarily the top employee criteria in the current jobs climate, work satisfaction is definitely important.



A BAE apprentice at the Farnborough Arms Fair

Visit arms-to-renewables.org.uk for more on CAAT's Arms to Renewables campaign.

GENERAL ELECTION

As candidates and the political parties prepare for the General Election on 7 May, it is a great time to talk to them about arms trade issues. This is particularly true of the next couple of months, before election fever really takes hold and domestic and economic issues monopolise the agenda. CAAT has three points all candidates should hear.

Promoting arms exports is incompatible with human rights

We need all MPs to realise that promoting arms sales is incompatible with human rights. When the UK sells arms to the repressive and authoritarian leaders of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, it sends a message of UK support to these human rights violators. The UK government does not simply allow the sale of arms, it actively promotes them through prime ministerial visits and arms fairs, as well as the day-to-day work of its arms sales agency.

Candidates may mention the Arms Trade Treaty, which came into force in December. However, until the Government stops promoting arms exports, sales will always take precedence over, and mute calls for, human rights. Arms controls will largely be a paper exercise for a sale with government backing.

Security is not the same as military might

Security needs to be disassociated from the military approach, misleadingly known as “defence”. After the election the new Government will be producing its National Security Strategy (NSS). In 2010 the NSS identified fifteen major threats to UK security. Only two of these involve a military attack by another state on the UK and just three more had any military component at all. The others were non-military such as cyber attack and terrorism, as well as energy security and natural disasters, including flooding. However, the allocation



A political hustings event in full swing

Image © Gavin Reynolds / Flickr

of resources does not match the threats. The armed forces and arms companies have successfully argued for military spending of 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, without explaining how this enhances security.

In 2010, the NSS identified 15 major threats to UK security. Only two of these involved a military attack by another state, and just three more had any military component at all.

UK government action can also exacerbate threats. Its support for the regime in Saudi Arabia through arms exports; its tolerance of “targeted assassination” through drone attacks; and its invasion or aerial bombing campaigns have embittered many, prompting some to take up arms.

The 2015 NSS should explore the underlying causes of insecurity such as climate change and competition over resources. Vested interests need to be set to one side and resources reallocated to address real problems.

Switch investment from the arms trade to the renewables industry

The Government and the arms companies rally public support for the arms trade by claiming that it keeps people in work. However, the arms industry depends on taxpayer spending and as the *Financial Times* pointed out in September 2009: “Spending on defence is no better at creating jobs than support for other sectors. Defence R&D may produce spin-offs, but so too may R&D with civilian applications.”

Many employed in the arms industry are skilled engineers and there is a shortage of these. The public funds that support the arms trade should be redirected to investment in renewable energy and low carbon technologies. The result would be a win-win situation. As well as using the skills of current arms industry workers, these industries would also tackle the threats to energy security and climate change.

£3m

Barclays Bank holds almost £3 million of shares in Elbit Systems

15

There were actions in over 15 cities.

9

9 activists who staged a rooftop occupation will go on trial from 9-13 February.

STOP ARMING ISRAEL

There was a worldwide outcry last summer when Israel carried out brutal attacks on Gaza. Campaigners demanded an end to UK arms sales to Israel and while the Government refused to suspend arms licences, people across the country took action.

BARCLAYS DAY OF ACTION



In November CAAT supported a national day of action against Barclays Bank, which holds almost £3 million of shares in Israeli drone manufacturers Elbit Systems. There were actions in over 15 cities and Barclay's flagship store

in London Piccadilly was closed by activists who held a picnic of Palestinian food in store to celebrate Palestinian culture. The Stop Barclays campaign will take further action in 2015 – watch this space for updates!

ELBIT PROTESTERS ON TRIAL

The nine activists who staged a rooftop occupation of Elbit Systems' factory in Shenstone will go on trial from 9-13 February at Newcastle-Under-Lyme court. Elbit Systems is one of Israel's largest arms companies and produces one of the main armed drones used by the Israeli military. Elbit owns several sites in the UK, and last August the nine activists successfully shut down a factory that produces drone engines. The action closed production for two days and prevented a shipment of drone engines being sent to the US.

Local groups are planning solidarity demonstrations outside the court, with the biggest demonstration on 9 February.



TARGET YOUR LOCAL ARMS DEALER

Ellie Keen used CAAT's map (see caat.org.uk) to find her local arms companies and was shocked to find that Meggit, which make parts for F-16 jets, had a site in nearby Ashford. Ellie said: "We don't want East Kent to have

any part in enabling the war crimes which Israel is carrying out against the Palestinian people. We intend to make our voices very loudly heard: we don't want the arms trade on our doorstep."

Ellie decided to take action and a

new CAAT group has started in East Kent. They've already held their first action, targeting Barclays over their arms trade investments, and have big plans for 2015. To get involved contact caatekent@riseup.net.

Contact outreach@caat.org.uk for info and support for taking action!

ARMS TRADE AT THE TOWER

“Museums belong to everybody. They exist to serve the public. They should enhance the quality of life of everyone, both today and in the future”

Museum Association Code of Ethics

It took the Tower of London less than a month to go from commemorating those that died in the war to playing its part in encouraging another. The last of the poppies were still on display as the Tower played host to arms companies.

They weren't there to pay their respects; they were there for the Lockheed Martin-sponsored Defence and Security 2014 event. This was organised by the London Chamber of Commerce Defence and Security Committee, which includes representatives from arms companies, including BAE Systems, Thales UK and Lockheed Martin.

Unfortunately, the Tower of London is far from the only great landmark to take money from the arms trade. The Science Museum, Imperial War Museum and National Museums Scotland all join it as well known tourist sites and public spaces that have played host to the arms trade over recent years.

Endorsement

There are real funding problems for museums. But that doesn't make companies that profit from



Image © Aglet / Flickr

The last of the poppies were still on display as the Tower played host to arms companies.

war any more compatible with their educational objectives. Endorsements work both ways, so taking money to promote a company is not a morally neutral act. If arms companies are not

considered beyond the pale then who do these institutions consider to be off-limits?

By agreeing to take money from these companies, museums give practical support and a veneer of legitimacy to an industry that profits from the same war and conflict that the Tower of London was marking on Remembrance Day.

COME TO THE NATIONAL GATHERING!

When?

Saturday 21st March 2015
10.15am-5pm
(please register from 9.45)

Where?

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square,
London WC1R 4RL

How much?

£7 waged / £3 unwaged
The price includes tea, coffee
and a light vegetarian lunch.

What's happening?

An amazing line-up of workshops, speakers, and discussions, with lots of chances to meet other campaigners and share ideas. Here's a few highlights:

- Hear from Sayed Alwadaei, a democracy activist exiled from Bahrain about what UK arms sales mean for human rights
- Learn about the history of bribery in Britain's arms trade from Nicholas Gilby, author of *Deception in High Places*
- Engage with a panel debate exploring the benefits and challenges of a shift from arms to renewables with climate campaigners, trade unionists, and industry speakers
- Take part in diverse workshops on the UK's military relationship with Israel, challenging London's arms fair, the arms trade in schools and cultural institutions, and a range of campaigns and issues.

See the full workshop line-up and book at caat.org.uk/national-gathering or return the enclosed flyer.

JOINING 'THE POP GROUP' ON TOUR

Having been passionately outspoken about human rights issues throughout their career, experimental punk band The Pop Group have been using their recent comeback to raise awareness on the arms trade. We were delighted when they asked CAAT to join them on their first UK tour in 35 years and promote CAAT's work.

CAAT supporters from Nottingham, Bristol, Manchester and London went along to gigs, collected donations and signed up new supporters. Alan Leach, who went to the Manchester gig said: "The crowd were welcoming, warm and a pleasure to talk with,

leaving me inspired and hopeful that together we can achieve positive change through informing ourselves and taking action against the arms trade."

The Pop Group's new album "Citizen Zombie" is out on 23 February and a portion of the profits will be donated to CAAT.

This year, we are looking to get as many supporters as possible involved in putting on events and promoting CAAT. If you would like to get involved in representing CAAT at events, or would like a stall at your own event, please email tom@caat.org.uk.



HELLO FROM TOM!

Hi all, I'm Tom Barns and I started as CAAT's Fundraising Coordinator last October. Having previously worked for a couple of different organisations, I am very excited to join the CAAT team and raise money for such an important cause. I have had a great first few months and have really enjoyed representing CAAT at events, meeting with supporters, and getting involved in some campaign actions.

I've been very impressed at how many really dedicated supporters there are helping CAAT take action to end the arms trade. Over three-quarters of CAAT's funding comes from its supporters, which is much higher than most organisations of a similar size. This just shows how important your support is to us – without CAAT's supporters, there really would be no campaign.

If you ever have any questions or ideas to do with fundraising for CAAT, please do not hesitate to get in touch at tom@caat.org.uk. I will always be happy to hear from you.



The Pop Group play in front of a CAAT banner in London Image © Roger Smith

THEY SAID IT

"To be frank, I think that is a rather immaterial point. They could buy CS gas from the US."

Philip Hammond on UK tear gas sales to Hong Kong, Daily Politics (BBC), 30 September 2014

"We have one of the toughest arms export regimes."

Arms trade lobbyist Paul Everett on why the Arms Trade Treaty will not affect the UK. BBC Radio 4, 24 December 2014

"We pride ourselves in taking an open and balanced view of many topics – including that of armed conflict."

National Museums Scotland defends arms trade events happening on site. Sunday Mail, 21 December 2014

CHURCH INVESTMENTS

CAAT supporter Jonathan Chiswell Jones writes about the difference that a little vigilance can make.

The Church of England has a policy on ethical investment. This recommends against investing in any company involved in indiscriminate weaponry (cluster munitions; nuclear weapons; land mines; chemical or biological weapons) or in any company that gets more than 10 per cent of its sales from conventional weapons.

Members of CAAT who are also involved in the Church might do well to check their own Church's investment portfolios

Members of CAAT who are also involved in the Church might do well to check their own Church's investment portfolios. I did this in Berwick, East Sussex. I pointed out that my Church had shares in weapons company BAE Systems, and those shares were promptly sold. Sometimes this is just a matter of looking, and showing responsible people the mismatch

between policy and practice.

These investments are made because managers may be ignorant of the ethical guidelines in question; or they can happen because most people don't know, or care, what BAE Systems is. Either way a little

vigilance will sort this out.

It is also interesting to note that the Church's investment guidelines go further than merely excluding arms exports: they make no mention of TRADING in arms, but simply of being involved in arms PRODUCTION.



Campaigners in action at the Church of England headquarters

TAKING ACTION



- **Book now** for CAAT's National Gathering via the website or using the enclosed leaflet (page 13)
- **Lobby your MP** and candidates as the General Election approaches (page 11)
- **Book a speaker** on "Arms to Renewables" or "Arming all Sides: the arms trade in WW1" (pages 6 and 8-9)
- **Get in touch** for resources to run a People's Budget stall in the week of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, 11-18 April (pages 8-9)
- **Organise a workshop** in your town to get ready to challenge the massive arms fair planned in September (pages 8-9)



You can donate to CAAT by either visiting our website at www.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).

SINGLE DONATION

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel: Email:

DONATION DETAILS

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

Please send me the CAAT NEWS quarterly magazine.

Please send me CAAT's monthly email bulletin.

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)

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: