

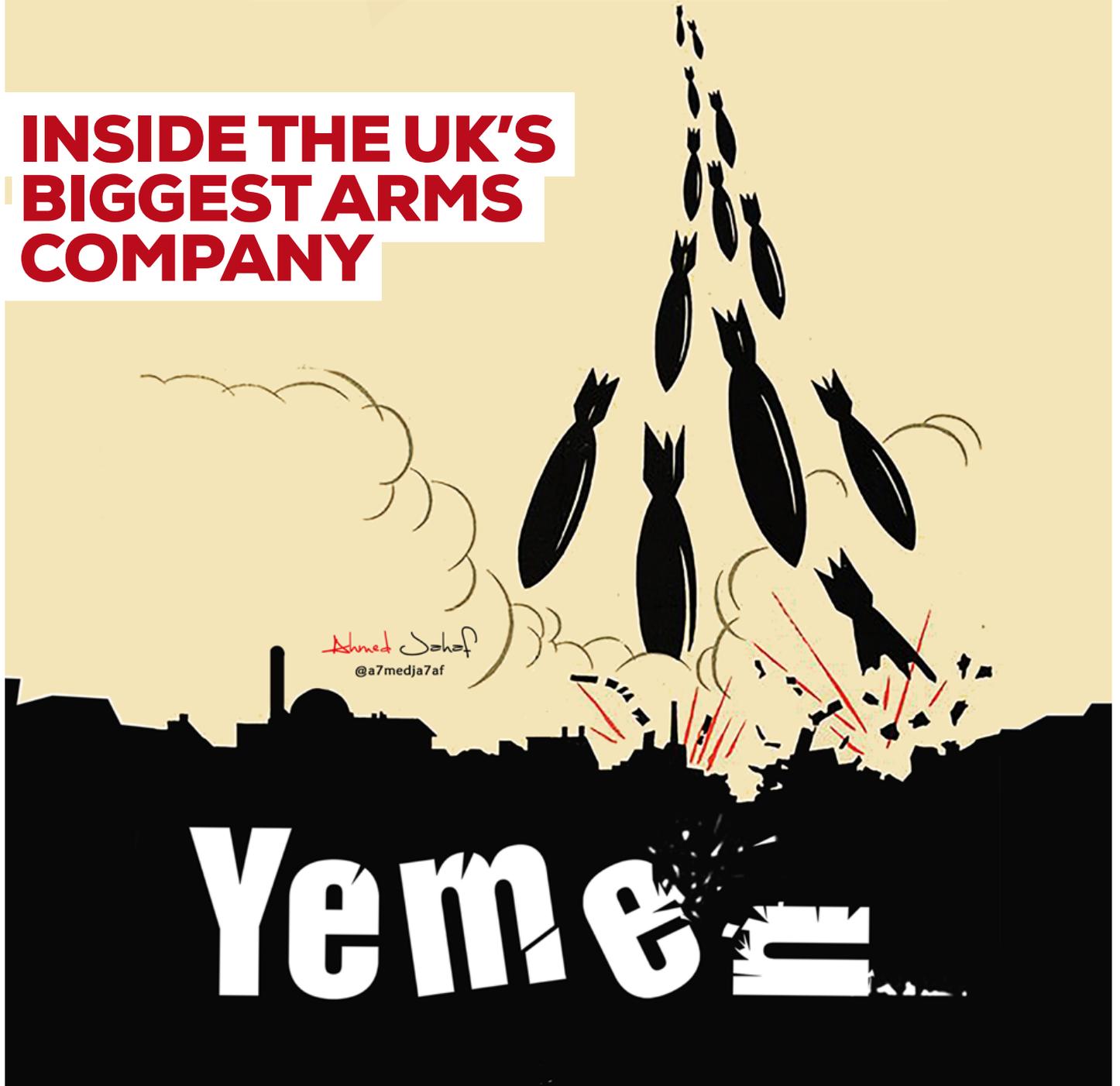
CAAT NEWS



JULY - SEPT 2018 • ISSUE 249

BAE SYSTEMS

INSIDE THE UK'S BIGGEST ARMS COMPANY



PLUS

Saudi court case
update **P6**

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Israel **P12**

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AGM **P14**

CAAT NEWS

JULY – SEPT 2018

Since the last issue of CAAT News, we have been given permission to challenge UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia in the Court of Appeal.

Turn to page 6 for more details.

The arms trade is a global industry with a global impact. In this issue we are exploring how UK arms companies have profited from oppression in Bahrain, the ongoing bombing of Yemen and

the occupation of Gaza.

This issue also includes the story of how anti-arms trade activists dominated the BAE Systems AGM and used it as a chance to expose the hypocrisy and abuses of Europe's biggest arms company.

Thanks to Yemeni artist and campaigner Ahmad Jahaf for his striking cover art.

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© Andy Miah / Flickr

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

In CAAT News #248 we said that “MPs from all parties” have taken hospitality, flights or hotels from regimes with poor human rights records. This was a mistake. Our research did NOT find any MPs from either the Green Party or Plaid Cymru

accepting hospitality from these regimes. Both parties have consistently called for stronger controls on arms exports and for the UK to stop coying up to human rights abusers. We fully apologise for this error, and any confusion it caused.

EDITOR Andrew Smith

DESIGN Chris Woodward

PROOFREADER John Moseley

LEGAL CONSULTANT Glen Reynolds

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

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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.

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

Tel: 020 7281 0297

Email: enquiries@caat.org.uk

Web: caat.org.uk

Twitter: @CAATuk

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NO ROYAL WHITEWASH!

On 12 May, the Queen welcomed Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa to the Royal Windsor Horse Show. As an unelected despot who continues to brutally crush demands for democracy, being seen next to the Queen gives him vital legitimacy.

Last year, Bahrainis in the UK who planned to protest at the Royal Windsor Horse Show faced severe consequences for themselves and their family members in Bahrain.

They told us: "Before even reaching the Horse Show grounds, our family members were arrested and interrogated by security forces at the Muharraq Police Station. From there, they were forced to call us and warn us about what the consequences would be if we continued with our protests in the UK."

This year, many felt understandably wary of protesting and called for those who can stand in solidarity with them.

"We call upon supporters of human rights, equality, freedom of expression and peace, to stand with us in solidarity and demonstrate"

Thank you to everyone who answered and thank you to all those who joined on the day to stand side-by-side against repression and ensure that all of those attending the Horse Show were aware of human rights abuses in Bahrain.

The Bahraini Royals were embarrassed enough to not attend on the day of the protest.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people responded to our call for messages of solidarity, which were read out at the protests, and over 3,000 people signed our petition to Buckingham Palace asking the Queen to stop legitimising human rights abusers.

At the protest, we remembered the family of Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei, who have been targeted in Bahrain as a reprisal



against his human rights activities in the UK. In issue 247 of CAAT News, Sayed wrote about how "the arms trade is simply too lucrative to risk" for the UK government, which refuses to criticise the totalitarian regime in Bahrain.

We also paid tribute to Nabeel Rajab, one of Bahrain's most prominent human rights defenders, currently imprisoned for five years in Bahrain after drawing attention to the Bahrain regime's human rights abuses, and criticising the Saudi-led coalition's bombing of Yemen in a tweet.

Bahrain and arms sales

The UK should be putting pressure on Bahrain to stop its human rights abuses. Instead, in the face of increasing repression, the UK government has pursued a policy of whitewashing and appeasement in order to protect arms sales and the military relationship.

Bahrain is a major target for UK arms sales: since the pro-democracy uprising began in February 2011, the UK has licensed £82 million worth of arms to the regime. As well as military support, PR opportunities such as the King's visit provide further legitimacy to the regime.

Do not think that you stand alone, our hearts are with you

Anna, Thirsk

I stand in solidarity with exiled Bahraini activists because they represent truth and justice for their homeland. They are courageous in the face of violent intimidation

Valerie, Cwmbbran

I stand in solidarity with exiled Bahraini activists. I admire their courage and wish to let them know there are many others who think as they do

Veronica, Cwmbelan

It is wrong for the UK to provide Bahrain with arms, and to provide PR opportunities for the King, while his people suffer

John, Glossop

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

MALAYSIA



© Nanang Sujana / CIFOR / Flickr

Government emails obtained by Unearthed revealed that UK officials believe a proposed EU ban on palm oil in biofuels could harm UK arms sales to Malaysia, specifically Typhoon fighter jets. The Malaysian military is

in the process of buying new military aircraft and is reportedly choosing between French-made Rafael and BAE Systems' Eurofighter jets.

[Unearthed, 07/05/18](#)

US ARMS SALES

The US government is pushing a plan to make it easier to export weapons. At present, Congress can halt particularly controversial arms sales. The US President, Donald Trump, has proposed changing the federal rules to allow US arms companies to sell large batches of arms to foreign buyers without consulting Congress. The US already accounts for one third of all arms exports in the world.

[Boston Globe, 23/06/18](#)

The US government has said it will sanction Turkey if it finalises the purchase of the S-400 anti-aircraft system from Russia. The U.S. Senate passed a bill in June, calling for a freeze of arms sales to Turkey until an assessment is made of military and diplomatic ties in light of its potential purchase of the Russian system.

[Bloomberg, 27/06/18](#)

ISRAEL



© Forsvarsdepartementet / Flickr

The Israeli military has become the first to use the US-made F-35 military aircraft in combat. Air force chiefs presented image of the jets over Beirut, Lebanon, saying that they had "already attacked twice on two different fronts." Israel has received nine of the 50 F-35s it has so far ordered, but could buy up to 75.

[BBC News, 22/05/18](#)

UK MILITARY SPENDING



© Number 10 / Flickr

The Defence Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has agreed to £2.5bn of spending on the UK's submarine programme, including its nuclear-armed fleet.

[The Guardian, 14/05/18](#)

Gavin Williamson has also reportedly demanded an extra £20bn of funding for the military – or threatened to bring down Theresa May's government.

[The Independent, 24/06/18](#)

ETHICAL INVESTMENT

© Chris Beckett / Flickr



The UK Court of Appeal has overturned a High Court ruling that found the UK government had acted improperly by preventing local authority pension schemes from basing investment decisions on ethical concerns. The case,

which CAAT supported as arms companies were specifically mentioned, was brought by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign which is seeking leave to appeal to the Supreme Court.

[Middle East Monitor, 06/06/18](#)

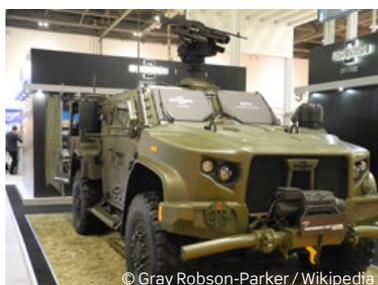
EUROPEAN MILITARY PROJECTS

Speculation is mounting that the UK's biggest arms company, BAE Systems, will be frozen out of a programme to develop a new warplane. This follows the

decision of Airbus and Dassault to team-up to build new military aircraft to replace the current Eurofighter and Rafale jets.

[Daily Telegraph, 25/04/18](#)

ARMS FAIRS



© Gray Robson-Parker / Wikipedia

Clarion Defence & Security and Crisis Intelligence Japan have signed an agreement to launch and operate DSEI Japan, Japan's first arms fair for air force, navy and land forces. Clarion organises major arms fairs across the world, including DSEI, which takes place in London every two years.

[Exhibition World, 01/05/18](#)

BELGIUM

The Belgian Supreme Administrative Court has suspended eight licences for arms exports to Saudi Arabia. This follows human rights concerns in relation to the ongoing bombardment of Yemen.

[New Arab, 01 July 18](#)

ARGENTINA

The UK government will resume arms exports to the Argentinian military. The change comes six years after a ban was imposed following an intensification of rows over the Falkland Islands.

[Forces.net, 27/07/18](#)

MOD SUPPLIERS

Companies paid over £100 million by the UK Ministry of Defence in 2016/17

BAE Systems	£3,652m
Babcock	£1,691m
Airbus	£819m
Rolls-Royce	£756m
Lockheed Martin	£686m
Leonardo	£566m
QinetiQ	£483m
General Dynamics	£444m
HP	£393m
Serco	£352m
Boeing	£348m
Thales	£322m
Carillion	£305m
BT	£299m
BP	£295m
Leidos	£276m
Innisfree	£267m
Jacobs Engineering	£246m
KBR	£225m
Ferrovial	£211m
Interserve	£196m
Raytheon	£180m
Terra Firma	£177m
Capita	£172m
Kier	£160m
Cobham	£145m
Marshall Of Cambridge	£127m
3i	£126m
Sodexo	£113m
InfraRed	£106m

Source: MoD, Finance & Economics Annual Bulletin, Trade, Industry & Contracts, 2017



STOP ARMING SAUDI CAAT'S CHALLENGE

Appeal granted!

As the last CAAT News went to print, we were once again anxiously waiting to hear the result of the latest stage in our legal battle to stop the export of arms to Saudi Arabia. Our claim, which aims to stop the sale of arms that could be used in the ongoing bombing of Yemen, was initially rejected by the High Court in July 2017.

On 4 May 2018, we got the news we were waiting for: Court of Appeal judges Lord Justice Irwin and Lord Justice Flaux granted CAAT permission to have a full appeal hearing. This is likely to take place over two days before the end of the year with a judgment expected in 2019.

On 4 May Lord Justice Irwin and Lord Justice Flaux granted CAAT permission to have a full appeal hearing

Hodeidah

We must keep challenging and exposing the Government's

complicity in Saudi Arabia's crimes.

The Saudi-led attacks on Yemen, now in their fourth year, have already killed thousands of people. Many more have died as a result of the humanitarian catastrophe the war has caused.

Air strikes have hit hospitals, schools, food warehouses and supply lines, weddings and funerals. 50,000 children died from hunger or disease in 2017 alone.

In June, the Saudi-led coalition began attacking Hodeidah, the biggest port town in Yemen. Hodeidah has provided a vital lifeline for many across the country, with over 70% of Yemen's imports, food and aid shipments flowing through it. Humanitarian organisations had warned that strikes would be devastating. Save the Children said that vital aid would be cut-off and a further 340,000 people could be displaced. The UN warned that up to 250,000 people could be killed.

The UK government was aware of how deadly a Saudi-led strike on

Hodeidah could be and – if it has the influence with Saudi Arabia it claims to have – should have intervened to stop the attacks. Instead, it has continued to arm the regime and UK arms will be playing a central role in the bombardment.

The UK government was aware of how deadly a Saudi-led strike on Hodeidah could be and should have intervened to stop the attacks

The UK has licensed more than £4.6 billion worth of weapons sales to Saudi Arabia since the war started, and substantial amounts to the United Arab Emirates and the other regimes taking part in the ongoing bombing campaign.

It is complicit in creating this humanitarian catastrophe. If the UN's worst predictions become a reality then those that have



ARABIA: CHALLENGE CONTINUES

armed and supported the conflict cannot say that they were not warned.

Secret weapons sales

In June, new research from CAAT uncovered hundreds of millions of pounds worth of hidden weapons sales to Saudi Arabia.

The UK government has admitted that Storm Shadow and Brimstone air-to-surface missiles and Paveway IV bombs have all been used by Saudi Arabia in Yemen. Human Rights Watch linked British-licensed Paveway IV bombs to attacks on civilian targets and in December 2016, Sky News examined an attack site where part of a Storm Shadow missile with UK markings was found.

A Freedom of Information request revealed that these bombs and missiles – surely among the UK's most controversial exports – were being exported under an opaque licensing regime which is supposed to be for "less sensitive" goods.

Open Individual Export Licences allow an unlimited quantity of goods to be supplied within a given time period, with no public reporting of what has been supplied.

The licences were granted before the war on Yemen began, and hundreds of millions of pounds have been exported without scrutiny since. Despite huge public and parliamentary concern about the use of these weapons, the Government had never disclosed this information, until we forced them to do so.

It is really important that opposition parties are speaking out... Our action now can cement that opposition and secure firm commitments to action for a future parliament

Why it's important to write to your MP

Even if you've written before, please write to your MP to tell them that action to stop the arms

sales is as important as ever.

Even though the Government still refuses to act, it cannot say it was not aware of the evidence that UK weapons were being used in violation of international humanitarian law and of the strength of public opposition.

Meanwhile, it is really important that opposition parties continue to speak out. Our action now can cement that opposition and secure firm commitments to action for a future parliament.

The ongoing legal case will continue to keep UK government complicity in Saudi crimes in the public eye, and whatever the result, we will need to keep the pressure on to ensure we get action that finally puts human lives before arms company profits.

Please email your MP today to call on the Government to put its own export licensing rules into practice and end arms sales to Saudi Arabia. You can find a template letter at caat.org.uk/stop-arming-saudi



HOW GLASGOW SAN

The Undersea Defence Technology (UDT) arms fair took place at the council-owned SEC venue in Glasgow at the end of June. It was met by large, boisterous protests, making it very clear that weapons trading should not be happening in Glasgow, or anywhere.

The arms fair in Glasgow saw more than 1000 delegates hobnobbing with representatives of the world's worst arms companies. These included BAE Systems, whose Eurofighter jets are being used by Saudi forces in Yemen, and Leonardo, which has been linked to the production of arms being used by Turkish forces in Afrin. The event's "innovation partner" was Babcock, which has major contracts for the production and maintenance of the UK's nuclear weapons.

The run-up to the arms fair was marked by vigils at the offices of Glasgow City Council, whose "Glasgow Life" organisation has been supporting the fair, as well as a die-in and rally at the Buchanan St. steps in the city.

Protests on the first day of the arms fair itself began early. Delegates arriving before 8am were greeted by grim reapers telling them where to go and shepherding them with scythes. Campaigners in blood-soaked overalls made it clear that money should be spent for the public good – not to enrich arms dealers!

The run-up to the arms fair was marked by vigils at the offices of Glasgow City Council, as well as a die-in and rally at the Buchanan St steps in the city.

During the morning, activists heard speeches from (among others) Scottish CND, Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign,

CAAT and Scotland Against Militarism, and moving descriptions of the effect of arms sales to Turkey on the people of Afrin.

Kate Nevens, who campaigns in Scotland for CAAT said, "People in Scotland are appalled that such a terrible event is taking place, and that Glasgow City Council is supporting it. Many of the companies in attendance have armed and supported human rights abusing regimes across the world. War, repression and injustice are fueled by arms fairs like Underseas Defense Technology. It's time to shut it down for good."

The protest fell silent as Palestinians murdered by Israeli soldiers at the Gaza fence were remembered by a die-in and

EUROSATORY

Holly Spencer of Stop Fuelling War joined hundreds of protesters in Paris to oppose Eurosatory, one of the biggest arms fairs in the world

One of Europe's biggest arms fairs, Eurosatory, took place from June 11-15 in Paris. It was met with widespread opposition from several groups across France.

The French government is now the third largest arms exporter in the world, and sells to the Saudi regime and others involved in the destruction of Yemen.

Over the course of a week, starting from Saturday 9th, Stop Fuelling War, joined by other groups such as Mouvement de la Paix, MAN, BDS France, Union Pacifiste, and Quakers from around Europe, spoke to both the public in Paris, handing out information and leaflets, and those working in or visiting the arms fair.

The difference with the protests against DSEI in London is that at Eurosatory

we can speak directly to those going into the arms fair. Different groups with different tactics used this space to get their message across.

Reactions to our protests were varied, with some secretly giving the thumbs up or voicing agreement with our message, to people telling us that without them, we wouldn't even be standing where we were. One group even managed to get inside the arms fair and disrupt a live demonstration!

All of the polling shows that people in France are just as opposed to arms sales as people in the UK. Activists from across the peace movement will build on these protests and ensure that the message will be sent loudly and clearly: arms dealers are not welcome.



W KUDT

reading of their names. Meanwhile, inside the fair, Israeli arms dealers were exhibiting their wares.

During the morning, activists heard speeches, and moving descriptions of the effect of arms sales to Turkey on the people of Afrin

With such strength of feeling, Glasgow City Council was forced to disassociate itself from the arms fair – blaming it on the city's previous administration – and said it will bring in an ethical events policy so that it doesn't come back.

We hope so. There is nothing ethical or life-giving about an arms fair, so the council's Glasgow Life organisation should not have backed it in the first place. People make Glasgow – not arms dealers!



ONE YEAR TO DSEI ARMS FAIR

Have you been inspired by actions against arms fairs this year? As we go to print, plans are afoot to take action at Farnborough International: Farnborough uses its 'family friendly' weekend to whitewash the arms deals that take place at its trade show.

Throughout the year people around the country and across Europe have taken action to stop arms trading as it happens, and very soon it will be just one year to DSEI 2019. Keep a look out for videos, events and action coming your way!

LOCAL ACTIONS

MALVERN VOTES AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE

When campaigners in Malvern, Worcestershire, found out that a “defence and security expo”, called 3CDSE was coming to the Showground venue in their town in May, they knew what to do!

After a little research they discovered that it was booked as a “private event” by a group of local solicitors, and was supposedly focussed on “cybersecurity and counter-terrorism”. Talking to

When campaigners in Malvern found out that a “defence and security expo”, called 3CDSE was coming to the Showground venue in their town in May, they knew what to do!

CAAT, they also found out that this “private event” was in fact hosting some of the world’s worst arms dealers, including BAE Systems and drone-maker and warship builder Thales.

Malvern Quaker Meeting teamed up with other campaigners in the Three Counties to create the Malvern Individuals for Peace

(MIP) coalition. They held events in Malvern town centre, asking passers-by to vote for or against the expo: needless to say, the overwhelming majority voted against. Visitors to the street stall were given information and could sign a petition telling the event venue not to host arms dealers again.

Members of the coalition also put the word out on social media and got letters published in local papers, to make sure that as many people as possible in the town knew what was happening in their Showground.

After asking around, they managed to find out which gate the delegates would be using.

Melanie Jameson from Malvern Quaker Meeting and MIP said, “We could now witness, with placards and anti-war creations, directly opposite the gate through which all the delegates departed. Simultaneously a spiritual ‘upholding’ with peace songs was taking place up on the hills overlooking the Showground.”

Local people responded enthusiastically to the campaign.



Melanie said, “Our message throughout seems to have resonated with most Malvern residents we spoke to: ‘Use your technologies to heal our world.’”

That would definitely have our vote!

With thanks to Melanie Jameson and Malvern Individuals for Peace.

WEST YORKS CAMPAIGN DAY (LEEDS)



Enjoying the sunshine in Leeds!

Campaigners in West Yorkshire were joined by activists from Hull and Sheffield in May, for a day of sharing skills, making plans, and getting to know each other.

They discussed how to get the best from social and traditional media, how to run effective stalls and speaking events, and considered their local arms companies and how they might best say no to the arms trade in their communities.

If you would like a campaign day or workshop in your area, or perhaps would like a speaker to come and share knowledge and enthusiasm about opposing the arms trade, please get in touch!

Contact Kirsten Bayes, Local Outreach Coordinator at outreach@caat.org.uk.

LABOUR CONFERENCE

This year's Labour Party Conference is taking place from 23–26 September in Liverpool. CAAT will be there, sharing a stall with Labour Action for Peace and taking part in meetings at A World Transformed, the Momentum Fringe event. If you are going to the conference or live in the Liverpool area, do keep an eye on the CAAT website for further details.

The aim is to raise awareness of CAAT's message among Labour supporters and, hopefully, to get more of them involved in our work. We would like to see Labour enshrining in its policy a presumption of denial for arms sales to areas of conflict or to regimes that abuse human rights, an end to arms export promotion and the establishment of a shadow Defence Diversification Agency (DDA).

These, together with a move away from military responses to tackling the real challenges to human security, are being discussed by some in the Labour Party and CAAT wants to support them.

Arms conversion

Constituency Labour Parties (CLP) and trade union branches have been passing motions pressing Labour to implement Motion 17 passed at the 2017 Trades Union Congress, which called on the



© Andy Miah / Flickr

We would like to see Labour enshrining in its policy a presumption of denial for arms sales to areas of conflict or to regimes that abuse human rights

Party to set up a shadow DDA. CAAT has a model motion for CLPs at caat.org.uk/resources/westminster-whitehall. Greater Manchester CND and other groups are promoting similar ones. There is still time to join the action and keep up the pressure so that a shadow DDA is included in

Labour's industrial strategy and established in the near future.

There have been meetings on this topic in several parts of the country as well as in Parliament, where the Nuclear Education Trust launched the latest in a growing number of publications discussing alternative work. "Defence Diversification: international learning for Trident jobs" examines initiatives in the United States, Italy, Germany, Estonia and South Africa to see what lessons can be learned. Involving the workforce at an early stage is key.

MILITARISATION OF EUROPE

Bad news from Brussels – the UK may be leaving the European Union, but the UK government is desperate to stay in the plethora of EU military initiatives. At the forefront of these is the new European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP). Under this, the arms industry will benefit from between €23 billion

and €60 billion of subsidies between 2017 and 2027.

Despite moves by the European Parliament to exclude the funding of armed drones and fully autonomous weapons, the final text agreed with the Member States and the Commission only excludes arms prohibited under International Law. The EDIDP is

also expected to have what it calls a "positive effect" on arms exports, that is, it will boost them. The award criteria include the contribution a project might make "to the competitiveness and growth of defence undertakings (...) by creating new market opportunities."

ISRAEL'S DEADLY REPRESSION OF GREAT RETURN MARCH

Hilary Aked of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign writes about the recent killings that have taken place on the Gaza border.

The recent massacres of Palestinian protesters on the Gaza border put the spotlight on Israel's illegal siege of the small piece of land in which over 1.5 million people – 70% of them UN-recognised refugees – are forced to live.

The many thousands of Palestinians who marched were reaffirming their right of return as refugees to be recognised and upheld

Israel's blockade of Gaza, enforced by land, air and sea, has created major socio-economic and health crises. Approximately 80% of the population are dependent on humanitarian aid to survive and 42% of essential medicines are currently at zero stock. The UN warns that Gaza will be uninhabitable by 2020 unless urgent action is taken. As it stands, 97% of the water is not safe for consumption and there are electrical blackouts around 16 hours a day.

But the “Great Return March,” which began on 30 March and was supported across Palestinian society, was about much more than this.

The many thousands of Palestinians who marched were reaffirming their right of return as refugees to be recognised and upheld, as stipulated in international law by UN General Assembly Resolution 194. The leading powers that constitute the “international community” have long ignored this and many other fundamental rights when it comes to Palestinians.

As for the UK government, it has long granted Israel impunity for its violations of international law and human rights. This pattern continued during Israel's brutally repressive violence in response to the unarmed protesters. Israel deployed hundreds of snipers along the border and repeatedly ordered the use of live ammunition,

killing 129 people while injuring 15,000 more.

On one day alone – May 14 (the same day the US embassy was relocated) – Israel massacred 60 Palestinians, among them eight children, and injured a further 2,400, including 200 children.

Though the International Criminal Court prosecutor has warned that Israel's actions could lead to war crimes trials, the UK government continues to supply Israel with weapons.

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign, together with Campaign Against Arms Trade, War on Want and others, is campaigning for the UK government to impose an immediate two-way arms embargo on Israel. If not now, when?

The **Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC)** is a community of people working together for peace, equality, and justice and against racism, occupation, and colonisation.

Together we are the biggest organisation in the UK dedicated to securing Palestinian human rights.

PSC brings people from all walks of life together to campaign for Palestinian rights and freedom.

You can find out more about PSC at palestinecampaign.org



Campaigners take action against UK arms sales to Israel

UK COMPLICITY IN THE REPRESSION

Ryvka Bernard, Senior Campaigns Officer (Militarism and Security) at War on Want, writes about UK complicity in human rights abuses against Palestinians.

© Number 10 / Flickr



Theresa May meets Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Unfortunately, the violence we have seen over recent months is not exceptional. It is a part of Israel's systematic use of armed force against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and inside Israel itself. Israel's militarised repression is one of the key ways in which it maintains its apartheid regime of control over Palestinians, denying them their basic rights enshrined in international law and attempting to choke their struggle for freedom and justice.

The UK government is not just a neutral onlooker, it is directly complicit in Israel's violence against Palestinians

The UK government is not just a neutral onlooker, it is directly complicit in Israel's violence against Palestinians. Since 2014, the UK government has approved arms export licences to Israel valued at over £320 million. The licences include categories of arms used in Israel's occupation and attacks, such as sniper rifles, grenade launchers, surveillance drones and other equipment.

EU-UK export controls are meant to prohibit the export of items that

can be used in violation of human rights abroad. The UK government keeps insisting it is confident that its exports to Israel comply, but simultaneously admits that it doesn't track items after they've been sold.

Grassroots civil society, individual people of conscience, trade unions, student unions, charities, and activist groups have a key role to play in pressuring our Government and institutions to end their complicity in Israel's war crimes against the Palestinian people.

As we watch the horrible news stream through our televisions, we have a responsibility not just to mourn the dead, but to take action to hold our Government to account for its complicity and push it to #StopArmingIsrael.

War on Want works to achieve a vision of a just world by fighting against human rights abuses and the root causes of poverty. You can find out more at waronwant.org



FIGHTING GLOBAL POVERTY

UK ARMS LICENCES TO ISRAEL

2013

£10m

2014

£12m

2015

£20m

2016

£86m

2017

£220m

Total: **£348 million**

INSIDE EUROPE'S BIGGEST ARMS COMPANY: BAE SYSTEMS AGM

On 10th May, CAAT staff and activists headed to the AGM for Europe's biggest arms company, BAE Systems.

Like any company Chairperson, the Chair of BAE Systems, Roger Carr, likes to use the day as an opportunity to celebrate the year's achievements. However, BAE is supplying Saudi Arabia with Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft that are playing a key role in the Saudi-led assault on Yemen and we at CAAT don't think that is much of an achievement.

BAE Systems is profiting directly from the weapons creating this catastrophe. We were not going to let them forget that.

Over 40,000 people, including 5,000 children, have been killed or injured in Yemen since the beginning of the Saudi-led assault, which has demolished schools, hospitals and other vital services. Now, more than 22 million people are in desperate need of humanitarian aid. Over 50,000 children are believed to have died as a result of a mixture of injury, sickness and starvation in 2017 alone.

More than 3 million Yemenis have been displaced by war. The situation in Yemen is horrific, and BAE Systems is profiting directly from the weapons creating this catastrophe. We were not going to let them forget that.

Since BAE Systems is the world's fourth largest arms company, it is fairly used to CAAT activists turning up at their AGMs, and force all attendees



© Number10/Flickr

through airport-style security as they enter. Although security confiscated many of the posters provided by Yemeni graphic artist Ahmed Jahaf, we arrived in good time and registered our many questions for the Board.

One question was from Ahmad Algobahry, a Yemeni living in Sanaa. He asked, "Can you tell me, how do you feel when your warplanes and bombs kill children in my home Yemen? How can you look at your own children's faces? How do you feel when their warplanes and bombs kill children?"

Persistent, back-to-back questions from CAAT supporters exposed BAE's profiteering ruthlessness

While Carr replied that "Nobody can see anybody killed, in any form, in any circumstances, without concern," he clearly wasn't that concerned. Vicar Matthew Harbage requested a moment's silence "for the people who have been killed, maimed or psychologically harmed

by the equipment manufactured by this company," but even a single moment was too much to ask for, apparently, as Carr interrupted immediately, moving the meeting on.

Persistent, back-to-back questions from CAAT supporters exposed BAE's profiteering ruthlessness. When challenged about BAE Systems staff directly supervising the loading of bombs onto aircraft, Carr insisted "We are not involved in any part of prosecuting, planning or executing the war." When asked if BAE Systems products were used in the bombing of a wedding party in April that killed 20 people including the bride, he replied, "You don't know and I don't know."

BAE Systems think they can wash their hands of any responsibility for the appalling situation in Yemen, but we made it very clear that we would continue to bring our challenges right to their front door. We need to stop arming Saudi Arabia.

TAKING ACTION

Shadow World

Shadow World is a gripping and powerful exposé of the arms trade. The documentary is based on Andrew Feinstein's landmark book of the same name.

Want to book a Shadow World screening in your community? Email outreach@caat.org.uk

Stop Arming Saudi

Want to hold a Stop Arming Saudi talk or workshop? Email outreach@caat.org.uk

Arming the World

Want to get the excellent Arming the World performance on your university campus? Our new Universities Intern has just started and is wrapping her head around her new role, so in the meantime email enquiries@caat.org.uk

Stop the Arms Fair

September 10th will mark one year to DSEI, and Stop the Arms Fair will be meeting after that to start planning to #StopDSEI 2019. Email action@caat.org.uk for more information.

Training in October

In October we are hoping to run a Beautiful Trouble creative action training, as well as a direct action Training for Trainers in London and the South-East. Dates TBC, but if you are interested, email events@caat.org.uk for more information.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN CAAT?

We are looking for new Steering Committee members to offer guidance to our campaigns and participate in developing our policy and strategy. Steering Committee members meet four times a year and are also CAAT company Directors.

We are particularly looking for individuals with financial management, HR, IT or fundraising skills, or who have specific knowledge of groups affected by the arms trade or equality and diversity best practices. If you are interested and would like to know more please visit caat.org.uk/about/steering-committee. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 21 August.

We look forward to hearing from you.

UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

In August, CAAT will be welcoming our new Universities Coordinator, Ibtehal Hussain. She will be writing her first column in the next issue. In the meantime, if you are a student who would like to find out more or is interested in organising on your campus, please email universities@caat.org.uk.

THEY SAID IT

It's not how much money we make but how we make the money that counts

Chair of BAE Systems, Roger Carr, Europe's biggest arms company. *Red Pepper*, 16 May

If they're our allies, we are going to help them get this very important, great military equipment. And nobody – nobody – makes it like the United States. It's the best in the world by far

The President of the United States, Donald Trump, promotes arms sales. *Washington Post*, 19 April

Heads down, don't make eye contact, just keep walking

Police officers advise delegates going into UDT arms fair to ignore protesters. Tweeted by Commonsense journalist Caitlin Logan, 26 June



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)