

**STOP**  
THE ARMS FAIR

CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST  
ARMS  
TRADE



**PEOPLE NOT WAR!**

# INTRODUCTION

BY RUDY LOWE

Within the UK, the effects of war are not particularly visible. This means it's all the more important to remember that there are people who are fleeing their homes and having to leave their whole lives behind because of war. I wanted to create an image that points to the displacement of people, the role of governments and the people the world over who are protesting against the arms trade.

So many people have had their lives torn apart. And the governments and arms dealers that choose to sell weapons are complicit in the conflicts that they are then used in. In this image I wanted to think about responsibility and the UK's involvement, directly or indirectly, in war.

There are also a wide range of people who are resisting and protesting against the arms trade, across the world. How we can continue to fight together across generations and backgrounds is an important discussion.



**Rudy Loewe is a visual artist utilising drawing, painting and printmaking as a means of building narrative and contributing to dialogues on social themes. They work with large scale, sometimes directly onto surfaces that then ensure their temporality; as well as small scale in forms such as publications.**

**Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) is a UK-based organisation working to end the international arms trade.**

**Editor Siana Bangura Designer Chris Woodward Cover art Rudy Lowe**

# INTRODUCTION

BY SIANA BANGUARA

When I speak about my work, I often describe what I do as creating spaces, building platforms, and supporting causes that actively bring voices on the margins in our society to the centre, whether that be through film, theatre, poetry, curating events, facilitating trainings or in my campaigning work.

With this in mind, it felt incredibly pertinent to communicate the importance of taking action against the DSEI Arms Fair in a way that was creative and centred voices such as Amina Atiq's, a Yemeni-British writer; Ameen Namer, an Arabian activist from Saudi Arabia; and members of the Wretched of the Earth Collective.

It is also vital that the arms trade is not understood in isolation of other intersecting issues as, in the words of Audre Lorde, "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives." The struggle against the arms trade must be anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-patriarchal, pro environmental

justice and actively centring those most directly affected by its devastating consequences.

As for our front cover, it was a pleasure to commission the incredibly talented Rudy Loewe, a non-binary artist of colour who documents the world we live in through their vibrant and powerful artistic practice.

So please, read this zine, enjoy it, share it with others and feel compelled to take action - starting with joining us this September during our Week of Action. I look forward to resisting alongside you.



**Siana Bangura is a writer, producer and community organiser from South East London. She is also the Training & Events Co-ordinator at Campaign Against Arms Trade and the editor of this zine.**



Yemen =

## WHY I AM TAKING ACTION

We would visit Yemen every year in the summer, but it's been five years since we last visited. Why? Because it is now too dangerous for us to travel there. Instead, we have to sit in front of our TV screen and watch British-made bombs fall on Yemen.

I can't begin to tell you how that feels. As a Yemeni- British citizen it is my right and duty to pressure our government to stop selling its arms to Saudi Arabia - whose government is fuelling the war in Yemen. This is an illegal and proxy war. The Yemeni people don't need bombs - they need food.

Join me in campaigning against the arms trade. I urge everyone to turn up in September to condemn one of the world's largest arms fair throughout CAAT's week of action. The DSEI arms fair brings many of the world's most horrendous regimes together along with the biggest arms companies for the purpose of profiting from war and repression.

I do believe that we have the power to put an end to this because we are stronger when we come together.

Love and power to you all.

**“ The DSEI arms fair brings many of the world's most horrendous regimes together along with the biggest arms companies for the purpose of profiting from war and repression ”**

**Amina Atiq is a writer, performance artist, workshop facilitator and activist. She has been featured and published on various artistic platforms such as BBC Radio 5 live, BBC Radio 6 music and the Independent, among others.**



# STOP ARMING ISRAEL

**MONDAY  
2 SEPT**

In March 2018, Palestinians in Gaza started the Great March of Return, peacefully protesting for their rights, and they have not stopped. Thousands have been wounded, hundreds killed – killed with weapons like those the UK sells to Israel.

The United Nations confirmed these murderous acts were grave violations of international law, which constitute war crimes.

At DSEI 2019, companies and state officials will lay the groundwork for massive deals that will arm Israel. And, Israel's arms dealers will have a 'National Pavilion' to advertise weapons marketed as

“combat proven” – i.e. tested on Palestinian civilians.

This moment is pivotal. Trump's 'Deal of the Century' is around the corner – one of the biggest catastrophes facing the Palestinian people in this lifetime, poised to strip Palestinians of their rights and legitimise Israel's illegal land grabs.

But Palestinians are pushing back against these attacks, and, now more than ever, they need our solidarity. We must double down in our efforts to press the UK government to end its complicity and end the trade in arms with Israel.

**Stand with Palestinians in their struggle for justice. Join us on **2 September** for a day of creative action to stop arming Israel.**

**TJ Chuah is a multiracial Chinese-Malaysian organiser and campaigner living in London. They do communications for War on Want.**



I love the diversity of the peace movement. There is serious strength in diversity, especially when we come together against such universally destructive things like the weapons of war.

I'm a person of faith – a Christian priest, and I'm part of the "No Faith in War" day of demonstration at this year's DSEI arms fair. I've been involved for a number of years and cannot do otherwise: my faith compels me to get involved.

This year's all-faith day is on Tuesday 3rd of September. Our spiritual reasons for opposing the arms trade are as diverse as our religious traditions but it's uniquely moving to see everyone

come together united, to say with one voice that we have absolutely no faith in war to bring freedom, redemption, life, peace, shalom or mutual flourishing.

For so many people of faith, seeking peace is a fundamental part of their worship and spiritual journey. This means rejecting violence and organised lethal force (militarism) to secure those things we seek together.

So what about you? There are many ways of getting involved. If you can make it, stand (or kneel) alongside some vibrant, contemplative, joyful and prayerful people of all faiths this September.

**Events will be taking place all day. Contact [faith@stopthearmsfair.org.uk](mailto:faith@stopthearmsfair.org.uk) for more information.**

**The Reverend Matt Harbage has been involved in anti-arms trade activism for about 10 years. Matt volunteers at CAAT.**



**NO NUCLEAR**

**WEDNESDAY  
4 SEPT**

**“War starts here, let’s stop it here!”**

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and other anti nuclear protesters will be travelling from all over the country to take part in No Nuclear Day on Wednesday in the big week of action to stop the DSEI arms fair.

Nuclear weapons are indiscriminate and have a catastrophic humanitarian impact. While most countries are trying to enact the UN Global Ban Treaty and remove nuclear weapons from the world, the UK is spending hundreds of billions of pounds on renewing our nuclear weapon system, Trident. Many of the key companies involved in nuclear weapons will be at the arms fair.

Nuclear weapons are very complex systems. A huge

number of companies and suppliers are needed to research, manufacture and maintain them.

At this stage in the Trident renewal process, DSEI is crucial for networking and contracting between different companies involved with the production of these weapons.

The DSEI arms fair props up war and repression. It increases conflict and contributes to a less stable world. War increases the chances of ‘nukes being used. War starts here, let’s stop it here!

The No Nuclear Day of Action will be filled with workshops, speakers, performances, and, of course, action!

**Rachel Melly is an anti-nuclear campaigner, she works for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.**



**THURSDAY 5 SEPT**

# CONFERENCE AT THE GATES

Conference at the Gates is a place for productive protest, where academia is practised beyond the bubble it normally resides within. The aim is for us to work collectively to (re-)think and (re-)act on the militarisation and securitisation of the spaces that we occupy in society and the consequential impacts.

Fighting against the global arms trade demands a look at all the ways in which the arms trade is connected to spaces that supposedly represent us, whilst also working collectively in dismantling the arms trade and the oppressive structures it and other oppressions are part of.

We want this fight to be a collective one; we want the arms trade to be exposed for what it is - a system that upholds racist, colonial, patriarchal, oppressive

systems whilst it demands various oppressions to continue.

Universities have become really important institutions for the global arms trade, through investments, recruitment - and, crucially, research funding: buying out the capacity and resources of students to develop an industry of death and by default halting any freedom or innovation to provide good for society.

Conference at the Gates will bring together community organisers, students, academics and artists to collectively (un)/learn from each other - showing that knowledge isn't confined to professors nor to classroom walls of "prestigious universities". Resistance too can be built collectively and through different mediums and in different spaces.

**Ibtehal is the Universities Coordinator for Campaign Against Arms Trade.**

# DIARY OF EVENTS

## #StopDSEI Week of Action **2-8 Sept**

**Excel Centre, One Western Gtwy, London E16 1XL (DLR: Prince Regent)**

The DSEI arms fair will try to set up at the ExCel Centre from 2nd September. Will be there to stop it!

**Monday 2nd September:  
Stop Arming Israel**

**Tuesday 3rd September:  
No Faith in War**

**Wednesday 4th September:  
No Nuclear**

**Thursday 5th September:  
Conference at the Gates**

**Friday 6th September:  
Climate Justice**

**Saturday 7th September:  
Festival of Resistance  
- Local Democracy and  
International Solidarity**

**Sunday 8th September:  
Borders & Migration**

## Arms Fair Vigils **9-10 Sept**

Standing in solidarity with the victims of war, fuelled by the arms trade

**Monday 9th September:**

**Eve of the Arms Fair  
Silent Vigil**

**Excel Centre, One Western Gtwy,  
London E16 1XL (DLR: Royal Victoria)**

**Tuesday 10th September:**

**Wreath Laying in Victoria Dock  
Victoria Dock, London E16  
(DLR: Royal Victoria)**

## Art the Arms Fair **3-13 Sept**

**Maverick Projects, Peckham, 897a  
Old Kent Rd, London SE15 1NL**

The award-winning artists of Art the Arms Fair will be bringing back their exhibition to London (3rd-13th Sept), exposing the arms trade through art.

The goals are to use art to make the arms fair and its results visible; to amplify the voices of artists and communities affected by conflict; and to create a positive alternative to the world that the organisers of DSEI would like to create.



In the last few months in the UK we have seen the most incredible momentum around climate resistance. From the youth strikers, to the first time activists joining the ranks of Extinction Rebellion, to the policy makers and campaigners pushing for a Green New Deal, it's all hands on deck.

Yet, many of us have noted a severe lack of understanding of the need for an internationalist perspective, not merely for the sake of solidarity or even reparations, but for the sake of survival. There has been a total silence around the role of the military-industrial complex and wars in climate chaos.

We know that wars have been created to serve the interests of corporations: the largest arms deals have delivered oil; whilst the world's largest militaries are the

biggest users of petrol. And of course in the aftermath of wars and conflict, we see people fleeing conditions they did not create, only to be met with violent borders and the hostile environment.

A greener economy in Britain will achieve very little if the government continues to hinder vulnerable countries from doing the same through crippling debt, unfair trade deals, and the export of its own deadly extractive industries.

The fight for climate justice is the fight of our lives, and we need to do it right. We cannot afford to be silent on the role of the military-industrial complex in contributing to climate chaos. Any action for climate justice MUST tackle militarism and global inequality, otherwise our calls for action are empty.

**Alexandra Wanjiku Kelbert and Joshua Virasami are members of Wretched of the Earth, a grassroots collective for Indigenous, black, brown and diaspora groups.**

“What is sick, the context or the person?  
In Palestine, we see many people whose symptoms –  
unusual emotional reaction or behaviors – are  
a normal reaction to a pathogenic context”

WHY WE ARE JOINING

SATURDAY

THE BIG DAY OF ACTION

7 SEPT

Samah Jabr, chair of the mental health unit at the Palestinian Ministry of Health, made this powerful point in an interview about mental health in Palestine. She describes “normal reactions” to the destruction of a person’s house by bombing and living under constant threat of further bombardment - arguing that there is no “post” about the traumatic stress that many Palestinians experience as a result of Israel’s military violence and occupation.

The situation in Palestine is just one reason why Medact is taking action against DSEI. People across the world, and disproportionately in the Global South, face death, injury and health crises as a result of war and conflict fuelled by the arms trade. We take action as an organisation which believes

the best approach to prevention of health inequalities is to tackle their root causes, in a landscape in which the health impacts and injustices of armed conflict are very clear. Health crises such as the outbreak of cholera in Yemen do not come from nowhere - they are caused by the destruction of public health and sanitation systems as a result of war.

Health workers are often the first respondents after bombings in situations of armed conflict, and are sometimes even targeted by repressive regimes. As such, health workers in the UK feel it is their duty to show solidarity with their colleagues around the world. Taking action against the arms trade and DSEI is an important and necessary way of doing that.

**Reem Abu-Hyyeh is the Peace & Security Campaigner at public health organisation Medact.**

# BORDERS & MIGRATION

SUNDAY  
8 SEPT

When Unis Resist Border Controls say #BordersKillKnowledge, we also connect this to the ties that UK universities have with the arms trade. In our manifesto, we demand an end to universities working with and/or investing in the arms trade.



As predominantly migrant lecturers, students and activists who are impacted by xeno-racist immigration laws, we recognise that the university continues to be a site where war, racist borders and racialised surveillance are both created and sustained. Many leading British universities have joint ventures with arms manufacturers like BAE Systems. BAE System continues to sell

weapons to regimes like those in Turkey, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia, among others, that can use these weapons to oppress their own citizens and/or to start wars in other countries, such as the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

Research and joint projects with BAE Systems inside these institutions enable the precarity, violence and instability that asylum seekers, refugees and migrants face both here in the UK and around the world. The neoliberal university can not be a 'sanctuary' to asylum seekers and refugees whilst also being responsible for creating the very violence that forces people to flee their homelands.

We cannot let universities 'migrant-wash' and tokenise migrants by offering a few sanctuary scholarships to gloss over their ties with the very companies that promote and profit from the war and violence that oppress Black, Muslim, PoC and working-class British and migrant communities, both here and around the world.

**Sanaz Raji is a spokesperson for Unis Resist Border Controls**

# WHY WE ARE TAKING ACTION

## WOMEN OF COLOUR IN THE GLOBAL WOMEN'S STRIKE

**Our friends Chrissie and Sarah from the Women of Colour in the Global Women's Strike explain why they are taking action against the DSEI arms fair.**

Women of Colour in the Global Women's Strike is a network of women from Africa, India, Latin America, Europe, US and Indigenous lands, and part of the Global Women's Strike. We campaign for women's unwaged caring work to be recognised and paid for.

We campaign against every discrimination, including sexism, racism and islamophobia, as well as the poverty and war that make us and our families more vulnerable to violence of every kind. "Invest in caring not killing" expresses the GWS strategy for change.

Many of us are immigrants. We are here because Western governments are militarily involved directly or by proxy across the global South, fueling poverty,

destruction of our communities and plundering of our precious resources to enrich themselves. The arms trade props up dictatorships and corrupts all it touches, paving the way for greedy corporations to steal more.

We support the campaign to shut down DSEI. We can't allow the military and the elites they back to continue to kill and pollute. They are hooked on their own greed and we have to break their habit. The US military is the world's biggest polluter yet this is rarely acknowledged. To stop climate change we must stop militarisation and the wars for control of the fossil fuel industries.

The resources lavished on arms companies must come to our communities, for homes, land, healthcare, housing, schools and other vital services – for a caring economy where human beings and the environment are not at the mercy of the market.

**We welcome people of all genders and races at the Crossroads Women's Centre. Find out more at:**

**[facebook.com/womenofcolourglobalwomenstrike](https://facebook.com/womenofcolourglobalwomenstrike)**

# WHY I AM TAKING ACTION

## We spoke to Arabian activist Ameen Nemer about why he is taking action against DSEI.

**Why are you opposed to the DSEI arms fair?** I oppose it because it brings wars rather than peace. We have suffered a lot in the Middle East and the rest of the world. We need a different strategy to stabilise the world.

**Why does the Saudi regime spend so much money on weapons, and what effect does this have?** Before launching the war in Yemen, the Saudi regime used to spend so much money on itself. Members of the Saudi Royal Family made a lot of money through bribes, just like what happened in Al-Yammah deal with Bander Bin Sultan.

These weapons will not end up in a museum. They might be used inside Saudi Arabia if people go on mass peaceful demonstrations. In 2017 my town saw a paramilitary operation that lasted 3 months killing 27, injuring 100s and displacing 1000s.

These weapons could be used in Yemen where Saudi forces have killed thousands and put millions

at risk of famine in the worst man made humanitarian catastrophe.

**Why do you think the UK Government is so supportive of the regime?** There are two reasons. First, to make money. Second, to keep their influence in the Middle East. Obviously, this influence has not helped the region, instead it has brought death and destruction.

**What kind of relationship would you like to see between the UK and Saudi?** I oppose the Saudi regime and do not recognise its legitimacy. It does not represent the people in Arabia. It is an absolute monarch and people have no real representation for decision making.

I want a democratic government that represents the people. Then I want to see a mutual relationship based on respect and serving the interests of the people in health, education and economy rather than wars. Britain has to get over the nostalgia of the Empire.

**Ameen Nemer is an Arabian activist. He has written articles and given talks and interviews about Saudi Arabia's internal and external policy.**



# ART THE ARMS FAIR



**The Art the Arms Fair exhibition is taking place in London **3-13 September** at the Maverick Projects, Peckham (897a Old Kent Rd, London SE15 1NL)**

The first Art the Arms Fair event took place in 2017. It was widely acclaimed and featured art from around the world, including by the legendary Banksy. This year organisers will be back with their award-winning and provocative art exhibition, which promises to be even bigger.

The artists who have donated work include Yemeni graphic designer and cartoonist Ahmed Jahaf; Saba Jallas (also from Yemen), whose work transforms images of smoke from airstrikes and bombings in Yemeni cities; satirical artist Darren Cullen; photomontage artist Peter

Kennard and photographic artist Jim Naughten.

Other names will be announced over the summer. A new blog page on the Art the Arms Fair website will feature interviews with artists in the lead-up to the exhibition.

The deadline for art submissions has closed, but if you would like to get involved as a volunteer please contact **[artthearmsfair@gmail.com](mailto:artthearmsfair@gmail.com)**.

Please follow **@ArtTheArmsFair** on Twitter and Instagram and check **[artthearmsfair.com](http://artthearmsfair.com)** for updates.

# 'THE STRANGER'

BY AMINA ATIQ

I always felt like a stranger returning home  
but I only visit in the summer.

But you were always too kind,  
waiting for my return.

5 years ago this summer- I kissed  
your forehead and whispered,  
*I will see you soon.*

This goodbye drowned  
and summer memories faded.

Yet, I am a stranger to your pain,  
the blockade to your lifesaving needs,  
the grief in your own home,  
your open wound- no doctor has  
seen a skin disease like this one before.  
Your heartbreak bigger than love,  
your headache in the morning no coffee can cure.  
The fear polluting your air with no-one to trust,  
the numbness to your throat left you speechless  
and the stack of debt sitting on your shoulders.  
The illness of your parents unspoken of,  
your missing husband and the death of your child.