

CAAT NEWS



JANUARY – MARCH 2020 • ISSUE 255

BELGIUM



FRANCE



EUROPEAN ACTION AGAINST SAUDI ARMS SHIPMENT



UK

PLUS

International Criminal Court **P6**

Arms industry dinner disrupted **P13**

UK mercenaries in Sri Lanka **P10**

CAAT NEWS

JAN – MARCH 2020

Happy new year to all CAAT supporters. 2020 will be a vital one for anti-arms trade campaigners, with activity happening across the country and the Supreme Court set to rule on arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

The timing could not be more crucial. By the time you receive

CAAT News #256, Yemen will have endured 5 years of war, with UK arms playing a central role.

2019 ended with the election of a Boris Johnson-led majority government, but what does that mean for the arms trade? We've tried to answer this and other big questions in this issue.

CONTENTS

- 3 Election 2019
- 4-5 Arms Trade Shorts
- 6 ICC and Yemen
- 7 Five years of war in Yemen
- 8-9 Resistance around the UK
- 10 Borders and the arms trade
- 11 Mercenaries
- 12 Universities / Military expenditure report
- 13 ADS dinner
- 14 CAAT and Prevent
- 15 They said it / Taking action / Disarm the base



P10



P14



P15

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Campaign Against Arms Trade

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

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AFTER THE ELECTION



Credit Dave Whelan / SourceFlickr

The result of the General Election was not necessarily one that anti-arms trade campaigners would have wished for, but CAAT's work continues.

At the time of writing, all is still in flux. There is general consensus that there will be a major Government reshuffle in February or March, possibly involving a restructuring of Departments. The Labour and Liberal Democrat leadership elections will mean changes in shadow responsibilities and the backbench Select Committees monitoring Government departments have yet to be set up.

The MPs

CAAT has lost some of its most helpful MPs. Ann Clwyd retired after spending decades opposing the arms trade and working for human rights. The LibDems' Tom Brake and Scottish National Party's Stephen Gethins lost their seats, although CAAT was pleased that the SNP's Margaret Ferrier regained hers. There are a lot of new MPs and CAAT supporters can play a large part in letting the CAAT office know if their MPs are supportive of our work.

Arms Export Committee

Scrutiny of arms sales has been taking place through the Committees on Arms Export

There are a lot of new MPs and CAAT supporters can play a large part in letting the CAAT office know if their MPs are supportive of our work

Controls (CAEC). However, this has been comprised of members of four departmental committees who struggled to fit in the extra meetings necessary. This is why CAAT is arguing that the CAEC should be a full stand-alone Select Committee with MPs who have sufficient time to devote to the issue, as well as researchers and other staff to support their work. If you haven't already done so, please ask your MP to sign Early Day Motion 24 (a kind of parliamentary petition) calling for this caat.org.uk/arms-controls

On the agenda

The Government will hold an integrated Security, Defence and Foreign Policy Review. Though its scope is currently unclear, Boris Johnson's adviser Dominic Cummings, reportedly to play a leading role in the Review, is said to be unimpressed by the Ministry of Defence's current procurement practices and expensive "vanity"

purchases such as the two aircraft carriers.

Again the details are far from clear, but the Government's announced a bill to stop institutions that receive public funding from making investment or purchasing decisions targeting overseas countries. This could affect CAAT's local authority and universities disinvestment work.

Dominic Cummings is said to be unimpressed by the Ministry of Defence's current procurement practices and expensive "vanity" purchases

Also possibly under threat is Judicial Review, the type of legal action CAAT is taking against the Government for its continued licensing of arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Judicial Review will be among the processes and institutions examined by a new Constitution, Democracy & Rights Commission.

CAAT is currently waiting for a date when the Supreme Court will hear the Government's appeal on the Judicial Review. The completion of the retaking of the extant licences as ordered by the Court of Appeal is also pending.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

BAE SYSTEMS



Credit: Steve Lynes / Source Flickr

BAE Systems is buying two parts of the Collins Aerospace and Raytheon portfolios. These were mandated for sale as part of regulatory requirements to allow the two companies to merge. The deal is estimated to be costing BAE \$2.2 billion.

[Flight Global](#),
20 January 2020

BAE has been announced as the engineering partner of UK Sport. As part of this role they will be undertaking visits to over 400 UK schools in the months ahead.

[BAE Systems Twitter](#),
27 January 2020

BAE has signed a \$2.68 billion deal with the US navy to provide “combat proven” laser-guided rockets.

[ADS Advance](#), 19 December 2020

ARMS FAIRS RUSSIA

Clarion Events, a UK company that co-organises the DSEI arms fair, will be co-hosting the Vietnam International Defense & Security Exhibition (VIDSE) this September. It will be Vietnam’s first tri-service arms fair (meaning that it markets arms for army, naval and air force).

[VIDSE website](#)

The Russian state arms company, Rosoboronexport, has announced that it has finalised the first export deal for its Mi-38T medium-range multi-purpose helicopter. The buyer and the amount of the sale have not been disclosed. The helicopter is made-up of 99% Russian components.

[Caspian News](#), 29 January 2020

ARMS INDUSTRY

Palantir, the data analytics firm owned by Peter Thiel, has secured a £28 million contract with the Ministry of Defence, taking its total UK Government deals to £39 million. The company provides technology to the US government to assist in deportations.

[New Statesman](#), 03 December 2019

The world’s biggest arms company, Lockheed Martin, reported \$60 billion worth of sales in 2019, making it the best year for sales in the company’s history.

[Defense One](#), 28 January 2020



Credit: Fortune Global Forum / Source Flickr

Analysis from i News found that the world’s largest arms manufacturers saw their value rise by nearly £14bn in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of Iranian military leader Qassem Soleimani.

[i News](#), 10 January 2020



Credit: cooloud / Source Flickr

US ARMS INDUSTRY

New figures produced by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) show that outside China, the top five biggest arms companies in the world are all US-owned companies. Arms sales from these companies alone accounted for \$148 billion and 35 per cent of total top 100 arms sales. The same figures showed that, excluding China, global arms sales increased by 4.6% during 2018.

SIPRI, 09 December 2019

TURKEY

Despite curbs on UK arms sales to Turkey in the aftermath of its invasion of Syria, the Turkish government has said that it intends to speed-up its collaboration with the UK in building a new generation of fighter jet engines for the Turkish air force. This relates to a £100 million deal signed by the then Prime Minister Theresa May in January 2017.

The Guardian, 11 December 2019



Credit: Alexis Tsipras / Source Flickr

CORRUPTION

Airbus has paid a £3 billion settlement to avoid facing bribery and corruption charges in relation to a series of major civil aerospace and arms sales. The deal was done with the UK's Serious Fraud Office, France's Parquet National Financier and the US authorities.

Daily Telegraph, 28 January 2020

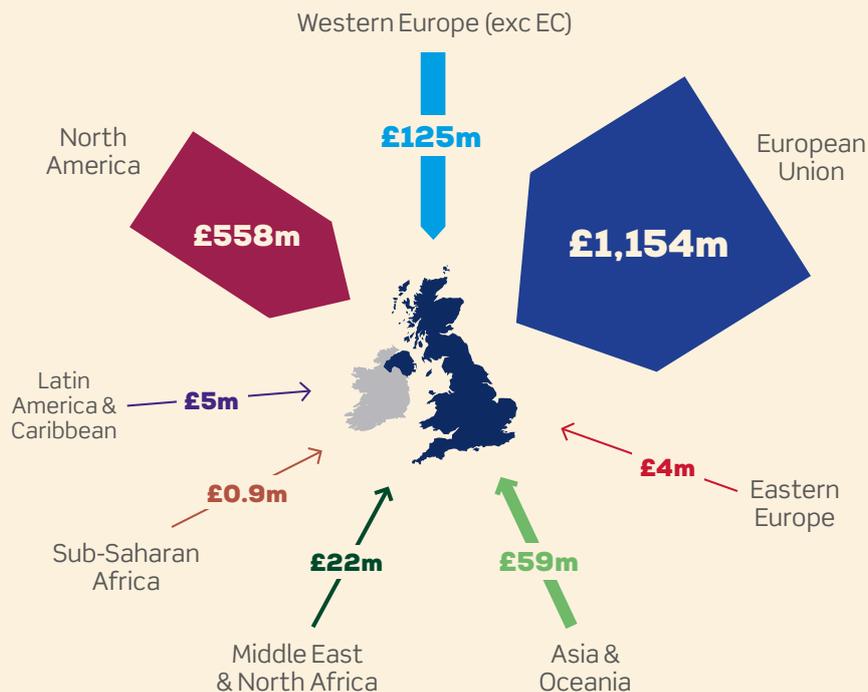
UK CUSTOMS DATA

UK Revenue and Customs data (uktradeinfo.com) provides information on imports and exports. The data that is collected doesn't match-up with arms export licensing data and often doesn't distinguish between military and civil equipment. However, for some categories, the data can be specific enough to be meaningful.

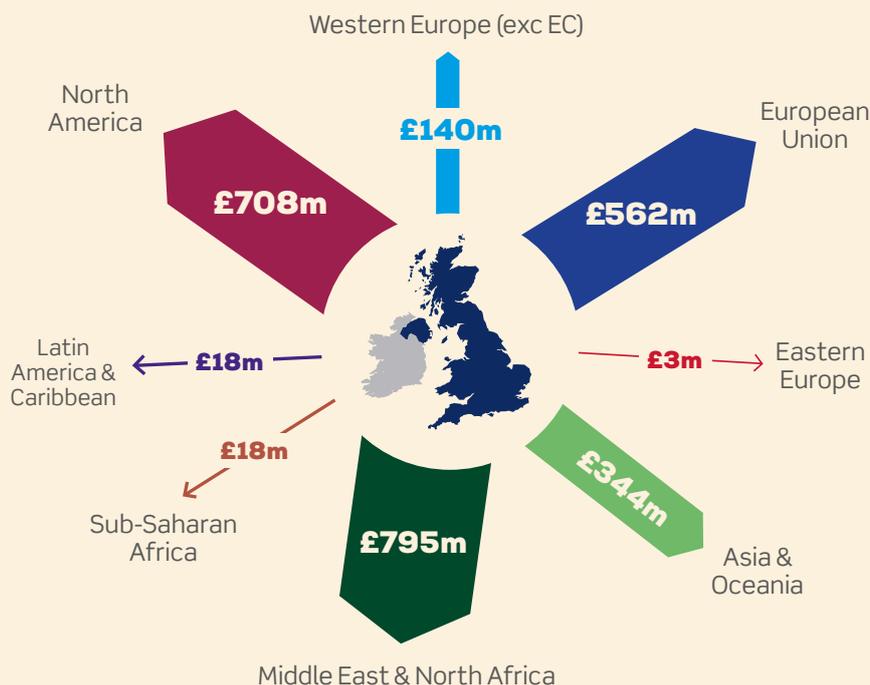
The "commodity codes" used in the graphic cover small arms, bombs, missiles and torpedoes (also parts and accessories for these). They do not include tanks, armoured vehicles, aircraft or warships.

The period covered is from the start of 2017 to the end of 2019.

Arms imports



Arms exports



ARMS COMPANIES IN THE DOCK

The brutal war in Yemen has killed over 100,000 people in total since the Saudi-led coalition started its bombing campaign in March 2015.

The UN Panel of Experts on Yemen, along with many NGOs, has documented hundreds of attacks against civilian targets, including residential areas, schools, hospitals, weddings and funerals. Most of these attacks are clearly against the laws of war, and many may be war crimes.

Who is responsible for these? First and foremost, the Saudi and UAE leaders who are waging the war. Unfortunately, as they are not signatories to the International Criminal Court (ICC), and neither is Yemen, they fall outside its jurisdiction.

But the companies and governments who supply the arms used to wage wars and commit such atrocities, knowing full well how these are being used, share the responsibility. Can they be held legally accountable for their role in enabling war crimes?

Last December, an international NGO coalition, including CAAT, launched an effort to do just that, submitting a 350-page Communication to the ICC, asking them to investigate whether

senior arms company executives and government officials involved in export decisions, may be responsible for aiding and

Can companies and governments who supply the arms used to wage wars and commit such atrocities be held legally accountable for their role in enabling war crimes?

abetting war crimes in Yemen. The coalition is led by the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights, and includes Mwatana for Human Rights, a Yemeni NGO that documents abuses by all sides in the war.

The Communication lists five countries as key suppliers of the Saudi-led coalition: the UK, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. The companies listed include BAE Systems, Airbus, Leonardo, and Dassault Aviation, who sell fighter aircraft to the Saudi-led coalition, and other companies selling bombs, missiles, and related equipment used in the war.

As well as supplying a large proportion of the aircraft these

companies also provide ongoing maintenance, repair, technical support, and training, necessary to keep them flying. BAE Systems in particular has 6,300 employees in Saudi Arabia, without which the UK-supplied Tornado and Typhoon aircraft would quickly be grounded.

As these European nations are party to the ICC, the Communication argues that the decisions taken by these governments and companies to export arms are thus subject to ICC jurisdiction. More details about the case can be found on the CAAT website.

So long as this case is live, it will remind all those involved in arms export decisions of their potentially deadly consequences, and that they themselves may one day be held to account for them

CAAT's own case against UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia is ongoing. The ICC case, however, is very different. CAAT's case is about Government policy, and if successful could force the Government to halt arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The ICC case concerns individual criminal responsibility for war crimes.

The road to actually placing ministers, officials, or arms company executives, in the dock at The Hague, is a long one. But the principle that those who commit or enable war crimes, should be held accountable for their actions is crucial. So long as this case is live, it will remind all those involved in arms export decisions of their potentially deadly consequences, and that they themselves may one day be held to account for them.



Credit: Roel Wijnants / Source Flickr



Credit: Alisdare Hickson / Source Flickr

FIVE YEARS OF WAR IN YEMEN

On 25th March we will be joining others across the world to mark the fifth anniversary of the start of the Saudi-led bombing campaign in Yemen.

This is a time to stand in solidarity with the Yemeni people – and to continue our resistance to the part that the UK and other arms-dealing governments have played in supplying and supporting the conflict.

War in Yemen: made in Europe

From UK-made missiles to French-made armoured vehicles, German patrol boats or Italian bombs, weapons used in the conflict are made across Europe – often by arms companies working across borders – so we are pleased to be joining with allies across the continent in resisting their continued supply in coordinated action on 25 March.

Find more ideas and resources for action at caat.org.uk/yemen-five-years

Meanwhile arms exports – and resistance – continue.

Stop the shipments

In early February, CAAT took action alongside campaigners and dockworkers across Europe to resist the shipment of further weapons to Saudi Arabia.

When Bahri Yanbu, a Saudi Arabian ship stopped over in Tilbury docks, we were concerned that the ship was carrying weapons destined for use by Saudi-led forces in the war on Yemen, where there is a serious

risk they will be used in violations of international humanitarian law.

The cargo company is the “exclusive logistics provider” for the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defence and has carried weapons for use in the war on Yemen on previous voyages. It has transported billions of dollars worth of military vehicles, missiles and bombs from the USA, and it is thought to have collected armoured vehicles from Canada, and ammunition for cannons from France. In at least eight out of the last nine visits to Antwerp, the ship is known to have either loaded weapons or to already had weapons on board.

When Bahri Yanbu, a Saudi Arabian ship stopped over in Tilbury docks, we were concerned that the ship was carrying weapons destined for use by Saudi-led forces in the war on Yemen

We were also concerned that it could be collecting further UK-made military equipment at Tilbury. Despite CAAT’s successful legal challenge, which saw the Court of Appeal ruling that UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen are unlawful, weapons exports may continue under licences issued before the judgment. These could include components for combat aircraft

and bombs used in the conflict.

This time Bahri Yanbu had collected cargo in the USA and Canada, then was visiting a series of European ports in February, before continuing to Saudi Arabia. Previous shipments had been impeded with legal challenges, dockworker strikes, and protests in Canada, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium – so we were keen to ensure it did not go unchallenged in the UK.

The resistance has only grown. Belgian campaigners were ready with a legal challenge and citizens weapons inspectors – and the ship did not dock in Antwerp. In the UK CAAT supporters took the same message to Tilbury Docks. Meanwhile, our lawyers wrote to the government to raise questions about the legality of the shipment in light of the Court of Appeal verdict. After spending the day out at anchor, the ship abandoned its plan to visit Tilbury, making a short stop in Sheerness instead. Watch this space for updates. As its voyage continues, it will be met in France with further legal challenge and protest; campaigners in Spain, determined to expose weapons shipments; and an alliance of activists and dockworkers in Italy, where the workers have said “We can’t be at peace with ourselves when we are working to load these ships”.



RESISTANCE ACROSS THE UK



Brighton activists are targeting the EDO arms factory

From 2003 to 2013, “Smash EDO” campaigned to shut down a small weapons factory in Moulescoomb on the outskirts of town: called EDO MBM. At the height of the campaign, in 2009, a group of activists “decommissioned” the factory to prevent exports to Israel as it relentlessly bombed the people of Gaza.

Since people in Brighton first became aware of the existence of the EDO MBM factory, academics and campaigners have undertaken thorough research, in order to uncover evidence of the Moulescoomb factory’s complicity in violations of international law and other atrocities.

In July 2019, it emerged that a panel of experts organised by the UN Security Council, had found irrefutable proof that components produced by EDO MBM were used in a Saudi “attack that violated international law” against a civilian target in Yemen.

As a result of all this, a new campaign has begun: Brighton Against the Arms Trade. We have built on the Smash EDO campaign which challenged the factory relentlessly and ensured it had no opportunity to expand its deadly trade.

Our focus is on building a coalition of groups and individuals impacted by, and opposed to, the arms trade. If you are in Brighton, get in touch and come and join us! Email brightonaat@riseup.net to get involved.



London CAAT are visiting the arms dealers on their doorstep...

London CAAT is gearing up for another year of action. One thing we will definitely be doing is another walking tour of some of the many arms companies in London. Last year’s two tours visited companies such as BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin and G4S as well as Buckingham Palace (due to the support the Royals have provided in securing arms deals). Blue plaques were left outside each company to recognise their horrific acts.

We will be doing another walking tour of some of the many arms companies in London

Attendees discovered which company made bombs that killed civilians in Yemen, which Royal participated in a sword dance that helped secure the sale of fighter jets to Saudi Arabia and who said that ‘weapons sales encourage peace’. **Join our next walking tour to find out the answers! Keep an eye on our website london.caat.org.uk or social media for details of the next tour.**

In 2019 we had interesting talks on the Kurdish revolution in Syria and on Action on Armed Violence’s work, and we may do other talks later in the year, any suggestions for speakers are welcome.

If you want to join us, email londoncaat@riseup.net or come to a meeting. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 6.30pm in the CAAT office.



Edinburgh CAAT – a seedbed for action in 2020!

CAAT Edinburgh gathered at the end of January to plan our 2020 strategy. People from other organisations attended too, so we are already liaising and building networks for the year ahead.

It was a thought provoking day. We learnt that too often groups go for tactics before they have thought about the WHY! So we looked at our goals (what we wanted to achieve), then our strategy (how were we going to do it) then tactics (the actual details of each step, who's sending emails? Who's got a stencil!? etc). Our overarching topics were:

Arms funding and the Scottish government: The Scottish Government is giving millions of pounds per year to arms companies via Scottish Enterprise. It's time for it to stop its support and end its complicity.

Arms companies and manufacturing in Scotland: Being in the supply chain draws less attention than directly manufacturing arms. However, Scotland is producing Electronic Guidance systems, and Simulation training in support of arms use, as well as actual arms!

We learnt that too often groups go for tactics before they have thought about the WHY! So we looked at our goals, then our strategy, then tactics

Group building: Acknowledging the strength of our group and valuing achievements so far. Sharing our successes with other groups as well as following up on them ourselves, for example our successful campaign against UDT (Undersea Defence Technology) in Glasgow.

Arms companies in society: Addressing the MoD supported programme for arms companies to go into schools under the banner of STEM (science, engineering, technology and maths)

Spreading peace and building our Movement: Reps from the Edinburgh Peace & Justice centre, the Catholic Bishops' Justice & Peace network and Pax Christi, all joined us. We need to continue to build and grow the movement.

It was a full day, by the end of which we felt focused and ready to direct our energy as efficiently as we can to stop arms trade! If you'd like to get involved in Scotland, email edinburghcaat@live.co.uk for details of the next meeting.



Help Malvern activists stop their local arms fair!

Last July peace protesters from Malvern and the surrounding areas demonstrated against the two-day Defence & Security Expo held in secret at Malvern's Three Counties Showground. The Expo website 3csde.co.uk boasted that delegates would have access to 2000 "decision makers" with around 150 exhibitors, including BAE Systems. The Expo's main purpose was to recruit small and medium enterprises into the arms industry.

A wreath was laid outside Qinetiq's premises and a testimony read out in memory of all the children who have lost their lives in Yemen

Protesters held a vigil in central Malvern, followed by a march through the shopping area and on to the offices of Qinetiq a local arms company with a partnership agreement with Saudi Arabia. A wreath was laid outside their premises and a testimony read out in memory of all the children who have lost their lives in Yemen.

Drivers leaving the event were confronted with our messages: *Malvern Showground Welcomes Arms Traders: NOT IN OUR NAME* and *Use your Skills to Tackle the Climate Emergency*.

With the 2020 Expo already advertised for July it is time for forward planning to begin. Please contact outreach@caat.org.uk to get in touch with Malvern Individuals for Peace and help plan action for 2020!

BORDERS AND THE ARMS TRADE

Last November, our friends at Stop Wapenhandel, the Dutch campaign against the arms trade, released a new report about the role of arms companies in the oppressive borders industry. In this piece [Mark Akkerman](#) explains their findings.

It is 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and Europe has more walls than ever. Many of these have been built primarily to stop migration. There are not only over 1000 kilometres of land walls, but also maritime walls (Frontex operations to intercept refugees at sea) and virtual walls (biometric identification systems to control and monitor migration).

The underlying narrative for the EU policies connected to these walls is the framing of migration as a security problem and a threat. This narrative has been pushed by the military and security industry through effective lobbying, according to the report *The Business of Building Walls*, published by Stop Wapenhandel, the Transnational Institute (TNI) and Centre Dèlas last November.

The erection of all those walls has had devastating consequences for refugees, who encounter violent border guards, forcing them to look for ever more dangerous routes and drives them into the hands of criminal smuggling networks.

EU member states have spent at least €900 million on land

border walls since the end of the Cold War. While the EU in general doesn't fund those walls, its spending on maritime walls has totalled at least €676.4 million between 2006 to 2017 and its spending on virtual walls ran up to €1 billion between 2000 and 2019.

The underlying narrative for the EU policies connected to these walls is the framing of migration as a security problem and a threat

This boom in border budgets is set to grow. Under its budget for the next EU budget cycle (2021–2027) the European Commission has earmarked €8.02 billion to its Integrated Border Management Fund (2021–2027) and €11.27 billion to border guard agency Frontex. At least €1.9 billion (2000–2027) will go to its identity databases and border surveillance system Eurosur.

Large European arms companies, in particular Leonardo, Airbus and Thales, earn well from their involvement in all these kinds of walls. Helicopters are the most important business for

Airbus and Leonardo here, while Thales provides radar, for example for border patrol ships.

Other companies focus on certain types of walls, like Dutch shipbuilder Damen which provided many Mediterranean countries with border patrol vessels, which are also used extensively during Frontex operations. Spanish company European Security Fencing provided razor wire for the fences around the Spanish enclaves Ceuta and Melilla in Morocco, the fence at Calais and the fences on borders of Austria, Bulgaria and Hungary. And French IT company Sopra Steria has secured a string of EU-contracts, worth over €150 million, for the development and maintenance of fingerprint database Eurodac and identity information exchange systems.

The erection of these walls has had devastating consequences for refugees, forcing them to look for ever more dangerous routes and driving them into the hands of criminal smuggling networks

You can read the report and find out more at stopwapenhandel.org



MERCENARIES

Journalist and researcher **Phil Miller** has just released a new book, *Keenie Meenie: The British Mercenaries Who Got Away With War Crimes*, which explores the shameful role of mercenaries in fueling war and human rights abuses.

Profiting from war is one of the most controversial aspects of UK foreign policy. The debate normally centres on why British bombs are being sold to a belligerent ally. However, the arms industry will always defend its business on the grounds that its staff never pull the trigger, and that any subsequent casualties are therefore not its responsibility. Or as the chairman of Britain's largest arms dealer, BAE Systems, modestly told shareholders in 2019: "[We] provide defence equipment that ultimately encourages peace."

Tenuous as that logic may sound, amid this heated debate on the arms trade it is often forgotten that there is another British industry altogether, which has absolutely no qualms about being directly involved in war. Mercenaries will deliver the bullet directly to their client's target of choice.

My new book, *Keenie Meenie: The British Mercenaries Who Got Away With War Crimes*, shines a light on one such private army, which was so secretive that even its name is shrouded in mystery. Keenie Meenie Services, or KMS, was run by a former British special forces commander, Colonel Jim Johnson, who had been aide-de-camp to the Queen. Johnson ran a mercenary operation against republican forces in Yemen in the 1960s, with the support of MI6,

before teaming up with other dogs of war to found KMS in the mid-1970s.

The company set up and ran an elite counter-insurgency unit in Oman, where the country's dictator was worried about being overthrown by left-wing rebels. By 1984 this experience in Oman had caught the eye of Sri Lanka's President Jayewardene, a right-wing ruler who was desperate to

Newly declassified diplomatic cables reveal that British government ministers knew these atrocities were taking place, but did little or nothing to stop them

crush an independence movement from the island's Tamil minority. Keenie Meenie coached a Sri Lankan police commando unit that went on to massacre Tamil civilians. However, the uprising continued and soon the Tamil movement had forced the government to the negotiating table.

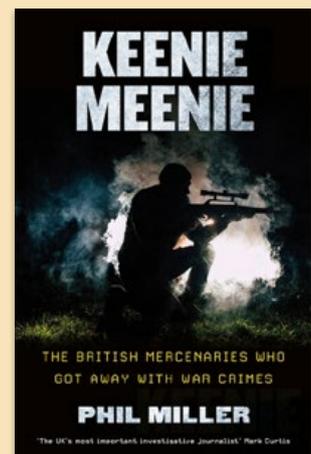
While Tamil negotiators demanded the withdrawal of British mercenaries, Jayewardene did the opposite – paying KMS to provide helicopter gunship pilots, so that when the ceasefire broke down his side held the upper hand militarily. For the next three years, British mercenaries flew on combat missions in which scores of Tamil civilians were massacred.

Newly declassified diplomatic

cables reveal that British government ministers knew these atrocities were taking place, but did little or nothing to stop them. Whitehall planners judged the defeat of the Tamil movement to be in Britain's geopolitical interests, a decision which allowed mercenaries to inflict untold suffering in Sri Lanka.

Phil Miller is a staff reporter for Declassified UK. His book, *Keenie Meenie: The British Mercenaries Who Got Away With War Crimes*, is published by Pluto Press. An accompanying documentary will be released later in 2020 – follow KeenieMeenie.info for updates.

Special offer for readers of CAAT News! 30% off *Keenie Meenie* when ordering from plutobooks.com. Add the coupon code **CAAT30 at the checkout to claim.**



UNIVERSITIES



Students in **Glasgow** have continued their campaign against Glasgow University's investment in arms companies. In recent weeks they have held a well-attended club night and a film screening of *Nae Pasaran*, an excellent film about the resistance of workers who refused to move equipment going to the Pinochet regime in Chile. If you would like to buy a copy of the film, visit caat.org.uk/shop.

It's not just Glasgow where students are taking action. Right now CAAT is working with students in **Oxford** and **Cambridge** on very interesting and timely research, which we will include in the next issue.

New research from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign has found that 100 universities across the UK have investments in companies that are profiting from arms sales to Israel and the occupation of Gaza. We will be working

New research has found that 100 universities across the UK have investments in companies that are profiting from arms sales to Israel and the occupation of Gaza

with campaigners to continue highlighting the complicity of universities across the UK.

If you would like to find out more about arms companies on your campus, or help in setting up a campaign, then please email universities@caat.org.uk

MILITARY SPENDING

New CAAT publication on UK military expenditure and climate change

On 20 February, CAAT publishes a new report, *Fighting the wrong battles: how obsession with military power diverts resources from the climate crisis*, by CAAT Research Coordinator Sam Perlo-Freeman. The 40-page report will be available on the CAAT website and in print. An event to present and discuss the report will be held at Parliament on 3rd March, hosted by Fabian Hamilton MP, Shadow Minister of State for Peace and Disarmament. (See CAAT website for details).

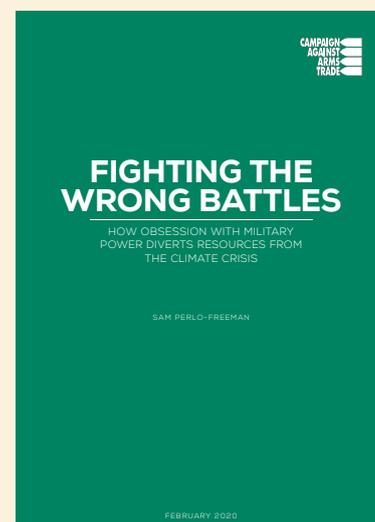
The report challenges the mainstream consensus that high military spending, in particular the NATO target of 2% of GDP, is essential for UK security,

showing that that on the contrary, a militaristic approach to security, and the wars that have followed in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, have been disastrous for UK and global peace and security.

The report challenges the mainstream consensus that high military spending is essential for UK security

Instead, we argue for a vision of sustainable security that focuses on the real threats to humanity, most importantly the climate crisis, and for a reallocation of resources from the military to the urgent measures needed to tackle climate catastrophe. This means abandoning the

persistent delusion that the UK can bring peace to the world through advanced weapons and military interventions.



ARMS DEALERS FEAST, WHILE YEMENIS ARE STARVED

On Wednesday January 22, arms dealers and MPs met for the annual Aerospace, Defence and Security (ADS) dinner. CAAT and other protesters were there to let them know their celebrations were unacceptable, especially given their contribution to the ongoing crisis in Yemen.

Arms dealers are busy people. If they're not burning the midnight oil securing the next dirty deal, they are likely schmoozing and networking at fancy industry events and receptions, feasting on banquets and enjoying the company of other wealthy individuals.

Activists came together on a biting cold January night to make our resistance known

And the story was no different on Wednesday 22nd January, when arms dealers convened at the JW Marriott Grosvenor House Hotel for the annual Aerospace, Defence and Security (ADS) dinner, which brings together arms dealers, MPs and military personnel to schmooze, swill champagne, and feast on expensive food. At the same time, 14 million Yemeni people are at risk of famine, starved as a result of the Saudi-led coalition's bombing and blockade of their country. Many of the aircraft and bombs are made by the arms companies present, and have been sold with the support of the politicians in attendance.

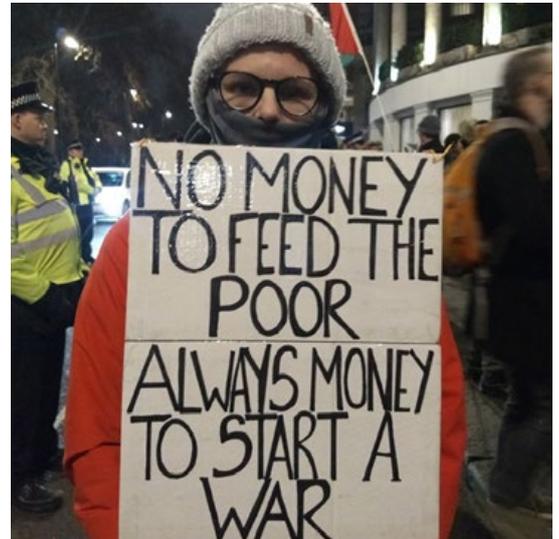
Over 100,000 people are estimated to have been killed since the war in Yemen broke out in 2015. The war has created the

worst humanitarian crisis in the world. The UK government is directly involved in causing this suffering; only legal action from CAAT has forced the Government to review arms sales to Saudi. Meanwhile, UK-made planes are dropping UK-made bombs in Yemen, and UK arms sold to Turkey have been used in the decimation of the Kurds. UK arms sales fuel death, destruction and violence across the globe.

A number of activists and came together on a biting cold January night to make our resistance known. As well as chants and songs, messages of solidarity were read out, reminding us of why it is imperative we insist to those dining that they cannot eat in peace, whilst being responsible for suffering and wickedness.

*The people
United
Will never be
Defeated!*

As with previous years, ADS has managed to keep the guest list a closely-guarded secret, meaning as yet we are not clear on exactly which politicians and representatives attended. However, we were thrilled to successfully dissuade popular



We were thrilled to successfully dissuade Clare Balding from being this year's keynote speaker, to the dismay of a few attendees

TV host Clare Balding from being this year's keynote speaker, to the dismay of a few attendees (see: #ClareFail on Twitter).

Other highlights of this year included the presence of young people from Woodcraft folk dressed as Grim Reapers, in-keeping with our "dining with death" theme. We also riled up a few arms dealers on their cigarette breaks, who were insistent that they are actually "reasonable human beings" working in "engineering".

Our response?

*Shame
Shame
Shame on you!*

Nothing much is certain in these uncertain times, but we can guarantee that so long as arms dealers dine in London annually, we'll be right there challenging them, adding an awkward – if not a bitter – taste to their banquet.



CAAT AND PREVENT



In January, many in the social justice movement found that our groups were named in a Government anti-terror document.

The document, which was produced by Counter Terrorism Policing for medical staff and teachers lists CAAT, Greenpeace, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Palestine Solidarity Campaign and other campaigning organisations under the heading “left wing and associated single issue groups.”

No explanation is given for our inclusion, but only one page prior the reader can learn about “symbols commonly associated with white supremacy.” The implication is that if you campaign for social justice or against weapons, war or discrimination then you can be categorised alongside white nationalists and other hate groups.

The document didn’t come out of nowhere. It was produced for the Government’s controversial Prevent programme. It would be hard to find a more insidious scheme than Prevent, which was introduced in 2006 as part of the Government’s broader anti-terrorism strategy.

From the start, it has been based on monitoring and collating information about private individuals, with much of it being based on rumours, innuendo, lies and speculation. Predictably, the implementation has seen the stigmatisation of minority communities, with Muslims in particular being singled out.

One estimate, from Miqdaad Versi of the Muslim Council of Britain, suggests that, despite only making up 5% of people in the UK, 2/3 of those referred to Prevent are Muslims, so that Muslims are 40 times more likely than non-Muslims to be referred to the programme. This comes at a time when we are seeing the growth of Islamophobia, right-wing violence and white nationalist groups in the UK. Of the cases that have been referred, Government statistics show that only 5% have required specialist support.

The inclusion of peace campaigners might seem shocking, but it is a natural development for a flawed and discriminatory strategy that has used profiling, exacerbated divisions and created a chilling effect on activism and political organisation

In 2016, the then UK Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, David Anderson QC, called for an independent review of Prevent, noting that “Prevent has become a more significant source of grievance in affected communities than the police and ministerial powers that are exercised.” Likewise, the UN’s Special Rapporteur on the

Right to Freedom of Assembly, Maina Kiai, has warned that “by dividing, stigmatising and alienating segments of the population, Prevent could end up promoting extremism, rather than countering it.”

In 2019 the call for a review was granted, but, unusually, it will only look at present and future decisions rather than analysing past ones. This has led many to believe that it will serve as little more than a rubber-stamping exercise and to provide a veneer of legitimacy to a fundamentally flawed programme.

The inclusion of peace campaigners might seem shocking to many, but it is a natural development for a flawed and discriminatory strategy that has used profiling, exacerbated divisions and created a chilling effect on activism and political organisation. That is why it needs to be challenged and resisted by movements and communities working in solidarity.



DISARM THE BASE

Based on real direct actions, Disarm the Base is a co-operative board game with up to four players working together to find and disarm war planes on a military base, avoid capture by guards and secure publicity by escaping to raise banners celebrating the action.

Staff and volunteers in the CAAT office have played the game a few times and found it easy to learn and fun. Unlike some modern board games, you can easily play it in a lunch hour and there's a surprising sense of satisfaction as you disarm the imaginary planes and a real feeling of jeopardy as you race to escape, hoping not to draw a card which will turn on the floodlights or alert a guard to your presence.

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This is the first game from Dissent Games, founded by former Quaker staffer Jessica Metheringham, and part of a growing trend of political board games which use play to challenge rather than reinforce social norms.

Profits from Disarm the Base are being donated to CAAT. You can buy a copy via disarmthebase.com



THEY SAID IT

"It's little wonder that these stocks are racing ahead. You have got the world's superpowers squaring up to each other and an arms race for conflicts which no-one really knows what they will look like. It's a good time to be in bombs, bullets and bugs."

Anonymous city analyst
speaking to i News, 10 January 2020

"If I listened to him, we would be in World War Six by now, and goes out and IMMEDIATELY writes a nasty & untrue book. All Classified National Security. Who would do this?"

Donald Trump very publicly criticises his former defence secretary John Bolton on Twitter, 29 January 2020

"Hugely disappointing that @clarebalding pulled out of speaking to the dinner I'm at tonight apparently after pressure from certain organisations. I paid a lot of money to hear her speak. #refundplease #ClareFail"

Tweet from an unhappy guest at the ADS Group dinner to celebrate the arms industry, after Clare Balding pulled out of speaking (see page 13 for details)

TAKING ACTION

Shadow World

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

Local groups

To find out what's happening in your local area, visit caat.org.uk/events or email outreach@caat.org.uk

Stop Arming Saudi

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



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)