

# CAAT NEWS

APRIL – JUNE 2020 • ISSUE 256

CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST  
ARMS  
TRADE



UK MILITARY  
SPENDING 2019:  
**£47 BILLION**



THE INCREASE IN  
SPENDING SINCE 2015  
ALONE COULD PAY FOR  
**150,000 NURSES**



It's certainly been a momentous few months for the world. We hope that you are staying safe and well, and that the current crisis passes as soon as possible.

The impact of coronavirus will be felt across the world. One country where it could prove particularly catastrophic is Yemen, where the healthcare system has been put on the edge of collapse after five years of war. UK-made arms have played a central role in the Saudi-led bombardment.

Looking forward, the pandemic also raises big questions about what we mean by national and personal security. Militaristic governments have spent tens of billions of pounds on fighter jets and bombs, but have been unable to provide basic protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers. It is long past time for these priorities to be shifted.

One small thing that has changed is the format of CAAT News. This is our first ever online issue. Despite this backdrop, we have put a lot of work into making this as strong an issue as possible. We would be grateful for your feedback, and hope that you stay safe and well.

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Credit Morning Calm Weekly Newspaper / Source Flickr



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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,

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## Coronavirus and the security debate

In February the Government announced that it was undertaking an Integrated Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy Review. Responding, the Commons' Defence Select Committee invited three military academic experts to give evidence on 10 March. It was business as usual, with no mention of coronavirus or pandemics.

What a difference a week makes. On 17 March a former Chief of the Defence Staff and a former National Security Adviser were up before the Defence Committee. This time the discussion was dominated by coronavirus, with both the witnesses stressing that pandemics had been a top-tier risk

when they were involved in the 2010 Review.

CAAT is a member of Rethinking Security, a network of organisations and academics working in the UK for an approach to security that can better meet everyone's needs, from the local to the global level. It had seen the Integrated Review as an opportunity to push for a wider debate than the usual one where security is often discussed as though it is synonymous with military strength.

Campaigners wanted the focus to be on human security rather than, as is so often the case, the security and power ambitions of the UK state. Now, the dreadful pandemic is shifting the debate, showing

**Despite pandemics being described as a top-tier threat on paper, resources have not been devoted to addressing them. Rather, they have gone on aircraft carriers and nuclear weapons**

everyone what a real threat to their security looks like and how, despite pandemics being described as a top-tier threat on paper, resources have not been devoted to addressing them. Rather, they have gone on aircraft carriers and nuclear weapons.

As novelist Arundhati Roy wrote in the Financial Times on 4 April, *“The mandarins who are managing this pandemic are fond of speaking of war ... But if it really were a war, then who would be better prepared than the US? If it were not masks and gloves that its frontline soldiers needed, but guns, smart bombs, bunker busters, submarine, fighter jets and nuclear bombs, would there be a shortage?”*

It is not just pandemics. Many imminent, major threats such as climate change, environmental degradation, energy security and economic marginalisation are not military and, to date, have been seen as side issues in the security debate.

Coronavirus has also drawn attention to food security. All need to be discussed widely in the media and elsewhere, and placed at the centre of the Integrated Review.

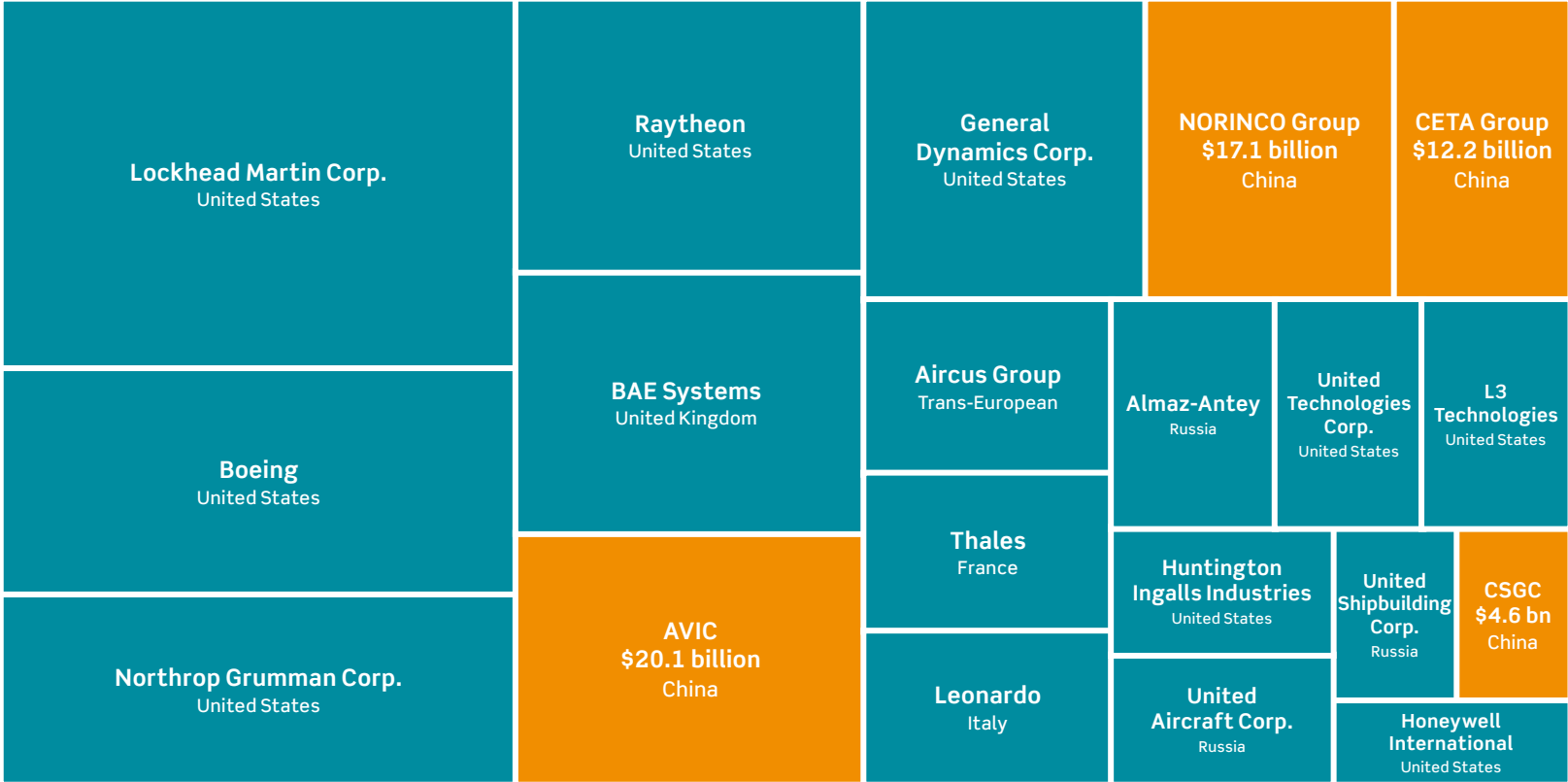
Seeing security in military terms and prioritising military solutions to problems can also increase insecurity, as shown by the military interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and elsewhere. A military approach is also likely to endorse the promotion of arms exports. These exacerbate human rights abuses, tension and conflict, with clear and harmful implications for global and UK security.

So if anything good is to come out of the current pandemic, it must involve new thinking on the many issues that are necessary for human security. The level of resources to tackle the threats must then reflect what is needed, not the lobbying of arms companies or residual delusions of global military power.

**If anything good is to come out of the current pandemic, it must involve new thinking on the many issues that are necessary for human security**

# Arms Trade Shorts

## SIPRI arms stats



Source SIPRI Arms Industry Database, December 2018

New data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has revealed the scale of the Chinese arms industry. SIPRI's research suggests that China is the second largest arms producer in the world, behind the US.

**SIPRI, 27/01/2020**

SIPRI's analysis also shows that Between 2010–14 and 2015–19, exports of major arms from the US grew by almost a quarter. It also found that French arms sales have reached their highest level for a five year period since 1990.

**SIPRI, 09/03/2020**

## Unmanned technology

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, a research agency owned by the Ministry of Defence, has ordered five autonomous unmanned ground vehicles.

The deal, worth a total of £5 million, includes contracts with two UK-based companies, HORIBA MIRA and Quinetiq.  
**Jane's Defence, 16/03/2020**

## UAE

A UK-based law firm has filed requests for the authorities in the UK, US and Turkey to arrest senior officials from the United Arab Emirates on suspicion of carrying out war crimes and torture in Yemen.  
**Reuters, 12/02/2020**

## Activism

Seven activists had their charges dropped after occupying the Kent office of Instro Precision, an Israeli owned arms company that produces drone components and other military equipment.  
**Morning Star, 24/01/2020**





## Indonesia



Following pressure from the Trump administration, Indonesia has dropped deals to buy fighter jets from Russia and naval vessels from China. The deals in the pipeline were thought to be worth \$1.1 billion and \$200 million respectively.

**Bloomberg, 12/03/2020**

The Indonesian authorities are also said to be reconsidering a \$900 million deal to buy submarines from South Korea. This comes at a time when many expect Indonesia to cut its military budget.

**Jane's Defence, 01/04/2020**

## Excel Centre

The Excel Centre in London has been transformed into the NHS Nightingale field hospital for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic. Every two years the facility is used to host Defence & Security Equipment International, which is one of the world's biggest arms fairs. CAAT approves of the new use for it and expects readers of CAAT News will as well.

**BBC News, 03/04/2020**

## UK exports

The UK government has created a £1 billion fund to loan to other countries in order to encourage them to buy UK arms. The fund was announced by the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, as part of the 2020 budget.

**The Guardian, 28/03/2020**



Credit Number 10 / Source Flickr

## Revolving door



Credit Number 10 / Source Flickr

A Freedom of Information request by the Guardian revealed that employees from some of the world's biggest arms companies are being seconded to the Department of International Trade. The companies include BAE Systems, MBDA, General Dynamics UK and Babcock.

**The Guardian, 18/03/2020**

## Yemen

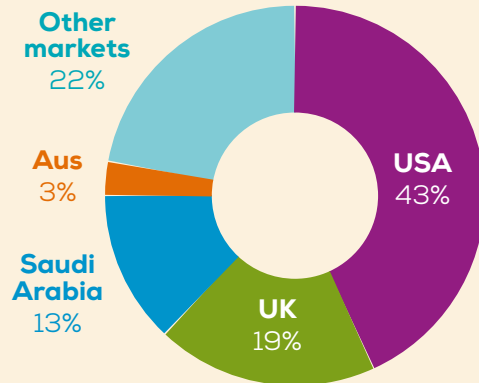
A UK government inquiry into breaches of a court ban on arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen has cleared Ministers of any personal responsibility. Instead, the report blamed "shortcomings in the process." The ban followed a case brought by CAAT.

**The Independent, 07/02/2020**

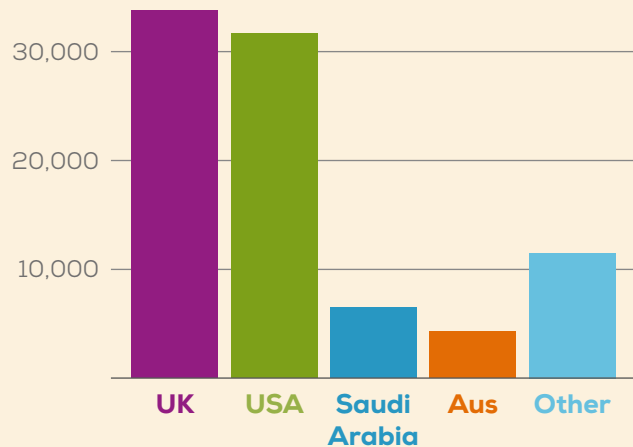
## BAE Systems' Annual Report 2019

BAE's 2019 report was released in March 2020. The following are drawn from "Our business at a glance".

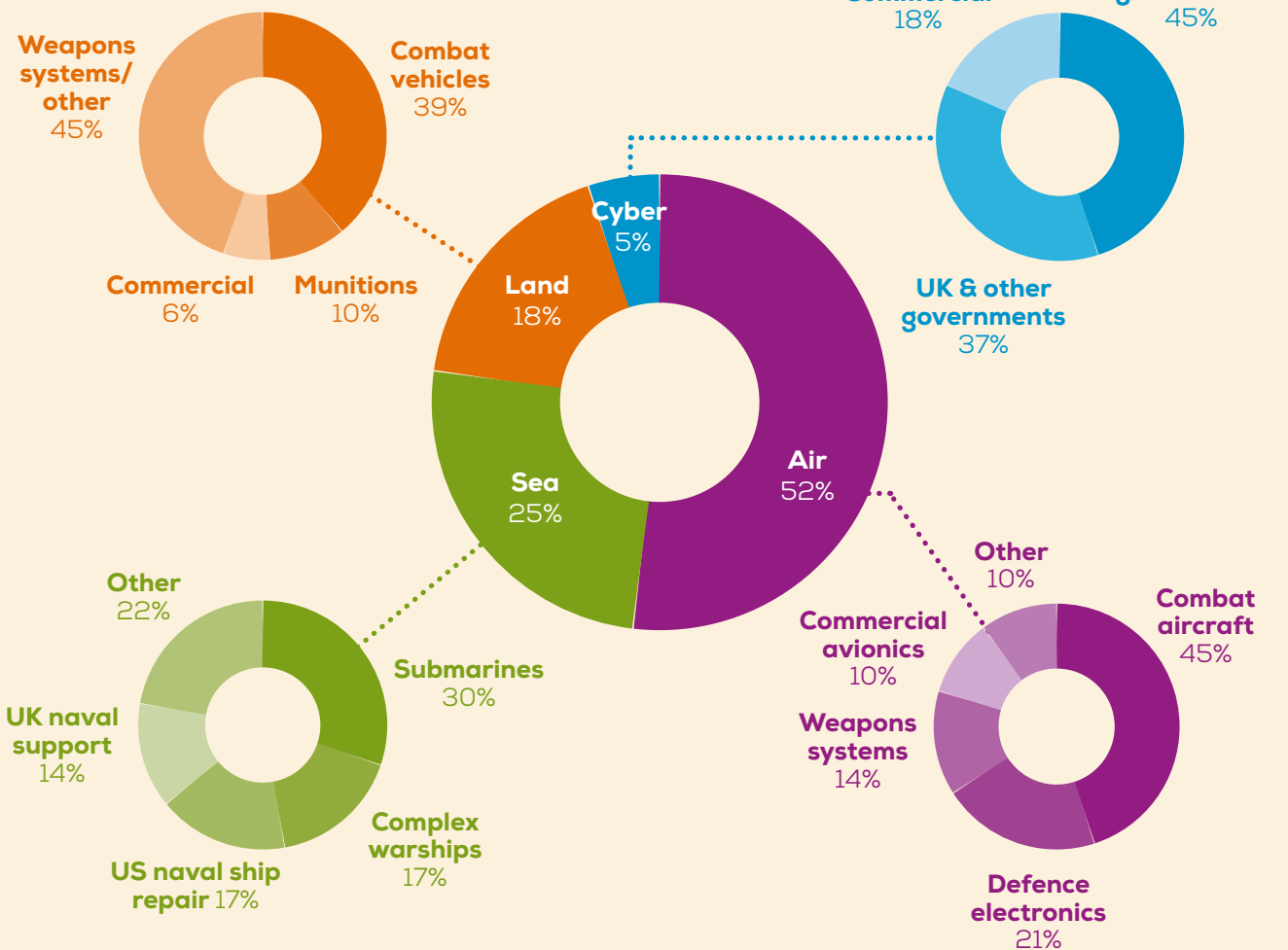
### Sales by destination



### Employees by location



### Sales by "domain"



Figures include BAE's share of other companies, such as its 37.5% holding in missile-manufacturer MBDA and 49% ownership of Turkish armoured vehicle manufacturer FNSS.

# Online activism and local groups

**Things are difficult right now, but alongside the anxiety and fear there are local and national networks of people connecting, supporting and caring for each other**

As the UK adjusts to life under lockdown and social distancing measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, local groups and campaigners are taking their work online. Things are difficult right now, but alongside the anxiety and fear there are local and national networks of people connecting, supporting and caring for each other. Meaningful change needs strong communities, and the strong relationships and solidarity of our local groups and networks can help us.

With arms companies and governments forced to recognise that war and militarism cannot protect us from the real threats we face, and redeploying troops and resources towards public health, this is also a moment of deep transition and change. Nothing will be the same afterwards, and social justice campaigners need to help shape the conversation about what comes next.

London CAAT are one of the groups who have taken their meetings online. They have even held an online day of action, shifting their vigil for Yemen online. Long-time campaigner and London CAAT member Ian Pocock says:

*“For obvious reasons, we couldn’t hold our vigil for Yemen at the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation, so we held an online day of action (as well as partaking in the Europe-wide day of action). We asked people to post about the devastating effect of the war on the Yemeni people and the UK’s complicity in it.*

*“The vigil got a lot of traction with many people posting messages highlighting the ongoing crisis in the country and calling on the UK government to stop fuelling the war with arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition. Thank you to all those who took action.”*

The Edinburgh CAAT group have also taken their work online, using meetings to connect, support each other, and shift their plans to respond to the crisis. Group member David Somerville said:

*“CAAT Edinburgh core team met online recently and we decided our priority – after checking everyone is ok – is to re-imagine our local campaign focus. We decided to start with inviting our local supporters to an informal meet-up on Zoom. We’ll share good practice tips to make this fun and engaging as we realise that such virtual meetings are very different to face-to-face ones and need careful preparation! Once we’ve met in our Zoom Room and familiarised ourselves with new ways we’ll plot and plan a more open public meeting to advocate for a campaign objective which supports a **#JustRecovery**.”*

## **Interested in taking your meetings online?**

CAAT can help! We are producing a quick-start guide to holding group meetings online. We will also be organising some UK wide calls with campaigners, to help us connect and share experience and insight as we take our campaigns online. **Check [blog.caat.org.uk](https://blog.caat.org.uk) for details!**





### Thinking of taking your meeting online? Here are our top tips for great online meetings!

**1 Know what tech your participants have!** What are people using? What do they have access to already? Ask them to download the specific video call app you will be using ahead of the meeting and remind them they will need camera and mic access to participate. Point them to any troubleshooting guidance before the call and encourage them to familiarise themselves with the technology ahead of time.

**2 Practice, practice, practice!** As with everything in life, practice makes (almost) perfect. Ask colleagues, friends or family to test the session with you and offer constructive feedback.

**3 Prepare, prepare, prepare!** This is key. Arguably, a lot more prep is needed for online training than in-person due to the added element of (often unpredictable) technology. You need to ensure all the different tech and tools you are using work, and are up to date at the point you run the session.

**4 Think about accessibility!** How accessible is this event? It can be harder to make online spaces accessible and inclusive but do your best. Who is being left out? Whose voices are the loudest? Who is more comfortable in the space? Who is uncomfortable? What power dynamics are at play and how can you navigate these as the facilitator?

**5 Breaks, breaks, breaks!** Breaks are vital anyway, but especially when looking at a screens. Consider activities that let participants look away from the screen for short periods – maybe activities can be done on paper, then shared when the session reconvenes?

**6 Ask people to put away phones and other distractions!** Multi-tasking is tempting – we know – but encourage people to stay focused and in the room.

**7 Have a co-facilitator!** Facilitation can be hard work and harder still when balancing the challenges of an online space. Have a co-facilitator if possible to help deliver some of the content, but, most of all, to be responsible for troubleshooting any tech issues during the call.

**8 Appoint participant roles where appropriate to share the load!** Identify what roles need covering ahead of the meeting, such as note-taker, timekeeper, vibe-watcher, and then get people to volunteer. Often we can designate these tasks to colleagues but, if you are organising as a grassroots group, ensuring all the work doesn't fall on the same person/ people is key.

**9 Include opportunities to be interactive!** Bring in other skills/tools. Can you bring in games? Virtual whiteboard? Videos? Music? All of this is possible online and can help to include people with different learning styles and needs in the group. Find ways for people to actively contribute so that they aren't just listening but are also taking part.

**10 Be kind to yourself!** Running online meetings and workshops is a challenge – a new one for many at the moment – and so we are learning as we go. Accept that there will be mistakes, technical hiccups, and moments where things could have been smoother but it is all part of the learning process.



# Five years of the war in Yemen

At a time when millions of people across the world are concerned about food supplies and the ability of our health systems to respond to crisis, we must keep up the pressure for peace in Yemen, a country whose fragile health system has been devastated by five years of war.

This is a war supported by the UK government, with UK-based arms companies profiting from the destruction. Now more than ever, it is time for peace.

At the start of April there were attempts to secure a ceasefire, but these were unsuccessful – with breaches from all sides of the conflict. If there is to be peace then it needs political will from all participants.

The UK and other arms dealing governments can play their part by finally ending their arms sales and support for the continuing bombardment.

March 25th marked five years since the Saudi-Arabian led coalition began bombing Yemen, and in those five years Yemen's health system has almost collapsed.

Even without any recorded cases of COVID-19, Yemen is already enduring a humanitarian catastrophe, with millions facing starvation and disease. That is why the World Health Organisation has warned that the virus could prove to be particularly devastating in Yemen.

**This is a war supported by the UK government, with UK-based arms companies profiting from the destruction. Now more than ever, it is time for peace**



This is a man-made catastrophe, as [analysis](#) from Yemeni-based Mwatana for Human Rights shows: “This state of affairs is not an arbitrary consequence of war. It is the direct result of how the conflict has been prosecuted by warring parties: with utter disregard for international law and humanitarian norms.”

Attacks by the Saudi-led coalition have destroyed infrastructure across Yemen. Saudi forces have targeted hospitals, clinics and vaccinations centres. Blockades have starved the population and made it hard for hospitals to get essential medical supplies.

The UK is complicit: many coalition attacks have been carried out with UK-made fighter jets, bombs and missiles – representing billions of pounds of UK government supported arms sales.

The same is true of companies and governments across Europe. On the fifth anniversary of the war, we worked with allies to show this war is “Made in Europe” – sharing online messages across the continent in solidarity and resistance.

Now, more than ever, it is time to promote peace, not profit from war. Without peace there can be no effective global response to COVID-19. And while communities around the world work for peace, the UK must immediately end all arms sales, which only fuel and exacerbate tensions and divert spending from critical human needs.

**Visit [caat.org.uk/act-now](https://caat.org.uk/act-now) to support calls for a global ceasefire, and for the UK to end its arms sales.**

### Messages from CAAT supporters

Thank you for your messages of determination and hope.

To the people of Yemen – I am sorry for all that my country has done to continue this war. God bless you and keep you safe

Many of the attacks have been carried out with UK-made fighter jets, and UK-made bombs and missiles. Meanwhile, there is not enough PPE for doctors and nurses. This madness must be defeated by people organising

This is a time and opportunity to show our solidarity against the continuing arms trade with Saudi Arabia, to persuade both producers and governments that our fight against the coronavirus shows how truly frail is the human condition. This new awareness should now be built on to lead to the permanent blocking of such trade and such terrible outcomes

Ethics need to be at the heart of government policy and encompass everything, including foreign policy and arms sales. Pursuing basic human rights is just that: basic; fundamental

We have shown we are far more capable of dramatic and drastic change than we had ourselves believed. Now is the time to look to our true necessities of unity, compassion and integrity, and to build on this in all our future plans





# Security & Policing

**On March 3rd, the annual Security & Policing Fair returned to Farnborough. The event was organised by the UK Home Office and the arms industry trade body, ADS**

The event is a place where arms, border, policing and surveillance companies work and exhibit equipment and technologies. Government delegations from across the world are invited by the Government's arms sales unit, Defence & Security Organisation (DSO), so the fair is an opportunity for relationships to be built and developed between these industries that work so closely together, with governments and states.

This year, delegations from 64 countries were invited, including Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei, Egypt, India, Israel, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and

UAE. Many of these are thought to be among the most abusive regimes in the world by the UK itself.

Over recent years UK equipment has been linked to crackdowns and human rights abuses in Hong Kong, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The links between the “security” industry and domestic oppression have always been strong, and ignoring the blurred line is a central facet of UK arms export policy. The reasons for it are obvious: estimates from Global Industry Analysts suggest the global market for “non-lethal” weaponry will be worth \$10.2 billion by 2025.

Campaigners marked the start of the event with chants and demands outside the Home Office in London.

### Borders

A key part of the Security & Policing Fair is its focus on the border industry, and the violence integral to it, especially in Europe. The security industry has often described and treated migrants as subjects of/threats to “security”. As well as being untrue, this account dehumanises migrants, and importantly doesn’t take into consideration the collaboration between the border, surveillance and arms industries which has led to, among many other things, the graveyard in the Mediterranean. The collaborations are clear in wars, violence inflicted on marginalised communities by foreign states and corporations, and the militarisation of borders.

A recent report, covered in the last issue of CAAT News, identified Thales, Leonardo and Airbus as being three of the main profiteers of the militarisation of EU borders. They were all present and looking for business at Security & Policing 2020.

Thales, which supplies maritime surveillance systems for drones, is researching how to track and control refugees on their way to Europe, and provides key parts of the security system for Calais. Leonardo supplies helicopters and drones for border security and received a contract in 2019 to maintain the EU’s “virtual walls”. Airbus also supplies helicopters for border patrol.

Security & Policing also hosted companies that are profiting directly from border controls.

Corporate Watch has identified companies across all areas of involvement at Calais. Those exhibiting at Security & Policing 2020 include Jacksons Fencing, Wagtail UK (dog services), Chess Dynamics (night vision equipment), Rapiscan (X-ray scanners) and Smiths Detection (scanners for Eurotunnel).

### Surveillance

Crucial to both the border and arms industries, and a focus for the fair, is surveillance.

Surveillance is a rapidly increasing market that again undermines human rights in the UK and internationally. Often, the violence, at home and abroad, is inflicted by the very same corporations. One company, which has attended and sponsored previous Security & Policing events, but did not attend this year, is the Gamma Group, a surveillance company that sells monitoring centres for communications, technical surveillance and intrusion technology, and a member of the exhibiting Covert Technology Suppliers Forum. It tried to sell its FinSpy surveillance technology to Egypt before

**The links between the “security” industry and domestic oppression have always been strong, and ignoring the blurred line is a central facet of UK arms export policy**



the revolution and its spyware has since been discovered in a total of 25 countries, including Bahrain, Turkmenistan and Vietnam. It has been noted that its equipment appears to have been used to continually monitor an Ethiopian political activist living in the UK, having left Ethiopia in 2009 due to due to what Privacy International has described as “constant surveillance and harassment.”

With the current climate, the need to resist the arms industry in its entirety is even more pressing. The situation has provided pretexts for mass surveillance and increased policing. Prisons sustained by UK-sold and developed technologies are even more dangerous and lethal in times of a pandemic. At time of writing, the first case of COVID-19 has been diagnosed at Yarl's Wood, the immigration detention centre in Bedford where racism and verbal, physical and sexual abuse have been rife. The centre is run by Serco Group, the world's 73rd largest arms company, which won £92m worth of Ministry of Defence contracts in 2018.

**In what can feel like hopeless times, we must collectively reimagine and rebuild a world that prioritises the security of people rather than profit**



Credit Valerie Everett / Source Flickr

Meanwhile construction for the US-Mexico border wall continues in the midst of a pandemic, and migrants are put in even more danger and under greater pressure in places like Lesvos Island and as states forcefully shut their borders.

It is clear that these events are part of a security framework that has no consideration for the security of people. Rather, this annual celebration of militarism and surveillance is yet another clear example of promoting “security” for government and state officials and the corporations they work closely with. It is a stark reminder that the violence these fairs create is not geographically bound nor limited to specific equipment and weaponry. Whether it is through policing, detention, borders or drones, we must resist the arms industry in its entirety.

In what can feel like hopeless times, we must collectively reimagine and rebuild a world that prioritises the security of people rather than profit.



# Arms to Ventilators?

As COVID-19 forces sweeping changes on our lives, our government's obsession with investing in military security over real human threats has been laid bare. Billions have been poured into aircraft carriers, nuclear weapons and war ships, but our health and social care services were on their knees even before the crisis hit.

Amidst the uncertainty, there is a ray of hope. For years CAAT and others have argued that arms company workers have the vital skills needed to build a new greener economy. Yet the political will needed was not there.

The urgency brought by the pandemic saw these blocks lifted almost overnight. Faced with a shortage of ventilators, many of the biggest arms companies including Thales, BAE and Airbus joined **Ventilator Challenge UK**, a consortium building ventilation equipment, showing how, with government support, change can happen on the factory floor.

## The New Lucas Plan

In the 1970s workers at arms company Lucas Aerospace faced the threat of unemployment caused by new technology and recession. The workers collected 150 ideas for alternative, “socially useful” products they could build. The Lucas Plan was born.

Forty years later, in the face of political, economic and environmental crises, The New Lucas Plan was launched. It aims to develop plans for a new and democratic economy, based on

the Lucas Aerospace workers' idea of “socially useful production.”

Building on these ideas, CAAT, union members, and opposition MPs called for the creation of a Shadow Defence Diversification Department, to pressure the Government to pursue arms conversion. Despite support from the former Shadow Cabinet, it did not feature in Labour's 2019 Manifesto. However, with a potential shift in what feels possible post-COVID-19, all eyes will be on the new Labour leader Keir Starmer.

A properly managed and truly just transition can redress inequalities and help to deliver a high-skill, high-wage, and low-carbon economy for the UK.

**A properly managed and truly just transition can redress inequalities and help to deliver a high-skill, high-wage, and low-carbon economy for the UK**



### Just Recovery

In the 1980s, the trade union movement developed the idea of a “just transition” for workers and their communities. A “just” transition “guarantees better and decent jobs, social protection, more training opportunities and greater job security for all workers.” The need to deliver a “just transition” is even recognised in the UN Paris Agreement on climate change.

While the Government is rightly focussed on responding to the COVID-19 crisis, its response to the equally pressing issue of climate breakdown has been woefully inadequate. Fatih Birol, Head of the International Energy Agency, has called for an acceleration of capital towards the green economy in response to the crisis. “This is a huge opportunity we cannot miss ... not only the level of money

[dedicated to stimulate the economy] but the direction of the money” [to “climate-proof jobs”].

CAAT has added its voice to the campaign for a Just Recovery from this global crisis, coordinated by climate campaign group 350, ensuring that as we recover, the Government is taking progressive steps forward for people and the planet.

We need strong public services and communities, and well-paid, secure jobs, including new jobs for workers currently employed in fossil fuel and arms companies. When the Government hands out loans, it should prioritise companies that can help the UK to decarbonise quickly and fairly.

The UK must do more than its fair share to tackle climate breakdown, and to redress the imbalance of its historic emissions and its role in the exploitation of resources and communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown into sharp focus the urgent need for governments to redefine what it means by “security” and to reflect the real threats to human security including global pandemics and climate change.

Our security is not advanced by wars, or by spending billions on nuclear weapons systems and aircraft carriers, but by building fairer societies that support the most vulnerable, and by investing in our public services. Let’s work together to ensure that out of this crisis we build a safer world, where real human needs are prioritised.

**Add your name to the call for a Just Recovery at [350.org/just-recovery](https://350.org/just-recovery).**

**The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown into sharp focus the urgent need for governments to redefine what it means by ‘security’ and to reflect the real threats to human security including global pandemics and climate change**



# Universities – marketisation and militarism

This February saw another round of strikes at UK universities. The strikes focused on university staff pay, casualisation (short-term, temporary and casual contracts), gender and racial pay gaps and pensions. These consequences come from the marketisation of education (turning universities into businesses that serve corporate interests).

Often ignored is the link between marketisation and militarism. One area where we see this collaboration is research funding. Corporations, including arms companies, fund research in departments, projects, and pay for salaries of some academics. The result is that the limited resources available are dedicated to the interests of corporations rather than academic freedom, encouraging innovation and the freedom to think and to make society better.

Cuts make departments more dependent on money from corporations, and staff and academics more reluctant and less able to refuse corporate funding for the survival of their departments.

The strikes have provided a beautiful platform of solidarity to expose some of these links. Students and workers came together to organise creative teach outs, outdoor film screenings, theatre pieces and interactive sessions – covering the violence of borders, surveillance and arms technologies at universities and how to build solidarity in our communities from the local to the global.

**For more information on marketisation and militarism, read Chris Rossdale's piece, [Fatal Collaborations](#). Join the CAAT universities mailing list [here](#).**

**Students and workers came together to organise creative teach outs, outdoor film screenings, theatre pieces and interactive sessions**



# Arms trade corruption

In 2010 a company called GPT, a subsidiary of British arms company Airbus, agreed a £2 billion deal to supply communications equipment to the Saudi Arabian National Guard. In 2011, Ian Foxley, a former Programme Director at GPT, fled Saudi Arabia after leaking evidence that it used £14.4 million worth of illicit payments and gifts to secure the deal.

Following Foxley's revelations, the Serious Fraud Office launched criminal investigations into GPT. In March 2018 it allegedly requested

a prosecution from the Attorney General – a step required by the Corruption Act. It's two years later and no progress has been made, with no explanation given for the delay.

## UK's shameful history of arms trade corruption

It wouldn't be the first time the UK used national security as a cover for protecting financial interests. In 2006, under pressure from Saudi Arabia, Tony Blair blocked investigations into allegations of corruption at BAE Systems on the grounds of national security. The "Al Yamamah" deals with Saudi Arabia were worth billions of pounds. BAE later pled guilty to charges of false accounting and making misleading statements, and paid a £300 million criminal fine in the US.

## Will the government try to prevent justice being done once again?

In February a new Attorney General, Suella Braverman, was appointed, bringing a new chance to apply pressure. CAAT fears that while the COVID-19 crisis is rightly the Government's top priority at the moment, it could also mean other issues do not get the scrutiny they need. The UK must prioritise the rule of law over the interests of arms companies and the repressive regimes they supply.

**Call on the new Attorney General Suella Braverman to ensure the UK stands for justice, not arms company interests.**

Take action at [caat.org.uk/gpt](https://caat.org.uk/gpt)

**CAAT fears that while the COVID-19 crisis is rightly the Government's top priority at the moment, it could also mean other issues do not get the scrutiny they need**

## Scottish government – supporting arms dealers



Credit Leonardo / Source Twitter

In March, a major investigation by CAAT and the Sunday Mail found that arms companies are using Scottish government grants to build weapons.

Until now, the Scottish government has always maintained that its grants are for civilian projects and diversification. However, our research found that Leonardo's Osprey radar has been used by military buyers and was being promoted as a

military radar to some of the most authoritarian regimes in the world at last year's DSEI arms fair in London. The radar was developed with Scottish government funding.

We will be working with campaigners across Scotland to call on the Scottish government to publish all the details of the arms company projects it has funded to date.

# They said it

**Sending some  
#HIMARS love over  
to the #Marines with  
@1st\_Marine\_Div  
today ♥**

Lockheed Martin Twitter feed  
on Valentine's Day, 14 Feb 2020

**"We make the greatest  
weapons ever made –  
aeroplanes, rockets,  
ships, missiles. We  
make the best"**

Donald Trump promoting arms sales to India,  
Business Standard, 25 Feb 2020

**"Defence  
firms answer  
coronavirus  
call to arms"**

Headline in Financial Review,  
31 March 2020

## Welcome Dana

Dana Aboul Jabine is CAAT's new Fundraising Manager who joins us after 8 years of fundraising at The Connection, Makan Rights and Richard House Children's Hospice. Volunteering with refugee charities in the UK, France, Lebanon and Greece, she has used her own experiences in an attempt to help those currently

enduring the devastating consequences that war and the trade in weapons have on people's lives.

She is currently completing her final year of an MSc in Poverty Reduction and Policy at SOAS and as a PADI Divemaster can be found talking to the fish when not working or studying.



## Taking Action

The COVID-19 crisis has caused a lot of groups, including CAAT, to rethink our plans and activities for the months ahead. We are working with our local groups and activists across the country to organise webinars, online meetings and other activities. Details will be available at [caat.org.uk/events](https://caat.org.uk/events)

We hope that you stay safe and well, and that we see you soon.

# Donate today!

You can donate to CAAT by visiting our website at [caat.org.uk](http://caat.org.uk)

Or, if you'd prefer, you can print and complete the form below (in block capitals) and return it to: **Freepost RSYR-UCBS-GHEE, CAAT, Unit 4, 5-7 Wells Terrace, London, N4 3JU** (We are still receiving post, but it may take a bit longer for your donation to be processed).

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	<input type="text"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>		
	Postcode	<input type="text"/>	
Tel	<input type="text"/>	Email	<input type="text"/>

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

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

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Visa Delta  
(please tick appropriate box)

Cardholder's name

Credit/debit card number

Start   /   Expiry   /

Security number    (3 digit number on back of card)

Ref (CAAT use only)

Service user ref: 250347



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