

CAAT *n*ews

Fuelling the arms race in South Asia



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CAAT was set up in 1974 and is a broad coalition of groups and individuals working for the reduction and ultimate abolition of the international arms trade, together with progressive demilitarisation within arms-producing countries.

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PAKISTANI PARAMILITARY TROOPS PATROL A STREET IN MULTAN. ASIM TANVEER/REUTERS



Sign of the times. See page 10 PATRICK DELANEY

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Shut DESO action day and lobby

The next big events in CAAT's Shut DESO campaign calendar are the Shut DESO Action day and the three-month lobby of MPs

On Monday 16th October we will encircle the headquarters of DESO, the department within the Ministry of Defence that is at the heart of the UK Government's undemocratic and disproportionate support for arms exports. The building is also at the heart of the capital, on one of its busiest thoroughfares. This means our action will attract the attention of hundreds of passers-by as well as, we hope, lots of media coverage, which could reach millions. This is one of the reasons why the day is so important. At the moment, very few people even know that DESO exists. This bold action is designed to lift it out of obscurity and reveal the shocking truth about what it really does.

We need at least 170 people to take part – and we need you to be one of them! Encircling the building we will designate DESO a 'global danger zone' to highlight the fact that it is helping to proliferate arms and fuel conflict across the world. Its own official website boasts that "Successive Customer Satisfaction Surveys of the UK defence industry revealed that over 75% of this



The CAAT Shut DESO launch in March PATRICK DELANEY

business would not have been achieved without the assistance of DESO." That means that if DESO were shut, arms exports from the UK could be drastically reduced.

Shutting DESO will take political will and a change in government policy. This sometimes seems like a far-off possibility. However, the Liberal Democrats have already pledged that they would shut DESO if they got into government. In part, their pledge was thanks to campaigning by CAAT and supporters like you. Now we must pressure the other political parties to do the same – to promise to shut DESO and stop pushing arms around the world.

After the action in the morning there will be a chance to lobby your

MP in person at the Houses of Parliament, encouraging her or him to call for the closure of DESO. Alternatively, if you can't make the action day on the 16th October, you can lobby your MP in your constituency sometime between 1st September and 30th November, as part of our three-month lobby of MPs.

To order your lobby pack, containing all the information you'll need for a meeting with your MP, please contact Ann at the office (see page 12).

Be part of the campaign. Help us Shut DESO!

For more info and to register your place for the Shut DESO action day, please contact Anna at the office.

Shut DESO action day, Monday 16th October

11am: Rally and preparation for action. (Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2). Hear the latest on the campaign to shut DESO and join our preparations for the day ahead.

12.30pm: Shut DESO mass action. (2-12 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1). Participate in designating the headquarters of DESO a "global danger zone". We need 170 people to encircle the building and we'd like you to be one

of them. If you can, please wear something white to symbolise unity and peace.

From 1.30pm: DESO poll: Engaging the public. After being part of our human chain, you can further spread the message about DESO by helping us conduct an informal street poll in Central London. We will provide you with the necessary support and materials for this. Together we will be able to tell

hundreds of people in a short space of time about DESO.

3-6pm: Lobby your MP. Join others to visit your MP at the Houses of Parliament, encouraging him or her to call for the closure of DESO. This lobby will form part of our three month mass lobby. You'll need to book your meeting in advance – contact the office for your lobby-pack, containing all the info you'll need.

Bush bans arms to Venezuela

The US government has banned all arms sales to Venezuela, claiming that the country hasn't co-operated in the fight against terrorism and has harboured Colombian guerrilla groups. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a fervent critic of the Bush administration, has denied the allegations and insisted that it is Venezuela that is under threat from the US. Only weeks after the ban was announced, Russia agreed to build rifle and munitions plants in Venezuela, "so that we can defend every street, every hill, every corner", President Chavez said. The first shipment of 100,000 Kalashnikovs bought from Russia last year arrived in Venezuela in July. GUARDIAN, 16/5/06; DAILY TELEGRAPH, 1/6/06

BAE armoured vehicles bought for Iraq

The US Army has awarded BAE Systems a \$180 million contract for 378 Iraqi Light Armoured Vehicles. The vehicles are scheduled for rapid delivery and the deal "expands BAE Systems' commitment to protecting American and allied troops in Iraq" according to the company. BAE SYSTEMS PRESS RELEASE, 5/6/06

Rolls-Royce looks abroad

A declining UK "skills base" has forced Rolls-Royce to look overseas for engineers, according to chief executive Sir John Rose. The company is also sourcing more of its supply chain from "low-cost" economies such as China, India and Mexico and expects the proportion of its workforce employed outside the UK to exceed 50% in the near future. INDEPENDENT, 24/5/06

US shipped Bosnian arms to Iraq

The Pentagon appears to have arranged for more than 200,000 Kalashnikov machine guns to be shipped from Bosnia to Iraq in 2004. The actual shipments were made by various subcontractors working for private military companies Taos and CACI, but Amnesty International has said that there is no evidence that the weapons ever reached their intended destination: the new Iraqi security forces. One of the subcontractors, Aerocom of Moldova, had already been stripped of its operating license by the Moldovan government due to "safety and security concerns" before the shipments started. GUARDIAN, 12/5/06

UK companies dominate Qatar Arms Fair

40 UK arms companies, the largest number from any single country, exhibited at Milipol-Qatar in May. They were assisted by DESO, the government's arms sales unit, as well as a display team from the British Army. The UK is one of Qatar's main providers of military equipment and training and plans to acquire 20% of its gas from Qatar by 2012. GULF TIMES, 16/5/06

Aegis Defence clears itself

In an internal investigation by UK private military company Aegis Defence, it has cleared itself of all wrongdoing after a video, appearing to show its staff shooting at Iraqi civilians, turned up on the Internet. The inquiry found that the incident was "within the rules of the use of force" and had not resulted in casualties. A US military investigation into the same incident has been closed with no further action expected. FINANCIAL TIMES, 15/6/06

Small Arms warning at UN conference

As the UN Small Arms Review Conference met in New York in July, the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey warned that military modernisation programmes expected over the next decade could result in a glut of illegal small arms. The group has expressed fears that the influx of new arms in developed countries could result in older models being sold off illicitly. Meanwhile at the conference, Kofi Annan said that significant progress had been made on small arms since the last conference in 2001, but that there was still a long way to go and that the UN's efforts remained focused on the spread of illegal weapons. Calls for an International Arms Trade Treaty made by the Control Arms coalition were rejected by US Ambassador to the UN, John Bolton. "We don't see any need for treaties or agreements coming out of this," he said. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 26/6/06; BBC NEWS ONLINE, 5/7/06

Chinese arms exacerbate conflict

Amnesty International has condemned China's export of conventional weapons and small arms to countries such as Pakistan, Myanmar, Nepal and Sudan as demonstrating a "dangerously permissive approach to licensing arms exports". It also said Chinese arms exported to the Great Lakes Region of Africa had been used in atrocities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. China last year described its arms export policy as "cautious and responsible". FINANCIAL TIMES, 12/6/06

New BAE corruption allegations over Romania deal

The Serious Fraud Office and its Romanian counterpart has been probing allegations that "commissions" totaling nearly £8 million were paid by BAE Systems agents to bring about a deal with Romania for two refurbished frigates. BAE was paid £116 million for the ships, whilst the UK MoD received only their scrap value of £100,000 each from the company. Victor Blidea, until recently chief of Romanian naval operations, has said that it was known at the time that a Dutch company was offering similar frigates but better equipped and still in active service for £20 million apiece, suggesting Romania paid three times more than the ships were worth. The MoD's disposal agency estimates that Romania, one of Europe's poorest countries, could actually end up paying more than £250 million to fully equip the ships.

GUARDIAN, 13/6/06

Sri Lanka looks to Pakistan for weapons

Pakistan's bid to become a major arms producer has been given a boost by the potential collapse of a 2002 ceasefire between the Sri Lankan state and separatist Tamil Tigers. High-level talks between the two governments earlier this year resulted in a request for Pakistan to facilitate Sri Lankan military requirements as a high priority. These requirements include ammunition, repairs to aircraft, missiles, cluster bombs and military vehicles.

JANES DEFENCE WEEKLY, 14/6/06

Anti-corruption forum established

Many of the UK's leading arms companies, together with the Defence Manufacturers' Association and Society of British Aerospace Companies set up a UK Defence Industry Anti-Corruption Forum in May. Defence Procurement minister Lord Drayson addressed the inaugural meeting, as did representatives of the Institute for Business Ethics and Transparency International. The Forum is intended to be a regular opportunity to exchange "best practice". Participants include Rolls Royce, Smiths Aerospace, Thales UK and BAE Systems, which is currently the subject of several investigations by the Serious Fraud Office.

SBAC PRESS RELEASE, 19/6/06

Saudis get 10% off Eurofighter

It has been reported that BAE Systems had to cut the price of the Eurofighter Typhoon by 10% in order to clinch a £5.4 billion deal to supply the Royal Saudi Airforce with 72 of them. The new UK Defence minister Des Browne and Saudi Defence minister Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud have now signed an inter-governmental agreement on the Typhoon Acquisition Project, which also includes the building of runways and assembly plants, and jet maintenance for the 25-year life of the contract. BAE Systems has confirmed it is considering bidding for aspects of a further radar-based project to secure the Saudi border with Iraq and Yemen.

THE BUSINESS, 28/5/06

Shorts in brief

Revolving Door

Ivor Caplin, who stood down from his parliamentary seat and post as a Defence Minister in 2005, has accepted a job as consultant for Foresight Communications, which lobbies on behalf of arms companies including EADS.

PRIVATE EYE, 12/5/06

Pentagon seeks Russian arms for Afghans

The US has requested a "prodigious quantity" of ammunition from Russia to arm President Karzai's Afghan government. The unusual move is said to have been motivated by White House fears that a Democrat could win the 2008 Presidential elections and withdraw US troops from Afghanistan.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, 22/5/06

Boeing pays \$615 million fine

Boeing has agreed to pay the US Treasury \$615m in a deal that will mean it avoids criminal charges at the end of a 3-year investigation into corruption.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 16/5/06

Red Arrows push UK arms

BAE Systems sponsored a Middle East tour by display team the Red Arrows in June. The pilots performed aerobatic tricks in the latest version of BAE Systems' Hawk jet. Their Squadron leader described the tour as a demonstration of "UK excellence".

GULF DAILY NEWS, 16/5/06

Swedes exporting more

28 Gripen fighters have arrived in South Africa from SAAB's manufacturing site in Sweden. The transfer comes as the Swedish government reveals that exports of military equipment exceeded domestic sales for the first time in 2005.

JANES DEFENCE MONTHLY, JUNE 06; FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL, 4/7/06

Arms trade detectives

Both journalists and CAAT researchers have been shining a light in the dark corners of the arms trade writes Ann Feltham

You may have wondered why the last edition of CAATnews was late – and we are sorry that some of the diary dates had passed when you received it. The reason for the delay was the cover story 'Oil, autocrats... and arms' by Steering Committee member Nick Gilby and CAAT's former press officer, Mike Lewis. Some of the information in the article, found in files in the National Archive, had been given to BBC2's Newsnight as an 'exclusive'. The programme appeared on a later date than originally planned, and CAAT agreed to hold CAATnews until it had been shown.

If you haven't read the article, on arms sales to Saudi Arabia, you can read it online at www.caat.org.uk/caatnews or ask the CAAT office (020 7281 0297) to send you a copy. During the programme, Lord Ian Gilmore, who was Defence Secretary in Edward Heath's Conservative government, confirmed that "You either got the business and bribed, or you didn't bribe and didn't get the business. You either went along with how the Saudis behaved, or what they wanted, or you let the US and France have all the business."

The information used by Newsnight is just one instance of several where information has come to light as a result of digging into ancient files or using the Freedom of Information (FoI) mechanism. Some other examples are given below.

Al Yamamah secrecy

In May this year Daily Telegraph Industry Editor Christopher Hope was reporting on the BAE Systems AGM. He heard a CAAT supporter ask about the 1992 National Audit Office report into the immense Al

Yamamah arms deal with Saudi Arabia. An earlier CAAT FoI request had established that it was the only NAO report to have been presented to Parliament and never published. It had been read by just two members of the then Public Accounts Committee (PAC), both of whom had agreed to keep it secret.



Hope made his own FoI request for the report. As with a similar request made by CAAT in 2005, he was told it was covered by Parliamentary Privilege and so could not be released. However, the NAO did send him some other documents, which formed the basis of a headline article in Daily Telegraph business section on 21st June. These revealed that the MoD structured the Al Yamamah deal to avoid parliamentary scrutiny: "... If the normal rules had been followed, Saudi transactions would appear each year in the appropriation accounts, laid before Parliament; and we need to avoid this."

Although the current members of the PAC have discussed the matter, they are not allowed to release the report themselves as it is 'unreported evidence' from a previous parliament, which can only be released by a full vote of all MPs.

The situation is made even more ridiculous by the fact that the membership of the PAC has completely changed since 1992. Not one of the current members has seen the report and they are not even allowed to read it in confidence.

However, the Daily Telegraph, which has run an editorial calling for the report's publication, has kept up its interest. On 7th July, it reported that in 1997 the NAO had done another report on Al Yamamah, which was never presented to Parliament at all. The NAO declined to explain this. The Serious Fraud Office, investigating bribery allegations related to BAE Systems and the Al Yamamah deal, is also reported to have asked to see the 1992 report.

No economic justification

FoI requests by CAAT to the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Trade and Industry have revealed that neither have conducted any studies into the economic impact of Al Yamamah 1 or 2. So, despite assertions by government to the contrary, there is no evidence that the Al Yamamah deals bring any benefit to the UK economy. Indeed, as most studies of the economic impact of arms exports as a whole show that they are subsidised by the taxpayer, it is likely that we are paying BAE Systems to sell weaponry to the repressive Saudi regime.

Harassed by pacifists

In response to a FoI request by the Guardian, the Information Commissioner ruled that the MoD should release the names and details of the Defence Export Services Organisation staff. The MoD thinks, however, that this could lay the staff open to harassment by pacifists and is appealing against the Commissioner's ruling to a new tribunal.

CAAT hits the streets for Stop Week

This year's Stop the Arms Trade Week (3-11 June) focused on the Shut DESO campaign. CAAT groups and individuals around the UK took action locally to raise awareness of DESO (the government's arms sales unit). This kind of local action, especially when coordinated, is vital to raising the profile of this little known, but hugely influential government unit. Some brief accounts of local activities follow.

Dorothy, CAAT local contact in Birmingham writes:

"On Monday we gave out Shut DESO leaflets before and after the showing of the film 'Lord of War' at the Midlands Arts Centre. On Saturday we had a very successful all day stall at the Moseley Festival. This takes place along the main road in Moseley and is always well attended. We had a prime position – outside the main supermarket and next to the bus stop – and gave out around 200 Shut DESO leaflets as well as postcards and other literature, and collected several pages of petition signatures. As an added bonus, we were given £45 in donations, ironically after we had decided we would concentrate on campaigning rather than fund-raising this year! I also got our local vicar to include the



Opposing Essex County Council's arms trade investments SOUTH ESSEX CAAT

day of prayer in his service on 11th June."

Sheffield CAAT group held a public meeting about DESO and organised exhibitions in the Central Library and a local justice shop. Edinburgh CAAT started Stop Week with a picnic and a naming of the dead ceremony outside their local BAE Systems site, and ended it with a stall in Princes Street. Bristol CAAT, Hastings CND and Tavistock Peace Action group held street stalls, while campaigners in Tunbridge Wells and at Nottingham and Lancaster

Universities, among others, distributed Shut DESO leaflets and postcards through letterboxes and on campus.

Others took more general anti-arms trade action. Smash EDO campaigners in Brighton organised a phone blockade of EDO MBM's (arms manufacturer in Brighton) main phone switchboard. South Essex CAAT group organised a stall and protest outside their Town Hall to campaign for an end to their Local Authority's investments in arms companies. BECCIE D'CUNHA

CAAT Christian Network update

The ninth annual Arms Trade Day of Prayer, held on Sunday 11th June to coincide with Stop Week, was a huge success. It was marked by churches around the UK. Some had displays, some organised for prayers to be said about the arms trade, others tailored their services to the theme or gave out leaflets to their congregations. It was an opportunity to raise awareness about CAAT's Shut DESO campaign in their wider parishes. A total of 108 day of prayer packs were

distributed and the comments received so far have been very encouraging. Please return your feedback form as it will help in planning for next year. The Fellowship of Reconciliation's 12-page publication, *Living by the Sword: A call for the closure of the DESO*, provides a valuable addition to the material produced by CAAT and is available at www.for.org.uk or by calling 01865 748 796.

In other news, Teresa Mitchell of the Penarth Christian Network of

CAAT says: "People from Abergavenny, Cardiff, Ebbw Vale and Newport recently joined members of the Penarth Christian Network of CAAT and friends in the annual Maundy Thursday prayer service outside the BAE Systems Glascoed factory near Usk. The service commemorated the lives of those 2 million children killed, according to UNICEF, in conflict in the last decade of the 20th century."

ALUN MORINAN

FUELLING THE ARMS RACE IN SOUTH ASIA

Where once the UK government helped cause the conflict between India and Pakistan, now it sees both countries as lucrative arms markets, reports Helen Close

The conflict between India and Pakistan makes South Asia one of the most volatile regions of the world; and one of the most lucrative for arms suppliers. Small wonder then, that the UK's Defence Export Services Organisation has categorised India as a 'priority market' and is actively encouraging arms companies to sell to Pakistan.

The conflict dates back to 1947 when 'British India' gained independence. The sub-continent was partitioned into India, with a Hindu majority, and largely Muslim Pakistan. The latter later split into Bangladesh in the east and Pakistan in the west. At the time of partition, small principalities such as Kashmir could choose which country to align to. The Maharaja of Kashmir, Hari Singh, decided to join Hindu-dominated India, despite the majority of the province's population being Muslim.

Muslim separatists, unhappy with this decision, formed 'free Kashmir' groups, campaigning to split Kashmir from India. India reacted by sending troops into Kashmir to quell insurgents. This evolved into a full-scale war with Pakistan. A ceasefire was agreed in 1949 and a demarcation line was drawn across the province. It lasted until 1965 when India and Pakistan again fought over Kashmir. In 1972 the two countries signed the Simla Agreement, establishing a Line of Control (LoC) reaffirming the 1949 demarcation line. The LoC divides Kashmir so that one quarter of the province (3,000,000 inhabitants) fall under Pakistani control while the other 9,000,000 live under Indian jurisdiction.

South Asia today

Pakistan is currently led by Pervez Musharraf who, in October 1999, overthrew the elected government in a bloodless coup and forced the Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, into exile. Musharraf appointed himself state president in June 2001, after sacking President Tarar and dissolving parliament and four regional assemblies. In April 2002 Musharraf had his presidential tenure extended for five years and in 2004 he reneged on his promise to give up his position as head of the armed forces. Pakistan has a population of 154.8 million people who live on an annual average income of just \$420 and is ranked 142nd out of 177 on the Human Development Index.

The country is divided into tribal areas that the Pakistani government struggles to control. Waziristan, bordering on Afghanistan is especially volatile, with local militants supportive of Al-Qaeda. India claims that Pakistan actively supports groups such as Harkat Ul-Mujahideen and Hizb Ul-Mujahideen that fight for the integration of Kashmir into Pakistan.

Value of UK export licences granted for military and dual-use goods to India and Pakistan, 1999-2005ⁱ

Year	Pakistan £m	India £m
2005	18	64
2004	40	351
2003	30	87
2002	15	118
2001	14	63
2000	6	65
1999	12	58

ⁱ United Kingdom Strategic Export Controls reports, 1997-2005. The figures refer to SIELs only



Today, India is the world's largest functioning democracy with a population of 1.2 billion. Its people live on an average annual income of just \$460 and are ranked 127th out of 177 on the Human Development Index. The country has several internal conflicts with separatist groups demanding independence. Current low intensity conflicts include those in Tripura and Assam. The major conflict is that of Kashmir.

India has the world's third largest army (1.26 million troops), the fourth largest air force, and, in 2005, spent \$23.7 billion on the military. It has both nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles with a range of up to 2000km.

Pakistan has an army of 550,000 troops and an air force of 45,000. In 2005 it spent \$3.7 billion on its armed forces. It also has nuclear weapons and its longest range ballistic missile can reach 1,300km. Both countries continue to refuse to sign any of the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament agreements that oversee testing, developing, manufacturing and use of nuclear weapons.

Supplying the subcontinent

Between 1997 and 2004, India was the leading purchaser of conventional weapons in the developing world, accounting for just over 10% of developing world arms transfer agreements. Over the past nine years Russia has been India's largest supplier, transferring conventional weapons to the value of \$9.9 billion. Israel, France, the UK and the USA are also significant suppliers, along with Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the Netherlands. Over the same period, Pakistan imported conventional weapons worth \$4.5 billion from its major suppliers. Nearly \$3 billion of this was accounted for by France, China and the USA.

The UK government is supposed to assess arms exports against its Consolidated National and EU Criteria. These

are about such issues as the existence of tensions or armed conflicts, a country's level of employment, the preservation of regional peace and stability, the recipient government's human rights record and which international conventions it has signed. Although India and Pakistan have an extremely poor record on a number of these counts, the UK enthusiastically supplies weapons and weapon parts to both (see table).

The largest recent deal has been the £800m contract for 66 BAE Systems Hawk Jets signed in 2004. Although the Hawk jets were sold as training aircraft they are also advertised as 'multi-role', in that they can be used effectively in ground attacks and as "a combat aircraft should an operational scenario present itself." (Head of the Indian Airforce)

UK Government involvement

The sale of these jets to a country involved in a regional conflict is alarming, but that doesn't stop the UK government getting involved. During 2001 and 2002, when India and Pakistan had mobilised their armies for war, there were 17 visits by Tony Blair and other UK ministers. Many involved direct lobbying for the sale of the BAE Systems Hawk Jets.

UK government support for arms exports is co-ordinated by the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO), which has categorised India a 'priority market' and helps and encourages companies to bid for contracts there. It regularly attends arms fairs in India to promote weaponry. At DefExpo 2005, DESO hired a stand where UK soldiers demonstrated UK-manufactured arms. Companies attending were able to claim up to £1,700 through the DTI 'Trade Partners UK' and SESA (Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad) initiatives. As India was an 'emerging target market' another £500 was also claimable.

Although Pakistan has not been one of the UK's most important arms export markets, there have been some significant deals. In 2002, when India and Pakistan were on the brink of war, it was discovered that Alenia Marconi Systems, then half owned by BAE Systems, was training elite Pakistani pilots and fighter operations controllers in the use of integrated electronic warfare at a specialist training college in Wales. Additionally, between 1999 and 2002, Marconi Super Skyranger radars were fitted into Pakistan's fighter jets.

Pakistan is not currently designated a DESO 'priority market', but it has been in the past and the UK government is actively encouraging UK arms companies to sell to the country. In February 2006, DESO co-organised a briefing called 'Doing Defence Business with Pakistan' and hopes to have a UK National Pavilion at the Pakistani arms fair IDEAS in November 2006.

CAAT's new report on arms sales to India and Pakistan will be available during the autumn.

Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2004; International Institute for Strategic Studies, *The Military Balance 2006*; SIPRI, *Yearbook 2006* and arms transfer database; Congressional Research Service, *Conventional Arms Transfers to Developing nations, 1997-2004, 2005.*

Farnborough International Arms Fair 2006



Not a family day out – CAAT protestors at Farnborough PATRICK DELANEY

It is a cruel irony that as Israel was bombing Lebanon, killing dozens of civilians in retaliation for Hizbollah attacks on the Israeli Army, Farnborough International 2006 opened its doors for 5 days of hardcore trading in military aircraft and related weaponry. F16s were on display – the very planes that Israel uses against its enemies – and BAE Systems were showcasing their latest Unmanned Ariel Vehicles (UAVs) whose ‘lethal-payloads’ were first used in Israel’s invasion of Lebanon in 1982. In the years following the curiously named ‘operation peace for Galilee’, UAVs have been used routinely in conflicts including Kosovo, Afghanistan and the Gulf War, and are potent examples of how the perpetrators of war try to distance themselves more and more from their victims.

Farnborough International 2006 took place over a whole week in July in Hampshire. Around half of the world’s biggest arms companies were exhibiting their wares and

DESO, the government’s arms export unit, were key organisers of the event, coordinating military delegations from over 40 countries including Indonesia, Libya and Saudi Arabia. To top it all, Prime Minister Tony Blair himself made a special visit to the fair – proving that the UK government will bend over backwards to provide the arms industry with corporate welfare of the highest order.

Protest

Around 40 people came along to peacefully demonstrate outside the fair on the opening day of trade, which attracted a great deal of press attention and enabled us to convey the reality of Farnborough International to a wider audience. We made it clear that rather than being a family-friendly air show, this is a government-subsidised arms fair that is helping to fuel conflict all over the world. ANNA JONES

My Farnborough protest

‘Collateral damage’

I arrive late for the demo at Farnborough Air Show. It’s funny how the more local you are, the later you get there. The crowd is lively, the banners large and loud. As I approach the gathering, a policeman takes a photo of me with a camera that has a lens as long as a truncheon. I’ve brought a placard with me, a blown up photo from the *Guardian* of a Lebanese woman who was part of the previous day’s ‘collateral damage’. “Collateral could be your daughter”, it reads. I mingle with the crowd a little and watch Anna being interviewed by local ITV News. Then I decide to wander off and show off my banner to people on the other side of the fence hanging around a BAE Systems tent.

Dangerous

I smile sweetly above my banner at one man, who stares at me. We are just getting into an eyeballing contest when a policeman comes up behind me and asks me to rejoin the demo. He insists that I am acting beyond the agreed bounds of the demonstration, and he will censure the demo if I do not return. The policeman with the phallic lens clicks away, I click him, and our official photographer Patrick clicks everybody. I must look very dangerous, as when I leave and walk to my car I am followed at a distance by two policemen.

ROB THORBURN

'What's a comedian doing writing about the arms trade?'

Mark Thomas on promoting his new book about the arms trade to the world of local radio

It is not every day of your life that you hear the phrase, "When Nicholas Parsons comes out, Nottingham will be waiting for you." And, once heard, it is a difficult phrase to forget. How could anyone forget anything involving the prospect of Nicholas Parsons coming out? Let me explain.

Having written a book about the arms trade, it seemed only natural that I should want people to read it, so, at the publisher's request, I spent two days at the BBC's Broadcasting House. Within the bowels of this august organisation is a unit with four studios, a reception area, a sofa and a coffee machine. The studios link to BBC regional stations all across the country, where promoting books is the sturdy fair of programming. Its here that a handful of folk wait to go into one of the studios to sit at a desk with a microphone on it until suddenly, through headphones, comes a voice: "Hi it's Sue here from Radio Jersey; we'll be with you straight after the travel."

After a couple of interviews I begin to get the hang of this promotion lark. "So," says an incredulous presenter's voice from Wales, "what's a comedian doing writing about the arms trade?", "I should say the book is called 'As Used on the Famous Nelson Mandela' and the title comes from an arms dealer's website; he was advertising South African-made leg irons and this was the advertising strap line: As used on the famous Nelson Mandela."

"Good Lord," I hear the Welsh voice say and carry on: "And this is at the heart of the book. Arms dealers really do not see themselves as others see them. Most decent folk see the arms industry as distasteful at

best, even Daily Mail readers; it is not something they want their children to do. One arms company I phoned in South Africa to talk to about electroshock stun batons put me on hold ('Wait while I get the expert' the clipped Afrikaans voice had said) and I had music piped down the phone at me. Thus far fairly normal, except that the music they played was 'Love me tender' and this was an electroshock manufacturer."

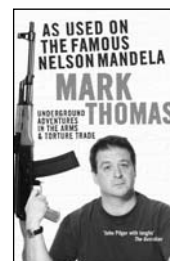
The more astute reader has noticed that I didn't answer the interviewer's question. I sort of gave up doing that after I managed to do an entire interview without getting to mention that I'd written a book on the arms trade. Almost all the presenters I spoke to started from a position of "This gun selling is a bit off, isn't it?" but what eventually seemed to fascinate them was the scale of the UK's subsidy to the arms industry. Using the work of Paul Ingrams (BASIC) and Roy Isbister (Saferworld), I came up with the rough figure that the UK subsidises each job

in arms exports to the tune of about £13,000 per year.

"So it isn't even good for the economy!" was a phrase I heard in various regional accents over the two days. It seemed the presenters were most shocked not by the 640 million small arms at large in the world, but by the fact that selling them didn't even benefit the British economy.

Back on the sofa the receptionist nods at me. Nicholas Parsons has just walked past so it's my turn again. I gulp a final mouthful of coffee and mentally run through a story I'm going to tell the radio listeners about working with school children to buy torture equipment and expose the UK government's loopholes in the law. "Remember to mention the 13 grand," I say out loud as I head into the studio, "and the title: 'As Used on the Famous Nelson Mandela'."

As Used on the Famous Nelson Mandela was published by Ebury Press in July. Details of Mark's book readings and tour can be found at www.markthomasinfo.com



Join Mark's book tour

Mark has invited CAAT to accompany him on his tour so we can tell people about our work and encourage them to become supporters. Dates are between August and December, in locations all over Britain from Penzance to Glasgow. If you'd like to help out in your home town or somewhere nearby, please get in touch with Anna, anna@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297.

Shut DESO Lobby

As part of the campaign to shut the Defence Export Services Organisation, there will be a lobby of MPs from 1st September to 30th November. The long time span is to allow as many supporters as possible to talk to their MPs about closing DESO. You can lobby your MP in their constituency at a convenient time or do so on 16th October as part of the Action Day.

At the moment, with parliamentary backing for an international Arms Trade Treaty, it is particularly important that MPs are aware of the contradiction of calling for tough arms export controls while simultaneously promoting sales.

Pressure from within the constituency is frequently a key factor in influencing an MP's views. A sympathetic MP who is lobbied may be encouraged to take action in

Parliament and in her or his party. An MP who is strongly supportive of the arms industry may reconsider the issue if a well-reasoned case is calmly presented by constituents. This is especially true if the MP encounters colleagues who have also been lobbied.

- Order the Lobby Pack from the CAAT office now or download it at www.calltheshots.org

Clean Investment and Local Authorities

The details of local authority pension scheme investments in arms companies released by CAAT in April were the first obtained through Freedom of Information requests. As a result they were more comprehensive than usual. This prompted much media interest, with articles appearing in local papers across the country as well as numerous reports on regional television and radio stations.

The coverage encouraged Councillors and UNISON branch

officials to get in touch with CAAT, asking how they could raise the issue within their own council. Several have already begun to take action. For instance, in London, Camden's first Green councillor used his inaugural speech to talk about his Council's investments in arms companies. He attracted the support of Labour and Liberal Democrat colleagues.

Liberal Democrat Conference

At the time of writing, CAAT is working with Liberal Democrats for

Peace & Security to arrange a fringe meeting on Clean Investment at the party's conference in Brighton in late September. LDPS has also tabled a motion on the issue and we are currently waiting to see if it makes the final agenda.

If you would like more information about the Liberal Democrat meeting or how you can raise the clean investment issue with your council, contact Ann on 020 7281 0297 or ann@caat.org.uk.

It's all happening in Brussels

Many of the most important developments on arms exports are now happening at European Union level. One such is a consultation paper, produced by the Directorate General Enterprises and Industry of the European Commission. Obviously addressed to military manufacturers and exporting governments, the paper regards military goods as just another product, to which the principle of free movement of goods and services and normal commercial policies should be applied. The stated aim is to make the sector "economically more efficient and technologically

more competitive." No reference is made to the controversial nature of the production and export of military equipment, nor of the devastating impact it can have on peace, human rights and economic development.

While much of the European public is calling for more controls and more rigorous enforcement of them, the consultation paper is looking at ways to remove restrictions on arms transfers and treat them as normal commerce. While it mentions the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, it is mainly to point out that the Code's preamble emphasises the intention

of states "to maintain a defence industry as part of their industrial base and their defence". It omits to say that many EU citizens campaigned for the EU Code on the basis that it would restrict arms sales, not provide a justification for removing controls on them.

CAAT and counterpart organisations in the European Network Against Arms Trade as well as arms control think-tanks have responded to the consultation.

ANN FELTHAM

Wanted – new members for CAAT's Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is CAAT's ultimate decision-making body, deciding on the organisation's policy and direction. It meets in London on four Saturday afternoons each year, usually spending about half its time on campaigns and policy and half on administrative matters.

Composed of CAAT's staff and representatives of some of CAAT's Sponsoring organisations and Networks, the Steering Committee also has eight Supporter representatives. These latter sit on the Committee for two years, four retiring each year.

Please consider standing for Steering Committee, especially if you're active in CAAT at a local level as local campaigners are poorly represented at the moment.

To become a Supporter representative you need to have been receiving CAATnews for more than 12 months. You must be proposed and seconded by other supporters of at least 12 months standing, defined as before, only one of whom may be a member of Steering Committee. The paid staff, and the person appointed by Steering Committee as the Returning Officer (this year it is Nick Russell), may not make nominations. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday 11th October.

Send your nominations to Ann at the CAAT office or email them to her on ann@caat.org.uk. Please also contact Ann if you would like to discuss this further.

Register to vote

If more people are nominated than there are places, elections will be held later in the year. Ballot papers will only be sent to supporters or groups who have registered as wishing to vote. More than one vote for a household will be allowed, provided that each person fills in a separate voting registration card or makes an individual signed request.

If you have not previously registered to vote and want to do so this autumn, please send in a request now. It must include your signature. If you cannot remember whether you are registered, you can contact Ann on 020 7281 0297 or ann@caat.org.uk

New Media Co-ordinator

Symon Hill writes:

On 24th July I started as CAAT Media Co-ordinator and am now getting stuck into the job.

I grew up in the Midlands in the 1980s and my involvement in campaigning grew out of the social injustices that I saw all around me. At school one day my teacher said that I was no good at anything except arguing. I have defied her in the most practical way possible, by developing a career in arguing! OK, I admit there's a lot more to media relations than that, but I very much enjoy the challenge of putting across a convincing case concisely to a target audience.

My previous job was at the University of London Union (ULU), where I was employed as Media and Campaigns Co-ordinator. I promoted students' concerns to the media and advised elected officers on communication. I am pleased to have promoted ULU's opposition to academic investments in the arms trade.

Before working in this area professionally, my paid work ranged from a call centre to a poultry farm and included two years as a bookseller at Waterstone's. At the same time, I campaigned on issues ranging from peace to mental health, workers' rights to religious liberty. In the late 1990s I served as volunteer Press Officer for CCAD, a group campaigning on mental health in faith communities. It was there that I developed my passion for engaging with the media to achieve social change.

I'm very excited about working for CAAT and am looking forward to getting to know many CAAT activists and supporters over the coming months and years. I very much value your advice, thoughts and suggestions, so feel free to get in touch with me on press@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297.

CAAT National Gathering 2006

Saturday 25th November 2006, 10am–6pm, Mary Ward House, Tavistock Place, London (near Russell Square)

Join us for a day of workshops and discussions. Whether you're new to arms issues or a long-time campaigner we will have sessions to suit you. The day will help you become better informed about the arms trade, learn more about CAAT's campaigns and the action you can take, develop your skills and meet other like-minded people.

There is no charge for the day and a vegetarian lunch will be provided, though donations would be welcome.

More information in the next issue of CAATnews, but if you have ideas for discussions or workshops, or would like to register in advance, contact Anna at the office on anna@caat.org.uk or 020 2781 0297.

Fundraising

By Kathryn Busby

Sponsor Jan Walters in the Great North Run

A message from Jan Walters, who will be running the Great North Run to raise money for CAAT on Sunday 1st October 2006:

"I am 42 years old and live in Marsden, a small town just outside Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, with my two teenage daughters. I recently qualified as a solicitor and work for a local firm. I am a Quaker and have been a supporter of CAAT for a number of years. I believe the organisation campaigns efficiently and with distinct clarity and integrity.

"I started running at the beginning of last year as an attempt to get fit and lose weight after giving up a 20-year smoking habit. I completed a 5-kilometre run with my daughters in September 2005. When I saw the

notice in the CAATnews I was inspired to use this as an opportunity not only to set myself a further challenge, but also to help raise funds for the valuable work carried out by CAAT. As the only runner for CAAT in the Great North Run this year, I feel a rather heavy burden of responsibility and hope that other supporters will feel moved to sponsor me."

To support Jan's efforts to raise money for CAAT, please complete the sponsor form included with this issue of CAATnews and return it with your donation to the CAAT office. If you can't find the sponsor form, simply write 'Great North Run' on the back of your cheque.

Advert in the Friend

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the CAAT supporter (who wishes to remain anonymous) who answered my call in the last issue of CAATnews, for someone to 'sponsor an advert'. Because of her generous donation, our new recruitment postcard will be included with the Friend, the independent weekly magazine with news and views from a Quaker perspective, during one week in August.

Of course if anyone else would like to sponsor an advert in another publication, your donation would be very gratefully received! Also, if you would like some copies of the new recruitment postcard (pictured) to distribute in your local area, please contact Patrick at the office.



to mark the 2nd anniversary of the November 04 US/UK invasion in Fallujah and oppose the continuing violent military assaults

NO MORE FALLUJAHS

A weekend of nonviolent resistance to the occupation of Iraq

28-29 October 2006, London

including:

Sat 28 Oct: peace journey from the UK's military nerve centre in Northwood to Central London

Sun 29 Oct: 24 hour 'unauthorised' peace encampment in Parliament Square to demand an end to the occupation

Accommodation will be available on request for 27 and 28 October.

Organised by: the Mass Action Group and supported by Brent Stop the War, Iraq Occupation Focus, JNV, London Region CND, Norwich Stop the War, London Catholic Worker and Voices UK.

Contact: 0845 458 2664 or voices@voicesuk.org

www.rememberfallujah.org

GET INVOLVED!
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Campaign Against Arms Trade thrives on your participation

For more information on all of these contact the CAAT office on 020 7281 0297 or if you have any enquiries not covered below contact enquiries@caat.org.uk

Subscribe to a CAAT email list

Sign up to receive the monthly CAAT bulletin with the latest news and events; to receive press releases; to join the list for the CAAT Action Network and find out about nonviolent direct action to stop the arms trade; or to find out when the latest CAATnews is on the website.

Contact enquiries@caat.org.uk or visit www.caat.org.uk/lists

Make a donation

The donations of our supporters enable CAAT to struggle for a world without arms trading; without your help there would be no campaign. Support CAAT by sending us a cheque, setting up a regular standing order donation, or by taking part in a fundraising event.

Contact Kathryn at kathryn@caat.org.uk

Contact your MP

It is estimated that every letter written to a politician represents about 80 people who care but haven't got around to writing. If you would like to visit or write to your MP, contact the CAAT office to find out if your MP has shown an interest in arms trade issues.

On some issues it is also worth contacting your MEP. If you live in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales, you can also raise issues that have an impact on employment or the economy with your national representatives.

Contact Ann at ann@caat.org.uk

Campaign locally

CAAT has a network of local contacts and groups around the UK who take responsibility for promoting anti-arms trade activity and the work of CAAT in their area. Get in contact if you would like to know what is happening in your area or if you are interested in becoming a local contact or setting up a group. All that's needed is a willingness to raise awareness of arms trade issues in any way that you feel is appropriate.

Contact Beccie at beccie@caat.org.uk for info, including the Local Campaigns Pack.

Raise awareness

Organising a public meeting, using the local media and running a street stall have proved effective ways for CAAT groups to raise awareness of arms trade issues. CAAT can provide speakers for public meetings, materials for stalls and can also help with publicity.

Contact Anna at action@caat.org.uk or Beccie beccie@caat.org.uk

For media info contact Symon at press@caat.org.uk

Research the arms companies

CAAT has produced a range of research on the UK's main arms companies. However, staff at the CAAT office are not able to track all arms company developments and would appreciate receiving any information you find. This can include anything from watching out for information in your local press, to undertaking basic research in your local library, to approaching a company directly for information.

Contact Ian at ian@caat.org.uk

Protest against the arms trade

A protest can confront the arms trade and illustrate that many people do not think that the arms trade is an ordinary, acceptable business. In addition, a protest can generate a lot of publicity, which will raise awareness about the company and the arms trade in general. CAAT is a non-violent organisation and any protest organised under the name of CAAT needs to be non-violent (contact the office for the CAAT guidelines).

Contact Anna at action@caat.org.uk

Join the CAAT Christian Network

The Network raises arms trade issues within national church structures and local churches.

Contact Alun Morinan at christian@caat.org.uk

Order a CAAT publication

CAAT produces briefings, reports and leaflets on a range of issues.

Contact Patrick at patrick@caat.org.uk

New baby girl for CAATnews editor

Congratulations to Melanie Jarman, who normally edits CAATnews, and who gave birth to a baby girl on 5th July. Born weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces, she initially had heart problems, but after an operation is making good progress. Melanie and her partner have named her Amalie, which is derived from *amal*, the Arabic word for hope.

CAAT staff and volunteers would like to send the new family our best wishes.

Subscribe now!

Subscription is voluntary, but we need your support. We suggest £26 waged, £14 low income and £35 for groups. Please give more if you are able, or less if not.

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Campaigns diary

5 August

Musical protest against the DSEi arms fair. 2pm-4.30pm, outside the ExCel Centre, Newham, East London. Next to Custom House DLR station. Organised by East London Against the Arms Fair.

August-December

Mark Thomas on tour (see www.markthomasinfo.com for details). Mark has asked CAAT to have a stall at each event. If you can help, please see page 11.

1 September-30 November

Three-month mass lobby of MPs as part of Shut DESO campaign. Visit your MP in your local constituency or come along to Parliament on the 16th October. See page 3.

11 October

Deadline for nominations for Supporter Representatives on CAAT Steering Committee. See page 13.

16 October

Shut DESO Day of Action. CAAT will be joining other groups for a day of protest to shut DESO. Together we will encircle the headquarters of DESO, designating it a "global danger zone", and send a clear signal that DESO's place in Government is unacceptable. You'll also have the chance to lobby your MP in the afternoon, as part of our three-month lobby. See page 3.

25 November

CAAT National Gathering. 10am-6pm, Mary Ward House, Tavistock Place, London. Our annual conference for everyone interested in ending arms exports. A day of talks, discussions and workshops to find out more about the issues, improve your campaigning skills and meet other CAAT supporters. More details in the next issue of CAATnews.

Our online events diary is updated regularly between issues of CAATnews. Find it at www.caat.org.uk/events

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