

# CAAT*n*ews



**Southern  
Lebanon  
destroyed...**

**Now stop  
arming Israel**

**Issue 198  
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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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LEBANESE WOMAN VIEWS DESTROYED NEIGHBOURHOOD  
IN SOUTH BEIRUT. YANNIS BEHRAKIS/REUTERS



**A cluster bomb in Lebanon. See page 10** CLUSTER MUNITIONS COALITION

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# An autumn of activity

## Universities Clean Investment

The Universities Clean Investment Campaign 2006 will be launched in November to expose arms company investments held by UK universities. In 2005, the campaign focused on the six largest UK-based arms exporters. This year the list has been expanded to twelve companies, including international corporations such as Boeing, EADS and Lockheed Martin. We will be calling for divestment, highlighting the potential for ethical investment, and providing support to students and staff in their efforts to kick arms dealers off their campus.

### Unacceptable

The investment of tuition fees in companies that fuel conflict around the world has proved unacceptable

to students. They are continuing to demand that their universities take responsibility for the wider impact of investment decisions. Hundreds of students and staff around the country have been mobilised to take action and this has resulted in policy changes at student union and university administration level. Last year, student and staff-led protests, petitions and articles caused SOAS, Exeter, University of Wales, Bangor and Goldsmiths to take real steps towards divestment. These changes have only occurred because activists have used persuasive moral and financial arguments to explain why investing in the arms trade is unnecessary. They have shown that it is not only possible for universities to fulfil their fiduciary duty whilst

investing ethically, but that it can also be beneficial.

### Build on successes

We will build upon the successes of last year's campaign by encouraging more students, staff and alumni to get involved in the campaign in 2006/7. By providing all the information on the new universities network website ([www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/universities](http://www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/universities)) we aim to make campaigning accessible for all. If you are connected with a university, or know anyone who is, please contact us by email on [universities@caat.org.uk](mailto:universities@caat.org.uk) so we can continue working together towards ensuring ethical investment is a priority for all UK universities.

TIM STREET AND JO WITTAMS

## Our annual gathering

Also in November is CAAT's National Gathering, our annual conference for all CAAT supporters. This will be a great opportunity to come together to learn more about the arms trade and CAAT's campaigns, brush up on campaigning skills and plan for future action. The day-long event will include sessions to suit everyone, whether you're a long-time campaigner or new to arms trade issues. We'll have a mix of plenary

sessions and a choice of workshops on a range of topics, from how to end the Government's continued role in the arms trade, to media campaigning, to clean investment. If there's a particular issue you'd like to discuss or a campaigning skill you'd like to develop, please let us know!

CAAT's National Gathering will be held from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 25th November, at Mary Ward House, Tavistock Place, London. This

is just around the corner from Russell Square tube station and close to Euston and Kings Cross Rail stations. The venue has disabled access. The day is free, including a vegetarian lunch, though donations are welcome. To book your place please email me ([anna@caat.org.uk](mailto:anna@caat.org.uk)) or let us know at the office. More details will be available on the website soon. We look forward to seeing you there! ANNA JONES

## Stop Arming Israel

The conflict between Israel and Hizbullah this summer killed hundreds of civilians, most of them Lebanese. While Hizbullah's weapons were low-tech and came from places over which British citizens have no control, Israel's Apache helicopters and F-16 jets contained key parts made in the UK. In response to the attack on Lebanon and the continuing assault on Gaza, CAAT has been involved in launching a new campaign, Stop Arming Israel. Read about it on pages 8-9 and if you want to be involved, visit [www.stoparmingisrael.org](http://www.stoparmingisrael.org), email [stoparmingisrael@caat.org.uk](mailto:stoparmingisrael@caat.org.uk), or phone Ann at the office.

# Shut DESO

**And of course, the DESO Day of Action takes place on October 16th. This is CAAT's big action of the year, so don't miss it! See page 6.**

## BAE Systems funds US election candidates

'British' company BAE Systems' US subsidiary has emerged as one of the biggest donors in US Congressional elections this year, outspending US firms such as Exxon-Mobil, Microsoft and Citigroup. Republican candidates, who BAE funded to the tune of \$439,499, included Duncan Hunter, the chair of the House armed services committee. Democrat candidates, who got a total of \$232,500, included John Murtha, the ranking Democrat on the defence subcommittee. BAE Systems was the 7th biggest supplier to the Pentagon in 2005, and its recent payments have made it the 18th biggest corporate donor in this US election cycle. Rolls Royce has also made contributions to candidates.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 22/8/06

## War is good for business

Traders on Wall Street are starting to see stocks in arms companies as an essential component of a 'wartime' investment portfolio. Shares in firms like Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman have roughly doubled in price since the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The huge increase in US military spending is one reason for the profitability of US arms companies, but this also has a knock-on effect around the world as other countries see American weapons in action. Arms contracts with foreign governments passed to Congress for approval had already reached 76% more by August this year than in the whole of 2005, at £11.5 billion. The top three buyers of US weapons during the last 5 years were Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Pakistan.

REUTERS, 14/7/06; THE TIMES, 21/8/06

## Helicopter firms are big winners from Iraq war

US military spending has grown enormously because of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (see CAATnews 195), but certain types of firms have seen disproportionate benefits. Military service providers, particularly Halliburton, and helicopter manufacturers have both seen handsome profits. Textron, which supplies the US military with its Bell helicopters, does much of its support work on the ground in the conflict zone itself. Sales of other helicopters such as the Chinook and Black Hawk have also gone up.

Meanwhile BAE Systems has been churning out its Bradley vehicles and is one of a number of firms that have benefited from sales of fairly low-tech military equipment which needs replacing regularly in conflicts.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 17/7/06

## Batchelor of Arms

The University of Hertfordshire has launched the first ever foundation degree in 'aerospace and defence systems'. The course provides work experience in the arms industry as well as an academic qualification. Meanwhile Cranfield University has launched a Masters of Defence Administration. The MDA is modelled on the traditional MBA but geared towards work in military industry.

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL, 6/6/06 AND 13/6/06

## Boeing comes to Bristol

Boeing used the occasion of the Farnborough arms fair to announce that it is to open a new facility in Bristol. The UK subsidiary, Boeing Defence UK Ltd, will work on Britain's Future Rapid Effects System, including building armoured vehicles for the British Army.

DEFENSE NEWS, 24/7/06

## Airbus shares sold to EADS

BAE Systems has sold its 20% stake in Airbus, the civilian super-jumbo, to European arms giant EADS. The sale went ahead despite valuation of the project being lower than expected, partly because as a non-military project Airbus is no longer seen as a core part of BAE's business. The sale marks an end to British-owned civil aircraft industry, though Ministers have struck a deal with EADS to ensure that Airbus manufacture will be maintained in British plants. In return, EADS will get favourable treatment when tendering for UK arms contracts.

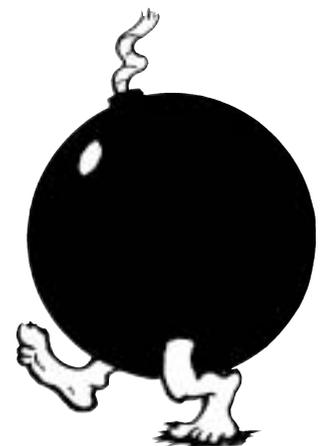
INDEPENDENT, 6/9/06; DAILY TELEGRAPH, 18/7/06

## France to sign Saudi deal

France is poised to sign an arms deal with Saudi Arabia worth an estimated 2.5 billion euros. The agreement involves delivering 30 multi-purpose military helicopters, 10 marine transport helicopters, and two refuelling aircraft.

The two types of helicopter are made by Eurocopter, while the aircraft is an Airbus product. Both these companies are subsidiaries of the Franco-German-Spanish corporation EADS. The French government is reportedly hoping that these sales are a precursor to further deals in 2007 and beyond, including more helicopters, ground-to-air missiles, tanks, ships and the Rafale fighter jet.

REUTERS, 5/9/06



## Israel shorts

### Armed UAVs used in Lebanon

The Israeli attack on Lebanon saw the first clear evidence that Israel is using armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles as part of its operations. The vehicles themselves are understood to be manufactured by Israel Aircraft Industries and probably armed with Spike missiles, built by another Israeli company, Rafael. The US is the only other country to have used armed UAVs, in both in Iraq and Afghanistan.

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL, 8/8/06

### UK Airports used for arms flights

Prestwick Airport near Glasgow, and later RAF Mildenhall have been used as stopovers for planes carrying "bunker-buster" bombs and other military equipment from the US to Israel during the recent hostilities. Both sites attracted direct action from peace activists,

including several Citizen's Weapons Inspections carried out at Prestwick by Trident Ploughshares.

INDEPENDENT, 27/7/06; TRIDENTPLOUGHSHARES.ORG

### US military aid to Israel

Many of the weapons used by Israel against Southern Lebanon were paid for by the US. Israel gets \$2.6 billion in Foreign Military Financing from the US, accounting for about 20% of its total military budget. Three quarters of this money must be spent on US arms, though normally nearly all of it is. Outstanding orders and credit that Israel has with US companies totals around \$4 billion. THE TIMES, 1/8/06

### IDF fired 1m cluster bombs

The Israeli Defence Force fired some 1,800 cluster rockets on Lebanon during the war which contained over 1.2 million cluster bombs. Cluster bombs spread over a wide area so are particularly dangerous

to civilians, and many remain unexploded, effectively becoming landmines. Israeli soldiers have also testified that Phosphorus Shells, a type of chemical weapon, were fired by artillery units. HAARETZ, 14/9/06

### Calls to suspend German arms deliveries

Germany's opposition parties called for a suspension of arms deliveries to Israel in August in response to Israel's 'disproportionate' military offensive. The German Greens also argued that Germany was breaking binding guidelines on the export of weapons to areas experiencing conflict. Like the UK, Germany exports components for vehicles such as Merkava tanks and F-16s, though has also on occasion supplied whole weapons systems.

DEUTSCHE WELLE, 10/8/06

See pages 8-9 for more on Israel and the arms trade

## Russian arms sector opens up

The Russian state-owned bank, Vneshtorgbank is rumoured to have bought a 4.5 percent stake in EADS. Neither EADS nor the bank have confirmed the purchase, but would only have to inform the stock exchange authorities were the stake to exceed 5 percent. If confirmed it is a sign of the increasing willingness of Russia to open up to Western arms companies.

EADS itself bought a 10 percent stake in Irkut last year, one of the makers of the Sukhoi jet, and Russian is planning to loosen restrictions on foreign firms owning aerospace companies. Currently they are only allowed to own less than 25 percent, but legislation due to be presented next month would increase this to 49 percent. FINANCIAL TIMES, 30/8/06

## Russian firms hit by US sanctions

Two Russian companies, Rosoboronexport, the state-owned arms export firm, and aircraft maker Sukhoi have been banned from doing business with any US company for two years. The sanctions have been imposed under the terms of the Iran Nonproliferation Act 2000 which restricts weapons sales to Iran. Rosoboronexport has said that it only sells 'defensive' equipment to Iran, whilst Sukhoi says it has not sold anything to Iran since the 1990s. Both companies have joint ventures with US firms which will be affected. Russian officials have suggested that the sanctions are really about punishing Russia for recent arms deals with Venezuela (see Arms Trade Shorts in CAATnews 197)

FINANCIAL TIMES, 7/8/06

## Protests at African arms fair

September saw protesters descend on Africa Aerospace and Defence in Cape Town, Africa's biggest arms fair. The demonstrators, co-ordinated by Cape Town Anti-War Coalition, called for an end to arms sales to countries with poor human rights records, including the US, Israel, Egypt, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

The South African state-owned arms company, Denel, came under criticism for plans to collaborate with BAE Systems, which the protesters pointed out supply the occupation forces in Iraq. They also called on African governments to stop buying weapons and increase social spending instead.

CAPE TOWN ANTI-WAR COALITION

# Shut DESO

## Time's up for the government's gunrunners

### Day of Action, 16th October

After 40 years of its existence, it is now time to shut DESO for good. The government's arms sales unit must be designated as what it is: a 'global danger zone'. And that's exactly what we'll do as part of the Shut DESO Action Day on Monday 16th October. Together with the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FoR) and other groups, we will form a human chain around the headquarters of DESO, on one of the busiest thoroughfares in Central London. This bold action will send a clear message that DESO is a huge obstacle to world peace and that time's up for the government's gunrunners.

We need at least 170 people for the chain and we need you to be one of them! You'll also have a chance to lobby your MP in the afternoon as part of our 3-month lobby. You'll need to try and book a meeting with

your MP in advance – our info pack about the day includes all you need to know about this.

Please join us for this important day of action. For more info and to register for the day visit [www.caat.org.uk/events/DESOactionday.php](http://www.caat.org.uk/events/DESOactionday.php). Alternatively, contact [anna@caat.org.uk](mailto:anna@caat.org.uk) or 020 7281 0297.

#### Timetable for the day

- 11am: Rally and preparation for action (Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2)
- 12.30pm: Shut DESO mass action (DESO headquarters, 2-12 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1)
- From 1.30pm: Informal street poll – help spread the message about DESO
- 3–6pm: Lobby your MP

## What is DESO?

The Defence Export Services Organisation (or DESO) is the arms industry's very own taxpayer-funded marketing unit. It employs nearly 500 civil servants to sell arms worldwide and to lobby for military exports across government. No other industry has such a dedicated support department.

DESO gives arms companies incredible influence over government policy, not least because it is located at the heart of government and is headed by a boss seconded from the arms industry. Alan Garwood, the current head of DESO, was seconded from MBDA which is part-owned by BAE Systems, the UK's dominant arms producer.

DESO's 'priority markets' have recently included countries with poor human rights records such as Libya and Saudi Arabia, not to mention the US. DESO's official website boasts that "Successive Customer Satisfaction Surveys of the UK defence industry revealed that over 75% of this business would not have been achieved without the assistance of DESO." That means that if DESO were shut, arms exports from the UK would be drastically reduced.

## Shut DESO lobby of MPs

With parliamentary backing for an international Arms Trade Treaty, it is a particularly important moment to make MPs aware of the contradiction of calling for tough arms export controls, whilst at the same time promoting sales through DESO. If you haven't done so already, please register to take part in CAAT's three-month Lobby of MPs and help us call for the closure of DESO. The more MPs who are contacted face-to-face about DESO, the more likely DESO's closure will be. You could lobby your MP on October 16th as part of the Action Day or in your constituency

sometime between now and November 30th. If you're unsure about how to go about it, CAAT's Lobby Guide provides step-by-step guidance and tells you all you need to know about meeting with your MP and the arguments to make. You can find it at [www.calltheshots.org](http://www.calltheshots.org)

Alternatively, contact our Parliamentary Coordinator Ann Feltham on [ann@caat.org.uk](mailto:ann@caat.org.uk) or 020 7281 0297.

#### Shut DESO EDM

Many MPs are already aware of the negative impact of DESO and are actively calling for its closure. An

EDM has been put down (a kind of parliamentary petition) that is based on CAAT's Shut DESO statement. The EDM had already been signed by over 30 MPs before the summer recess and we hope numbers will climb once MPs are back in Parliament. Please encourage your MP to sign the EDM (number 1798) and join the call to Shut DESO. The EDM will finish when parliament ends its year, likely to be towards the end of October, so you must act quickly!

# CAAT public speaking training

On July 19th eight CAAT supporters gathered in East London for our first ever public speaking training day. It was aimed at those who already give talks on the arms trade and those who would like to, with a particular focus on our Shut DESO campaign. Beccie D’Cunha and Anna Jones from the CAAT office led an excellent series of workshops starting with the most daunting part of the day, the delivery by each participant of a prepared five-minute presentation.

The feedback session that followed each presentation set the scene for a very supportive and constructive atmosphere, which prevailed throughout the day. Sessions on what makes a good talk, how to best use visual aids and how to address different types of audiences, among others, were interspersed with further practical exercises. The first exercise was to prepare and deliver a short talk on DESO with very little preparation time so as to practice identifying and communicating the key points of the campaign. The

second exercise – delivering a one-minute, completely impromptu talk - gave us practice in thinking on our feet as we would have to in a Q&A session.

Participants ranged from more experienced speakers to total beginners like myself. I found the opportunity to practice speaking in such a safe environment invaluable, and the creativity (how to use cardboard pyramids as visual aids!), variety and passion displayed in everybody’s speaking styles was impressive, giving me some good ideas for the future (imitation is the sincerest form of flattery after all).

I left feeling very happy to have become part of a group of great advocates for an end to the arms trade, realising that I knew more than I thought and ready to join the existing CAAT Speakers’ Network. If you would like to be part of the Network, attend a future training course, or book a CAAT speaker for a local event, please contact Beccie ([beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk)). EDDA DIRKS

## Future public speaking training

*“I really found it so useful even though I do quite a lot of public speaking. I was a bit apprehensive before coming, but felt really comfortable in the safe environment you created.”*

The next training day will be in Leeds on Friday 19th January 2007. We are also planning to do public speaking workshops in the Southwest and North of England/Scotland, and any other areas where there is enough demand. If you would be interested in attending a workshop near you or would like to register a place on the Leeds workshop, please contact Beccie ([beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk)).

## Mark Thomas book tour

We are looking for people to give out CAAT leaflets at Mark’s shows in October or November. The locations not covered are Fareham, Leicester, Wellingborough, Falmouth, Penzance, Exeter, Andover, Windsor, Doncaster and Aldershot. If you live near any of these locations and would like to help, please contact Anna ([anna@caat.org.uk](mailto:anna@caat.org.uk)).

## New CAAT materials

The following new resources are now available to order from Patrick ([patrick@caat.org.uk](mailto:patrick@caat.org.uk)):

- Christian Network leaflet (free)
- CAAT Christian Network badge (20p)
- New recruitment postcard (free)
- Stop Arming Israel postcard (free)
- Updated version of the four-page briefing, An Introduction to the Arms Trade (free).

# Out and about at the Edinburgh Festival

During the Festival period in August, Edinburgh CAAT supporters were out among the throng in the heart of the city with stalls featuring the Shut DESO campaign issues. In the brilliant weather, and given an ideal site, this was a unique opportunity to reach a wider public. The concern of both local people and visitors about the arms trade in general and the question of government/arms trade relationships in particular was evident.

### DESO petition

The petition received an especially good response and publicity materials were so popular we ran out



**CAAT materials used to good effect at the Festival** EDINBURGH CAAT

of some. Though fundraising wasn’t highlighted, the collecting tin earned its keep! Altogether a very successful outcome. DAVID TURNER

# STOP ARMING ISRAEL



**"The Apache is not just equipment. For Palestinians it's a symbol of indiscriminate military violence. From a young age, every Palestinian child learns to distinguish the Apache's sound and associate it with assassinations, destruction and blood in the street."**

**Shawan Jabarin, director of the Palestinian human rights group al-Haq**

As the world looked on in horror this July, Israel launched an all-out assault on southern Lebanon. The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) killed more than 1,000 Lebanese civilians and destroyed houses and infrastructure right across the Shia Muslim-dominated south of the country. Bombing raids also destroyed whole neighbourhoods in the capital, Beirut, and a high proportion of those killed were children. Hizbullah, the purported target of the attack, responded by sending Katyusha rockets back into northern Israel.

According to Amnesty International, the destruction of Lebanese infrastructure, including water treatment plants, supermarkets, and strategically unimportant bridges, was a deliberate strategy on the part of the IDF. It was simultaneously deploying a similar strategy in its attack on Gaza, including indiscriminate shelling and the destruction of the territory's only power plant. A year after a supposed IDF withdrawal from Gaza, its one million inhabitants have to endure repeated military incursions, assassinations, sonic booms from low-flying aircraft and other forms of collective punishment for the armed resistance of a small minority.

## Background

This violence takes place in the context of an occupation of Palestinian territories that will be 40 years old next year. Like all occupations, it has been brutal and humiliating for those being occupied. It has been made worse by apparent Israeli determination to permanently annex large parts of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israeli settlers, subsidised by the government, have colonised large parts of these areas in Settlements that are constantly expanding. Settlements are linked via roads that only Jews can use and a light railway system is currently being built to further entrench them.

The 'security barrier', which in most places is actually an enormous concrete wall complete with watchtowers,

has been built ostensibly to keep Palestinian suicide bombers out of Israel. In fact, a quick look at its route exposes its real purpose. Rather than running along the 'green line', the boundary between Israel and Palestine agreed by the UN in 1948, the Wall cuts out large swathes of Palestinian territory so as to incorporate the Israeli Settlements into Israel. In doing so, it often cuts off Palestinian farmers from their land, and, in places, runs through schools and even people's houses.

In 2004, the International Courts of Justice in the Hague ruled the construction of the Wall along its current route to be illegal. Israel has ignored the ruling just as its has ignored UN General Council rulings in the past, such as those requiring an end to the occupation itself, and the right to return of those Palestinians made refugees when Israel was created. Yet despite the fact that Israel has flouted more UN resolutions, and for a longer period, than any other country, the weapons keep on flowing in.

## Arming Israel

By far the largest supplier of arms to Israel is the United States. Israel's close relationship with the US means it gets more US overseas aid than any other country, despite being ranked 23rd on the UN Human Development Index. This includes around \$2.6 billion which Israel receives each year through the US Foreign Military Financing programme. Most of this is spent on buying weapons from US companies. For example, at the beginning of August, Israel asked the Bush administration to speed up delivery of an order of M-26 artillery rockets loaded with cluster bombs. They made no secret that these were to be used against Lebanon.

Although not in the same league as the US, the UK government still managed to licence £22.5 million's worth of arms for export to Israel in 2005, around double the figure for 2004. The UK has consistently sold weapons to Israel and, in the last three years, has licensed items

including small arms ammunition, anti-aircraft guns, unmanned air vehicles and armoured all-wheel drive vehicles, as well as components for tanks, combat aircraft and various kinds of missile.

With the increasing global integration of the arms industry, many of the UK companies involved in arming Israel make parts for equipment that is assembled in the US or elsewhere. BAE Systems, Smiths Group and Liverpool-based MPE, for instance, all make sub-systems or components for the F-16 fighter jet, of which Israel has 236. Airtechnology Group in Middlesex makes parts for the Merkava tank and at least nine UK companies make components for the AH-64 'Apache' attack helicopter that is a symbol of fear on the Palestinian street.

### UK government policy

Since October 2000 the government has used a set of Consolidated EU and National Criteria to judge whether arms export licences should be granted. These lay out a series of considerations that include whether the country of destination is in breach of international law, the internal situation in the country including the existence of armed conflicts, the preservation of regional peace and stability and the destination country's respect for human rights. On all these counts Israel can be found seriously wanting, yet the number of licence applications that are turned down has actually decreased (from 84 in 2002 to only nine in 2005) as deaths in the occupied territories have gone up.

In fact the UK government has often sought to make excuses and exceptions. In 2002, it allowed Head-Up displays for F-16s bound for Israel to be exported to the US. Since F-16s are often used in the Occupied Territories there was an outcry, but the government argued that the UK's economic relationship with the US would be damaged if the exports were stopped. A series of get-out clauses were also added to the Criteria to enable the government to prioritise the interests of arms companies over those of human rights.

In evidence to the parliamentary Quadripartite Committee this year, Foreign Office Minister Kim Howells reaffirmed that it was government policy not to allow export of equipment or components that could be "deployed aggressively" in the Occupied Territories, but continuing that "almost any piece of equipment, I suppose, could be used aggressively". In other words, the UK government's position is a nonsense, given that

aircraft and tanks for which UK companies make components are regularly and obviously used aggressively against Palestinians. The Quad Committee suggested this when they asked in their report for the government to explain what their position on exports to Israel actually meant. In reality, the only credible approach, if the UK was interested in upholding its own Criteria, would be a complete embargo on arms sales to Israel.

### The Israeli arms industry

Of course, even if all arms producing countries banned sales to Israel, it would still be able to arm itself through its own significant arms industry. Israeli companies such as Israel Aircraft Industries, Israel Military Industries, Rafael and Elbit Systems built their businesses selling arms to regimes that other countries refused to supply. Israel was the leading supplier to apartheid South Africa and currently sells missiles and other weaponry to Burma's military junta, which is subject to an EU arms embargo.

Yet Europe is also now a big market for Israeli companies and the UK is no exception. In 2003, the most recent year for which figures are publicly available, military-related imports from Israel were worth £4.4 million. Military exports are important to Israel for earning foreign currency and are a key part of its economy – Israel Aircraft Industries is the country's biggest employer outside government. The Israeli arms industry is at the cutting edge of global weapons technology and its proving ground is often occupied Palestine, or recently Lebanon, allowing the industry to market its weapons as 'battle-tested'. In addition to its use of weapons, then, Israel plays an important role in the global arms trade as a supplier.

### Stop arming Israel

Calling for an embargo on sales of arms to and from Israel is not just about ending the UK's material complicity in the occupation. Refusing to trade weapons with a country is a powerful message of disapproval in itself, especially when that country disregards international law with such impunity. While Israel can continue to operate as a normal country in the world system it will have no motivation to end the occupation that is producing such suffering, poverty and instability. The UK's arms trade with Israel is currently compounding the problem, both militarily and politically. Ending it is an important step to bringing about peace. JAMES O'NIONS

## The Stop Arming Israel campaign

The Israeli attacks on Lebanon and Gaza have given added impetus to CAAT's call for an end to arms sales to and from Israel. In order to raise the issue as widely as possible, we've launched a joint campaign with other organisations, including War on Want, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Voices in the

Wilderness, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (UK), and the Radical Activist Network. The campaign has been asking organisations and individuals to support a short statement in favour of an embargo. You can read the statement and sign up online at [www.stoparmingisrael.org/statement](http://www.stoparmingisrael.org/statement)

The website also has details of the UK companies that are supplying Israel, actions you can take to build support for an embargo, and news relevant to the campaign. For more information, please contact the CAAT office, or visit the website: [www.StopArmingIsrael.org](http://www.StopArmingIsrael.org)

# An 'insane and monstrous' operation

**Thomas Nash, Co-ordinator of the Cluster Munitions Coalition, explains how three days of Israeli cluster bombing in Lebanon will mean years of suffering to come.**

The devastation from cluster munitions is taking a daily toll in south Lebanon. Civilians are being killed and injured by unexploded submunitions. 30% of the victims are children. Livelihoods have been destroyed, and desperately needed relief and rehabilitation is being impeded.

There have already been 83 civilian casualties from cluster munitions since the ceasefire and the number is rising as more and more people return and sift through the rubble. Water supplies are blocked, power cannot be restored and schools, roads, houses and gardens are still littered with cluster munition duds. Farmers cannot safely harvest what is left of this summer's tobacco, wheat and fruit. Late yielding crops such as olives will remain too dangerous to harvest by November and winter crops will be lost because farmers will be unable to plough their cluster munition contaminated land.

A month after the ceasefire, the UN identified 482 individual cluster munition strikes in Lebanon. The majority of these strikes have been targeted at Shia towns and villages. The UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, has said the use of cluster munitions by Israel was "shocking and immoral", estimating that 100,000 unexploded submunitions remain. The real number may be even higher. UNIFIL (the UN force in Lebanon) observer reports confirm that 90 percent of the cluster munitions were fired in the last 72 hours of the conflict. Israeli soldiers have stated that over 1,800 cluster rockets containing 1.2 million submunitions were fired



**M42 clusters in an olive grove in Toulin, Lebanon** CLUSTER MUNITIONS COALITION

indiscriminately at towns and villages during this three-day period.

One Israeli commander described the cluster munition attacks as "insane and monstrous". The total number of submunitions used may turn out to be even higher when the amount of artillery launched and aerial delivered cluster munitions is revealed. Three days of indiscriminate cluster bombing have left a deadly legacy in south Lebanon that will take years to clear up.

Since the ceasefire, bomb disposal teams have destroyed over 25,000 submunitions from roads and houses. Many of the cluster bombs that have been cleared from Lebanon in the past few days contain relatively modern submunitions manufactured by Israel and exported to and produced under license by a number of other countries, including Germany, Norway, Switzerland and the UK. These M85 cluster munitions have been billed by UK ministers as having a proven maximum failure rate of 2%. Other countries have purchased them in order to comply with national policies they have introduced to reduce the number of duds that pose a humanitarian concern.

Yet the UK also stockpiles the rocket-delivered M77 submunitions. Israel fired more than one million of these, and thousands have been cleared in only one month of clear up work since the ceasefire. They also fired Chinese-manufactured MZD2 cluster munitions during the conflict, leaving large amounts of unexploded ordnance. Thus the evidence from Lebanon shows that many cluster bombs currently in use still have high failure rates, and even those that have lower rates are usually fired in such numbers that civilians will continue to suffer regardless.

International trade has already resulted in UK-manufactured cluster munitions being used against civilians and with no regard for international law. UK taxpayers' money is being spent on weapons systems that are indiscriminate and have a proven record of killing and injuring civilians. The Cluster Munition Coalition and UK partner Landmine Action believe that all transfers of cluster munitions must be stopped immediately and we call on the UK to remove all such weapons from service without delay.

[www.stopclustermunitions.org](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org)

# Calling all academics! Reed Elsevier, the next round

**The campaign urging global publishing giant Reed Elsevier to withdraw from its involvement in organising worldwide arms fairs is going strong, with more and more people contacting CAAT to offer their support and taking their own initiatives.**

## Background

Arms Fairs, trade exhibitions for military industry, are a key link in the chain that facilitates global violence. They take place all around the world, but one of the biggest is Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi), which happens in London's ExCel Centre every two years. It is organised by Reed Elsevier through its subsidiary, Reed Exhibitions, which puts on a total of five other major arms fairs worldwide.

However, not all the locals in Newham, a London borough that has become a refuge for many exiles from war-torn countries, are thrilled to be hosts to "the world's largest fully integrated international defence exhibition", and a local coalition that includes CAAT is calling on Reed to abandon their plans for DSEi 2007.

Members of the London Catholic Worker group are also holding monthly lunchtime vigils outside Reed Elsevier's headquarters in Central London, engaging passers-by in dialogue and remembering the victims.

## Serving the science and health communities?

Arms Fairs actually represent only a tiny portion of Reed Elsevier's overall turnover, and the company "is a world leading publisher of information for professional users". Publications include medical and scientific journals such as *The Lancet*, the *New Scientist* and *ScienceDirect*; learning and testing material via Harcourt Education; the LexisNexis research service, relied on by the legal profession; and a range of magazines for business people.

On its website, Reed Elsevier says that it is "committed to making genuine contributions to the science and health communities" and that it is "proud to be part of [these] communities". Conversely, however, many members of the science and health communities are not proud to be associated with Reed Elsevier. Many of them rely heavily on Reed

Elsevier journals to have their work peer-reviewed and published, but they also provide their time and expertise to referee other academics' work for free, making them stakeholders in Reed Elsevier. This leaves them in a good position to put pressure on Reed to abandon its Arms Fairs.

## Calling all academics

An open letter to Reed Elsevier signed by high-profile medics was published in September 2005 in *The Lancet* and eminent writers signed another to *The Times Literary Supplement* in 2006. These initiatives inspired Dr Tom Stafford of Sheffield University, and mathematician Nick Gill have each set up their own online petitions aimed at academics. Tom's petition calls on Reed Elsevier to stop organising arms fairs, while Nick's asks signatories to exercise a submission boycott of their papers. Both petitions have already attracted a long and impressive range of signatories.

If you are an academic, you can sign these petitions online via CAAT's Arms Fairs campaign website, [www.armsfairs.com](http://www.armsfairs.com).

EDDA DIRKS

## Derry antiwar activists occupy Raytheon

On Wednesday 9th August, in response to the Israeli assaults on Lebanon and Gaza, nine antiwar protesters occupied the offices of the Derry plant of US arms giant Raytheon. The company makes the guidance systems for many of the missiles that are sold to Israel and that caused so much civilian death in the conflict, including the 51 people crushed to death in a bunker in Qana.

The nine protesters (pictured), who entered the plant during a large demonstration outside, included well-known writer and veteran civil rights



campaigner Eamonn McCann. They occupied and 'decommissioned' the plant for eight hours until they were arrested and charged with Aggravated Burglary and Unlawful Entry. These are 'scheduled' offences

in Northern Ireland, which means they will be heard before a non-jury court. This would not be the case in mainland Britain.

In a statement released after they were given a court date, the Raytheon Nine said: "We hold that we had a legal right and a political and moral duty to do what we did. We will not face the court as the accused, but as the accusers. We shall endeavour to expose the illegal and immoral record of arms companies like Raytheon in fuelling the war for the sake of profit."

JAMES O'NIONS

# Quadripartite Committee report

Members of four House of Commons Select Committees with an interest in arms exports – Defence, Foreign Affairs, International Development and Trade & Industry – work together as the Quadripartite Committee on Strategic Export Controls. The latest report of the Committee, whose chair is the Labour MP Roger Berry, was published on 3rd August. It can be viewed online at [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmquad.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmquad.htm). Some of the many points made are set out below, but CAAT is delighted that the Committee has said it will consider the allegations of bribery by the Defence Sales Organisation, as the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) was previously

called, in the next parliamentary session.

## Human rights

As reported on page 9, the MPs asked the government to explain its policy on arms sales to Israel. This was, however, not the only country of concern. The Committee pointed to the Foreign Office's Human Rights Report detailing Saudi Arabia's human rights violations and recommended that all applications for export licences involving that country be considered more carefully. The MPs are surely being a little optimistic, given the government's record in supporting and subsidising sales to Saudi Arabia (for the latest see page 13). The Committee also

wanted the arms embargo on China retained, pointing out, as CAAT so often does, that embargoes have a symbolic value in expressing disapproval of a human rights record as well as being of practical use.

## Libya

Use of a 'toolbox', being considered within the European Union for countries emerging from embargo status, is mentioned. This would involve quite extensive consultation by EU states about sales to previously embargoed countries so as to ensure a consistent approach. The Committee was disappointed that the toolbox had not been used with respect to Libya. No mention is made, however, that the lifting of the embargo on Libya in October 2004, was followed in June 2005 by a DESO seminar on Libya as an emerging market – "a relatively sophisticated customer and a political will to procure equipment from the UK" according to DMA News, July 2005. This was followed by the opening of a DESO office in Tripoli in January 2006.

## More effort needed

The Committee felt the government was being rather passive in not pursuing the ways the Internet is being used to trade arms (and commended comedian and journalist Mark Thomas for bringing this to their attention). It also said that officials needed to actively seek out breaches of export controls in the context of arms fairs.

ANN FELTHAM



## Torn between day-to-day life and stopping the war machine?

Come to the Called to be Peacemakers conference, 27-29<sup>th</sup> October 2006, a weekend residential exploring religious rights and wrongs in contemporary conflict. Open to anyone aged 18 to 30 (ish), the conference will provide the opportunity for reflection, discussions and worship. It will be crammed full of expert speakers, in-depth workshops, training and delicious vegetarian food. The weekend will be an opportunity to meet with others from around the country who are exploring personal and international peacemaking.

The conference is to be held at the Community for Reconciliation, near Birmingham, at a cost of £35 per person. FoR are subsidising the cost of the weekend to enable as many people to take part as possible.



For more information contact the FoR office on 01865 748 796, email [Martha@for.org.uk](mailto:Martha@for.org.uk) or download an application form from [www.for.org.uk](http://www.for.org.uk)

## Shut DESO Lobby and Early Day Motion

Make sure you do what you can to persuade your MP to help us Shut DESO. See page 6 for more details of the lobby and EDM 1798.

# Saudi Arabia latest

It was announced in August that Defence Secretary, Des Browne, and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz, had signed the agreement under which BAE Systems will supply 72 Eurofighter Typhoon jets to the desert kingdom. The Eurofighters are going to cost the Saudis about £5.4 billion with additional equipment such as onboard missiles bringing the total to £10 billion.

The 'agreement' follows the 'understanding' of December 2005 and anticipates a 'final contract' expected later this year. In the past, media coverage on this has usually been in terms of how good the deal allegedly is for the UK and jobs, even though there is no evidence to support this. Encouragingly, this time, some reports mentioned the bribery allegations surrounding previous Saudi deals, or the controversial



nature of the deal because of Saudi Arabia's bad human rights record. The BBC website quoted CAAT saying that the deal was subsidised by UK taxpayers and that the Ministry of Defence and BAE Systems had "failed to demonstrate any gains for the British public".

## Free gift

If you're spending billions, a free gift worth £17 million is probably to be expected. This is what UK taxpayers paid in 1999 to replace the JP233 anti-airfield weapons, which contravened the anti-landmine

Ottawa Treaty, with 100 of the more modern and Treaty-compliant Paveway precision-guided bombs. It is clear from the papers that have been released following Freedom of Information requests that UK ministers at the time were keen to keep the gift from public scrutiny.

## Export credit cover

Another Freedom of Information request has revealed that the Export Credits Guarantee Department opened a file on the Eurofighter Typhoon contract in May. Other details are not known and may be difficult to obtain. Requests for information about ECGD support for Al Yamamah 1 and 2 have been refused and appeals on this are awaiting decisions from the Information Commissioner.

ANN FELTHAM

# The arms industry bites back

Many CAATnews readers will not be aware of Brinley Salzmann, the 'Exports Director' of the Defence Manufacturers Association (DMA). He is the chief lobbyist of the arms industry to government and an avid reader of CAATnews.

The Quadripartite Committee (the Parliamentary Committee that scrutinises arms exports) recently made a criticism that comedian Mark Thomas "was able to identify, with apparently little effort, prima facie evidence of breaches of export control at DSEI in 2005 while HMRC [Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs], who attended the fair, did not notice the possible potential breaches in the brochures". The DMA was reported as saying it is "very difficult" to prevent the sale of sun batons and leg irons at arms

fairs. Brinley went one step further, saying "the point is it's very difficult to control; it's like drug smuggling at music festivals".

This is a rather stupid comparison. The use of recreational drugs at music festivals is, of course, considered by many to be a harmless pursuit, but even if you take the view that it is not, the only harm the users do is to themselves. The consumers of the torture equipment, sadly, do not use their purchases on themselves; and surely torture cannot be considered a harmless pursuit?

CAATnews readers will know that the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) have recently been indulging in recreational use of their UK-supplied equipment (to be found in their Apache helicopters, F-16 jets, and Merkava tanks), all given extensive

use in Lebanon recently. According to Amnesty International, Israeli attacks were "indiscriminate and disproportionate" and "are war crimes".

Brinley's response was that "a purely national arms embargo on Israel would be a totally hollow and empty political gesture, serving no practical purpose". It is true, of course, that a UK arms embargo would not on its own have stopped IDF atrocities in Lebanon. But then the UK arms embargo on Hezbollah has not stopped Hezbollah rocketing civilians in Israel either – presumably that embargo is also a "totally hollow and empty political gesture, serving no practical purpose", eh Brinley?

NICK GILBY

# Fundraising

By Kathryn Busby



Musician Marco Lippe (pictured) is donating 0,50 euros to CAAT from each sale of his recently released CD *Armi D'Istruzione Di Massa*. The CD, the name of which translates into English as *Weapons of Mass Instruction*, is a collaboration between Marco Lippe (drummer with *Twenty Four Hours*, *Nirnaeth* and *Nirnaeth Space Lab*) and *Seaweed* (ex-keyboardist of the world famous British psychedelic trance trippers *Ozric Tentacles*). The CD includes a special version of *Pink Floyd's Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun* and is a great Space Rock trip between *Hawkwind* and *Ozric Tentacles*.



As well as raising money for CAAT, Marco is donating 0,50 euros per sale each to *Greenpeace* and Italian children's charity *Fondazione*

*Aiutare i Bambini*. *Armi D'Istruzione Di Massa* has already attracted positive attention from a number of Italian music magazines and a glowing review from German music website *Metal District*. To buy a copy for 15 euros (about £10), visit [www.masterpiecedistribution.com](http://www.masterpiecedistribution.com). We would like to thank Marco very much for his generous support and encourage all space rock fans to

order your copy of his excellent CD today!

I'm delighted to announce that *Robin Yu* will be making his first skydive on 18th November to raise money for CAAT. Robin will undertake eight hours of rigorous training at a centre near Cambridge before taking a solo static line jump. To sponsor Robin, please send a cheque payable to CAAT to the office. Or donate online by visiting [www.bmycharity.com/robinyu](http://www.bmycharity.com/robinyu)

Finally, many readers will recently have received a fundraising appeal relating to CAAT's renewed call for an arms embargo on Israel following their bombardment of *Lebabon*. Please give what you can to help fund our campaign, we urgently need your support. Thank you.

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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](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk) or visit [www.caat.org.uk/lists](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:action@caat.org.uk) or Beccie [beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk)

For media info contact Symon at [press@caat.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:christian@caat.org.uk)

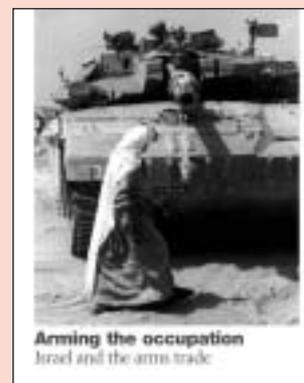
## Order a CAAT publication

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

Contact Patrick at [patrick@caat.org.uk](mailto:patrick@caat.org.uk)

## Israel report still available

If you're looking for more detail on the arms trade with Israel, CAAT's 2002 report *Arming the Occupation* is still available. Download it for free from our website or buy a printed copy from the office for £3.



# 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

## 12 October

'Why Should Christians Campaign against the Arms Trade?' with Alun Morinan, CAAT Christian Network co-ordinator. 7.30pm, Trinity Methodist Church, Penarth (near Cardiff). Organised by the Penarth CAAT Christian Network as part of One World Week. For more details contact (029) 2071 1943.

## 16 October

Shut DESO Day of Action. CAAT will be joined by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and 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 6.

## 28 October

Take back the web. Conference in Brighton on using the Internet as a campaigning tool and empowering grassroots, local organisations with useful Internet skills. For more see [www.caat.org.uk/events](http://www.caat.org.uk/events)

## 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. See page 3.

## 19 January

CAAT Public Speaking Training in Leeds. Workshops for anyone who gives speeches or workshops on behalf of CAAT or would like to. Exact venue and time to be announced. See page 7.

Our online events diary is updated regularly between issues of CAATnews. Find it at [www.caat.org.uk/events](http://www.caat.org.uk/events)

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