

# CAAT*n*ews



## Legal challenge launched

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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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If you use Charities Aid Foundation cheques and would like to help TREAT (Trust for Research and Education on Arms Trade), please send CAF cheques, payable to TREAT, to the office. Unlike CAAT, TREAT is a registered charity (No.328694) and will be able to use your donation for education and research.

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See Tanya Tier interview on page 11 TANYA TIER

<b>DESO</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Arms Trade Shorts</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>National gathering; DSEi</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Local campaigns</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Legal challenge</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Clean Investment Mark Thomas</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Tanya Tier interview</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Parliamentary Steering Committee</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Using local media</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Get active</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Diary</b>	<b>16</b>

# Shut DESO – the big push

## Keep lobbying your MP

CAAT's Shut DESO lobby has had a huge impact over the last three months, raising much-needed awareness amongst MPs about DESO. The responses that CAAT supporters received from their MPs have highlighted the fact that there is a great deal of misunderstanding and even ignorance about what DESO does – many MPs admitted to thinking that DESO helps to control arms exports!

CAAT has therefore extended the lobbying period until the end of March to ensure that even more MPs hear the truth. We are also pressing for DESO's closure to be considered as part of the Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review, which takes place this year. The economic argument for closing DESO is very strong and MPs should be encouraged to ask Stephen Timms, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to include DESO in the review.

So if you haven't already arranged to meet with your MP, please consider doing so between now and March. You really can make a difference. CAAT's Lobby Guide provides easy step-by-step guidance and tells you all you need to know about meeting with your MP. You will find the guide and more information at [www.calltheshots.org](http://www.calltheshots.org) or contact the office and we can send you a copy.

We'd be very happy to talk things through with you if you have any questions and we may be able to put you in touch with other people in your area who want to lobby too. For help and advice please email [ann@caat.org.uk](mailto:ann@caat.org.uk) or call the office. And let us know if you've arranged a meeting and how you got on.

## Join our protest and petition hand-in – Wednesday 7th March

Over the last year, thousands of signatures have been collected by CAAT and the Fellowship of



**Shut DESO action day** PATRICK DELANEY

Reconciliation (FoR) on petitions that call on the Government to shut DESO. CAAT and FoR will be handing these petitions to the Treasury on Wednesday 7th March, the day on which DESO holds its annual conference. Please join us for a peaceful protest outside DESO's conference, which takes place near Parliament Square. From there we

will make the short walk up Whitehall to hand the petitions in to the Treasury.

We will be meeting at 11am outside the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in Central London (Broad Sanctuary, London SW1P 3EE - nearest tube Westminster or St James Park). For more info, and to let us know you're coming, please email [anna@caat.org.uk](mailto:anna@caat.org.uk)

In the meantime keep collecting and sending in those signatures! Petitions can be downloaded from the website.

## Spreading the word

As well as the petition, the Shut DESO campaign postcard is still available. If you haven't already sent one to your MP and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, please let us know and we can send copies for you and your friends to sign. Many groups around the country have also conducted informal street polls or street stalls – great ways to raise local awareness about DESO. For more postcards to distribute locally, to order a Shut DESO campaign pack containing loads of local campaign ideas, or to get a copy of the Lobby Guide please contact Patrick ([Patrick@caat.org.uk](mailto:Patrick@caat.org.uk)). Or visit [www.calltheshots.org](http://www.calltheshots.org). ANNA JONES

## What is DESO?

The Defence Export Services Organisation employs nearly 500 civil servants to sell arms worldwide and to lobby across government for military exports.

DESO sells weapons to conflict zones, human rights abusers and countries with desperate development needs. Its Strategic Marketing Plan for 2005 listed Iraq and Libya as "key markets", along with other regimes with poor human rights records such as Colombia

and Saudi Arabia, and regions of tension such as India and Pakistan.

DESO's official website boasts that over 75 per cent of arms export orders would not have been achieved without its assistance. CAAT's campaign to Shut DESO is therefore vital if arms exports are to be reduced and eventually ended.

For more on DESO see [www.calltheshots.org](http://www.calltheshots.org) or order a briefing from the office.

## Blair's Middle East briefing

The *Times* has revealed that government officials urged Tony Blair to use his Middle East peace tour to lobby on behalf of the UK arms industry. Blair was briefed that the United Arab Emirates was seeking to "update its fleet of training aircraft". BAE Systems was mentioned in the briefing document and was later waiting to learn whether the United Arab Emirates would buy its Hawk advanced jet trainer. *TIMES*, 20/12/06

## Relations with military

A provision in a US military bill may place military contractors under more direct control of the military in "contingency operations" as well as in a declared war.

Around 100,000 private contractors work with US military operations in Iraq. Of particular concern is the role of companies that co-ordinate with, but are not under the control of the military. US Army Colonel Peter Mansoor suggested that the action of these organisations can often be at odds with the military's aim of winning the support of the local population.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 10/1/07

## Turkey unhappy at US inspections

Turkey may seek other suppliers rather than accept the US's insistence on end-use monitoring of its exported military systems and services.

The Pentagon's Golden Sentry programme monitors cradle-to-grave for compliance with US export control requirements. It gives US officials authority for on-site inspections at any Turkish military facility where US-supplied weapons are kept.

DEFENSE NEWS, 27/11/06

## VT deal with Oman

Ship-builder VT has signed a £400m deal to supply the Gulf state of Oman with heavily-armed ocean patrol vessels. This is the first export order from a UK naval yard in a decade.

VT hopes it may be the first of many in the Middle East, with Kuwait looking to buy fast attack craft and Saudi Arabia looking to buy more mine-hunters.

VT is also in discussions to combine its Portsmouth yard with BAE System's facilities in Glasgow to form one UK naval shipbuilder.

INDEPENDENT, 17/1/07

## Sri Lanka buys MIG-27s

Sri Lanka is to receive four MIG-27 fighter planes from Ukraine to quell resistance by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The planes were originally bought in 2000 but were sent back for repairs and upgrades in 2004. The money for the planes came from Sri Lanka's 2007 military budget, which is at a record high.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 3/1/07

## Colombia aims to increase funding

Colombia is looking to replace fighter planes and raise \$3.7bn through a special war tax. The funds from the tax would also go towards recruiting and training another 40,000 troops for use against guerrilla movements. The need for Colombia to raise more funds comes from a possible cut in the \$600m that the US gives the Colombian military.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 3/1/07

## Thailand stops barter deals

Thailand's new government has agreed to stop the former prime minister's strategy of bartering Thai commodities and agricultural produce for military equipment. The new prime minister believes that deals such as the 2005 exchange of dried longan fruit for armoured vehicles are no longer feasible, as foreign military manufacturers may not be interested in Thai agricultural products. *JANE'S DEFENCE INDUSTRY*, JANUARY 07

## Israeli sales high

Israel's arms sales hit a record high in 2006, securing its position as one of the top five arms exporters. India was Israel's biggest customer and the US was the second biggest, possibly due to the increase in Israeli companies establishing subsidiaries in the US and partnering with US companies.

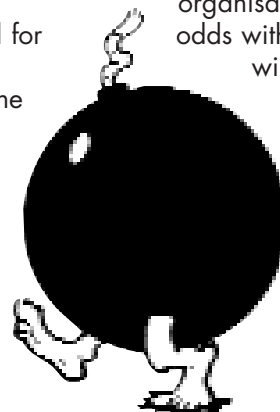
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JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 10/1/07





## In the bargain bucket

Pakistan has launched a marketing campaign for its missiles, described by one official as "the poor man's choice of weapon". The missiles cost a third or less of similar weapons systems offered by companies in the US and Europe.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 29/11/07

## IDEAS exhibition

The Chairman of Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee has said that the presence at the International Defence Exhibition (IDEAS)-2006 in Karachi of high-ranking military delegations and business representatives was evidence of a desire for global peace and security.

A number of UK companies took part. DESO, which had a stand at the exhibition, has announced a desire to generate more joint ventures between the UK and Pakistan.

THE NEWS, 1/12/06; JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 29/11/06; PAKTRIBUNE 1/12/06

## France deal with Libya

France is to refurbish 12 fighter planes owned by Libya as part of its first transaction with Libya since Europe lifted an arms embargo in 2004. Libya also wants to order between 13 and 18 other fighter planes from France in a deal worth up to 2.5 bn euros.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 29/11/06; REUTERS 14/1/07

## India criticised

India has been criticised for offering Burma's military junta a military package that could be used in an offensive against internal opponents. Burma is trying to modernise its weaponry despite a ban on arms sales by many western governments over its human rights record.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 8/12/06

## India request

The Indian government has asked Russia not to supply engines for some of Pakistan's fighter planes, saying that the move would have a serious impact on the region's strategic balance. India is one of Russia's largest military customers.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 10/1/07

## Concern over DU in JSF programme

Some of the partners in the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) programme have expressed concerns about using depleted uranium (DU) ammunition in the aircraft's gun. The director of international programmes in the JSF programme office said that development of non-DU ammunition was not on the agenda. He did not expect the issue to stop the programme moving on as expected.

The UK's threat to pull out of the programme over sharing of JSF technology was lifted after the Pentagon agreed to give the UK sensitive military technology.

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL, 28 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER 06; FINANCIAL TIMES, 13/12/06

## Northrop Grumman eyes UK markets

US company Northrop Grumman has created a UK subsidiary in order to push into UK markets. In February 2006 the company said that it was coming to the UK with the aim of competing for and providing information and communications technology systems to the military and security sectors. It already has contracts with the RAF, the Royal Navy and the Home Office.

JANE'S DEFENCE INDUSTRY, JANUARY 07

## Shorts in brief

### Reed links in UAE

Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company and Reed Exhibitions have announced an agreement to bring events to a new centre under construction in the United Arab Emirates capital. Under the agreement Reed Exhibitions becomes the owner of IDEX, one of the world's largest arms fairs.

CONFERENCE NEWS, JANUARY 2007

### Lockheed Martin contract

Lockheed Martin has been contracted by Pakistan to produce 18 F-16c/D aircraft as part of a package to re-equip the country's air force.

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL 12-18 DECEMBER 06

### Israel ban on Venezuela

Israel has joined the US in banning new arms sales to Venezuela. The move was prompted by US requests and actions of the Venezuelan government, including the country's support for Iran. It is estimated to cost Israeli industry at least \$200m in pending business.

DEFENSE NEWS, 1/1/07

### GE buys Smiths

GE is to buy the Aerospace division of Smiths Group for \$4.8bn.

DEFENSE INDUSTRY DAILY, 16/1/07

## RAF PFI deal

A joint venture between VT Group and Lockheed Martin has been awarded "preferred bidder" status on a £6bn scheme to take charge of all military flight training for 25 years. The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) project is the first of several multi-billion pound Ministry of Defence outsourcing deals expected in the next few months.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 30/11/06

# 2006 National Gathering report

CAAT's 2006 Annual Conference took place in November in the lovely environment of Mary Ward House in Central London. People from all over the country came together for an inspiring day of looking at issues related to CAAT's campaigning. Thanks to all those who took part!

The day was kicked off by Dr Steve Schofield, consultant for the British American Security Council (BASIC), whose presentation put the arms trade into a global perspective. Following an overview of arms conversion research in the 1980s and early 1990s, Dr Schofield argued that now, at a time when the world faces the threat of catastrophic climate change, the case for the transfer of military industrial and technological resources to the civil

economy is even stronger. Rather than spending £25bn on a replacement for Trident, Dr Schofield argued that decision-makers should focus resources on tackling the real security issues of the 21st century. You can read more on Dr Schofield's work at [www.basicint.org](http://www.basicint.org)

After coffee, CAAT staff presented a fun look back over 2006 and its campaign achievements and developments. Participants then had a choice of two workshops: a skills workshop on new media campaigning and a discussion on how best to campaign around the upcoming DSEi arms fair, due to take place in September 2007. Other sessions looked at the next steps for the Shut DESO campaign and new ways for getting the anti-arms trade

message across locally. There was also time in the packed programme for members of the Universities Network and the Christian Network to catch up with each other.

In the final session we tackled the question of how to strengthen and expand the anti-arms trade movement in 2007 and beyond. This generated a lot of useful feedback on CAAT's campaigning and loads of great ideas. We hope to follow up on all these ideas in the coming months. To kick us off, in this issue of *CAATnews*, CAAT media coordinator Symon Hill explains more about how to get the arms trade discussed in your local media (see page 13).

ANNA JONES

## DSEi arms fair, 11–14 September 2007

DSEi, which takes place every other year in east London, is one of the world's largest arms fairs. Playing host to over 1,100 companies, around 70 official military delegations and 20,000 'visitors' from across the globe, it is a key event in the calendar of the international arms trade. As such, CAAT continues to campaign for its closure.

The event is run by Spearhead Exhibitions, a subsidiary of Reed Elsevier, and the UK Ministry of Defence. Ownership of what began life as the Royal Navy & British Army Equipment Exhibition passed to Spearhead in 1997 with the arrival of the Labour Government, but it was very much token privatisation. The UK government remains integral and DESO (see page 3) plays a big role, inviting and hosting military delegations. DSEi is subsidised by the UK taxpayer, both in terms of the

arms fair itself and the policing that is required to stage it (estimated at £4m in 2005).

There is massive local opposition to the arms fair from local people, the local council, which has unanimously voted against it, and from Mayor of London Ken Livingstone. Even the Metropolitan police have voiced criticism: Assistant Commissioner Steve House, head of the Metropolitan Police's central operations, told the *Independent* newspaper on August 22 2005 that DSEi "is denuding London of policing at a time of unprecedented demand. The defence industry makes huge profits. I think we should be getting some money from the people exhibiting inside the centre. At the moment the taxpayers are having to pay. I don't think it looks right or is right."

CAAT will be campaigning against the DSEi arms fair in various ways

and we need your help! We will be pressuring the organisers of DSEi in the run up to the fair and supporting protest at and around the fair itself. We will be working with and supporting the local community in their campaign to stop the arms fair, and we will be mobilising for a mass demonstration during the event.

We'll include more info about plans for campaigning around the DSEi arms fair in future issues, as well as posting info on the website. If you'd like to be involved let us know, otherwise, watch this space.

To order a copy of CAAT's DSEi arms fair briefing or Reed Elsevier campaign postcards please contact Patrick at the office:

[patrick@caat.org.uk](mailto:patrick@caat.org.uk). ANNA JONES

## Local group news

### London CAAT group news

#### Launch event – Monday 19th March

The newly formed London CAAT group met for the second time on 15th January and planned a symbolic action to launch the group in March. The plan so far is to do a 'crawl', or walking tour, of key arms trade sites in central London, highlighting the conflict zones that those particular companies supply. The group aims through this action to raise awareness of this 'bloodline' among the general public and possibly the London media, as well as to attract others to the group.

#### Next meeting – Monday 12th February

The next monthly meeting will be on Monday 12th February at 6.30pm in the upstairs room at The

Canal125 (125 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9RG – nearest tubes are Angel, Kings Cross St Pancras, and Kings Cross Thameslink). If you live or work in London, please come along. This is a great opportunity to meet other London-based CAAT supporters, help plan for March's launch event and discuss other campaigning opportunities in London.

For more information or to join the YahooGroup email list, please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CAAT-london>.

#### Smash EDO news

Anti-arms trade campaigners have handed in seven official complaints to the law society regarding the conduct of the solicitor who represented arms company EDO MBM in its failed attempt to gain a civil injunction against protesters at its Brighton factory.

In March 2005 the solicitor began proceedings aimed at preventing anybody protesting within a kilometre of the factory (save for at a designated time, in a designated "protest area"). The action sparked a year long high-court battle against campaigners that ended in EDO MBM dropping the case at a cost of at least a million pounds.

Smash EDO's complaints are that the solicitor entered into intrusive investigations into campaigners' personal data, partly through accessing confidential material about campaigners held by Sussex Police.

Smash EDO demonstrate every Wednesday from 4-6pm at EDO, on Home Farm Road, Brighton. For more information, see [www.smashedo.org.uk](http://www.smashedo.org.uk).

BECCIE D'CUNHA

## CAAT public speaking training

CAAT ran another one-day public speaking workshop on 19th January, this time in Leeds. Despite stormy weather and subsequent transport nightmares, the day was a great success.

#### Next training – Friday 18th May, London (TBC)

This training is free to those who give talks or would like to give talks about the arms trade. Whether you are a novice or an experienced speaker, this training will increase your confidence, refine your skills and give you a tool-kit for preparing and delivering talks about the arms trade. It will also give you the opportunity to learn more about CAAT's campaigns and share your skills, ideas and experiences with others.

The Leeds training was fully booked, so please book early to

avoid disappointment! For information or to book your place, contact Beccie in the office ([beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk)).

## Stop the Arms Trade Week – 2nd–10th June

The time has come again to gear up for Stop the Arms Trade Week. This is an opportunity for groups and individuals all across the UK to take strategic, simultaneous local action against the arms trade.

The theme this year is Saudi Arabia, in the light of the government's outrageous decision to halt the Serious Fraud Office investigation into BAE Systems' dealings with the regime (see pages 8–9).

Are you able to raise awareness of the campaign in your area during the week of action? Please put the dates in your diary now (June 2nd –

10th) and get in touch with Beccie if you have any ideas or plans for local activity ([beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk)).

## Day of Prayer – 10th June

Every year the CAAT Christian Network holds a day of prayer to coincide with Stop the Arms Trade Week. This year's theme is Saudi Arabia.

Again, please put the date in your diary and think about how you might be able to raise awareness in your church and/or parish. Could you put something in your church newsletter, put up a display or stall at the back of your church or include some relevant prayers or readings in the service?

Day of Prayer leaflets and packs containing suggestions for prayer will be available to order from April onwards. For more information, please contact Alun in the office ([alun@caat.org.uk](mailto:alun@caat.org.uk)).

# Where the power really lies

**Ann Feltham and Ian Prichard outline the background to CAAT's attempt to re-instate investigations into arms trade corruption**

## The judicial review is launched

At five o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday 14th December a journalist rang the CAAT office and we learned that the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) was discontinuing its investigation into allegations of corruption with regards to BAE Systems military contracts with Saudi Arabia. Symon Hill, our Media Co-ordinator, was quickly alerted. Another call went to Saudi Arabia researcher and Steering Committee member Nicholas Gilby. However, *Newsnight* had got to him first and he was already on his way to a television studio.

Shortly afterwards we talked to The Corner House, a social and environmental justice group, with which CAAT has liaised on export credit and corruption issues for

several years. In 2005 The Corner House brought a successful claim for judicial review against the Department of Trade and Industry's decision to weaken anti-corruption procedures. Leigh Day & Co, the lawyers used then, were brought on board. A few days later, acting on behalf of the two organisations, Leigh Day & Co issued letters to the Director of the Serious Fraud Office, the Attorney-General and the Prime Minister laying out the intention to judicially review the decision.

## Allegations

In 1985/6 and 1988, the UK signed massive arms deals with Saudi Arabia revolving around the sale of British Aerospace (as it then was, now BAE Systems) Tornado fighter and ground attack aircraft. The deals were known as Al Yamamah. As well as actual hardware, the package included servicing and training.

Within weeks of the first Al Yamamah agreement, there were rumours of corruption. These persisted, and the National Audit Office (NAO) launched an investigation in 1989. The resulting 1992 report was read by only two MPs and never published.

Allegations about the Al Yamamah deal continued to surface beyond the NAO report. From September 2003, *Guardian* reporters David Leigh and Rob Evans wrote a series of articles about an alleged BAE Systems "slush fund". It was not, however, until November 2004 that the SFO announced that it, together with the Ministry of Defence Police, had "commenced an investigation into suspected false accounting" with regard to BAE Systems and the company's military contracts with the government of Saudi Arabia.

## The push continues

The push to sell arms, especially the Eurofighter Typhoon, to Saudi Arabia continued. Prime Minister Tony Blair

## The legal challenge

The basis for the legal challenge by CAAT and The Corner House is that:

- The decision was based on considerations of potential damage to relations with Saudi Arabia. This is expressly forbidden under the OECD's Anti-Bribery Convention;
  - The Prime Minister, in his advice on the public interest to the Attorney General and the Serious Fraud Office, improperly took into account considerations of damage to diplomatic relations;
  - The advice given by the Prime Minister amounted to a direction to discontinue the investigation, which is an unlawful interference with the independence of prosecutors under domestic and international law.
- The latest information will be placed on our website at [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)



visited Riyadh in July 2005 to argue BAE Systems' case and then Defence Secretary John Reid followed in his footsteps with a two-day visit three weeks later. In September the *Guardian* alleged that the Saudis had made three demands in order for BAE Systems to win the contract. These included ending the SFO investigation.

The Prime Minister's sales efforts paid off. In December 2005 an "understanding" with Saudi Arabia was signed, followed in August 2006 by an "agreement". Under these BAE Systems will supply 72 Eurofighter Typhoon jets, reportedly costing the Saudis about £5.4 billion. Additional equipment such as onboard missiles bring the total to £10 billion.

The first 24 planes for Saudi Arabia will be taken from those originally destined for the RAF. This makes nonsense of claims that arms exports are necessary to ensure that the UK armed forces are well equipped.

On 30th November, the Government confirmed that the Export Credits Guarantee Department had recently agreed to renew insurance cover for sales of military equipment and related services to Saudi Arabia, including the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft.

### The PR offensive

A final contract for the Eurofighter Typhoons was expected in late 2006, but was said to have been jeopardised by the SFO investigation. From mid-November, there were almost daily reports about concerns for the contract and jobs; BAE Systems and the Saudis, separately, were said to have briefed Lord Bell's public relations company. At the same time it was reported that the SFO was closing in and had asked the Swiss authorities for access to two named bank accounts.

The stories kept coming – the Saudis would buy from the French instead; the share price was falling; and, again and again, there would be tens of thousands of jobs lost (figures up to 50,000 were appearing without any justification as even a Eurofighter-commissioned report indicated that the deal would sustain fewer than 5,000 jobs in the UK). By early December the Defence Industries Council was writing to all the Cabinet asking for the case to be dropped on economic grounds and the *Daily Telegraph* said the Saudis had given a ten day deadline for the inquiry to be called off. CAAT did a lot of work correcting the job figures and, with The Corner House, Saferworld and BASIC, sent its own letter to the Cabinet arguing that the SFO inquiry must continue.

### The inquiry ends

On 14th December, the Attorney General announced that the SFO inquiry with regards to Saudi Arabia was at an end, citing national security interests. Currently, Saudi Arabia has said the signing of the Eurofighter Typhoon contract is imminent. For all the UK government's desire to expand its influence around the world, the dropping of the inquiry shows very clearly where the real power lies – with BAE Systems and the Saudi royal family.

Inquiries by the SFO into BAE Systems dealings in Chile, Czech Republic, Qatar, Romania, South Africa and Tanzania are continuing.


## Who else is complaining

- The ending of the SFO inquiry was discussed at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Working Group on Bribery in mid-January. The Working Group had "serious concerns as to whether the decision was consistent with the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention". It will discuss the matter again in March after it has received an explanation from the UK government. The OECD's Anti-Bribery Convention requires signatories, including the UK, to criminalise the payment of bribes to foreign public officials in international business transactions
- Various bodies in the US Congress are talking about investigating the deal now that the UK is not. The Congress is able to do so as BAE Systems' shares are traded in New York.
- Institutional investors including Hermes have written to the Government concerning the impact on the investment climate and financial markets.
- Over 130 UK and international non-governmental organisations including Amnesty International, Friends of the Earth and Oxfam, wrote to Tony Blair in mid-January asking him to reconsider.
- A multi-party group of MPs has tabled an Early Day Motion calling on the Government to re-open the investigation. See page 12 for further details and information on taking action.

## Corruption in Saudi arms deals

Records from the National Archive dating from the late 1960's and early 1970's (outlined in CAATnews June/July 2006) show that there was corruption in UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia prior to the Al Yamamah deals, and this was known about by officials in the Government's Defence Sales Organisation.

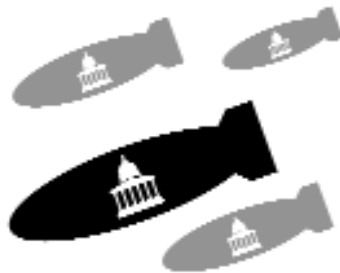
The August 2006 Eurofighter agreement was signed on the Saudi side by Prince Sultan, Defence Minister for over 40 years. The National Archive contains a letter, dated 1st May 1971, in which Willie Morris, then UK Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, described Prince Sultan as having "a corrupt interest in all contracts".

 We need your help to overturn the Government's outrageous decision to end the SFO investigation into BAE Systems' arms deals with Saudi Arabia. Please make a donation to support our work on this issue. See page 14 for more information.

# Universities Clean Investment Campaign update

The campaign got off to a good start at People and Planet's 'Shared Planet' annual conference for student activists last November. Lots of students took flyers and newsletters and signed up to our mailing lists. The event gave us the opportunity to talk with students about the experiences they've had in campaigning and allowed us to share ideas for future actions.

I attended a workshop run by an ethical investment activist who detailed the ways in which pooling information and research can improve a campaign. It was particularly interesting to hear about the advanced stage that ethical investment has reached in US higher education. Such progress should give us renewed optimism for developments in the UK.



## Disarm UCL campaign

CAAT's National Gathering (see page 6) brought together several university campaigners. These included activists from Warwick and Nottingham who talked about their actions against arms companies at graduate recruitment fairs.

The launch of the 2006/7 Clean Investment Campaign led to many inquiries from students, staff and local and national media. We gave

talks at Sussex and Hertfordshire universities and students at UCL created a website and petition following the revelation that their university was the largest institutional investor in the UK (see <http://disarmucl.blogspot.com>).

Our website will be updated over the next few weeks with new ideas for campaigning, a draft ethical investment policy, a 'frequently asked questions' page and links to existing student campaigns. Finally, our research with the Fellowship of Reconciliation for our 'Study War No More' project, which investigates UK universities' military research, is still going strong. TIM STREET

The campaign is looking for a voluntary co-ordinator. See page 15.

# Mark Thomas tour

Between September and December last year, CAAT accompanied comedian Mark Thomas as he criss-crossed the country on his latest tour. Mark's fantastic new comedy show is based on his brilliant debut book *As Used on the Famous Nelson Mandela: Underground Adventures in the Arms and Torture Trade*. The book is a disturbing but nonetheless hilarious account of Mark's dealings with the murky underworld that is the global arms trade. From the Indonesian government to individual middle-men touting for business on the internet, Mark manages to illicit shocking evidence of what people in power, and seemingly very ordinary people too, are getting away with when it comes to the buying and selling of weapons and

equipment designed to inflict pain and death. If you haven't already gone and out and bought the book, do it now! It's a fantastic read.

A big thank you to everyone who helped out during Mark Thomas's tour, helping to give out information to audiences at over 70 venues all over the country. Hundreds of signatures were collected for our Call the Shots petition, which calls for an end to the unfair influence of arms companies over government. This will be handed in to the Government in March (see page 3). If you were one of the people who signed the petition or a postcard and are now receiving *CAATnews* for the first time, a big thank you to you too, and welcome to CAAT's campaign!

ANNA JONES



Outside the DTI [WWW.MARKTHOMASINFO.COM](http://WWW.MARKTHOMASINFO.COM)

# Pictures for peace: an interview with the artist Tanya Tier

**This March, a unique exhibition will mark the fourth anniversary of the Iraq invasion. Tanya Tier, one of the artists involved, spoke to CAATnews.**

**CAATnews:** What is the exhibition *Birds of War – Hawks, Doves and Illegal Eagles* about?

**TT:** The exhibition is a chance for people to see the results of a unique collaboration between British and Iraqi female artists and their interpretations of the Iraq conflict. The exhibition will feature around 45 works, comprising a mixture of paintings and installations. The artists – myself and Lou McKeever from the UK, and Hanaa Malallah, Firyal Al-Adhamy and Anahit Sarkes from Iraq – come from a diverse range of backgrounds but have in common the theme of growing up with war. Each artist views the current Iraq conflict in light of what she herself has been through.

The exhibition is – in part – a searing attack on the orchestrators of the war: Bush, Blair, Cheney, Rumsfeld et al, but it also looks at the deep sense of bewilderment and loss felt by the Iraqi people, the destruction of their heritage and the unforgivable use and long-term effects of cluster bombs and depleted uranium on the region.

**CN:** What motivated you to do this?

**TT:** Like millions of people around the world I was horrified at the decision taken by the US and UK governments to invade Iraq. Having grown up in the Middle East - and with friends and family still living there – I take a keen interest in the region. When Tony Blair decided to ignore the biggest global protest in history, I wanted to channel my anger into something constructive. I used to do a lot of satirical sketch-writing for the theatre, but after a while I found that I'd run out of ways to describe the sheer madness of the



situation. As a result, I turned back to painting. Once the war started, the ideas kept coming with each new story that broke. I found that I was producing my own narrative of the conflict...like keeping a visual diary of events over the last four years.

**CN:** How do you think the art world will respond to such a political show?

**TT:** Interestingly there's been a move recently towards anti-war art, and exhibitions like Peter Kennard's *Obscenity* and Mark Wallinger's *State Britain* have received a lot of exposure in the press. Artists have been slower to comment on the Iraq conflict than authors and playwrights, but this is possibly due to a reluctance by venues to take a gamble on showing such work (traditionally considered of limited interest). I hope that once they see it has public appeal, more galleries will take on artists who want to make a political statement about these issues. On and off, we have now been a nation at war for ten years. It's important that it continues to be discussed – it effects everyone.

**CN:** What do you hope people will get from the exhibition?

**TT:** I want people firstly to be entertained by the work, which will hopefully then engage them with some of the deeper issues. Pictures – especially if they have a humorous aspect to them – are often a more powerful way to tell a story than



words. The aim is to give people a snapshot of life in Iraq, and raise awareness about how much has been lost and what the Iraqi people are dealing with on a daily basis. I also hope visitors to the exhibition will become aware of the extent to which our own civil liberties are being eroded as a result of Tony Blair's war on terror.

**CN:** What happens after London – will the exhibition go on tour, or feature on the web?

**TT:** The exhibition has grown substantially both in interest and numbers of artists involved. I have recently been offered the chance for a couple of very influential and important Iraqi artists to join me in the project, and am discussing the show with larger venues with a view to moving to an alternative site. I may take the show to Worthing or Brighton, and a gallery owner in Damascus has also expressed an interest in showing our work. Please check the website for updates – [www.birdsofwar.org](http://www.birdsofwar.org).

**CN:** Anything else you'd like to say?

**TT:** I'd like to thank Stop the War Coalition and CND for their support in putting the exhibition on, and I hope that some of your readers will get the chance to visit it while it's in London or the south coast.

For full details of the venue and dates for the *Birds of War* exhibition see [www.birdsofwar.org](http://www.birdsofwar.org)


# The Saudi deal – take action

An Early Day Motion is a sort of parliamentary petition through which opinion on particular issues is gauged. EDM 595 on the 'Serious Fraud Office Investigation into the Al Yamamah military contract' has been tabled by a multi-party group of MPs – Roger Berry (Labour), John Bercow (Conservative), Simon Hughes (Liberal Democrat), Angus MacNeil (Scottish National Party) and Elfyn Llwyd (Plaid Cymru). It reads:

"That this House notes the recent decision that the Serious Fraud Office end its investigation into BAE Systems plc and the Al Yamamah military contract with the Government of Saudi Arabia; further notes that the UK is a signatory to the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and that Article 5 of this Convention requires that the investigation and prosecution of foreign bribery 'shall not be influenced by considerations of national economic interests' or 'the potential effect upon relations with another State'; believes that the early termination of this investigation for



reasons other than the legal merits of the case sends the clear message that companies trading with countries that governments claim to be of strategic importance are above the law and can bribe with impunity; further believes that the decision is likely to cause irreparable damage to the UK's reputation as an anti-corruption champion; and calls on the UK Government to re-open the investigation of this case."

 Please ask your MP to sign the EDM – either by writing to him or her at the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA or by emailing them. Most MPs' email addresses can be found on the parliamentary website at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) and following the link to 'MPs'.

## Freedom of Information

The government has announced proposals to make it easier for public authorities to refuse Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. This would severely restrict the amount of information obtainable under the Act and would mean that many of CAAT's FOI requests would be denied.

At the moment, an FOI request can be refused if the cost of dealing with it exceeds £600 for a government department or £450 for any other public authority. In calculating these limits, the authorities can take into account the costs of finding and extracting the requested information. The proposal is that, in

future, reading, consulting and deciding would also be costed. Nearly all CAAT's requests to central government involve the consideration of public interest issues and would exceed the new cost limits.

It is premature of the government to have reviewed the Act at this stage. The Information Commissioner has yet to rule on several CAAT requests, referred to him over a year ago. The same exemptions (commercial confidentiality and international relations) have been quoted in all cases. Once the Information Commissioner has ruled, and possible appeals against his ruling heard, precedents will be

established. This will mean that departments know what kind of information they must provide, which should speed the process and cut the costs.

The Government has also proposed that the cost of unrelated requests made by the same individual or organisation to an authority be aggregated and refused if their combined cost exceeded the £450 or £600 limits. This appears arbitrary as the requests CAAT has made tend to be in batches in connection with a particular piece of research.

ANN FELTHAM



# Using local media

Local and regional media are vital to successful campaigning. 80 per cent of UK adults read a local newspaper regularly and over half of them prefer it to any national paper, so these news sources are too influential to be ignored. Local activists can make a big difference by having a coherent strategy for approaching the media in their area.

Don't worry if you've not worked with the media before – here are 10 tips to start you on your way.

## 1. Make media a priority

Media is vital to the success of your campaign, but is often not thought about until the end of a campaign planning process. By making it central from the start, you can be much more effective.

## 2. Offer news

The media have a very narrow idea of what is newsworthy. Something is only news if it is new. Discussions of opinions, no matter how important, are not news, but you can make them into news. While it might be known that your council invests in arms companies, simply repeating this point would not be news.

However, a survey showing that 75 per cent of local residents opposed these investments would be. Be imaginative!

## 3. Keep control of your message

Decide what you want to say and say it as simply as possible. Stick to your point and keep repeating it. Ensure that members of your group are all giving the same message. Don't undermine strong arguments by adding weak ones or allow anyone to lead you into tangents or trivialities. Be calm, concise and in control.

## 4. Make it local

The typical local newspaper is magnificently unconcerned about anything outside of its own patch. Make your news local. Does a local

company have any arms links? What's your MP up to? For example, if your MP has spoken about the importance of democracy, you can tell the media that you're asking him/her to oppose the sale of arms to undemocratic regimes such as Saudi Arabia.

## 5. Keep it human

A death is a tragedy, a million deaths is a statistic. Finding a human angle is well worth the effort. Does a local resident have relatives in a country affected by UK-made weapons? Is an unlikely person (such as a retired colonel) joining a protest? Has a local celebrity endorsed your campaign?

## 6. Use press releases – but don't rely on them

Issue a press release whenever your group acts or responds to events. It must be about something that has happened, not just an opinion. ("The group stated that it was outrageous..." rather than "It is outrageous..."). You can find advice on press releases in the CAAT Media Guide (see box).

## 7. Talk to journalists

Very few journalists will act on a press release alone if they don't know the group concerned. Phone around all the journalists who have been sent your release and brace yourself for disappointments. Half of them will claim not to have received it and most of the others won't be interested. Keep going. The chances are that you will find someone who wants to know more. And if you phone after every release they'll get used to you.

## 8. Build contacts

Don't give up phoning journalists who don't give you coverage. They're more likely to do so once you've spoken a few times. Stay in touch especially with those who are interested. Eventually, you will find

them phoning you for comments. A good relationship with one or two journalists is worth a hundred press releases.

## 9. Be available

Journalists often need a quote at short notice. If they can rely on you to give that quote, they will keep coming back. Try to ensure that a campaign spokesperson is available at short notice as often as possible. This doesn't always have to be the same person. (You can have a rest!) A good solution often involves a mobile phone for media calls, with a rota for looking after it.

## 10. Keep going

Media liaison is hard work, especially when you're new to it. Don't give up! The more you do, the more contacts you will acquire and the easier it will become. Keep your press releases and phone calls regular. And feel free to get in touch with us if you have any questions. Good luck! SYMON HILL

## Further help

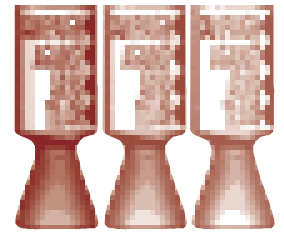
The CAAT Media Guide can be downloaded from [www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/mediaguide.php](http://www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/mediaguide.php) or obtained from the office on 020 7281 0297.

If you would like more advice or further information, contact Symon Hill on 020 7281 0297 or e-mail [press@caat.org.uk](mailto:press@caat.org.uk)

- *An Activists Guide to Exploiting the Media* by George Monbiot (see [www.urban75.com/Action/media.html](http://www.urban75.com/Action/media.html))
- *Be Your Own Spin Doctor* by Paul Richards (Politico's Publishing Ltd, ISBN 1 84275 1360)
- *How To Win Campaigns* by Chris Rose (Earthscan, ISBN 1 85383 9620)

# Fundraising

By Kathryn Busby



About two weeks ago you will have received an appeal letter from all the staff at CAAT asking you to make a donation to support our legal challenge against the Government. You may also have noticed that in this issue of *CAATnews* we include a donation form. Here, once again, I reiterate the need for your financial support.

When CAAT heard of the government's decision to drop the Serious Fraud Office inquiry into BAE Systems' arms deals with Saudi Arabia, we were outraged at its blatant disregard for the rule of law. We are determined to take them to judicial review and overturn the decision.

The legal challenge will form a huge part of our work on this issue, but there is so much more campaigning that also needs to take

place. This is an opportunity to expose the true nature of the arms trade – the endemic corruption, the shameful deals with oppressive regimes and the massive influence of arms companies over government.

This is why it is so important that you support us, because 80 per cent of CAAT's money comes from people such as you and we need extra resources to help us take these campaigning opportunities and win this case. Please support us if you can, either by returning the form enclosed or by sending a cheque (payable to CAAT) or by visiting [www.caat.org.uk/fundraising](http://www.caat.org.uk/fundraising) and making a secure online donation.

## Workers Beer Company

If you are interested in volunteering for CAAT with the Workers Beer Company (WBC) this summer, now is

the time to get in touch. Each year the WBC runs beer tents at the major music festivals including Glastonbury, Leeds and Reading. Charities, trade unions and voluntary organisations provide volunteers to work in the tents as servers and the wages they earn are donated to the organisation they represent. In 2006, CAAT volunteers raised over £1,800 from WBC events. I'd like to thank all of them for their commitment and support.

Being a volunteer has many benefits, including free entry to the festival, free travel and a higher than average standard of camping facilities and showers!

So if you would be interested in taking part, then please email me at [kathryn@caat.org.uk](mailto:kathryn@caat.org.uk) or call 020 7281 0297.

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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)

## CAAT Universities Network Coordinator Internship (voluntary)

Location: CAAT office, London. 1-3 days per week for 9-12 months.

Closing date for applications: 19/03/07.

Start date: Early April 2007. Email [tim@caat.org.uk](mailto:tim@caat.org.uk) for a job and person specification.

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# Campaigns diary

## 10 February

Cambridge Students Against the Arms Trade Demonstration, Cambridge University. Contact [cambridge-arms-discuss@lists.riseup.net](mailto:cambridge-arms-discuss@lists.riseup.net)

## 12 February

CAAT London Group meeting, 6.30pm in The Canal (upstairs room), 125 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9RG. Contact [london@caat.org.uk](mailto:london@caat.org.uk)

## 7 March

Shut DESO Protest and Petition Hand-in. See page 3.

## March

'Birds of War – Hawks, Doves and Illegal Eagles' exhibition. See page 11.

## 11–14 September

Defence Systems & Equipment International – DSEi Arms Fair. Once again the DSEi arms fair is planned to return to London's East End. CAAT will be joining other groups and calling for the cancellation of DSEi. See page 6.

## November 2007

CAAT National Gathering 2007. CAAT annual conference for all CAAT supporters. Date and venue to be confirmed.

## Weekly

- Noise demos at EDO MBM. Every Wednesday 4-6pm at EDO MBM, Home Farm Business Park, Home Farm Road, Mouslecoomb, Brighton. Come and make some noise outside EDO MBM, a Brighton based company manufacturing electrical weapons components. For more information see [www.smashedo.org.uk](http://www.smashedo.org.uk)
- Vigil outside headquarters of Reed Elsevier, the company responsible for organising the DSEi arms fair and other arms fairs around the world. Every Wednesday 12–2pm, 1–3 Strand, London WC2N 5JR
- Vigil outside offices of Raytheon, one of world's biggest arms manufacturers Every Friday: 8am, on the UWE/Bristol Business Park roundabout, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol. Contact [jandamarra@riseup.net](mailto:jandamarra@riseup.net)

## Monthly

East London Against the Arms Fair meeting on the second Monday each month, 7.30pm, the Garden Cafe, 7 Cundy Road, London E16. Contact ELAAF, c/o CIU, Durning Hall, Earlam Grove, London E7 or call 020 7474 5257

11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ  
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