

CAAT*n*ews



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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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COVER: PATRICK DELANEY

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Control BAE: reopen the Saudi corruption inquiry

In a blatant display of arms company influence, last December the Government curtailed a corruption investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) into BAE Systems' arms deals with Saudi Arabia.

BAE – the world's fourth largest arms company – lobbied extensively for an end to the investigation, amid reports that it threatened its £10 billion deal to sell Eurofighter jets to Saudi Arabia, one of the world's most repressive regimes.

The Government's intervention sends a clear message that BAE Systems is above the law. CAAT is now mounting a legal challenge to this decision as well as a public campaign calling for the investigation to be reopened.

BAE is out of control

This is an important and urgent campaign. The dropping of the SFO inquiry is not just a blind eye turned to corruption. It raises fundamental arms trade issues that must be addressed, for example, BAE's disproportionate political influence and the unrivalled government support received by the company.

CAAT's call to reopen the Saudi corruption inquiry has the power to unite many people and groups – and it is already having an effect. The curtailment of the SFO inquiry has resulted in unprecedented parliamentary, media and public interest in the arms trade. We now need to build on the outrage being expressed from so many quarters, deepen public understanding of the issues and move more people to action. Through this popular campaign – and the judicial review – we aim to reopen the SFO inquiry. We need your help

to do this – please get involved in the campaign.

Order your free Campaign Pack

This includes CAAT's new background briefing, postcards, petitions and ideas for action and is available to order free from Patrick at the CAAT office (patrick@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297).

Send a postcard to your MP

Many MPs have already expressed outrage at the decision to drop the SFO investigation. We need to increase the numbers of MPs who are acting on the issue and keep up the pressure within parliament for the investigation to be reopened.

An Early Day Motion (a sort of parliamentary petition) on the 'Serious Fraud Office Investigation into the Al Yamamah military contract' (EDM 595) has been tabled

name of your MP visit www.locata.co.uk/commons or call 020 7219 4273. To order postcards, contact Patrick at the office.

Take local action

Please take any opportunity to raise the campaign in your local area. Can you organise a campaign day, public meeting or protest? Or run a stall in your town centre, library or other public place to collect petition signatures and get postcards signed? Or could you perhaps coordinate some web-based campaigning? Be imaginative – whatever action you can take will help the campaign. It is still not too late to take part in Stop the Arms Trade Week (2nd-10th June) or the Christian Network Day of Prayer (Sunday 10th June), both of which are focussing on the Control BAE campaign – a great opportunity for co-ordinated nationwide action on this issue. Contact Beccie in the CAAT office.

Invite a CAAT speaker to your event

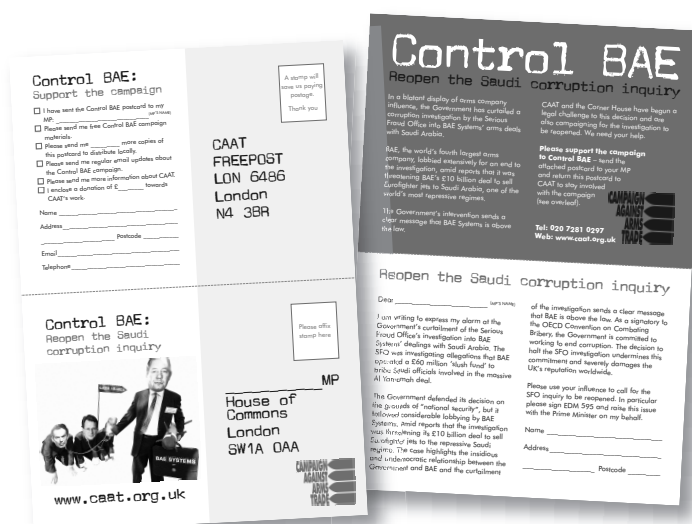
We want to ensure that as many people as possible hear about this campaign. Are you planning an event or public meeting this year that could benefit from a CAAT speaker on this issue? If so, let us know and we will do our best to provide a suitable speaker. Contact Beccie (beccie@caat.org.uk) in the office.

Make a donation

Our campaign materials are free as we want as many people as possible to be able to get involved with the Control BAE campaign. However, if you are able to make a donation towards the campaign and have not already done so, we would be very grateful.

Turn to page 8 & 9 for an update on the campaign so far.

ANNA JONES AND BECCIE D'CUNHA



by MPs from all the main political parties. It has already been signed by 80 MPs. Check on the parliamentary website (<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/Se arch.aspx>) or ask Ann at CAAT if you don't have web access to see if your MP has signed it. If s/he hasn't, ask him/her to do so by sending a Control BAE postcard (pictured) or by writing a letter. To find out the

BAE briefs

The UK, the Czech Republic, Sweden and Austria are co-ordinating their corruption investigations into BAE Systems. A meeting of prosecutors from the four countries took place this May under the aegis of an EU body titled Eurojust, which was set up in 2003 to fight organised crime.

IRISH TIMES, 3/5/07

The *Guardian* has claimed that the UK tried to oust the Chair of the anti-corruption watchdog of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in order to prevent criticisms of ministers and BAE Systems. In March, UK officials tried to stop the Chair, Swedish legal expert Professor Pieth, from addressing a press conference at which Pieth announced his agency was to conduct a formal inquiry into the UK

government's decision to terminate the BAE investigation. The director general of the OECD believes there is a smear campaign against him as well, citing attacks by the UK media.

GUARDIAN, 24/4/07

BAE is hoping to secure lucrative deals with Japan and India for combat jets as both countries prepare to launch calls this October for tenders to replace their current fleets. BAE is leading efforts by Eurofighter partners to sell the Typhoon, and is up against American F16s and F18s and Russia's MiG-29.

TIMES, 10/4/07

BAE Systems is in discussions with Indian partners to produce armoured vehicles for the Indian army. The plans are part of the

company's push to win some of the £100bn that the Indian government expects to spend on military hardware in the next five years.

INDIA DEFENCE, 19/4/07

BAE Systems has been reaching out to young people through its Schools Roadshow, which includes theatre presentations and a competition for school pupils to design an unmanned vehicle – see www.baesystems.com/education for more.

Meanwhile the Cumbrian town of Barrow-in-Furness, whose economy is dominated by the local BAE Systems shipyard, is to see three schools closed and pupils left with little choice other than a new school owned and managed by the arms company.

NORTH-WEST EVENING MAIL, 3/5/07; EDUCATION GUARDIAN, 3/4/07

BAE and the revolving door I

The government has admitted that the BAE Systems chief lobbyist was given an official security pass allowing free access around the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The MoD admitted that "a variety of passes" were issued to BAE executives, but said it would cost too much of taxpayers' money to list them.

The chief lobbyist, Julian Scopes, is a former high-ranking civil servant at the MoD. He has been named as one of two key lobbyists in BAE's campaign to sell aircraft to the Czech Republic. GUARDIAN UNLIMITED, 20/3/07

BAE and the revolving door II

Alan Garwood, head of the DESO, the UK's Defence Export Services Organisation, is expected to return to BAE Systems as marketing director when he steps down this summer.

Although BAE Systems is not expecting any of its employees to follow Garwood, possible candidates for the role include the chief operating officer of MBDA, which is a joint BAE venture, and the chief executive of Cobham, who is a former group managing director of Avionics at BAE Systems.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, 17/4/07

Israel concern over US deals

A possible US arms deal with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf allies has been delayed because of objections from Israel. Israelis are concerned that the deal may give military advantage to its regional rivals. The US has long been committed to preserving Israel's "qualitative military edge" and the two countries are in discussion over increasing US support for Israel's military from \$2.4bn to \$3bn.

NEW YORK TIMES, 5/4/07

Hardware of hope?

The US Congress has been notified of plans to sell ammunition and military equipment valued at up to \$508m to Iraq.

The Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency said that the sale "serves the interest of the Iraqi people... as well as offering hope for a more stable and peaceful Middle East." REUTERS, 4/5/07

Arms to Sudan?

Amnesty International has accused China and Russia of breaching international law in supplying Sudan with weapons that were used in Darfur. A 2005 resolution by the UN Security Council (of which China and Russia are Permanent Members) banned the supply of weapons to the area.

The Sudanese, Chinese and Russians all deny the allegations.

TIMES, 9/5/07

Nuclear subs for India

India has agreed to lease two Russian nuclear-powered attack submarines, making it the sixth country to operate nuclear submarines.

India is trying to maintain a maritime balance as China is funding the construction of a naval base in Pakistan. DEFENSE NEWS, 5/3/07

Finland split over cluster bombs

A proposed plan to use cluster bombs has split the Finnish coalition government, with the country's president in support but the Finance Minister stating he would not support a budget to buy the weapons. The Finnish Defence Force (FDF) is examining alternatives as it plans to stop using anti-personnel mines. The FDF Chief said that to commit to a ban on purchasing or using cluster bombs "would be to lose a significant part of the defence forces' firepower". DEFENSE NEWS, 19/3/07

Dutch disinvest

Dutch pension fund ABP has divested its stakes in companies that produce land mines. ABP said it is considering selling shares in other military companies, such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin, and divesting stakes in companies that produce cluster bombs. REUTERS, 6/4/07

Mercenary spending

A parliamentary answer from Foreign Office minister Kim Howells has revealed that the UK spent approximately £165m on private security companies in Iraq in the past four years – equivalent to about a quarter of the entire Iraq aid budget.

One UK security company, ArmorGroup, has become the biggest UK company in Afghanistan

after signing a £96m contract to guard the US embassy in Kabul.

GUARDIAN, 2/4/07; INDEPENDENT, 3/4/07

Siemens allegations

US law enforcers have begun a formal investigation into corruption allegations at Siemens.

The company is accused of using "slush funds" to obtain foreign contracts and is also accused of funding one trade union to act as a counterweight to another trade union. Prosecutors in five European countries are looking into the same claims. GUARDIAN, 27/4/07

Oil money

Oil revenues from Chad are being spent on weapons despite twenty per cent of the country's children dying before the age of five.

The World Bank funded a pipeline to export Chad's oil and, in return, the country agreed to spend 86.5 per cent of oil revenue on health, education, rural development and a 'future generations fund'. This deal was replaced last July by an accord that allows more spending on the army. DAILY TELEGRAPH, 6/4/07

ITT fine

ITT Corp. in the US has been fined \$100m for illegally exporting US military technology to foreign buyers in the form of night-vision technology to China. DEFENSE NEWS, 2/4/07

Vietnam embargo eased

The US has eased its military embargo on Vietnam in the wake of a 2005 agreement that opened the door to co-operation on military training. Trade is now allowed on a case-by-case basis.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 18/4/07

Shorts in brief

Turkey's choice

Turkey has selected AgustaWestland to provide helicopters, rather than South African company Denel.

JANE'S DEFENCE MONTHLY, MAY 07

French talks with Morocco

France is in advanced talks on the sale of Rafale aircraft to the Moroccan Air Force in a deal that would give the plane's manufacturer its first export order for the aircraft.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 2/5/07

Small arms

An investigation in South Africa found that military procurement agency Armscor has been selling small arms ammunition on the open market, contrary to government policy.

BUSINESSDAY, 13/4/07

Austria hesitates on Typhoons

Austria has indicated it may cancel its order for Eurofighter Typhoons following allegations of irregularities in the procurement process. JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 18/4/07

MBDA-Kuwait deal

MBDA has been awarded a \$86m contract to upgrade missile systems for the Kuwait Air Force.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 21/3/07

Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago is buying three patrol vessels from VT Group for special operations and maritime law enforcement.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 11/4/07



CAAT talks to the board of Reed Elsevier

In the last issue of *CAATnews* we reported that the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and F&C Asset Management had both divested from Reed Elsevier in response to the company's involvement in the arms trade. Soon afterwards, CAAT went along to Reed Elsevier's Annual General Meeting. As with BAE Systems, CAAT holds a number of token shares that enable us to attend the AGM, ask questions of the board and speak face to face with board members.

Revelations

On the morning of the AGM, reports emerged that the defence minister of Sudan, a regime condemned by the US for sponsoring the "genocide" in Darfur, was invited to IDEX in February this year. IDEX is possibly the biggest arms fair in the middle-

the United Nations as contributing to the country's nuclear programme was exhibiting arms at LAAD (Latin America Aerospace & Defence) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which had opened its doors that very morning.

However, it seemed that as soon as Reed Elsevier got wind of the *Telegraph* article, the Iranians were told to leave.

Questioning the board

At the AGM, after presentations on the financial outlook for Reed Elsevier (Chief Exec Sir Crispin Davis was very pleased to report that all Reed's online and published information services are doing very well), we put our questions to the board. These focused on the issues highlighted above – why had Reed invited, not only known human rights abusing regimes to their arms fairs, but also

Health issues

Accompanying CAAT to the AGM were Dr Richard Smith, ex-editor of the *BMJ*, and Jenny Jones, Campaign Director at Medsin, the student healthcare group. Both were able to provide eloquent and impressive challenges to Reed Elsevier – highlighting the contradictions between its involvement in the arms trade, which does untold damage to human life, and its role as the largest publisher of medical journals.

Again the board got around the questions by saying how open the company was to "discuss and debate" the issues with its critics. Reed should certainly be commended for not censoring criticism from its employees, but Reed has not yet really acted upon the grave concerns of some of its product providers and users.



Critics make their feelings known CAAT

east and is owned by Reed Elsevier. Not only that, but land mines and cluster bombs were also on sale at the event. A spokesperson for Reed said that the company's policy was that cluster munitions could not be marketed at its arms fairs but conceded that there was an "incident" of this happening at IDEX 2007. CAAT has repeatedly shown that Reed Elsevier has been unable to stop cluster bombs from being promoted at its arms fairs and that these "incidents" are by no means unusual or infrequent.

But the revelations didn't stop there. The *Telegraph* also revealed that an Iranian company named by

suspects of genocide? Did Reed not know that there was a UN arms export embargo on Iran? Would Reed concede that they could not control the arms fairs sufficiently and stop cluster bombs and torture equipment from being promoted?

The real issues were dodged by board members. Reed responded to most of the questions by claiming that the concerns raised were isolated incidents and that whenever Reed had found out about breaches of the rules, those who were guilty were dealt with. Unfortunately, it seems clear that Reed Elsevier only tend to find out about the "incidents" when a journalist makes it known.

The campaign goes on

Unlike actual arms producers, Reed Elsevier's discomfort at its continued involvement in arms fairs is evident. Therefore, keeping the pressure on is vital. Already, several professional groups who use Reed's products – academics, doctors and librarians – are calling on the company to get out of the arms trade. We will continue to highlight Reed Elsevier as an 'unethical' investment choice and would love to hear from anyone who uses or contributes to Reed's products and would like to get involved in the campaign. You can also attend a weekly vigil outside Reed's headquarters (see back page) and we would encourage everyone to join the protests at DSEi in September.

DSEi

The DSEi arms fair is due to take place in September. CAAT is planning to hold a major demonstration - more details will be available soon but please put the dates in your diary!

ANNA JONES

Medical students launch arms trade campaign

On 25th March, at their annual Global Health Conference in Newcastle, members of Medsin's National Committee launched an arms trade campaign. Medsin is a network of medical students that aims to raise awareness of global health issues and reduce health inequalities. The national committee is able to initiate two campaigns per year, and has decided that the arms trade should be a priority.

This decision was taken as a direct response to calls from Medsin's Patron Dr. Richard Horton, editor of the *Lancet*, for the organisation to step up pressure on Reed Elsevier to encourage the company to stop organising arms fairs. Dr. Horton pointed out that this is inconsistent with Reed's publishing of medical



Medsin members in action

CHRIS GRAHAM

textbooks and journals, such as the *Lancet*.

Medsin members acted on this call immediately at the Global Health Conference by holding a protest against the arms trade and calling for increased investment in health rather than weapons. A group of 20 people then proceeded to the BAE Systems site in Newcastle after the conference to protest outside the gates. They held a 'die-in' and heard speeches about the arms trade, one of which was by CAAT's local contact in Newcastle, Valerie Anthony.

For more information or to get involved in Medsin's arms trade campaign, email armstrade@medsin.org or visit <http://www.medsin.org/campaigns/armstrade>. BECCIE D'CUNHA

Other news

Disarm UCL – Fees fund murder!

Appalled at hearing that University College London (UCL) is the biggest university investor in the arms trade, UCL students got together and founded the Disarm UCL campaign. The students staged a 'gravestone protest' in the UCL quad, which received coverage in national media. In February the UCL Student Union Council voted overwhelmingly for the adoption of an ethical investment motion advocated by campaigners. UCL alumni (including Richard Wilson, see page 13) have been outraged to hear about the unethical investments of their former university and pledged in May to write to the UCL Provost, Malcolm Grant, in protest. In addition campaigners have gathered over 1000 signatures calling on the provost to ditch the

arms shares. Malcolm Grant had initially agreed to meet campaigners in March but then cancelled the meeting. He then agreed to meet at the end of May. For more info see www.disarmucl.com.

SARA HALL

Protest at BAE Systems Filton

Five protesters broke in to a BAE Systems site at Filton near Bristol on 26th April to protest at the dropping of the Serious Fraud Office investigation into arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The group opened some of BAE's filing cabinets to symbolise that they were investigating the company because the Serious Fraud Office wouldn't. They were all arrested and later released awaiting possible charges of burglary.

The highly secure facility is apparently being used by scientists working on the next generation of

missile technology. It houses up to 130 staff. BECCIE D'CUNHA

Blogging against the arms trade

The new CAAT blog – diaries of campaigners against the arms trade (www.caatblog.wordpress.com) has been up and running for three months now. Five CAAT activists and volunteers write about their experiences campaigning against the arms trade. The blog features informal reports about CAAT protests and thoughts and discussions on the arms trade. CAAT bloggers publish pictures and reports from CAAT protests on the blog straight after the events have taken place. Check it out!

If you would like to blog for CAAT please contact symon@caat.org.uk.

SARA HALL, CAAT ONLINE CAMPAIGNING VOLUNTEER

Control BAE: CAAT at BAE Systems AGM

CAAT's first 'Control BAE' campaign action took place at BAE Systems' annual shareholder meeting in May. CAAT supporters hold a number of 'token shares' in BAE Systems, which enable them to attend the company's AGM. The AGM is the one time in the year when board directors face shareholders to discuss the company's activities. It provides CAAT supporters with a chance to directly challenge the board about BAE's deadly trade.

This year, the top dogs tried desperately to dodge a barrage of questions from campaigners, mainly over the dropping of the SFO investigation. Despite a smooth and often choreographed performance by BAE's chairman Dick Olver, it was clear that he was avoiding the real issues. Sprinkling his answers with the words 'ethical', 'transparent', 'open' and 'fulsome', it was clear that Olver was trying a little too hard to get rid of the bad taste of the word 'corruption'.

Anna Jones describes what happened inside the AGM:

Around 50 CAAT token shareholders attended BAE's AGM in May, from all over the country and from all walks of life. From pensioners to students to nurses to an ex-MP from South Africa, we were a formidable bunch for the board to contend with.

The AGM took place in the vast auditorium of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, just over the road from Parliament, and a regular host to the rich and powerful. Looking up from my front row seat at the white middle-aged board (all men apart from one woman, who was stepping down after the AGM), high on their podium and accompanied by graphs and diagrams detailing this year's profits from conflict, it was difficult at first not to feel slightly sick. How is it that these people can sit here and get away with talking about

selling arms as if it's a normal business activity? I thought to myself. How can we live in a world where people can justify selling weapons to kill other human beings in order to make profit?

But, of course, not letting them get away with behaving as if it's business as normal is exactly why we were there. And making it clear that profiting from killing is totally unacceptable, and challenging these powerful men is exactly what we did.

In the news

In his introduction to proceedings, Chief Executive Officer Mike Turner tried to pre-empt criticism surrounding the SFO investigation, saying that press reports had 'seriously distorted' perceptions of the situation. However, his attack on the press didn't deter most of the national broadsheet newspapers from reporting on the AGM, reminding the UK public of the corruption allegations and highlighting that Olver dodged numerous questions from shareholders.

Even the Times advised that "until the company comes clean on exactly who it has paid and for what, the allegations of bribery and corruption will not go away". Extensive news reports the next day were also accompanied by photos of CAAT's peaceful protest outside the meeting. This highlighted the role of Mike Turner and Tony Blair in the dropping of the SFO investigation.

Dodging the questions

After smooth introductions from the board, Dick Olver invited questions from the floor, saying that he wanted this to be a chance to ask questions and give them ideas about 'your company'. We took him at his word. The question and answer session was dominated by questions from CAAT shareholders, and we certainly gave him a run for his half a million pound



Press scrum outside the AGM

CAAT

Other campaign information and updates

The Legal Challenge

On 19th April CAAT, together with the social justice research group The Corner House, lodged the full grounds for a judicial review of the UK government's controversial decision in December 2006 to terminate the Serious Fraud Office investigation into alleged corruption by BAE Systems over its Al Yamamah arms contract with Saudi Arabia.

Lawyers for the two groups are arguing that the termination was unlawful as it breached the UK's undertakings under the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. The UK government had said that continuing the investigation would have damaged national security because it would have harmed relations with Saudi Arabia. However, the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention expressly forbids consideration of the impact of corruption probes on relations with a foreign state. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia is legally bound by

UN resolutions to supply intelligence relating to terrorism.

CAAT and The Corner House had delayed lodging their full case for judicial review pending the outcome of proceedings arising from the discovery that BAE had obtained an email containing the groups' privileged legal advice (see page 11).

Public documents about the legal case as well as the latest information can always be found on our website at www.caat.org.uk

Saudi deals threatened

On 2nd May, the Times reported that the Saudis are "deeply embarrassed" about the outcry that followed the curtailment of the SFO inquiry, and have stalled negotiations for more military equipment. Deals cited as being put "on ice" until the furore has died down include the purchase of two Type 45 destroyers costing £800 million each as well missile systems and Hawk jets.

The current deal, for Eurofighter jets worth £20 billion, is still scheduled for completion in July, but as the Times revelation demonstrates, until the weapons are delivered nothing is certain.

US unhappy

It has become clear that the United States was furious over the decision to stop the SFO investigation. A formal protest to UK's Foreign Office was made in January and, more recently, it has been widely reported that the Justice Department is looking to see if it can launch its own inquiry. If some of the alleged payments were made within US jurisdiction, the BAE could be investigated under the strict Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

All this might make it more difficult for BAE to do business with the Pentagon, which buys more from the company than does the UK Ministry of Defence.

salary. Could he confirm whether BAE had ever paid bribes, yes or no? Why did he lobby to end the SFO investigation? Why was it necessary for BAE to use offshore companies? Could he give explicit assurance that not one penny went to the South African government when BAE was striking its deals?

With most of the questions relating to corruption, Olver resorted to waving around a copy of BAE's ethical policy document, which, he assured, is rigorously enforced and proves that BAE has a 'zero tolerance' approach. He also repeatedly grasped at the straw of the Attorney General Lord Goldsmith's words in justifying the dropping of the SFO investigation, saying that it was "doomed to failure". When it was pointed out that Lord Goldsmith's opinion was irrelevant when it came to the due process of the investigation, and that it was the opinion of the heads of the SFO themselves that mattered, Olver simply didn't answer the question and looked for another hand amongst the sea of shareholders.

'Real' shareholders drop them in it

A just perceptible expression of relief would come across the Olver's face on the few occasions when he realised he'd managed to invite a 'real' shareholder to ask a question. But even they were on their feet asking the board about corruption and questioning why BAE had

lobbied to have the SFO case dropped. The only moments of true support from a real shareholder turned Olver's expression to one of acute embarrassment. The gentleman rose to his feet to applaud the company on how they were conducting their business, which in his opinion was clearly "not corrupt". "When you sit and have dinner with a client" he said, "that's not corruption... When you have a case of wine and you offer one bottle to the person you're trying to do business with, that's not corruption". But what about the next logical step in this argument, when the bottles of wine turn into cuts of a few billion pounds, holidays and prostitutes? Did this man still not think it was corruption? Olver didn't wait to find out where this praise was going and tried desperately to cut short his trusted shareholder's acclamations. Evidently this example of 'real' company shareholder values was something he didn't wish to have highlighted in quite such a public way.

Judges making a stand

Towards the end of the question and answer session, six of us made a final symbolic stand against the board. Pulling on judge's wigs, we stood in front of the wall of suits, calling out "we find you guilty". If the Government isn't going to let justice be done, we thought, well, we'll just have to sit in judgement of the company ourselves!"

ANIN FELTHAM AND ANNA JONES

Getting rid of those arms company shares

The 2007 Clean Investment launch will take place in late June, with the focus on the arms company shareholdings of the 99 local authority pension schemes. While publicity around the launch might highlight the holdings as an issue for the local authorities, they are much more likely to take notice of the concerns of individual council tax payers. Very few people contact local authorities about their investments, so any approach you make – possibly two or three letters or emails spread over several months – will have an impact.

1 Gather initial shareholding figures

Either look at the CAAT website or ring/email us for the shareholdings of your local authority and for their contact details.

2 Confirm the shareholdings

Ask the finance director of the local authority if this is still the situation in terms of shareholdings. As the finance director does not decide policy on investments, the emphasis should be on information gathering rather than investment policy. Also ask for a list of the members of the pension fund investment committee and for their contact details.

3 Write to the policy makers

In a local authority, policy should be decided by the pension fund investment committee, so the best place to start would be to write to the chair of that committee.

Include:

- your understanding of the investments they hold
- a statement of your concern about these investments

- a request that the committee consider whether these investments are appropriate
- a question that requires an answer; for example, 'What action do they intend to take?'

4 Follow up your letter

What you do next very much depends upon the response. It may well take a few letters to establish the local authority's investment policy and practice.

If the response is dismissive:

You could write to the other members of the pension committee to see if there is any wider support for your arguments.

If the response doesn't address your points:

You could write again, if necessary narrowing your letter down to a single question so that it is hard to avoid.

If the response focuses on 'engagement':

'Engagement' is concerned with negotiating better company practice. While this may have benefits in some sectors, we do not think it is relevant to arms companies as the product and its sale and use are the fundamental problems. If the response focuses on engagement, ask how this approach might address the obvious problems associated with the arms industry.

If the response is everything you asked for:

Send it to us!

5 Don't worry if you feel there's little progress

Presently no local authority excludes arms from all its investments, but several have considered it and the political will appears to be moving in

the right direction. What the local authorities need is a push. Those responsible for local authority investment talk to each other so it needs to be on the agenda of them all. Contacting your local authority will help achieve this and add to the debate within your local authority even if you don't feel your arguments are making headway.

6 Make use of the office and experienced supporters

Please do ask us at any point if you would like our thoughts on how to proceed.

7 Let us know how you get on

Even if you don't need any assistance, please let us know how you get on with your local authority. We would like to build a picture of which local authorities have yet to be approached and how much progress is being made.

There are, of course, many other things you can do to promote clean investment with your local authority. These include contacting your local UNISON branch (UNISON has been very supportive of ethical investment at both national and branch level); writing a letter to your local paper; drawing up a petition to hand in; and going along to a pension committee meeting - even if you can't speak you will get a sense of the discussion and they will know you are there!

IAN PRICHARD

BAE defeated in court by CAAT

CAAT celebrated a major victory in February after winning a court case against BAE Systems. As a result, we have learnt more about the lengths to which BAE will go to protect its profits and privileges from public opinion.

CAAT took BAE to court after discovering that the company had obtained a confidential document internal to CAAT. The document contained advice from CAAT's lawyers about plans for a judicial review of the decision to end the Saudi corruption probe. It was clear to us that the judicial review proceedings could not be balanced if BAE was able to read CAAT's legal advice. The court agreed and BAE was ordered to reveal how the document came into the company's hands.

BAE then had little choice but to admit that it had been paying a

private investigator to gather information on CAAT. Paul Mercer, an agent for LigneDeux Associates, received £2,500 each month from BAE. In return he passed information on CAAT and other groups to Mike McGinty, BAE's Director of Security. BAE insist that they expected Mercer to operate within the law, but Mercer himself admits sending McGinty the legally privileged document in question. He claims that he was sent it anonymously, receiving it on CD-ROM in the post less than 24 hours after it was written.

Legal action continues

Just as it seemed that BAE's reputation could sink no lower, this revelation posed yet another threat to their public image. BAE's first statement on the subject insisted that CAAT had brought the issue to court "to garner publicity". This obviously

ignores the need for the judicial review proceedings to be fair and impartial. It also demonstrates BAE's attitude to "publicity". They clearly do not believe that the public have a right to know what powerful people are doing behind closed doors.

The incident has now been referred to the police. However, we believe that the danger of CAAT's communications being intercepted is sufficiently contained to allow the judicial review to proceed.

CAAT's court victory over BAE is also significant in another way. When the Government ended the Saudi corruption inquiry, it implied that BAE was above the law. The court's decision has now prevented BAE from behaving as it likes. We are a step closer to the day when BAE can no longer get away with calling the shots.

SYMON HILL

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Early Day Motions

In many issues of *CAATnews*, supporters are asked to write to their MPs asking them to sign an Early Day Motion (EDM). These are a kind of parliamentary petition. They are very rarely debated, but can be used to publicise the views of individual MPs, draw attention to specific events or campaigns, and demonstrate the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view. EDMs can be found on the web at <http://edmi.parliament.uk/edmi/>

It is usually helpful for a campaign if the top six names on an EDM can come from a spread of parliamentary parties. This makes colleagues more likely to sign than if it is perceived as being the product of one party or a small group within it.

My MP won't sign

By convention, some MPs do not sign EDMs. These include ministers, whips, the Speaker and Deputy Speakers and parliamentary private secretaries. Opposition frontbenchers will not normally sign, unless their party's spokesperson for the relevant topic has already done so. Finally, some MPs have decided not to sign any EDMs at all. If your MP is one of the 'no-signers', it is still worth

writing to her or him about an EDM. It lets the MP know of a constituent's opinion on the subject of the EDM and may prompt the MP to look at it and see who has signed.

How long do EDMs last?


Although sometimes the subject matter will make this inappropriate, EDMs can be signed at any time up to the end of the parliamentary session. This is usually in early November.

Two current EDMs

The two current EDMs which CAAT is urging MPs to support are:

EDM 595 – Serious Fraud Office investigation into the Al Yamamah Military Contract, calling for the investigation to be reopened;

EDM 690 – Private Military and Security Companies, calling for these companies to be regulated.

 If you have not already done so, please ask your MP to sign one or both EDMs- either by writing to the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA or by email. Most MPs' email addresses can be found on the parliamentary website at www.parliament.uk and following the link to MPs.

European Export Credit Agencies

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), which reports to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, guarantees that companies and banks involved in an export deal will not lose out if the overseas government does not pay or makes late payments. The ECGD charges the companies a premium and aims to break even, but, in the last resort, any shortfall comes from the UK taxpayer.

Arms exports account for a disproportionate amount of total export credits. Whilst they account for around 2 per cent of visible UK exports, they absorb somewhere between a third and a half (it varies greatly from year to year) of all ECGD support. BAE Systems has received far more cover for its exports than any other company. The arms companies need export credit guarantees because without them, many arms deals would be too risky for the companies concerned, and would not happen.

However, the ECGD is not alone. Most European countries have export credit agencies. CAAT's counterpart in the Netherlands, Campagne tegen Wapenhandel, has done a study of these for the European Network Against Arms Trade's (ENAAAT's) Research Group. The full report will be on the ENAAAT website (<http://www.antenna.nl/enaat/>) shortly. A brochure titled Financing misery with public money: European export credit agencies and the financing of arms trade is available from the CAAT office, free of charge, now. ANN FELTHAM

Freedom of Information

In the February/March *CAATnews* it was reported that the Freedom of Information Act, which CAAT has used extensively, was under threat from a government move that would have enabled many requests to have been refused on cost grounds. Most of CAAT's requests to central government departments would no longer have been possible.

After criticism from a wide spectrum of people and groups, the government backed down at the end of March. It is now consulting again on the issue and CAAT hopes that, as a result, the Act will be left unchanged.

Learning from the Titanic Express

Richard Wilson describes how, for him, personal tragedy became the spur for political action

On December 28th 2000 my sister Charlotte, a British aid worker, was dragged from a bus in Burundi, robbed, forced to lie face down on the ground, and shot. Twenty other passengers of the oddly-named 'Titanic Express' bus, mostly Rwandan and Burundian Tutsis, shared the same fate. In the moments before she was killed, survivors say, Charlotte was told: "It's the white people supplying the weapons in Africa – now you're going to feel what it's like".

From the first days after my sister's death, I was driven by the need to know more about who had killed her, and why. Slowly I built up a network of Burundian contacts, many of whom had lost loved ones at the hands of the same group, the Hutu-extremist Palipehutu-FNL. This led, in 2002, to the recovery of an explosive report, written by the attackers themselves, detailing how the massacre was carried out. The document says little about the victims, noting only that 21 people were killed. But with meticulous care, the killers list the clothes and personal effects they looted from the dead, the guns used, and even the number of bullets expended: In the process of murdering Charlotte and her twenty fellow passengers, Palipehutu-FNL fired off 963 rounds of ammunition. This alone must say something about the easy availability of weapons in a country that ranks among the poorest in the world.

Arms trade and conflict

Burundi's brutal war has claimed upwards of 300,000 lives since 1993. In the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the estimates run into millions. The conflicts ravaging Central Africa are driven by a potent mix of economic

stagnation, entrenched corruption, poisonous racial ideology and breathtaking political cynicism. But without the abundant supply of arms, their impact would be far less deadly.

On the night of August 13th 2004, Palipehutu-FNL carried out one of their largest massacres to date, killing more than 150 Congolese Tutsis in an attack on the Gatumba refugee camp. Cartridges recovered from the scene were traced as far afield as Serbia, Bulgaria and China.

Successive UN reports have implicated dozens of western companies in illegal profiteering from the DRC war, which is intimately connected to the Burundi conflict. Those named include the UK-based Zimbabwean arms dealer John Bredenkamp and Andrew Smith, the British owner of the "air cargo firm" Avient.

In September last year, a UN investigation revealed the nature of the "cargo" that Avient had been transporting. A 2006 report in the *Sunday Times* said that:

"Ukrainian and Russian aircrews recruited by Avient on behalf of the Congolese airforce were flying blanket bombing raids that in all probability were killing and maiming civilians caught in the war zone thousands of feet below.

Rudimentary bombs made from industrial gas cylinders filled with TNT were being rolled out of the backs of giant Antonov transport aircraft flown at high altitude in indiscriminate raids."

International awareness

To date the UK has proved reluctant to follow up the UN's allegations, but Bredenkamp's offices were raided by the Serious Fraud Office last year as part of the BAE corruption inquiry. One more reason to hope that CAAT succeeds in getting the inquiry re-opened is that it may help shed some much-needed light on Bredenkamp's business dealings.

In the six years since my sister was killed, I've been shocked by the lack of international awareness of the horrors ravaging Central Africa and the complicity of western profiteers. It was for this reason that I decided to write a book about my family's experience, and our efforts to understand the conflict that claimed Charlotte's life.

Since writing it, I've had more opportunities to get involved in efforts to limit the arms trade. Most recently I've been pleased to support the Disarm UCL campaign (<http://disarmucl.blogspot.com>), aimed at persuading my old college to divest its £1.5 million of shares in the arms trade. Across the globe, wars are causing massive population displacement, hindering development, and destroying civilian infrastructure. This disruption inevitably deprives millions of their right to an education. It therefore seems particularly wrong that a university, especially one tied to a teaching hospital, should be profiting from the warfare industry.

The more I've learned about the conflicts in Central Africa, the harder it has been to detach what happens in Burundi, Rwanda and the DRC from what happens here in Europe, where the guns and bullets are made. If the cycle of violence is ever to be ended, then we have to get the international arms trade under control.



Titanic Express by Richard Wilson is published by Continuum, priced £10.99.

For more info see <http://titanicexpress.wordpress.com>

Fundraising

By Kathryn Busby

I am delighted to announce that for the first time this year we will have a team of three runners in the Great South Run in Portsmouth. Rebecca Tully, Grace Drewell and Liam Scott have all signed up to run ten miles on Sunday 28th October and raise money for the campaign. As is traditional, in the next issue of CAATnews we will be enclosing sponsor forms and asking readers to support the CAAT team. If you will be in Portsmouth on the 28th, why not go along and cheer them on in person!

One of the easiest ways of sponsoring Rebecca, Grace and Liam is online through Bmycharity, a website that enables anyone to set up their own fundraising page. Within five minutes you can have your own personalised web page that friends and family can then visit and use to

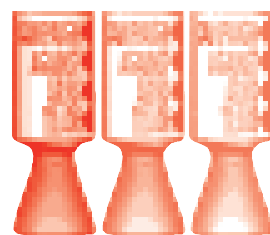
make secure credit and debit card donations. It's perfect for those taking part in sponsored events or anyone who decides to ask their friends and family to make a donation to CAAT in lieu of birthday or anniversary gifts. To set up your own page, go to www.bmycharity.com/caat and choose the 'efundraise' option. To see Rebecca, Grace and Liam's page, please visit www.bmycharity.com/caatgreatsouthrun.

New materials list

Included with this edition of CAATnews you will find a copy of our new materials list, containing details of our briefings, leaflets, campaign materials, badges, posters and more. We hope it will provide everything you need for your campaigning. To place an order, please send the completed form back

to the office, email patrick@caat.org.uk or call 020 7281 0297. If there is anything not included on the list that you would find useful in your campaigning, please do let us know.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to say farewell and thank you to everyone who has supported CAAT during my time here. After nearly four years with the campaign, I will be leaving in July to pursue work outside fundraising. It has been a privilege to work with so many talented, dedicated and inspiring people and I would like to wish the next Fundraising Co-ordinator and everyone involved with CAAT the very best of luck with the campaign. I will of course be staying involved as a supporter and I look forward to seeing many of you at future CAAT events and demonstrations.



Thank you, and bye for now

We're sad to say that Patrick and Kathryn will be leaving the CAAT staff team in June and July, respectively.

They have both made immense contributions to CAAT's work and they will be missed in the office. We are, however, hoping they'll turn up every now and again (or as often as they like) to help out, offer pearls of wisdom and have lunch.

Bye for now, both.

CAAT is seeking a Fundraising Co-ordinator (full-time) to join our staff team at the CAAT office in London

Salary: £25,584 per year

Closing date: Wednesday, 4th July 2007

**For more information visit
www.caat.org.uk**

Campaign Against Arms Trade thrives on your participation

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

Subscribe to a CAAT email list

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

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

Make a donation

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

Contact Kathryn at kathryn@caat.org.uk

Contact your MP

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

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

Contact Ann at ann@caat.org.uk

Campaign locally

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

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

Raise awareness

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

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

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

Research the arms companies

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

Contact Ian at ian@caat.org.uk

Protest against the arms trade

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

Contact Anna at action@caat.org.uk

Join the CAAT Christian Network

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

Contact Alun Morinan at christian@caat.org.uk

Order a CAAT publication

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

Contact Patrick at patrick@caat.org.uk

Auditor needed

The Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade (TREAT) is looking for an Independent Examiner, who knows about the SORP regulations, to produce its annual accounts.

If you feel you may be suitably qualified, and would like more information about this voluntary position, please get in touch with Ann at the CAAT office.

Our thanks are due to Gyles Cooper, who has done this work for the last few years.

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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

2-10 June

Stop the Arms Trade Week, including Day of Prayer. Take strategic, simultaneous local action against the arms trade. The theme this year is Saudi Arabia. Contact beccie@caat.org.uk.

Late June

2007 Clean Investment campaign launch. Details of arms company shares held by Local Authority pension funds will be made available, along with figures for charities, unions and religious and health organisations. For more information, email cleaninvestment@caat.org.uk.

11-14 September

DSEi arms fair, London. More details soon.

November 2007

CAAT National Gathering 2007. More details soon.

Weekly

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 (Call 020 7249 0041 or 07726 997 638 to confirm).

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

Vigil outside offices of Raytheon, one of world's biggest arms manufacturers. Every Friday at 8am, on the UWE/Bristol Business Park roundabout, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol. Contact 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, Earlham Grove, London E7 or call 020 7474 5257

CAAT London Group Meeting. For details, please contact Robin Yu at londoncaat@riseup.net

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