

CAAT*news*

CAAT wins Reed campaign!



Issue 203
August-September 2007

£1.00

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Thank you also to our dedicated team of CAATnews stuffers.

Printed by Russell Press on 100% recycled paper using only post consumer de-inked waste.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 24 September and we will be posting it the week beginning 7 October.

Content of most website references are also available in print – contact the CAAT office.

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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: POLYP



Taking to the streets over DSEi. See pages 8–9

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Shut DESO – keep up the pressure

First came the announcement that Reed Elsevier was selling its arms fair business. Then, whilst we were still celebrating that, on 9th July the *Guardian* reported that the Treasury is planning to close the Defence Export Services Organisation. In fact, DESO is not quite dead yet – we won't know its fate until the Government announces the results of its Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in the autumn. However, it is clear that the Treasury has listened to the arguments of the many supporters of CAAT and other organisations who have been campaigning to get the Government's arms sales unit closed down.

2006 was a big year for the Shut DESO campaign. It was decided at the outset that, though most CAAT supporters are motivated by ethical arguments, we would emphasise the economic ones and focus on the Treasury as it undertook its CSR. This looked at all Government expenditure and CAAT suggested cutting DESO's £15 million net annual budget. We pointed out that times had changed since DESO was set up, as the Defence Sales Organisation, in 1966. Then there was an identifiable UK arms industry; now DESO is helping globalised private companies sell their wares.

The Government had already, in the Defence Industrial Strategy published at the end of 2005, accepted that economic arguments could not be used to support arms exports. There is also evidence that equipping the UK's armed forces is given a lower priority than achieving export sales. For example, if the Eurofighter deal with Saudi Arabia goes ahead, the Saudis will get the planes ahead of the RAF. Furthermore, arms sales can distort other policies – governments that make big arms purchases can find themselves spared criticism of poor human rights records.

With the Treasury now listening to us, it is time to keep up the pressure,



Have our actions paid off?

especially as the arms industry will be lobbying hard to keep DESO open. The industry was already criticising a Foreign Office decision to withdraw its contribution to the cost of maintaining the Defence Attaché/Adviser network. If DESO closes, the industry will lose its foothold inside government.

- The campaigning efforts were focused on the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who is now Andy Burnham MP. Please write to him at The Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or email ministers@hm-treasury.gsi.gov.uk saying how

pleased you were to read the report that the Treasury was considering DESO's closure and that you want to see an end to the support and subsidy given by Government to the arms exporters.

- Copies of CAAT's briefing 'The case for withdrawing Government economic support from DESO' can be found on the website at www.caat.org.uk (follow the links to 'issues' and 'DESO') or you can order it free of charge from the CAAT office.

CAAT has them rattled!

In another sign that all your campaigning efforts are paying off, CAAT has found out that we are now considered a threat by DESO. We made a Freedom of Information request for the speeches delivered at the DESO Symposium in March (there are extracts from these on page 5). Malcolm Haworth, Director General of Defence Export Services, told his military industry audience that there were five threats to the UK's market share of the arms business. To our delight, one of these was: "... public pressure from NGOs like CAAT – Campaign Against the Arms Trade, who do not accept the value that defence exports bring."

ANN FELTHAM

CAAT wins arms fair campaign!

On June 1st the global publishing company Reed Elsevier announced that it will get out of the arms trade. This followed a high-profile campaign, coordinated by CAAT, which encouraged the company to stop organising arms fairs. After 2007, Reed Elsevier says it will no longer organise five international arms fairs: DSEi, LAAD, ITEC, IDEX and TADTE. This is a huge victory for CAAT and has sent a clear signal that the arms trade is not

only bad for people, but is bad for business.

DSEi is still due to go ahead in September, and CAAT will be peacefully demonstrating at the event. We need your help to keep up the pressure and make sure that the DSEi arms fair doesn't return in 2009. Turn to pages 8–9 for more about the success of the Reed Elsevier campaign and plans for DSEi.

ANNA JONES AND IAN PRICHARD

Revolving door

Italian company Finmeccanica, which owns Westland helicopters, has appointed Sir Kevin Tebbitt as Chair of its UK branch. Tebbitt worked as a permanent secretary to the UK Ministry of Defence until 2005 and has also worked at the Foreign and Commonwealth office.

DEFENSENEWS.COM, 7/3/07

MP's criticism

A member of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme has said that the UK's military uses unsuitable equipment purchased at too high a price because manufacturers such as BAE Systems are able to "run circles" around the Government. MP Douglas Carswell said: "It is a disgrace that the Defence Procurement Agency has become an unaccountable quango."

TIMES, 12/6/07

Ship building

UK military companies have been taking more interest in Indonesia. Sym Taylor, sales director of VT Shipbuilding International said: "[we want] to set up a production base here because our factories in England are at full capacity. We have difficulty building new ships anywhere in England."

In May, senior officials from the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) attended the International Maritime Defence Exhibition in Singapore to explore opportunities for UK military companies, including the possibility of building hulls for future UK Royal Navy warships in south-east Asia.

JAKARTA POST, 18/6/07; JANE'S DEFENCE MONTHLY, JUNE 2007

Brunei

The Sultan of Brunei is selling three warships built by BAE Systems after falling out with the company. The ships, built for £600m, are yet to leave their home dockyard on the Clyde. The decision to sell the ships may lead to diplomatic tensions between the UK and Brunei over where they end up. TIMES, 5/7/07



Anti-militarism was a major theme of protests at this year's G8 meeting. Protesters marched to an office of the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company, Europe's second largest arms company. The picture left shows protesters at the blockade of a gate in the security wall around the G8 conference. JAMES O'NIONS

Thai budget increase

Thailand's military-appointed government has proposed a 24.3 per cent increase in its military budget. This comes on top of a 34 per cent increase the previous year. The money is partly intended to increase security in the south of the country.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 27/6/07

Algeria

DESO head Alan Garwood has described Algeria as a key export market for the UK, saying "they want to do business with us." Algeria is due to take on a contract for several Type 23 frigates and may be interested in helicopters.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 27/6/07

Eurofighter developments

Austria has reduced its order of Eurofighter Typhoons from 18 to 15 aircraft after advice that cancellation of the contract would expose it to "punishingly high costs". Before being elected, the largest party in the country's ruling coalition had promised to cut costs or cancel the deal.

Meanwhile, BAE Systems is in discussions to licence the manufacture of the Eurofighter to Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries if the aircraft wins an export

competition. Until now, Japan has only bought fighter jets from the US.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 4/7/07; FINANCIAL TIMES, 1/6/07

Mercenaries

Two UK mercenary firms are competing for renewal of a \$475m deal that will put the winner in charge of all Private Security Companies operating in Iraq. The contract is currently run by the company Aegis.

PRIVATE EYE, 23/6/07

Iraq sales

The head of the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency has predicted a continued rise in US military sales to the Iraqi government. The new Iraqi government has a surplus from oil revenue and officials have hinted at further military buys.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 23/5/07

US arms to Lebanon

The US government rushed anti-tank missiles and armoured vehicles to Lebanese troops fighting the Fatah al-Islam group in May, sending a transport plane within a day of authorisation of the shipment.

DEFENSE NEWS, 28/5/07

SRT-China deal

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is due to adopt a digital radio system designed by UK company

Snippets from the 2007 DESO Symposium

Under the Freedom of Information Act we requested copies of speeches from the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) Symposium held earlier this year. Here's a taste of what we received:

Speech by Head of Defence Export Services, Alan Garwood

"In this job I have met more kings, princes, presidents, prime ministers, ministers and service chiefs than you can shake a big stick at."

"In Indonesia we are very much a resurgent brand. Having had Indonesia off our Christmas card list for many years, we are once again being welcomed into this enormous market, which ten years ago was second only to Saudi Arabia in terms of its value to the UK defence industry."

Presentation by Director General Defence Export Services, Malcolm Haworth

"The pie chart [withheld] illustrates our reliance on two of [our major customers]: Saudi Arabia and the United States."

"... we have made some progress developing the emerging markets that we identified last year: Libya, Algeria, Iraq and Vietnam. Since then, DESO has set up an office in Tripoli and we have had

Algerian delegations in the UK to look at what we can offer. Iraq, however, is largely a market yet to emerge, for reasons obvious to everyone."

Speech by DESO's Senior Military Adviser

On what DESO and the Ministry of Defence can offer arms exporters:

"And finally, echoing Alan Garwood's words this morning about 'Brand UK', there's the warfighting reputation of the British Armed Forces available to you all as a constant backdrop to your efforts."

"We help arrange flying and ground training; we organise flights for a lucky few in RAF aircraft; we even help negotiate deployments of aircraft in support of specific campaigns, as we did for getting Typhoons to Singapore and EH101 Merlins to the United States in recent years."

On "regular visits" to the service chiefs: "They look quite happy in these pictures, but their faces always fall when we arrive, because they know we are on... the... scrounge."

The full texts (as far as we have them) are available on the CAAT website – see www.caat.org.uk/issues/deso.php

BAE has also been awarded a \$212.4m US Navy order for vehicles for the US Marine Corps.

As part of a drive to defend its reputation against allegations of corruption, the company plans to cut the number of "independent advisors" it uses on foreign arms sales.

INDEPENDENT, 3/7/07; REUTERS, 28/6/07; FINANCIAL TIMES, 20/6/07

Libya

The UK may be moving closer to an arms deal with Libya, after then Prime Minister Tony Blair signed an agreement establishing a military partnership between the two countries.

Libya is believed to be preparing to buy fighter aircraft and air-defence systems from Russia, dashing French hopes of selling arms to the country.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 23/5/07; FINANCIAL TIMES, 31/5/07

Pakistan

The Pakistan Air Force is to have its power boosted by Sniper Pods, which assist ammunition targeting, after the US government awarded a contract to Lockheed Martin.

Pakistan also increased its military budget for 2007 by 10 per cent to \$4.5bn, although the actual spending is predicted to be higher.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 23/5/07; JANE'S DEFENCE MONTHLY, JULY 2007

Ammunition contract

BAE Systems Land Systems Munitions has been awarded a contract for additional mortar rounds for the UK Army in Afghanistan and Iraq following "significant increases" in usage. JANE'S INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE REVIEW, JULY 2007



Software Radio Technology (SRT). The deal is limited to home security use but gives SRT access to the PLA's budget. SRT has dismissed concerns that the deal could raise problems for its relationship with US buyers.

TIMES, 28/6/07

Russian subs

Venezuela is to buy at least five submarines from Russia as part of a £500m deal. *Kommersant* newspaper reports that the submarines are intended to thwart any possible trade embargo by the

US and to defend Venezuela's oil-rich underwater shelf.

GUARDIAN, 15/6/07

BAE Systems

The US Department of Defense has awarded BAE Systems a \$183m contract to deliver thermal weapons sights. BAE said that the deal could lead to up to \$1bn of work in total. A company spokesperson said this illustrated "business as usual" with the US government, despite the Justice Department's enquiry into the Al-Yamamah deal.

Control BAE: Reopen the Saudi corruption enquiry

Background

In December 2006, the Government announced that it had curtailed the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) inquiry into BAE Systems' arms deals with Saudi Arabia. The decision followed extensive lobbying by BAE amid reports that the investigation threatened its £10 billion deal to sell Eurofighter jets to the repressive Saudi regime. The Government's intervention sends a clear message that BAE – the world's fourth largest arms company – is above the law.

As well as pursuing legal action to challenge this outrageous decision, CAAT recently launched the Control BAE public campaign which calls for the SFO inquiry to be reopened.

The campaign so far

The curtailment of the SFO inquiry and CAAT's subsequent campaigning have resulted in unprecedented parliamentary, media and public interest in the arms trade.

CAAT campaigners around the UK have been working hard to build on support for the campaign, through protests, street stalls, letter-writing and other activities. Stop the Arms Trade Week in early June focused on the Control BAE campaign and was a huge success. More than a thousand Control BAE packs have been sent out. Over 700 postcards have already been sent to 350 different MPs and more than 115 MPs have so far signed Early Day Motion 595, which calls for the SFO inquiry to be reopened.

Resources

Order a free campaign pack from the office (enquiries@caat.org.uk). The pack includes a briefing, postcard to MPs, petition and ideas for action. You can also order multiple copies of these materials to distribute locally.

BECCIE D'CUNHA

Upcoming events

Seriously Funny Comedy Gig – 23rd September, London

Mark Thomas, Mark Steele, Russell Brand and other top comedians are coming together for a gig to raise money for CAAT's legal challenge. See www.caat.org.uk for tickets.

Control BAE month of action – November

CAAT is calling upon all local campaigners and groups to take concerted action in November. We will provide ideas, support and resources. Contact beccie@caat.org.uk if you are interested.

Speaking tour – November

CAAT and The Corner House are planning a roadshow in November – a series of public meetings around the UK about Control BAE. We will provide good speakers and help with publicity. Contact beccie@caat.org.uk if you would like us to come to a venue near you!

Government willing to break international law

The UK government was prepared to break international law in order to terminate the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) inquiry into BAE Systems' dealings with Saudi Arabia. The admission was made in the Government's response to Judicial Review proceedings initiated by CAAT and The Corner House.

The Government denied that the SFO decision breached the Convention, but said it would have taken the decision regardless of any violation of international law. CAAT and The Corner House have written to the OECD to draw its attention to the UK government's willingness to break the Convention, despite it

having told the OECD otherwise in January.

Challenge to ruling

Following a review of the written arguments, in late May a High Court judge decided not to grant permission for the Judicial Review. The judge acknowledged the "importance of the issues raised" but said: "It is clear that national security must always prevail and no state could be expected to take action which jeopardizes the security of the state or the lives of its citizens".

CAAT and The Corner House have now applied for an oral hearing, which is likely to take place in the autumn.

CAAT and BAE

On 16th June, CAAT applied to the High Court to continue proceedings against BAE Systems, which admitted earlier this year to paying a private investigator to gather information on CAAT. Fresh evidence contained in affidavits and documents only now supplied by BAE to CAAT has revealed that BAE has been involved in further leaks. BAE is still withholding the information that would help CAAT identify the source of the leaks. As BAE has refused to correspond further with CAAT, the court has been asked to intervene.

ANN FELTHAM

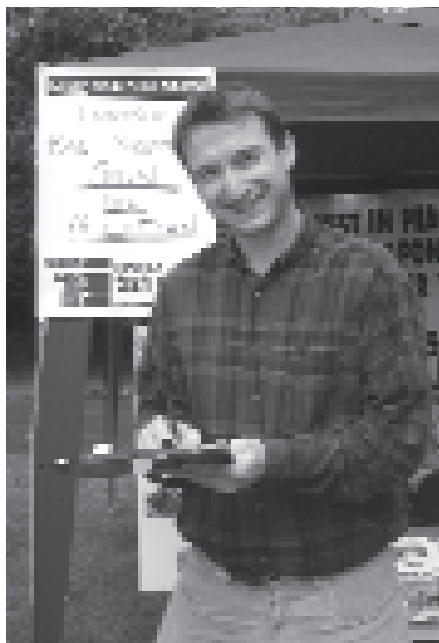
Stop the Arms Trade Week news

Stop Week, held in June, was a massive success this year. More campaigners than in previous years took local action to raise awareness of the arms trade. Thousands of people found out about the Control BAE campaign and hundreds of postcards and petitions were signed.

Stalls and other activities were held in: Bath; Cambridgeshire; Chichester; County Durham; Derbyshire; Devon; Dorchester; Edinburgh; various locations in Essex; Hereford; Hull; the Isle of Wight; various locations in London; Manchester; Nottingham; Sheffield; South Wales; Stratford Upon Avon; Surrey; Warwick.

London CAAT

The beginning of Stop Week coincided with activities organised under the banner of 'The World Can't Wait'. London CAAT produced a leaflet to tie in issues of poverty, lack of development and the more than £118 billion spent annually on arms, which puts into pathetic perspective the amounts that the G8 promises and does not deliver to the world's poorest countries. A few of us headed down to Archbishop's Park by Lambeth Palace and later to



Local MP John Leech signing a petition on the Manchester CAAT stall MIKE KAVANAGH

the banks of the Thames, to offer our support to the idea of "waking up the G8".

On Monday we unpacked our stall in Islington. Most people tried to avoid our eyes (perhaps fearing we were signing people up for monthly direct debits) and quickened their pace, but many relented when they

heard that we were opposing the arms trade and stopped to sign our petition and take a postcard to send to their MP.

On Sunday 10th June, after three days of media reports on the BAE case, getting signatures for our Control BAE petition at the Stokefest event in Clissold Park was a little easier. People who had the option of watching bands and fashion events or getting involved with any number of other activities chose to come over and chat about corruption in arms deals.

Hopefully, the week will result in many more postcards being sent to London MPs and CAAT getting a few more members. As for the end of the arms trade? Maybe next year.

ROBIN YU (LONDONCAAT@RISEUP.NET)

Chichester

We held a stall on the Cathedral Green and collected over a hundred signatures. We were happy with this, considering that Chichester is not a city brimming with supporters! We were also very pleased to meet six interested new people. Maybe we can start a CAAT group here. Time will tell...

SUE PIKE (POSTMASTER@SPIKE9.PLUS.COM)

Day of Prayer news

This year's CAAT Christian Network day of prayer focused on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia and our government's arms dealings with the regime. 67 day of prayer packs were ordered and churches around the UK stood with, and prayed for, those who suffer injustice and exposed the corruption, hypocrisy and immorality of the arms trade.

We reflected on the quote from the Bible:

"Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison

with them. Remember those who are suffering, as though you were suffering as they are." (Hebrews 13:3)

Liverpool

We had a weekend of prayer on 9-10th June at our Catholic Parishes. We incorporated prayers into both our masses on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. We were also able to show the 'Where is the Love' DVD (about the DSEi arms fair) at both masses, which I found very moving. Our congregation is made up of

many ethnic groups and some support was expressed for the cause.

We hold a vigil and leaflet the workers at the BAE Systems site in Warton (Lancashire) on the first Monday of every month, between 5-6pm. We have been doing this for about ten years and are joined by some local people. All are welcome to join us. JAN HARPER, ST MICHAEL AND SACRED HEART PARISH (0151 263 6578)

Thanks to everyone who took part! BECCIE D'CUNHA

(BECCIE@CAAT.ORG.UK)

One step closer to ending the arms trade

In campaigning, it's not every day that we feel the sudden, exciting sensation of winning. Often our progress is marked by small, often hidden steps over years, even generations.

However, at the beginning of June, we did feel the excitement of success. Reed Elsevier, the global publishing company, announced that it had decided to get out of the arms trade. CAAT's campaign had managed to do exactly what it aimed for – persuade Reed Elsevier to stop organising arms fairs. By the end of 2007, the company plans to have sold off its five international arms fairs, including DSEi, one of the world's biggest arms fairs, which takes place in London every two years.

How the campaign was won

From the beginning, CAAT's campaign had highlighted the incompatibility of Reed's involvement in the arms trade with the company's position as the number one publisher of medical and science journals and other publications.

The campaign victory was made possible because a huge range of people came together with a common purpose and put pressure on the company from all sides, from outside and from within. Also, the campaign never lost sight of our non-violent approach, always seeking to engage positively with the company, never alienating or demonising those involved.

In 2005, once we had launched the campaign, CAAT's first challenge was simply to spread the word and alert people to the issue. Not many had heard of Reed Elsevier, and only a handful of those who had were aware that a small part of one of its subsidiaries was involved in the arms trade. The next step was to engage with Reed's stakeholders (consumers, investors and employees). Because Reed Elsevier is a publishing company – providing information services for a range of different professional groups – we immediately had clearly defined

and also very sympathetic audiences to work with. The ball really got rolling when this sympathy turned into public criticism and campaign action. CAAT coordinated several public letters signed by high-profile members of different professional groups who read, contribute to or are involved with Reed's other publishing services. The letters had a dual effect: publicly condemning and embarrassing the company and also spreading the word about the campaign to new audiences.

Doctors, writers, academics and investors all lent their support. Each week more and more people from all over the world began writing letters, gathering petitions and calling on the company to change – from librarians, to geographers, to legal professionals and teachers. A huge step took place when investors began to divest from the company, rejecting Reed Elsevier's ethical investment rating. Other grassroots activists also played a big part in keeping up the pressure. Members of the London Catholic Workers maintained a weekly vigil outside the headquarters of Reed Elsevier for almost a year. Activists

joined die-ins and spread the word at the London Book Fair, and supporters attended the company's Annual General Meeting to ask questions and protest peacefully. The support of people both inside the company and out meant that eventually Reed Elsevier couldn't ignore the call.

What it means for:

DSEi:

DSEi is almost certain to continue if a buyer is found. But Reed Elsevier is a global exhibitions organiser with vast resources, experience and clout. There is no guarantee that the arms fair will be as 'successful' as it has been in the past. But there is a wider threat to DSEi in that it has become a hot potato – a potential liability to any organisation that has an exhibition portfolio wider than arms fairs or deals in consumer products.

What is DSEi?

Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi) is one of the world's largest arms fairs. It takes place every other year in East London. In 2005 it played host to 25,000 trade, government and armed forces 'visitors' from around the globe in addition to the 86 official delegations from 52 countries. There are already 1121 companies registered for this year's DSEi. The thousands of buyers and sellers will mingle amongst the weaponry and disappear off into 'hospitality suites' for private discussions and negotiations. It all happens not only with government approval, but with its full political and financial support.

Campaign highlights

April 2005 CAAT launches the campaign and attends Reed Elsevier's AGM in order to question the board about the company's involvement in arms fairs.

September 2005 Open letter appears in the *Lancet*, coordinated by CAAT and Medact and signed by senior doctors and healthcare experts. This prompts the *Lancet's* editorial board to call on Reed Elsevier "to divest itself of all business interests that threaten human, and especially civilian, health and well-being".

March 2006 13 internationally renowned writers, including A.S Byatt, Ian McEwan and J.M. Coetzee call upon Reed Elsevier, organisers of the London Book Fair, to end their involvement in the global arms trade.

July 2006 London Catholic Worker begin weekly vigils outside the headquarters of Reed Elsevier on the Strand, London.

August 2006 Launch of two academics' petitions. Nearly two thousand academics sign.

February 2007 The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust announces it is selling nearly £2 million worth of shares in Reed in protest at the company's continued involvement in the arms trade. It also emerges that F&C Asset Management has divested from the company and removed Reed Elsevier from its ethical investment portfolios.

March 2007 In an open letter to the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, 138 academics from 17 countries call on Reed Elsevier to cease all involvement in arms fairs.

Three pages of letters from doctors and healthcare groups, including the Royal College of Physicians, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Doctors for Iraq and Medact are published in the *Lancet*. Again, the editorial board calls on Reed to cut its ties with the arms trade.

Editors of the *British Medical Journal*, often seen as the *Lancet's* closest competitor, lend their support to the campaign and, in solidarity with the *Lancet*, plead with Reed Elsevier to stop jeopardising the *Lancet's* good name by associating it with the arms trade.

April 2007 Peaceful protest outside Reed Elsevier's AGM, and 'token shareholders' again question the board.

May 2007 Lawyers' petition launched, highlighting the link between the arms fairs and Butterworths Lexis Nexis, which is owned by Reed and is one of the primary publishers of UK legal information.

June 2007 Reed announces that it is to get out of the arms trade.

Join the protests at DSEi this September

We must keep up pressure on DSEi in order to end Government support for the arms fair, and to dissuade potential buyers from taking on the event.

Tuesday 11th September: CAAT peaceful demonstration against DSEi

Meet at 11am, Plaistow Park, East London (nearest tube Plaistow). The demonstration will then move to the ExCeL Exhibition Centre (next to Custom House DLR station) for a rally at 12pm.

Monday 10th September: CAAT and ELAAF (East London Against the Arms Fair) are supporting a multi-faith candlelit vigil on the eve of the arms fair

Meet at 6:30pm, Royal Victoria DLR station.

Tuesday 11th September: One Day, Many Actions

Day of action against DSEi called by the Disarm DSEi direct action group.

For leaflets and more info see www.caat.org.uk or contact Anna@caat.org.uk

DSEi is beginning to gain the reputation it deserves. Those people who might have been sceptical of campaigners' arguments may be less likely to dismiss the withdrawal of a FTSE 100 company's involvement.

The Government:

The UK Government, and specifically the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO), co-organises DSEi. It must be at least a little embarrassing when your corporate colleagues pull out of a joint project on ethical grounds. This might be water off a duck's back were it not for the fact that DESO is under pressure from all sides and this will add to the squeeze. In particular, it will support those in government who question why public resources are used by DESO to help international arms companies sell their wares around the world.

The arms trade:

The exit of Reed Elsevier is another step towards delegitimising a trade that is propped up by the handouts and favours of governments. Just as those organising arms fairs try to present them as being simply another business opportunity, the arms industry likes to present itself as just another business sector. As this fallacy is steadily dispelled, it is less likely that the industry will receive the freedom to act and the government support on which it depends. ANNA JONES AND IAN PRICHARD

Top tips for an effective stall

Stalls are a core activity for activists and local groups. They are a simple way to raise awareness, build public pressure and recruit people to CAAT or to your local group. Below are some tips for preparing and running a great stall.

1 Decide your aims and message

Ask yourself "WHY are you doing the stall?" What is the message you hope to convey? Do you want to attract more members to your group? Publicise a campaign? Raise funds? Or get people to take action? It may be all of these, but it's useful to identify the main reason and focus on that. A themed stall will be more attractive and easy to understand.

2 Design a simple and professional display

Be selective in your display – stick to materials that relate to the campaign you are focussing on, along with any leaflets about your local group and a general CAAT leaflet. Try to think of an eye-catching idea to add to the impact of your stall, such as props, costumes, display boards or a competition to convey your theme creatively.

3 Find a good location

Is there anywhere nearby that fits with your theme? For example, if you are calling for Clean Investment, a spot outside the local council building would work well. Or you may want to just pick a busy area, such as your local high street, and check with the council if you can hold a stall there. Choose somewhere with a constant flow of pedestrians, but not so crowded that

passers-by won't be able to stop. It is also worth booking stalls at local festivals or fetes – as well as being fun, these can attract a lot of people.

4 Choose the right time

Find a day and time that suits everyone involved and when the spot you've chosen is busiest. Think about any relevant national or international days, such as Human Rights Day in December or a UN peace-related day, that could serve as a hook to attract local media attention.

5 Recruit and brief volunteers

Try to involve as many people as possible. You might want to pair those who are not confident talking to the public with more experienced people. Draw up a rota to safeguard against anyone overworking. Make sure all volunteers have been briefed beforehand about the main aim of the stall – it helps to send a briefing to volunteers in advance.

6 Acquire the necessary resources

CAAT can provide various materials for your stall – posters, campaign leaflets, postcards, petitions, briefings and badges. You will also need a fold-away table and tablecloth, paperweights and lots of pens and clipboards. You may also want to create a 'postbox' for people to post their signed postcards into. This can easily be done by cutting a slit in a cardboard box and painting it red. It's also worth taking a camera (digital preferably) so you can take photos of yourselves in action! Please get in touch if you have further ideas for materials that you would like CAAT to provide to help you run a stall.

7 Keep your eye on the stall

Make sure there are always one or two people standing at the stall to keep it looking tidy and talk to people who approach it.

8 Use attention grabbing 'openers'

You only have a few seconds to grab someone's attention so try using simple 'openers' to get them to stop. For example, "Would you like to sign a petition to stop the arms trade?" or "I don't want your money but could I ask you one quick question?" Once you have their attention you can tell them more about the campaign and ask them to take further action.

9 Be approachable

Smile and try to keep your body language open. But don't rely on people coming to you – give as many people clipboards as possible so they can draw people to the stall by approaching people passing by at a distance.

10 Follow up

Contact volunteers after the day – thank them for their help, tell them how successful the day was and ask if they have any ideas for improvement. Send any completed petition/sign-up sheets to CAAT, along with any photos or write-ups. Also, don't forget to send a few pictures to your local newspaper along with a short story about how the day went and why you did it.

BECCIE D'CUNHA

BAE and Saudi

Ann Feltham outlines how this relationship is never out of the news

The Al Yamamah ("dove") agreements of the mid-1980's were between the Thatcher government in the UK and the Saudi Arabian government. Military equipment, especially Tornado and Hawk jets, were to be supplied by the company that is now BAE Systems.

More recently, BAE has been promoting its Eurofighter Typhoons. Preliminary agreements between the UK and Saudi governments were signed in December 2005 and August 2006, but the detailed contract has not yet been agreed. This new package is known as Al Salam, or "peace". In addition to the Eurofighters, *Jane's Defence Weekly* has reported discussions on the sale of 60 BAE Hawk aircraft.

Prince Bandar

In mid-June the *Guardian* and the BBC *Panorama* programme alleged that BAE, with approval of the UK's Ministry of Defence, had made payments worth hundreds of millions of pounds over two decades to bank accounts under the personal control of Prince Bandar, the son of Prince Sultan, who has been the Saudi Defence Minister since 1962. Prince Sultan was described by the UK ambassador in 1971 as having "a corrupt interest in all contracts". The new reports said that BAE bought Prince Bandar an Airbus for £75 million and is continuing to pay its running costs.

These allegations suggest that, since 1985, successive UK governments have used Ministry of Defence bank accounts to facilitate corrupt payments to a foreign official. This is more serious than the widely-reported allegation of a £60 million "slush fund" run by BAE for the personal benefit of Saudi royals because it suggests the active involvement and complicity of the UK government.

The UK government is very heavily involved in all deals with Saudi Arabia, not least because about 200 of the Defence Export Services Organisation's 500 civil servants and military personnel work on the Saudi Armed Forces Project, paid for by the Saudi government.

US probe

On 26th June, BAE had to tell the London Stock Exchange that the United States Department of Justice was investigating the company's deals, including those to Saudi Arabia. Prince Bandar had been the Saudi Ambassador to the US and many of the BAE payments had been made to a Washington bank. The news of the investigation knocked eight per cent off BAE's share price in a day.

The US government has now formally requested all the Al Yamamah information from the UK government. Asked on 16th July if the UK government would co-operate, the Prime Minister's spokesperson said that this was a matter for BAE. The implication of this is most disturbing: it is that the Government will do what BAE wants. This is yet another illustration of where the real power resides.

Independent advice?

On 27th June the Serious Fraud Office Director Robert Wardle told the Commons' Constitutional Affairs Committee how he had concluded that a continuation of the inquiry into Al Yamamah would be a threat to national security. He said his decision was based on memoranda sent to the Attorney General by Tony Blair and accompanying papers from Sir Richard Mottram, Permanent Secretary, Intelligence, Security and Resilience in the Cabinet Office.

Mottram previously worked for the Ministry of Defence, heading it as Permanent Secretary from 1995 to 1998. Earlier in his career, in September 1985, when he was

Private Secretary to the Defence Secretary, Michael Heseltine, he prepared Margaret Thatcher's briefing for her meeting with Prince Sultan when the first Al Yamamah contract was signed. The same day, Mottram, along with Michael Heseltine and the head of the Defence Export Services Organisation, Colin Chandler, met both Princes Sultan and Bandar.

The ex-UK ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, was Robert Wardle's other source of information about the dangers to the UK. According to an article by Robert Fisk in the *Independent*, he was on very friendly terms with the Saudis.

Wanted – members for CAAT's Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is CAAT's ultimate decision-making body. It meets on four afternoons each year.

We are looking for supporters to stand for election to Steering Committee – if you are campaigning locally we'd particularly like to hear from you. To stand, you must have received *CAATnews* for more than 12 months. The nominations deadline is 11th October. For info contact Ann on 020 7281 0297 or ann@caat.org.uk

Register to vote

Elections will be held if more people are nominated than there are places. Ballot papers will only be sent to supporters or groups who have registered as wishing to vote. If you have not previously registered please return the enclosed postcard (remember to sign it) now.

Defence Diversification Agency

On 28th March 2007, the Ministry of Defence announced that the Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) will be closing later this year. CAAT does not mourn its passing.

Particularly in the '70s and '80s, when the numbers employed in the arms industry were far greater, CAAT, the unions and others campaigned for an arms conversion agency. This would help those who lost their jobs when arms exports were reduced or ended to use their skills for peaceful purposes.

These arguments persuaded the Labour Party to include the matter in its 1997 manifesto. This promised that military industry's expertise was to be "extended to civilian use through a defence diversification agency". The DDA was set up in January 1999, but it now had three objectives.

Two of these were the opposite of what the campaigners had wanted, as they dealt with using civil technologies for military purposes. Even the other objective only dealt with civil uses of military technology and not with the more general reorientation of the economy away from arms production.

This trend has continued since. Indeed, the MoD's statement announcing the closure gives six points of future contact for what had been different aspects of the DDA's work. Five of the six are about doing business with or supplying technology ideas to the MoD. Only one, Ploughshare Innovations Ltd, could be seen as having any connection with the arms conversion dreams, in that it looks for civil applications for the products of the Defence Science & Technology Laboratory.

Stop arming Israel

Last summer, as Israel's weaponry rained down on Lebanon, CAAT got together with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and War on Want to run a Stop Arming Israel campaign. A joint postcard just flew out of the office as people ordered tens or hundreds to give to friends and family, or to distribute in the street. The postcard included a tear-off section to send to MPs.

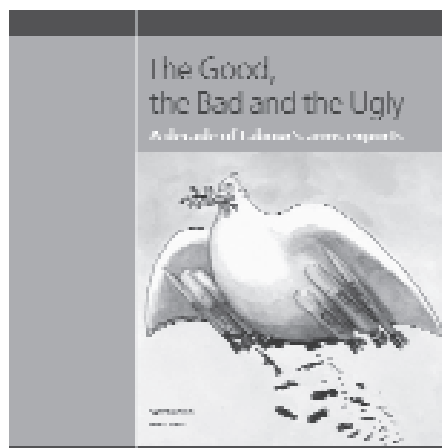
Now the groups have updated the postcard and produced a short briefing on the issue. You can see both on the CAAT website at www.caat.org.uk (then follow links to 'issues' and 'Israel'). Paper copy briefings plus postcards can be ordered, free of charge, from the CAAT office on 020 7281 0297 or enquiries@caat.org.uk

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly' is a new report examining the Labour government's record over the last decade. It shows that, all too often, what appear to be good policies on paper have been undermined by competing agendas. For example, there may be export licensing criteria and a new Export Control Act, but military equipment still went to Israel during the bombing of Lebanon and exports were promoted to India even when confrontation with Pakistan loomed.

The report can be downloaded from Saferworld on www.saferworld.co.uk/publications.php or ordered from 020 7324 4646.

ANN FELTHAM



Corporate mercenaries

Another collaborative effort – this time between CAAT, Amnesty UK and War on Want – has produced a postcard asking the Foreign Secretary to move towards legislation to regulate what are now known as Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs). At the moment there are no controls on PMSCs, which have far more personnel in Iraq than the UK armed forces.

You can see the postcard on the CAAT website at www.caat.org.uk (then follow links to 'issues' and 'Mercenaries'). Postcards can be ordered, free of charge, from the CAAT office on 020 7281 0297 or enquiries@caat.org.uk

Local authorities have more than £300 million invested in BAE

CAAT has launched its 2007 Clean Investment Figures, which detail arms company shareholdings of local authority pension funds. These include more than £300million in BAE Systems, held by 75 of the funds.

At the top of the list of known BAE holdings is West Yorkshire Pension Fund, with £27.9 million. It is followed by West Midlands (£16.8 million), Strathclyde (£11.5 million), Kent (£11.2 million), and Aberdeen (£10.6 million).

Another way of viewing the figures is to consider BAE holdings as a percentage of a local authority's total pension fund. Those with the largest known percentage holdings are shown in the chart ('LB' refers to London Borough). The actual percentages may be small but are far in excess of what might be expected given the size of BAE. The company makes up only 0.74 per cent of the FTSE all-share index and all the

pension funds have a range of other investments – for example, in company and government bonds, property and cash, not to mention overseas companies and indexes.

Ask your council what it is doing

Although the launch of these figures has featured in national and local media, local authorities are much more likely to take notice of the concerns of individual council taxpayers: letters/emails from campaigners are the bread and butter of this campaign. If you would be willing to take action, shareholding figures for all 17 investigated companies, and a brief guide to contacting your local authority, are available on the website (www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/clean-investment/) or from the office (cleaninvestment@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297).

If you intend to get in touch with your local authority over their investments or already have, please keep us up to date with the correspondence so we can build a picture of progress. IAN PRICHARD

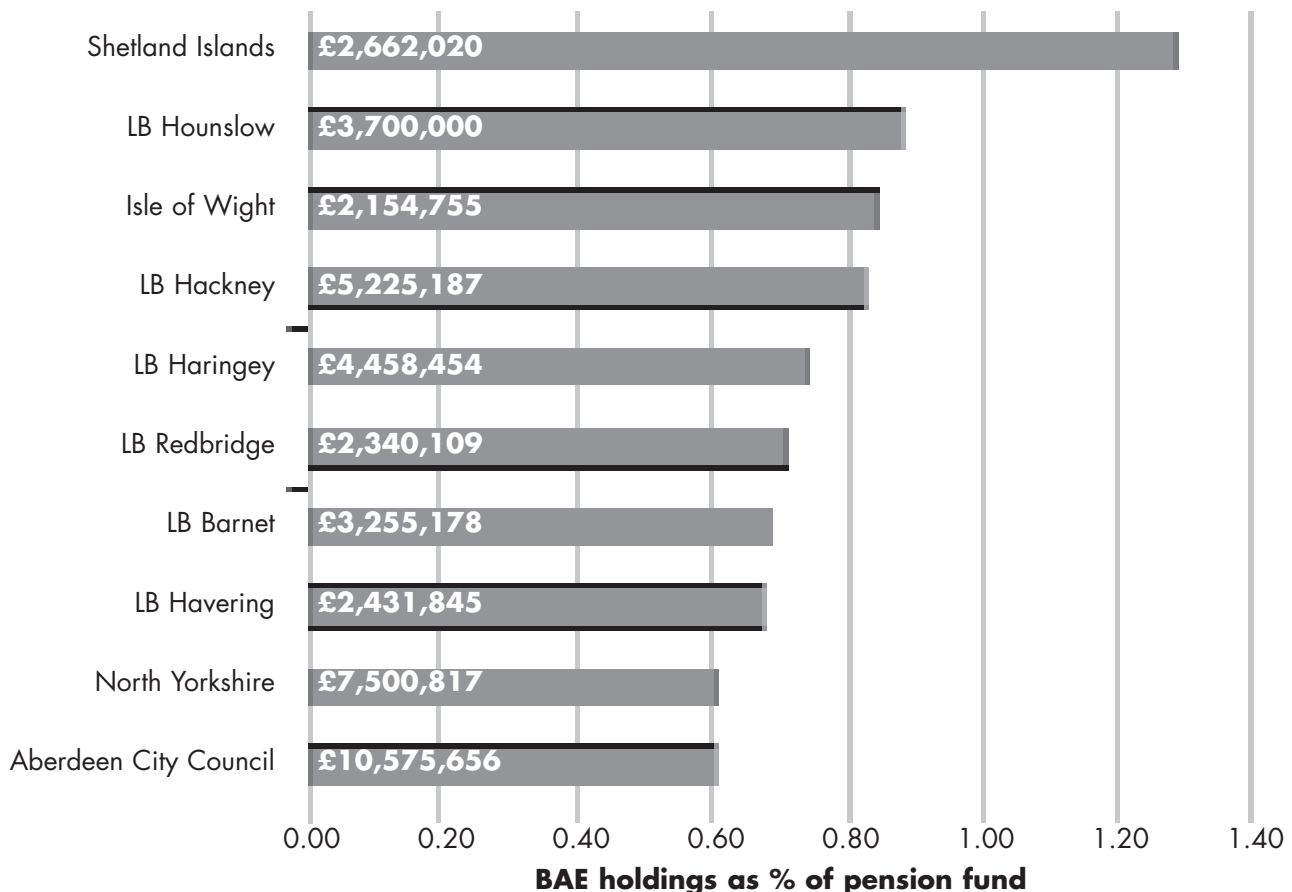
Clean investment diary date

20th September, 7pm

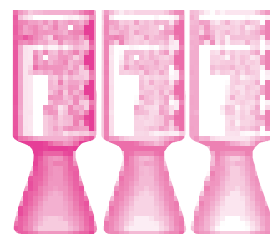
Potterow Chaplaincy, Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Public meeting: 'Ethical Investment, Edinburgh and BAE Systems'.

Speakers: John Watson (Amnesty Scotland), Julian Parrott (Ethical Futures), Maggie Chapman (Edinburgh Council, Green Party).



Fundraising



Workers Beer Company fundraising success

Huge thanks to all those who have already volunteered for CAAT with the Workers Beer Company at music festivals this year. More than a dozen CAAT supporters have braved the rain and mud at St Patrick's Day in Trafalgar Square, Glastonbury, Outsider and Latitude Festivals. At the time of writing we have raised more than £1,700 from these events and with three more major festivals still to take place we're sure to beat last year's fundraising total of £1,829.

CAAT team in Great South Run

In this issue of CAATnews you will find a sponsor form for the CAAT team in the Great South Run – Grace Drewell, Liam Scott and Rebecca Tully. Our thanks go to them for all

for the time and energy they are putting into training and fundraising.

Please show your support by sponsoring them either by sending a cheque in to the CAAT office with the enclosed form, or by making a secure online debit or credit card donation at www.bmycharity.com/caatgreatsouthrun

You can also support the team by asking friends, family and colleagues to sponsor them. Please let us know if you can help and we will send you some sponsorship forms.

Pledgebank

Some of you may already be aware of Pledgebank, a website where you can 'pledge' that you will do something... as long as other people pledge to join you.

People pledge to do all sorts of things (for example, write to their MP,

organise a diversity festival, use sustainable transport, set up a residents' association) and Pledgebank can also be a fantastic way of raising funds. Recently, CAAT volunteer Sara Hall set up a pledge to "donate £10 to help take the Government to court over their unlawful decision to stop a corruption inquiry into BAE Systems, but only if 20 other people will do the same". Within a month the challenge was met and she had raised £210 for CAAT!

So if you have a few minutes spare and would like to encourage others to support CAAT, why not set up a pledge at www.pledgebank.com and email it to your friends? When your pledge is met, you can ask them to donate online via the link on www.caat.org.uk

Transforming Peace Conflict by Peace

How can we transform the world around us? What is conflict transformation? And how does it apply to our daily life?

The Fellowship of Reconciliation's Called to be Peacemakers Conference is a residential weekend for 18 to 30 day-year olds who want to be challenged, gain practical skills and meet others who share their concern for peace. Places are only £40 before 1st Oct. Bursaries & subsidised places are available. Please come join us!

For more details call 01865 748 795
email martha@for.org.uk or visit
www.for.org.uk



**Called to be 26-28
Peacemakers Oct 2007**

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY
challenge the war machine militarily
at remembrance time and wear a

WHITE POPPY

for a culture of nonviolence

originally made by the widows and mothers of men killed in WW1, the white poppy became a symbol of protest at the time because it was seen as a lack of sympathy for the war effort. It is now used to challenge the belief that war is necessary.

order online or see project on one of the main sites for peace
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Call for catalogue of resources:
Pack of 1 white poppy: £4.00
Remembrance Day info pack: £1.00
Add postage & packing: £2.00
Check out our website: www.whitepoppy.org

and buy our new book: www.whitepoppy.org

STOP THE WAR
NO

a peace pledge union project

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 CAAT at enquiries@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 at 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 CAAT at enquiries@caat.org.uk

Diary date: CAAT National Gathering 2007

Saturday 24th November, 10am–6pm

South Camden Community College, Charrington Street, London, NW1 1RG

This has been one of the busiest and most successful years for CAAT – and we need your help to make next year even better. Join other CAAT supporters at CAAT's annual conference to discuss the issues, learn new skills and look forward to the campaign ahead.

The focus will be on our Control BAE campaign and ongoing work to end government support for the arms trade. With key-note speakers, this will be a great opportunity to share perspectives and discuss anti-arms trade campaigning. The day will include a variety of workshops to suit everyone – from long-term campaigners to those new to CAAT.

The day is free and includes vegetarian lunch. To book contact Anna: anna@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 02907.

Subscribe now!

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

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Campaigns diary

11 September

Peaceful demonstration against the DSEi Arms Fair. See pages 8 and 9.

23 September

Seriously Funny Comedy Gig. See page 6.

1 October

Faslane365 Big Blockade – Celebrate and Resist. All day peaceful blockade at the Faslane Naval Base near Helensburgh, Scotland. Contact info@faslane365.org or 0845 45 88 365

November

Control BAE month of action. See page 6. Control BAE Speaking tour. See page 6.

24 November

CAAT National Gathering 2007. See advert on page 15

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

Monthly

CAAT London Group Meeting, third Monday of the month at 6.30pm, The Driver pub, 2–4 Wharfedale Road, London N1 9RY (nearest tube Angel or Kings Cross). Contact Robin Yu at londoncaat@riseup.net.

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

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