


# CAAT*n*ews



*Just don't mention  
human rights  
or  
corruption and BAE*

## CAAT marks the Saudi visit

**Issue 205**  
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**CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST  
ARMS  
TRADE**



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

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

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COVER: CAAT

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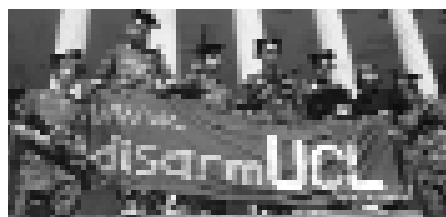
**Foreign military contractors at the scene of a bomb attack in Baghdad, October 3, 2007. See page 11**

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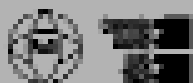
# Military involvement exposed

The Fellowship of Reconciliation and CAAT recently launched *Study War No More*, a research project investigating military funding of research and development within UK universities. Using raw data collected from a cross section of twenty-six universities from across the UK, the project examines the influence that military companies such as BAE Systems, QinetiQ, and Rolls Royce exert within university departments.

## STUDY WAR NO MORE



Military Involvement  
in UK universities



Through the Freedom of Information Act, the selected universities were asked what funding their departments, spin-off companies and students received from a list of specific military companies.

The data reveals that all of the twenty-six universities received funding from the military companies on the list. Many received high levels of funding for specialist areas, and particular departments; the majority going to engineering, chemistry, physics, and computer sciences. Twenty of the universities are members of the Russell Group, an association of research-intensive universities which boasts of securing '65 per cent (over £1.8 billion) of UK

universities' research grant and contract income' in 2004/2005.

### Nottingham

At one of the universities covered, Nottingham University, the report revealed that between 2001 and 2006 the university received a minimum of around forty different contracts for research and development from military organisations across its departments. These include Nottingham's Institute of Engineering, Surveying and Space Geodesy, School of Mathematical Sciences, Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre, and George Green Institute. These contracts are for varying time periods, and values that range from £15,000 to almost £10 million. The military organisations discussed in the report are private companies or government departments that dedicate a significant amount of their work to the design, development, production and/or selling of weapons. At the University of Nottingham, R&D funders include BAE Systems, the fourth largest arms company in the world, and the biggest within the UK. A Nottingham University physics student who has been shown the data said: 'I was surprised by how much there was going on' before continuing to admit 'most of the team don't consider it military research and certainly haven't thought through the consequences of it in that context'.

### Ongoing work

*Study War No More* is an analysis of a specific area in which military companies influence young people of today. It is hoped that the project will become an organic document – one that will continue to grow as the raw data is collected, thus becoming a self-updating record of military funding of research and development within UK universities.

The aim of *Study War No More* is to contribute to the growing

awareness and concern for transparency, honesty and accountability within research and development. Acting as a direct challenge to the secrecy that has traditionally surrounded military research and development, the report challenges future generations to make informed choices about their education, and how it is provided.

With thanks to Martha Beale for her contribution to this article. For copies of the report *Study War No More*, contact the CAAT office on 020 7281 0297 or [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk), or see the order form on the back page of this issue of *CAATnews*.

## Universities covered in the report

Queens University Belfast  
Birmingham  
University of Bristol  
University of Cambridge  
University of Cardiff  
Cranfield University  
University of Durham  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow  
University of Hull  
Imperial College London  
Kings College London  
University of Leeds  
University of Liverpool  
University of Loughborough  
London School of Economics  
University of Manchester  
University of Nottingham  
University of Oxford  
University of Sheffield  
University of Southampton  
University of Swansea  
University College London  
University of Warwick  
University of York

## BAE Systems news

### Turner resigns

Mike Turner, Chief Executive of BAE Systems, has resigned unexpectedly, saying he will step down when his contract ends in August 2008.

Turner has had a difficult relationship with BAE Chair Dick Olver, who is keen to see a change in the company's corporate governance and business practices.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 17/10/07

### UK down on ethics

The UK's ranking on business ethics has dropped from fourth to fourteenth, according to a league table on international business competitiveness. The fall is thought to be linked to the Serious Fraud Office's decision to drop its investigation into BAE Systems. The business league table, the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, measures the attractiveness of doing business around the world.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, 1/11/07

### Deals

BAE Systems lost out to a consortium led by France's Thales and US company Boeing on a multibillion-pound Ministry of Defence contract to supply armoured vehicles to the British Army. BAE is still in the running for secondary contracts, though will be disappointed not to win the project management role.

Small comfort came from BAE winning a £650m deal with the Australian Army.

INDEPENDENT, 6/10/07; DAILY TELEGRAPH, 6/10/07

### Hawk not wanted

BAE has been dropped from a tender to supply military training jets to the United Arab Emirates – the first time that the company has pitched its Hawk trainer for a contract and not won.

Then Prime Minister Tony Blair was urged to lobby on behalf of BAE's tender when he visited Abu Dhabi and Dubai last December.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, 31/10/07

In a separate \$1.1bn deal, Saab is to provide the Royal Thai Air Force with 14 Gripen fighter planes.

DEFENSE NEWS, 1/10/07; JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 24/10/07

## Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's military budget is to increase by nearly 20 per cent. The reasons given for the increase are twofold: the dwindling Sri Lankan rupee compared to the US dollar and the escalation in fighting between government forces and the Tamil Tigers.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 7/11/07

## Egypt

The Egyptian government is hoping to buy about 2000 US missiles and associated equipment, with Raytheon as the prime contractor in the deal. A spokesperson from the US Defense Security Co-operation Agency said that the sale would contribute to US foreign policy and national security.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 2/11/07

## Israel

US officials are working on a potential \$1.2bn arms deal with the Israel Air Force. Some in the Israeli arms industry are said to be alarmed at the huge amount to be spent on US rather than Israeli arms.

DEFENSE NEWS, 1/10/07

## Iraq request

Iraq has requested a \$2.3bn arms package from the US in order to boost its inventory of small arms, aviation and military vehicles.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 3/10/07

## Planes to Iran

China and Russia may have agreed to supply fighter planes to Iran. A Russian state-controlled news agency has confirmed the rumour, despite China denying it. Iran's aviation

## Mercenaries told to leave Namibia

Two US citizens involved in a Private Security – or mercenary – Company have been deported from Namibia after the government there shut down their business. The two were planning to recruit about 4,000 Namibians to guard US military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Namibian Information Minister said: 'the involvement of Namibian nationals in such armed conflicts has serious short- and long-term national security implications on the interests of Namibia.'

THE NAMIBIAN (WINDHOEK), 15/10/07

## Mercenaries

The US Department of Defense is looking for better co-ordination between the activities of Private Security Companies and military commanders in Iraq, saying that the two are currently 'at cross purposes'.

The Bush administration recently gave partial immunity to staff from the mercenary firm Blackwater, despite their involvement in the killing of Iraqi civilians.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 31/10/07; INDEPENDENT, 31/10/07

## Thailand

Thailand's Cabinet has approved a \$242m arms deal that includes Israeli small arms, Ukrainian armoured personnel vehicles and Chinese missiles.



industry is not keen on working with Russian manufacturers, so Chinese involvement in aircraft deals may mean that Iran can develop more modern aircraft technology.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 31/10/07

## Pakistan

MBDA has agreed to supply the Pakistan Air Force with an air defence system produced by Italian division MBDA Italia. Italian company Galileo Avionica has also agreed to sell its Falco UAV to Pakistan. Italy's Finmeccanica group has a stake in both companies.

Meanwhile, French authorities have approved deals between Thales and MBDA with Pakistan.

DEFENSE NEWS, 22/10/07

## South Korea

Korea Aerospace Industries and EADS' Eurocopter unit have agreed a joint venture to market South Korean helicopters.

South Korea has also announced that it is close to concluding orders with Singapore, Greece and the United Arab Emirates for the export of a Korean Aerospace Industries jet trainer. DEFENSE NEWS, 22/10/07; JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 24/10/07

## Helicopters

Officials at Pratt & Whitney Canada (P & WC) have said they don't know how helicopter engines sold to China for civilian craft ended up on attack helicopters.

It is not yet clear whether the deal violated US restrictions on military exports to China. Canada has no formal arms embargo on China but generally does not export arms to the country.

China is a great draw as a market for helicopters and is expected to buy \$84bn-worth by 2020.

DEFENSE NEWS, 15/10/07

## Arms promotion

Australia has created a Defence Export Unit (DEU) to increase exports of its military goods. The move comes at a time when the UK government has announced the closure of its equivalent, DESO.

France has set up a unit that aims not just to sell arms, but to sell them as quickly as possible. A senior official said, 'We have to take political and military decisions very quickly and deals need to be made as a matter of urgency.'

DAILY TELEGRAPH, 25/10/07; JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 5/9/07

## Japan

The Japanese Ministry of Defence (MoD) has rejected calls for change in the policy that effectively bans the export of military goods. Military company Lockheed Martin and Nippon Keidanren (the Japanese Business Federation) have called for the ban to be lifted.

JANE'S DEFENCE INDUSTRY, NOVEMBER 07

## India

In a written reply to Parliament, the Indian Minister of Defence Production has revealed that the country's state-owned military enterprises exported products worth \$104.8m during 2006 – 2007. Recipients included Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

BAE Systems is in advanced negotiations to buy a \$1bn minority stake in an Indian military company. The company is aiming to increase its presence in Asia.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 12/9/07; OBSERVER, 21/10/07

## ITT buys EDO

ITT has reached an agreement to buy EDO Corporation in a deal worth \$1.7bn. EDO's products include weapons systems and communications and electronic warfare.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 26/9/07

## BAE Systems: the statistics

**World rank, all companies**  
306th

(SOURCE: FORTUNE GLOBAL 500, 2007)

**World rank by military revenue**  
3rd

(SOURCE: WWW.DEFENSENEWS.COM)

**2006 military revenue**  
\$25,071m

(SOURCE: WWW.DEFENSENEWS.COM)

**% of revenue that is military**  
93%

(SOURCE: WWW.DEFENSENEWS.COM)

### Location of employees

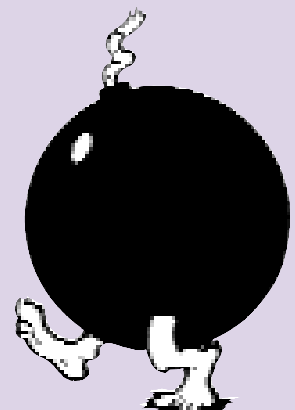
<b>US</b>	35,447
<b>UK</b>	31,544
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	4,556
<b>Australia</b>	2,771
<b>Other</b>	4,682

(SOURCE: BAE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY REPORT 2006, EXCLUDES JOINT VENTURES)

### Customer location by sales

<b>US &amp; Canada</b>	£5,402m
<b>UK</b>	£2,802m
<b>Rest of Europe</b>	£2,704m
<b>Middle East</b>	£1,993m
<b>Asia and Pacific</b>	£595m
<b>Africa, Central &amp; South America</b>	£269m

(SOURCE: BAE ANNUAL REPORT 2006)



# An unlikely source

**Former student Tom Taylor talks to Kathrin Betz about a prize that he received from BAE Systems and the reasons why he decided to donate it to us**

**What did you receive the prize money for?**

I was the most improved student over the course of my Systems Engineering degree at Loughborough University, in terms of grades.

**Who did you receive it from?**

The money and certificate came along with the confirmation of my degree result, a few weeks after my exams. The cheque was from a BAE Systems account and signed by one of their staff members.

**Why did you donate it to CAAT?**

I've been a vocal minority against BAE Systems' involvement in my course during my time there, and felt



**Tom Taylor** RACHEL PHILLIPS

that taking money from the company was hypocritical and wrong. It's not that they would have gained anything from it, but more that it condones their actions.

I've also been a supporter of CAAT and its work, often using the website for reference when I needed evidence to back up my arguments. Giving the money to CAAT was a great way of highlighting the issue and made me chuckle a bit too!

**In what way did BAE get involved in your degree course?**

BAE Systems dominated the steering committee for my course, had a large research and development base on campus, and a permanent liaison to the 90 per cent of my course that it sponsored. Certain elements of the course were tailored to BAE's requirements.

**Why do you think that is a problem?**

I believe that university should remain distinct from industry, and that it should be using its neutrality to promote ideals about the world in which we wish to live – researching clean energy, improvements in healthcare and communications for all.

See also Tom's blog at <http://www.tomtaylor.co.uk/blog/>

# Goodbye Anna

Anna Jones, who has been CAAT's Actions & Events Coordinator for almost three years, is leaving CAAT to campaign with Greenpeace on climate change.

Anna says: 'I've had a brilliant three years at CAAT, and have been honoured to be part of such amazing achievements in that time. I'm really sad to be leaving, particularly at such an exciting time, but will be staying in touch and doing my best to take part in future campaigning. CAAT is a fantastic organisation to be part of and I will always have huge respect for its radicalism, dynamism and creativity.

It's been amazing to be part of an organisation that can take on BAE and the Government despite being a fraction of their size! Thanks to everyone who's been part of CAAT's



actions, events and campaigns whilst I've been here, making them all possible. I've enjoyed meeting you all and working with you, and I'll really miss you all a lot!

We'd like to wish Anna all the best and send her off with a massive thankyou for all her fantastic work.

## Office Coordinator

The smooth and efficient operation of CAAT's office and the provision of campaign materials to CAAT's supporters is key to achieving CAAT's aims.

The Office Coordinator will ensure that this happens, having an overview of the office and all relevant systems, and ensuring that they are integrated into CAAT's campaign strategy. Much of the work will be undertaken alongside the many volunteers who are crucial to CAAT's work.

The post is part-time (3 days per week). Salary: £25,584 pro rata. Closing date: Wednesday 19th December.

For more information visit [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk) or send an A4 70p SAE to the CAAT office.

# Liverpool is 'Capital of Conscience'

Campaigners in Merseyside have made headlines recently, with three out of the five councils in the area calling on Pension Fund managers to ditch shares in arms companies.

Liverpool City Council started the trend, following a campaign by local activists. Mark Holt, Chair of Merseyside Stop the War Coalition, made an impassioned plea to the Council, expressing his horror at the Pension Fund's investments in companies such as BAE, Rolls-Royce and Boeing. Liberal Democrat Councillor Richard Oglethorpe then proposed a motion to the Council insisting that 'investment in the arms trade is not compatible with good corporate, social and ethical governance'.

At a historic Council meeting on 17th October, the motion was carried unanimously.

The Council Leader, Warren Bradley, wrote to the four other councils covered by Merseyside Pension Fund. He urged them to take the same view.

It was only three weeks later that both Knowsley and St Helen's Councils voted overwhelmingly to call on the Pension Fund to pull out of arms companies. Votes are expected shortly at the other two councils in Merseyside - Sefton and Wirral.

Councillors have insisted that Merseyside Pension Fund must listen to the views of its member councils. CAAT supporters in the area are hopeful that the fund may soon adopt a clean investment policy that rules out the arms trade. As Mark Holt put it, 'We can hold our head up as next year's Capital of Culture. We've shown that we're also the Capital of Conscience!' SYMON HILL

## Huddersfield CAAT protest over BAE investments

In October, CAAT campaigners and trade union members in Huddersfield mounted a protest outside the annual meeting of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund. They called on the Council to divest itself of the £27.9 million of shares it holds in BAE Systems. The action was successful in raising awareness amongst the public and the members of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund. The campaign also got local press coverage, for example, in the *Weekend Examiner* newspaper, which printed an article and photo.

To get involved in Huddersfield CAAT, please contact Beccie at the CAAT office – [beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk)

# Sheila McKechnie Foundation Awards for campaigners

The Sheila McKechnie Foundation is committed to equipping under-resourced and novice campaigners with the skills needed to make their voice heard and achieve positive change.

The Foundation has been set up to commemorate the life of Dame Sheila McKechnie, a dedicated and effective campaigner who spent much of her life championing change. Sheila empowered individuals to recognise and assert their rights and made governments and businesses understand, embrace and respond to the issues she campaigned on.

The Foundation's annual awards programme gives people the advice and support needed to better

influence both local and national government. Programme participants receive one-to-one mentoring, opportunities to meet and shadow senior decision-makers and coaching sessions with experts in their area. Last year, CAAT volunteer Tim Street was runner up in the conflict resolution category for the work he has done on CAAT's Universities Clean Investment campaign, and took part in a training and coaching programme.

For anyone actively seeking change, this is a fantastic opportunity to develop expertise and learn how to take a campaign to the next level.

Applications for the 2008 awards open in December 2007 and close at the end of February 2008. For

more information on the programme and how to apply please contact Miranda on 020 7770 7892, email [awards@sheilamckechne.org.uk](mailto:awards@sheilamckechne.org.uk) or visit the Foundation's website [www.sheilamckechne.org.uk](http://www.sheilamckechne.org.uk)

**We welcome all your news and views so please keep sending them in! We are particularly interested in reports on what your group got up to during the Control BAE month of action. Please send to Beccie at the office – [beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk)**

# Control BAE

## Reopen the Saudi corruption inquiry

**We've won our first victory – the right to take the Government to court over its decision to put BAE and Saudi royals above the law. But now, in the run up to the judicial review hearing, it is more important than ever that we show the government and the court that the public want to see the Saudi-BAE corruption inquiry reopened. In these two pages Beccie D'Cunha outlines how the Control BAE campaign is hitting the streets.**

### CAAT protests at Saudi royal visit

When the Saudi dictator King Abdullah visited the UK at the end of October, he found the Mall in London lined by arms protesters as he travelled in ceremony for a banquet at Buckingham Palace. The demonstration included activist comedian Mark Thomas, human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell and a CAAT supporter dressed up as the Queen!

The protest received lots of media coverage and definitely gave King Abdullah quite a surprise. It was really successful overall: our aim was to shock and embarrass the Saudi royals, and we definitely did this. The *Financial Times* report on the visit said: 'The Saudis were, in the words of one former British diplomat, "under considerable shock" as they faced the most intense wave of disapproval received by the king on a foreign visit in recent years.'

### Speaking tour of the UK

At the time of writing, CAAT and The Corner House have completed seven of the nine stops on the Control BAE speaking tour. We have visited Norwich, Birmingham, Cardiff, Chichester, Hull, Sheffield and Manchester to raise awareness of the need to put pressure on the Government to reopen the Saudi-BAE corruption inquiry. Edinburgh and Newcastle are the final destinations in the tour. The public meetings have been really successful thanks to all the hard work put in by all the local co-ordinators.

At each of the public meetings, there has been a speaker from CAAT and a speaker from either The Corner House (a human rights and social justice organisation, [www.thecornerhouse.org.uk](http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk)) or Unicorn (an anti-corruption organisation, [www.againstcorruption.org](http://www.againstcorruption.org)). In Norwich and Manchester supportive local MPs Norman Lamb and John Leech also took the platform to speak about their own campaigns to stop BAE corruption.

With up to 50 people at each meeting, and local media coverage achieved for many of the talks, we have got the campaign message out to a wide audience and encouraged lots of grassroots campaigning on this issue.

Short write-ups and photos of each event – plus details of local follow-up meetings – can be found at [http://www.caat.org.uk/events/november\\_tour.php](http://www.caat.org.uk/events/november_tour.php).

If you would like a Control BAE speaker to come to your area, please contact [beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk)

### Month of Action

November was CAAT's designated Control BAE month of action, during which campaigners and groups around the UK raised awareness of the campaign in various creative ways. Anti-arms trade campaigners in Warwick University organised a day of action to protest against 12 arms companies coming to their Engineering and Technology careers fair. Barnaby Pace, one of the campaigners writes:

'We had a great day – we did the normal leafletting and petitioning of all the people entering and leaving the

**'We have got the campaign message out to a wide audience and encouraged lots of grassroots campaigning on this issue'**

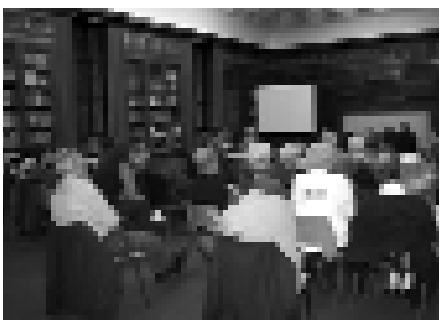
careers fair, we sold peace poppies and sent postcards off to MPs. We had some people dressed up as eye-catching zombies and others dressed up as corporate types promoting BAE Systems and handing out free sweets (as recruiting companies do) – which were in fact mutilated jelly babies. This worked very well as many students who avoided the protestors were willing to talk to the corporate-looking types. We had a samba band in the





**A special welcome for the Saudi royals** BECCIE D'CUNHA

morning combined with some speeches. Then, at 2.45pm, 11 grim reapers simultaneously appeared in the careers fair next to arms companies' stalls. We hid our death costumes (including extendable scythes!) under jackets and in backpacks to get past security. I was



**The speaking tour in Cardiff**

KATHRIN BETZ

escorted out of the fair by the police within about 30 seconds but others were in for around 5 minutes. Our details were taken but no further action was taken against any of us for the stunts. In fact, security and the police were happy that the stunt was nonviolent and wasn't disruptive to the students looking for jobs with the other 45 legitimate companies at the fair.

It was a really successful day. We got a good amount of local and student media coverage and raised a lot of awareness on campus. We were told by the police that at least one company pulled out of the fair due to there being a protest and the university careers service was not happy about the protest, so it has had some effect. We now have meetings set up with the local MP,

## Al Yamamah court case given go-ahead

On 9th November CAAT and The Corner House were granted permission to have a full judicial review hearing against the UK government's decision, citing 'national security', to cut short a Serious Fraud Office (SFO) investigation into alleged corruption by BAE Systems in the Al Yamamah arms deals with Saudi Arabia.

Our lawyers argued that the SFO decision was unlawful under the OECD's Anti-Bribery Convention, which the UK signed in 1997. This forbids the termination of corruption investigations on grounds other than the merits of the case. Lord Justice Moses agreed and said that the matter 'cries out for a public hearing' because it involves 'matters of concern and public importance'. He stressed that the issue was closely concerned with the legal system in this country that 'judges have to protect' and concluded that 'it is in everyone's interest that a full hearing take place'.

CAAT and The Corner House celebrated the ruling, which demonstrated that no one is above the law – not even the UK government, BAE or the Saudi princes. The full judicial review hearing is expected to last two days and take place in the first few months of 2008. (Also see page 12). ANN FELTHAM

Jim Cunningham, and are hoping to get some meetings with the university.'

If you took part in the month of action, please post or email your write-ups and photos to Beccie at the office ([beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk)).

# Recent publications



## Bribing for Britain: Government collusion in arms sales corruption

Written by author and trade unionist Tim Webb, *Bribing for Britain* is the perfect companion to the widespread media coverage that followed and continues to follow the termination of the Serious Fraud Office investigation into BAE Systems' deals with Saudi Arabia. In an accessible, highly readable account, he pulls together the major events and players and provides all the key background, context and analysis.

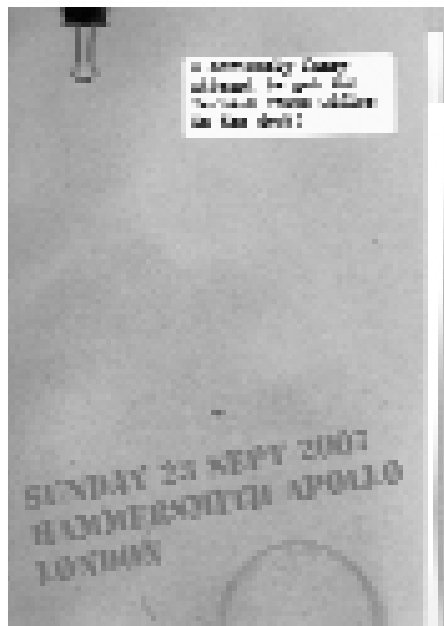
Webb's writing is rooted in his experience of the arms industry. He dealt with the main arms companies as Assistant General Secretary of the MSF trade union (now part of Unite). His book *The Armour-Plated Ostrich: the Hidden Costs of Britain's*

*Addiction to the Arms Business* was published in 1998.

The booklet is available on the CAAT website [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk) or can be ordered from the CAAT office on 020 7281 0297.

## A seriously funny attempt to get the Serious Fraud Office in the dock!

Last September comedians including Mark Thomas, Jo Caulfield, Simon Amstell, Ed Byrne, Josie Long, Mark Steel, Omid Djalili, Robin Ince, Stewart Lee, Russell Brand, MC Phil Nichol and special guest Bill Bailey played a benefit gig at the Hammersmith Apollo in London in support of CAAT and The Corner House's legal challenge to get the Serious Fraud Office investigation reopened.



The gig was hugely successful. The venue was packed and the event raised over £40,000. To accompany the excellent stage performances, the gig programme contained a series of accessible articles outlining the background to the Control BAE campaign and the issues involved. The programme is still available from the CAAT office – contact 020 7281 0297 or [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk)

## STUDY WAR NO MORE



## Study War No More: Military involvement in UK universities

See page 3

This issue of *CAATnews* includes an order form to get hold of recent publications and other materials – see the back page

# Corporate mercenaries

**Ruth Tanner, Senior Campaigns Officer at War on Want, suggests that these are now out of control**

In September this year, employees of US private military company Blackwater killed 17 Iraqi civilians in Baghdad. In October, guards from Unity Resources Group, a security firm run by former Australian army personnel, killed two Iraqis. In the same month, guards working for UK group Erinys International opened fire on a taxi near Kirkuk, wounding three civilians. In November, an Iraqi taxi driver was shot and killed by a guard with DynCorp International, a private security company hired to protect American diplomats.

These are just the most recent accounts of human rights abuses and civilian killings by employees of Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) in Iraq. There have been hundreds of human rights violations by mercenary troops, yet not a single prosecution has been brought against them.

All foreign contractors were granted immunity from prosecution in Iraq by virtue of order 17 of the Coalition Provisional Authority, one of Paul Bremer's final acts before handing over power in summer 2004. In the wake of the Blackwater massacre the Iraqi government is attempting to bring in legislation to bring contractors under the control of Iraqi law.

Recent years have seen a new evolution in privatised warfare: today's mercenaries are not just soldiers of fortune; they are corporations. The PMSC industry comprises hundreds of companies operating in more than 50 countries worldwide and working for governments, international institutions and corporations. They provide combat support including training

and intelligence provision, operational support, strategic planning and consultancy, technical assistance, post-conflict reconstruction and a wide range of security provision.

## UK involvement

These companies are making a financial killing out of war. Iraq has turned this into a multi-billion pound industry and UK firms are amongst the biggest winners. Estimates have suggested the total income for the private security sector worldwide has reached about £50 billion a year. UK companies saw their annual income grow six fold in the first year of the Iraqi occupation alone. A third of all US reconstruction money and a quarter of all UK reconstruction money has gone on PMSCs.

One UK company, Armorgroup has just won the UK government's £20 million annual contract for security services in Afghanistan. Another UK company Aegis Defence Services, run by former Sandline International chief executive Tim Spicer of the 1998 'Arms to Africa' scandal, has won a new contract with the Pentagon worth half a billion dollars over the next two years.

Blackwater President Gary Jackson, has made clear his intentions. He would like to develop, in his own words: 'the largest, most professional private army in the world'. Others are more circumspect, preferring to legitimise their activities in war zones as 'security' and the rather Kafkaesque 'peace building'.

However, in a conflict environment like Iraq, the distinction between security and combat breaks down. There is often no perceptible difference between regular soldiers and private support workers involved in protecting convoys or materials. PMSCs have become so much a part of war efforts that some major Western countries, like the UK and

US, would now struggle to wage war without them.

This recent and very rapid expansion of PMSCs means that there is an urgent need to bring their activities under legal and democratic control. The absence of legal accountability in the country of operation makes it doubly essential that there is legislation governing PMSCs in their home country. The UK has no regulations governing the private military and security industry, despite the fact that its employees regularly operate in life-and-death situations and are currently taking over more and more functions of our own armed forces.

## Rein in

The UK government demonstrated that it was aware of many of the problems posed by PMSCs when it published a Green Paper on the issue in 2002. In its response to this, the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee recommended that 'private companies be expressly prohibited from direct participation in armed combat operations'. Since 2002, however, the UK government has failed to introduce legislation to take forward any of the options presented in the Green Paper.

In October, the United Nations working group on mercenaries renewed its call for the UK government to introduce legislation to regulate the private military sector and to guard against the 'inherent dangers' of privatising the use of violence in war zones. Corporate mercenaries have reaped huge profits from the conflict and at the expense of human rights in Iraq. The latest shootings in Iraq underline the need for the UK government to stop UK mercenaries operating in war zones. The Government must act now to bring these companies within the law.

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

# Freedom of Information

CAAT staff and researchers have been using the Freedom of Information Act ever since it came into force at the beginning of 2005. Some of their early requests have now gone right through the process from initial request to decisions by the Information Commissioner and are awaiting oral hearings with the Information Tribunal. Not altogether surprisingly, Saudi Arabia features in these.

In January, CAAT's requests for two Memoranda of Understanding, dating from 1986 and 1988, with respect to BAE Systems' Al Yamamah arms deal, will be heard. The original request was also for two more Memoranda of Understanding, but CAAT researcher Nicholas Gilby subsequently found them in the National Archive. The Ministry of Defence is citing the UK's relations with Saudi Arabia and commercial

interests as its reasons for withholding the documents and is calling the UK Ambassador to Saudi Arabia to give evidence on its behalf. CAAT's witnesses, making the case that the release of these documents is in the public interest, include Liberal Democrat Acting Leader Vincent Cable MP and former Foreign Office diplomat Carne Ross. Nicholas Gilby's own request for documents relating to even earlier Saudi deals, where there is already considerable evidence of corruption, will overlap and have some witnesses in common. Another CAAT appeal, for information about export credit support for the Al Yamamah deal, will be heard in March.

The Information Tribunal hearings are open to the public. Contact Ann on 020 7281 0297 or [ann@caat.org.uk](mailto:ann@caat.org.uk) if you would like further details. ANN FELTHAM

## Court gives green light for review of BAE decision

CAAT's Control BAE campaign took a huge leap forward on 9th November, when the High Court gave the go-ahead for a judicial review of the Government's decision on BAE's Saudi arms deals.

The court's ruling means that a hearing will be held in the new year to determine whether the Government broke the law by cutting short the Serious Fraud Office investigation into BAE's arms sales to the brutal Saudi regime. The application was brought to the court by CAAT along with The Corner House, an NGO much respected for campaigns against corruption.

The hearing will take place around February. This will be the judicial review that CAAT has long been seeking. The term 'judicial review' refers to a hearing that considers

whether a public body – such as the Government – has acted illegally.

The Government's lawyers tried to argue that there was no case for holding a judicial review. They didn't get very far with this argument in court.

The judge, Justice Moses, quickly declared that the issue involved 'matters of concern and public importance'. It was not long before he said that 'plainly, it cries out for hearing' and ruled that the judicial review would proceed.

The court's decision appeared prominently in news bulletins for the rest of the day, and in the next day's papers. In the hours following the news, the CAAT office was flooded with messages of support and shares in BAE fell by 1.4 per cent.

## Exposé prize

Congratulations to *Guardian* journalists David Leigh and Rob Evans, who have won the 2007 Paul Foot award for investigative journalism. The two have unearthed story after story about bribery and the arms trade, including the £60 million 'slush fund' that prompted the Serious Fraud Office investigation (which was then stopped by the government last December). Another story dug up by the two was this summer's revelation of £1 billion of payments from BAE Systems to Saudi Prince Bandar via a UK government account. The full story of the investigations is documented on the BAE Files website at [www.guardian.co.uk/armstrade](http://www.guardian.co.uk/armstrade). The award was shared with Deborah Wain of the *Doncaster Free Press*.

## EDM 595

Early Day Motion 595, which called for the BAE-Saudi corruption inquiry to be reopened, is now closed. It was signed by 125 MPs from all parties.

BECCIE D'CUNHA

The judicial review will give lawyers for CAAT and The Corner House the chance to put their case. They will argue that the Government broke the international OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, which rules out ending an investigation for the sake of relations with another state. When the investigation was dropped in December 2006, Tony Blair said that the decision was made because 'our relationship with Saudi Arabia is vitally important'.

The judicial review hearing will be a vital moment for justice in the UK. It is of concern to everyone concerned about arms companies' influence within Government and to anyone who believes that the rich and powerful should not be above the law. SYMON HILL



# DESO closure

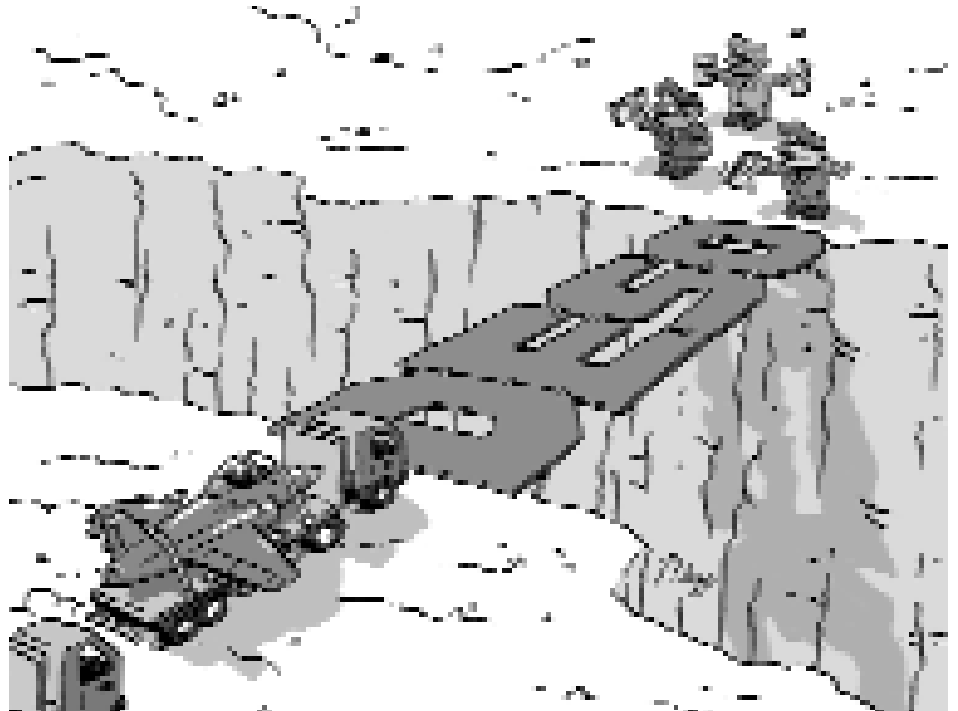
## Ann Feltham explores what happens next for the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO)

For years CAAT has been researching the massive influence of the arms companies, especially BAE Systems, on government. It is therefore amusing that on 17th October during a debate about the closure of DESO, Conservative Shadow Defence Minister Gerald Howarth MP asked 'which officials in the Ministry of Defence and the Treasury are either themselves in the Campaign Against Arms Trade or have family members who are involved.' It is clear that Mr Howarth had been reading *CAATnews* and our website and, assuming he continues to do so, we can tell him that there are none that we know of.

The decision to shut DESO, the government's arms sales unit, was announced by the Prime Minister in July. The arms industry was furious at the news. Gordon Brown also announced that military export promotion would be the responsibility of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the body that supports all UK exports. Meanwhile, agreements between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and other governments, primarily Saudi Arabia, will continue to be administered by the MoD.

### A more 'normal' footing

Cabinet Office officials have told CAAT that shutting DESO should not be seen as a move towards ending the arms industry. Rather, they claim it will put the Government's relationship with the industry on a more normal footing, similar to that with other industries, ending the military industry's status as a special case. Initially, there will be a 'defence sector unit' in UKTI and it will be the largest of what are currently about forty sectors. The head of the sector will answer to the head of the whole of UKTI and will



be on a lower civil service grade than that currently held by the head of DESO. It is not yet known how many of DESO's 500 staff will go to UKTI. We know from *Hansard* of the 29th October that between the date of the announcement and 12th October some 33 staff left, mostly to take up other positions in the MoD or armed forces.

Some money will go from the MoD to UKTI, which is normal when departments are restructured. However, the money is not ring-fenced and it is up to UKTI to decide on staffing and budgets for the sector. It is anticipated that there will be organic change over time as the culture of UKTI is quite different from that of DESO. The arms industry is expected to have to argue the case for resources against the case from other industries.

Armed forces personnel will still be able to demonstrate weaponry for arm companies, but will have to pay in accordance with Government accounting rules. Likewise, UKTI could support military exhibitions, but the arms industry would have to

argue the case for this in the same way that other industries do.

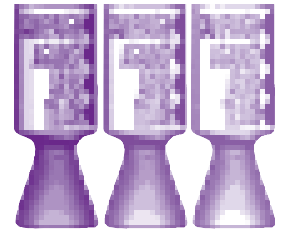
### Drayson goes

Did Gordon Brown's decision to shut DESO influence Defence Procurement Minister Lord Drayson's decision to leave the Government? The arms companies' favourite Minister, in charge of the Defence Industrial Strategy, was not consulted about the DESO closure. Lord Drayson is now going to pursue a career as a racing driver.

### Not all good news

Whilst there are positive developments for opponents of the arms trade in the UK, things look less rosy on the other side of the Channel. Having failed to sell fighter jets to Morocco, French President Nicolas Sarkozy has ordered the establishment of a 'war room' to monitor French military exports and speed up decisions on them, as well as improving co-ordination between the Government and industry.

# Fundraising



**Friends of Rebecca Tully cheer her on!** REBECCA TULLY

2007 has been a year of unprecedented success for CAAT's campaign to end the arms trade. We've persuaded the Government to close the unit that pushes UK arms exports abroad (DESO). We've persuaded Reed Elsevier, the organiser of the biggest arms fair in Europe, DSEi, to end its involvement in this dirty trade. And we're taking the Government to court over its decision to drop the corruption investigation into BAE Systems and Saudi arms deals.

We've campaigned tirelessly for what's right and we're winning the arguments. We would like to express huge thanks to everyone who has enabled us to achieve so much. Yet, despite the significance of these successes, we still have a long way to go and our resources are very over-stretched.

We need your help to keep up the pressure, ensuring that these successes are pushed home and the momentum for change is not lost. Help us take the next steps. Please send a donation today.

### Greetings cards

CAAT greetings cards have just gone on sale (see advertisement on opposite page). The cards are blank inside for your own message and there is information about CAAT on the reverse. They cost £5.50 for 10, which includes postage and packing. Some cards are also still available with last year's design if you prefer that.

### Great South Run

There was a team of three CAAT runners in October's Great South Run in Portsmouth. These were Rebecca

Tully, Grace Drewell and Liam Scott, who all ran ten miles to raise money for CAAT. Liam said:

'What a day! Me and three friends got there late and had to start by ourselves. We're thinking of doing the Manchester one next year perhaps, as I'm not sure I could take running the last two miles along the coast in the drenching rain again. It took me about three days to warm up afterwards. The medal was good though and that muscle gel stuff they gave you worked absolute wonders. It needed to!'

We would like to say a big thank you to the runners. Between them, they managed to raise over £1,700!

## CAAT Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is CAAT's ultimate decision-making body, making the final decisions on campaigns and policy as well as ensuring that the organisation's administration and internal workings are legal and efficient. Members of the Committee include representatives of some of the organisations that were involved in setting up CAAT, as well as elected Supporter representatives and the staff.

This year an election for the Supporter representative places was not necessary as there were fewer nominations than places. This means that Sharen Green, who has been an active CAAT supporter for many years in the Bournemouth area, and Sara Hall, who developed much of our e-campaigning, were deemed to have been elected together with Gillean Paterson and Anna Stavrianakis, who stood for re-election.

# 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](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk)**

## Subscribe to a CAAT email list

Sign up to receive the monthly CAAT bulletin with the latest news and events; to receive press releases; to join the list for the CAAT Action Network and find out about nonviolent direct action to stop the arms trade; or to find out when the latest CAATnews is on the website. Contact [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk) or visit [www.caat.org.uk/lists](http://www.caat.org.uk/lists)

## Make a donation

The donations of our supporters enable CAAT to struggle for a world without arms trading; without your help there would be no campaign. Support CAAT by sending us a cheque, setting up a regular standing order donation, or by taking part in a fundraising event. Contact CAAT at [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:ann@caat.org.uk)

## Campaign locally

CAAT has a network of local contacts and groups around the UK who take responsibility for promoting anti-arms trade activity and the work of CAAT in their area. Get in contact if you would like to know what is happening in your area or if you are interested in becoming a local contact or setting up a group. All that's needed is a willingness to raise awareness of arms trade issues in any way that you feel is appropriate. Contact Beccie at [beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk) for info, including the Local Campaigns Pack.

## Raise awareness

Organising a public meeting, using the local media and running a street stall have proved effective ways for CAAT groups to raise awareness of arms trade issues. CAAT can provide speakers for public meetings, materials for stalls and can also help with publicity. Contact Beccie at [beccie@caat.org.uk](mailto:beccie@caat.org.uk). For media info contact Symon at [press@caat.org.uk](mailto:press@caat.org.uk)

## Research the arms companies

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

## Protest against the arms trade

A protest can confront the arms trade and illustrate that many people do not think that the arms trade is an ordinary, acceptable business. In addition, a protest can generate a lot of publicity, which will raise awareness about the company and the arms trade in general.

CAAT is a non-violent organisation and any protest organised under the name of CAAT needs to be non-violent (contact the office for the CAAT guidelines). Contact [action@caat.org.uk](mailto:action@caat.org.uk)

## Join the CAAT Christian Network

The Network raises arms trade issues within national church structures and local churches. Contact Alun Morinan at [christian@caat.org.uk](mailto:christian@caat.org.uk)

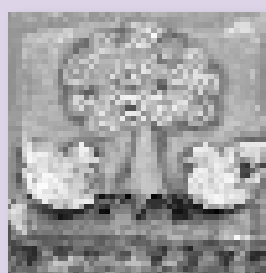
## Order a CAAT publication

CAAT produces briefings, reports and leaflets on a range of issues. Contact CAAT at [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk)

## CAAT greetings cards

New CAAT greetings cards are on sale and last year's card is still available.

The inside of the cards are blank for your own message and information about CAAT is on the reverse, so you can raise awareness and show support for the campaign.



£5.50 for 10 cards with envelopes (£5 + 50p postage & packing).

Order by sending a cheque payable to CAAT to the office, or buy at [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)

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Fill in your name and address with the bankers order and return the whole form to CAAT, not your bank. Please make cheques payable to CAAT and send with this form to: CAAT, Freepost, LON6486, London N4 3BR.

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# Order form

This is a selection of our recent materials. For a full list, contact the CAAT office or visit [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)  
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## Recent publications

- Study War No More: Military involvement in UK universities**, Nov 2007, by CAAT and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (£3.00) Quantity
- Bribing for Britain: Government Collusion in Arms Sales Corruption** (Goodwin Paper #5, Oct 2007) by Tim Webb (£3.00) Quantity
- A seriously funny attempt to get the Serious Fraud Office in the dock!** Sept 2007. Programme from gig at the Hammersmith Apollo, London on 23rd September (free) Quantity

## Campaign postcards

- Control BAE: Reopen the Saudi corruption inquiry postcard** (free) Quantity
- Corporate Mercenaries postcard** (free) Quantity
- Stop Arming Israel postcard** (free) Quantity

## Other resources

- New tshirts** Black with small white logo (women's fitted: small, medium or large; unisex: medium, large or extra large) (£10) Quantity
- Recruiting postcard** (free) Quantity
- Greeting cards** Three doves of peace or Tree of Peace (see page 15) (£5 for 10 cards & envelopes + 50p postage & packing) Quantity
- Introduction to CAAT** (free) Quantity
- Housmans 2008 Peace Diary**, with World Peace Directory (£8.95) Quantity

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