

# CAAT*n*ews



# Pressure still on BAE

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11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ  
Tel: 020 7281 0297  
Fax: 020 7281 4369  
Email: [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk)  
Website: [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)



**Editor** Melanie Jarman  
editor@caat.org.uk

**Proofreader** John Moseley

**Design** Richie Andrew

**Contributors** Marisa Birri, Claire Brand, Sally Campbell, Ann Feltham, Jacob Grech, Todd Higgs, Symon Hill, Anne-Marie O'Reilly, Ian Pocock, Ian Prichard, David Turner, Sarah Waldron.

**Legal consultant** Glen Reynolds

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CAAT works for the reduction and ultimate abolition of the international arms trade, together with progressive demilitarisation within arms producing countries. CAAT is a network of people based in the UK and was set up in 1974.

Campaign Against Arms Trade  
11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ  
Tel: 020 7281 0297  
Fax: 020 7281 4369  
Email: enquiries@caat.org.uk  
Web: www.caat.org.uk

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**The CAAT team at Glastonbury. See page 14** HELEN CLOSE

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# UKTI: Armed and dangerous

## CAAT's new Core Campaign Co-ordinator Sarah Waldron announces CAAT's latest campaign to 'end the uncivil service'

In 2007 campaigning by CAAT and a variety of other groups led to the closure of the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO), the government's arms sales unit. This was a significant achievement, hopefully marking the beginning of the end of arms industry influence at the heart of government.

DESO, a secretive organisation located within the Ministry of Defence (MoD), employed nearly 500 civil servants to facilitate the sale of arms worldwide and to lobby for military exports. For four decades it brokered arms sales to conflict zones, poverty-stricken countries and repressive regimes.

DESO gave unaccountable private interests an extraordinary level of access to government and influence over public policy. It used taxpayers' money to, in its own words: '[harness] other parts of the MoD, the Armed Forces and Whitehall to support industry's efforts'. DESO's head was seconded from the arms industry and had direct access to ministers at the highest level. The last incumbent, Alan Garwood, seconded from BAE, reportedly had his salary topped-up to £400,000 by the arms industry. No wonder the heads of arms companies such as BAE and Rolls-Royce were furious when DESO's closure was announced.

### No special treatment?

Gordon Brown announced DESO's closure in July 2007. Since April this year the promotion of military exports has been the responsibility of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the body that supports all UK exports. About 200 of DESO's staff have been transferred from the MoD, to form the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation.



**A protest during the Shut DESO campaign** CAAT

Whilst the name may be similar, a lot has changed. The arms industry is no longer such a special case, with its very own department hidden away from public scrutiny and direct access to ministers. It is now one sector alongside other civil industry sectors within UKTI. Logically, it should operate in much the same way as they do and CAAT is far from alone in calling for this to happen. UKTI DSO's head, Richard Paniguan, does not come from an arms industry background and is answerable to the UKTI Chief Executive, a civil servant, rather than those who decide arms export policy. The arms industry's attempts to supplement his salary were rejected.

Clearly, the arms industry has lost much of its privileged access but the business remains the same: promoting arms exports. UKTI DSO is offering to take UK arms companies 'under its wing' this November at IDEAS Pakistan, an arms fair operating under the slogan 'arms for peace', which has previously hosted delegations from North Korea, Myanmar (Burma), Zimbabwe, Iran, Sudan, China and Indonesia.

The industry also continues to receive a disproportionate level of government support. UKTI DSO staff

numbers are far greater than that of any civil industry sector. In fact, CAAT estimates that arms export staffing will match that of all of other sectors combined despite military equipment accounting for less than two per cent of the UK's visible exports. UK Defence Statistics show that only 65,000 jobs (just 0.2 per cent of the national labour force) are sustained by military exports.

### November

CAAT's new campaign aims to end the favourable treatment of the arms industry. UKTI DSO staff will move into their new department in November. Our campaign will call on UKTI not to let them get too comfortable. We expect to meet with widespread sympathy. The closure of DESO involved a recognition that the arms industry has changed and that the special treatment of arms exports is increasingly unjustifiable, a sentiment likely to be shared by other industry sectors.

With enough public pressure, we are well-placed to demonstrate that arms exports are a dangerous investment. Join us in November, when we'll be taking that message to the doors of UKTI.

## Arms companies and personal data

Lockheed Martin has won the contract to support delivery of the 2011 census for England and Wales. Concerns were raised that the US company's involvement may lead to forcible disclosure of data to the US authorities under the 2002 Patriot Act.

The Office for National Statistics said that Lockheed Martin will co-ordinate other UK and European companies so that 'no US companies or Lockheed Martin employees will have access to the personal data'.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 29/8/08

Scotland Against Criminalising Communities (SACC) has raised concerns over the awarding of the 2011 Scottish Census contract to a UK subsidiary of a company involved in interrogating prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. SACC says it is 'unwise' to ask Scots to give information to CACI Ltd, whose parent company is closely linked to US military and intelligence. SACC, 8/9/08

Military group Thales has won a £18m contract to design, build and test a system to issue national identity cards alongside a computerised national identity register.

The national identity card system begins this November with the introduction of compulsory cards for non-EU foreign nationals living in the UK.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 2/8/08

BAE Systems has bought Detica, which supplies security-related software and IT services to the government, and corporate and government clients. BAE believes that the UK 'homeland security and resilience market' will double to more than £3bn by 2011 so is likely to make similar acquisitions.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 29/7/08

## Georgia

During the recent conflict in Georgia it emerged that Israeli companies were discreetly training and equipping Georgian forces for approximately the previous two years. Defensive Shield and Global CST sent personnel including Israeli Defence Force reservists and veterans. After a Russian fighter downed a Georgian unmanned aerial vehicle in April, Israel limited its sale of equipment due to fears that a large supply of weapons could harm Israel's relations with Russia. Senior US soldiers and two military contractors also provided training to Georgia's special forces commandos just months prior to the Georgian army's assault on South Ossetia.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 20/8/08; FINANCIAL TIMES, 6/9/08

## Airbus deal cancelled

Fierce lobbying by US companies has seen the Pentagon cancel a \$35bn military contract with European aircraft maker Airbus. Airbus was due to supply the US Air Force with refuelling tankers, and the aircraft wings were due to be built in Broughton, North Wales. Boeing initially lost the contract to Airbus and is believed to have spent millions of dollars lobbying politicians in order to get it recompeted.

TIMES, 11/9/08

## MoD broke

The Ministry of Defence can no longer afford all the Eurofighter Typhoons it ordered and is in talks with countries including Japan and Saudi Arabia about offloading them, rather than facing financial penalties for cancelling or cutting the order. The talks underline the scale of the cash crisis at the MoD, which has an estimated budget deficit of £2bn.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 20/8/08

## Cobham

Cobham is to buy US digital equipment maker GMS, its sixth acquisition this year, five of which have been in the US. Cobham has also appointed a former executive from US company Harris Corporation to join its senior management team.

DEFENSE NEWS, 1/9/08; FINANCIAL TIMES, 12/9/08

## Middle East

Syria is looking to buy 'defensive' weapons systems from Russia but has denied reports that it offered to host Russian missiles in response to the US missile shield being deployed across Europe.

Both Israel and the US have raised concerns over Russian arms deals with Syria, with both claiming that such sales would upset the regional power balance.

Russia has also heightened US and Israeli concern by saying that it may sell an air defence system to Iran, improving Iranian defences against air strikes on, for example, its nuclear sites. Russia has been 'infuriated' by the encroachment of Nato into the former Soviet bloc and by the granting of independence to Kosovo. One Pentagon advisor described the air defence system as a 'game-changer in military thinking for tackling Iran'.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 3/9/08; DAILY TELEGRAPH, 23/8/08; SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, 31/8/08

## Arms greenwash

All suppliers to the MoD are being asked to sign its new Sustainable Procurement Charter, which asks arms companies to minimise any adverse effects on society from their activities. The *Times* suggested this may be hard to establish for makers of nuclear submarines or weapons of mass destruction.

Meanwhile, BAE Systems recently dropped plans to make "green bullets" – bullets tipped with tungsten instead of lead – because higher production costs made the venture

unprofitable. In August the company signed a 15-year deal to supply UK armed forces with small arms and medium-calibre ammunition.

TIMES, 18/8/08; OBSERVER, 24/8/08

## India

BAE Systems is planning to increase its presence in India, having identified India as its seventh 'home market'. The company believes that India will want to buy more modern weapons as the country's economy grows. Julian Scopes, formerly BAE's Head of Government Relations and UK Business Development, is due to oversee the strategy as President of BAE Systems India.

BAE is also looking to expand into Japan and Korea.

TIMES, 2/8/08

## HAL

Export ambitions at Indian company Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) have been boosted by an order from Ecuador's air force for seven Dhruv helicopters. The sale is the company's first win in a competitive overseas tender.

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL, 1-7 JULY 08

## BAE payments

Documents seen by the *Financial Times* allegedly show that BAE Systems paid at least £20m to a company linked to John Bredenkamp, a Zimbabwean arms trader allied to President Mugabe. UK properties owned by Bredenkamp were raided by the Serious Fraud Office as part of an investigation into BAE sales to South Africa.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 1/8/08

## Kenya

The NGO Human Rights Watch has accused a UK-trained Kenyan army unit of human rights abuses, calling on the UK and US governments to suspend military aid to Kenya until the allegations are disproven. 37

people remain 'disappeared' after being taken into custody as part of a security operation that involved alleged torture of hundreds of people detained in mass round-ups.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 6/8/08

## Nigeria

The UK government has offered training for the Nigerian military to fight rebels in the oil-producing Niger delta. The offer prompted the end of a regional ceasefire and drew accusations of neo-colonialism.

INDEPENDENT, 12/7/08

## US sales to Iraq

In August the Pentagon notified Congress of proposed military sales to Iraq valued at more than \$9bn, including helicopters, tanks and armoured vehicles. Congress was also notified of a possible \$2.16bn sale of upgraded tanks and other vehicles.

DEFENSE NEWS, 4/8/08

## Venezuela

US State Department officials have questioned whether the weapons that Russia has agreed to sell to Venezuela are in line with Venezuela's military needs. The arms sales have been described by Russian officials as a 'breakthrough' into a region that the US has traditionally considered its sphere of influence. DEFENSE NEWS, 28/7/08

## Turner comments

Before leaving his post as BAE Systems' chief executive, Mike Turner warned that the company may leave the UK if military spending falls below a 'reasonable level'. Under Turner, BAE focussed on expanding abroad, notably in the US, which represents more than 50 per cent of the group's annual sales.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 26/8/08

## Georgia, Russia and UK arms licences

This September Foreign Secretary David Miliband chaired a discussion to mark the re-launch of the Arms Trade Treaty. In an accompanying *Independent* article he stated: 'War was a defining symbol of the 20th century, with tens of millions dead... We have seen the fighting in Georgia, on Europe's doorstep. Are we destined to repeat the last century's mistakes?'

Miliband could have answered that question himself: in August his Government released data on arms exports it approved during the first three months of 2008. Both Georgia and Russia featured.

### Georgia

Licences approved Jan-Mar 2008 included:

- command communications control and intelligence software
- components for ground vehicle military communications equipment
- equipment for the use of tanks
- small arms ammunition
- sniper rifles

### Russia

Licences approved Jan-Mar 2008 included:

- components for military aero-engines
- military utility vehicles
- shotguns
- software for optimising equipment design
- test equipment for combat aircraft



# Launch of Local Media Network

In April this year the press picked up a story about a shipment of Chinese arms to Zimbabwe, which provoked considerable moral outrage. Many CAAT supporters agreed wholeheartedly, but couldn't help remember that large amounts of UK-made arms also make their way into the hands of undemocratic regimes. These shipments continue as a fact of life, raising less tabloid ire than an unfashionably dressed celebrity.

Many of you may feel the same way, and are frustrated that your opinion is never represented in the papers. If so, why not act to change that and make your voice heard?

With this in mind, CAAT is launching the Local Media Network, which seeks to establish media work as a central activity for local campaigners.

Local media is an incredibly important campaigning tool. Over 80 per cent of adults read their local paper, and 40 per cent prefer it to the nationals. Advertisers realise this, which is why local weekly and daily newspapers attract over £2 billion of advertising revenue per year. (Only television attracts more!)

We are seeking volunteers who wish to take a little of their free time to actively engage with their local

media and raise and promote debate about the arms trade, through activities like writing to local papers and calling phone-in radio programmes.

As a member of the group you will receive a monthly email providing help and advice and supplying relevant facts and statistics. More information will be available at the National Gathering (see opposite). If you're interested but can't make the gathering then please email [press@caat.org.uk](mailto:press@caat.org.uk).

TODD HIGGS



**Housmans Peace Diary 2009, including the World Peace Directory, is now available to buy for £8.95.**

Help raise money for CAAT by ordering your copy using the form on the back page. For bulk orders and further information, please visit the Housmans website at [www.housmans.com](http://www.housmans.com)

## Clarion campaign

In May this year, Reed Elsevier responded to campaigning by selling its arms fairs, including the biennial London arms fair Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi).

Reed Elsevier's decision to dispose of DSEi showed that arms fairs are a liability and that reputable businesses don't deal with the arms trade. We now have to make this public distaste for arms fairs tangible to the new DSEi owners, Clarion Events.

Clarion Events is hosting a wide range of exhibitions and conferences which sit very uneasily alongside arms fairs. Most strikingly, Clarion organises The Baby Show and the Spirit of Christmas Fair.

### Get involved

As a first step, CAAT is contacting the exhibitors at the Baby Show and Spirit of Christmas Fair, informing them of Clarion's other activities and asking them to raise the issue with Clarion Events.

- If you would like to contact Clarion about the company's new area of activity, you can send an email using the form on our website ([www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)) or write a letter to: Simon Kimble, Clarion Events Limited, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5 9TA.
- You can also get involved by looking out for local or specialist media opportunities to write about the situation. For example, baby magazines are a possibility for raising awareness about the incompatibility of Clarion Events organising both Baby Shows and arms fairs.
- It is important to have a presence at Clarion exhibitions, including those taking place in London, Manchester and Birmingham. If you are interested in being involved, contact Anne-Marie at [annemarie@caat.org.uk](mailto:annemarie@caat.org.uk).

MARISA BIRRI

# CAAT stall at London Vegan Festival

CAAT had a stall at the excellent annual event the London Vegan Festival. The stall was well positioned in the main hall and there was a steady stream of people for most of the day. Badges were bought, t-shirts sold, campaigning postcards given away and petitions signed (so many that a blank sheet had to be photocopied so that signatures could continue to be collected!). The main focus of the stall was BAE Systems and the halting of the Serious Fraud Office's corruption investigation into the Al Yamamah deal with Saudi Arabia. All in all it was a good day as a receptive audience was educated about what CAAT does and a fair amount of money was collected. We were even complimented by one person for



**London Vegan Festival proved a great place for getting people interested in CAAT** LONDON CAAT

being the most smiley stall! Thanks to Edda Dirks, Maria Mursell and Robin Yu for their help on the day.

IAN POCOCK

## Edinburgh CAAT group

This year the group arranged for three street stalls on Princes Street in the heart of the city during the Festival, though one had to be cancelled because of weather. The stalls featured the current campaign to oppose the Constitutional Renewal Bill and presented a quiz on the cost of weapons and other issues such as clean investment and subsidies. A number of encounters were particularly valuable and potentially a source of recruits to CAAT's work in Edinburgh and beyond.

The group's autumn activities include a presence at the Freshers Fair and a display in a city church that hosts other groups concerned with arms and their consequences, for example, Amnesty International. A film and a social evening is planned for November. A new and easily transportable banner is being acquired for indoor use. This will convey CAAT information that is unchanging, with a space for current campaigning themes and messages.

DAVID TURNER

## Campaigner's handbook

CAAT's new Local Campaigns Guide is available now. It is the essential handbook for anti-arms trade campaigners, with tips on working with local media, setting up a group, online campaigning, challenging arms companies, effective lobbying and more. Full of useful case studies from campaigners around the

country, it will be a really useful tool for anyone who wants to make a real impact through local campaigning.

To order your copy and get campaigning, email [annemarie@caat.org.uk](mailto:annemarie@caat.org.uk) or call the office. ANNE-MARIE O'REILLY

## Next month: CAAT's National Gathering

**8th November 2008, 10am-5pm, Conway Hall, London**

Don't miss CAAT's annual get-together for everyone interested in ending the arms trade.

Book your place and come along to:

- Get involved in the launch of CAAT's latest campaign
- Hear Solomon Hughes, the author of *War on Terror, Inc. Corporate Profiteering from the Politics of Fear* speak
- Learn about corporate power and the arms trade, and the limitations of arms controls
- Get the information you need to tackle the myth that ending the arms trade must harm UK employment
- Pick up skills in local media work, public speaking, planning actions or new media campaigning

The event will be a great opportunity to meet like-minded people, share perspectives, develop your skills and learn about arms trade campaigning.

The day is free and includes a vegetarian lunch. We are looking at providing a crèche at the event. Please contact us as soon as possible if you would like to make use of this facility.

Book your place online at <http://www.caat.org.uk/events/nationalgathering/> or contact Anne-Marie on [annemarie@caat.org.uk](mailto:annemarie@caat.org.uk) or 020 7281 0297.

# BAE: NO WAY OUT

**When the Law Lords delivered their judgment in the legal challenge brought by CAAT and The Corner House this was not the end of the matter. The case and the related Control BAE campaign have had a huge impact on public perceptions and political realities. Ann Feltham and Symon Hill tell how the company remains under pressure from all directions**

CAAT and The Corner House launched the case in December 2006, when the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), acting under government pressure, dropped its corruption investigation into BAE's Saudi arms deals. The decision followed lobbying by BAE and the Saudi regime and triggered widespread outrage. Our challenge was initially successful; the High Court ruled in April that the SFO had acted unlawfully in dropping the investigation. However, the SFO appealed and the Law Lords overturned this ruling on 30th July.

This was a disappointment – but not a defeat. While it would have been excellent if the Lords had confirmed the High Court's ruling, their decision provoked little cheer for the arms industry, aware of how much has changed in the last two years.

## Progress

Even commentators friendly to the arms trade admit how much we have achieved. So let's remind ourselves what's changed:

- Most obviously, it will be much harder for government to intervene so blatantly on BAE's behalf again. While the government remains loyal to the arms industry, it knows the reaction that this can get.
- The issue of arms companies' influence within government is now firmly on the agenda. More people than ever are aware of this influence, and realise that the arms trade will not be significantly reduced while it remains. As an example of how mainstream this issue has become, let's remember that the call to reopen the SFO investigation was supported by

over 130 NGOs and 125 MPs from many parties, including six Tories.

- The legal position has been clarified, with the authorities effectively admitting that there is no provision in law to prevent a prosecutor in the UK from being bullied by a private company or another country's government into dropping an investigation.
- CAAT's profile has increased significantly. More of the media take CAAT seriously and there is greater public awareness of CAAT's work.
- Public outrage generated by the BAE situation has contributed indirectly to recent CAAT campaign victories. These include the closure of the government's arms marketing unit, DESO (see page 3), the decision by Reed Elsevier to sell its arms fairs (see page 6) and moves by universities to ditch arms investments (see page 11).
- We have shown that radical campaigners working effectively can have a big impact. The campaign brought together varied campaigning methods, including legal action, grassroots activism, media engagement, local campaigning, parliamentary lobbying and alliance-building.
- The increased understanding of a cosy relationship between arms companies and government has placed us in a strong position to campaign on other aspects of this issue, particularly the arms functions of UK Trade and Investment (see page 3).

CAAT supporters have played a huge role in bringing about these changes, whether by campaigning in

the street, sharing their views with friends, making donations or giving encouragement to other activists and CAAT staff. But CAAT and The Corner House cannot claim all the credit. BAE and the UK government remain under pressure from a number of sources.

## Still going on

### ...the US investigates

BAE's Saudi deals have been under investigation by the US Department of Justice since June 2007 when the *Guardian* and BBC's *Panorama* alleged that £1 billion was being paid to Saudi Prince Bandar via Washington's Riggs bank. The next month Parliament was told that the US had formally asked for help from the UK under a Mutual Legal Assistance agreement. The Home Office has yet to respond formally.

In connection with the US investigation, former BAE Chief Executive Mike Turner, non-executive Director Sir Nigel Rudd and Group Business Development Director Alan Garwood (former head of DESO) were stopped at US airports in May and served with subpoenas (commands to appear at a later date and answer questions).

Worryingly though, *Defense News* reported in September that US and UK authorities were attempting to negotiate an end to the US investigation.

### ...Switzerland too

In mid-July federal prosecutors in Switzerland said they were conducting three criminal investigations into possible money laundering linked to BAE.





**CAAT press conference** JEZ SMITH

### ...the other BAE deals

BAE is still facing six other SFO investigations. They involve deals with Chile, the Czech Republic, Qatar, Romania, South Africa and Tanzania.

### ...the poor reputation

Despite saying that it will implement all of the recommendations made by Lord Woolf's Committee on ethical practices, the company's poor reputation remains. Newspaper articles to mark Mike Turner's retirement at the end of August all mentioned the corruption allegations. His successor as Chief Executive, Ian King, is likely to have to live with them.

## The UK government's still in trouble

### ...with the Constitutional Renewal Bill

The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill includes a proposal to give the attorney-general a statutory right to cancel an SFO investigation on grounds of national security. Prompted by our legal action, this would prevent any judicial review of such a decision, and would provide for little meaningful accountability to Parliament. However, many parliamentarians and lawyers are concerned. It will be interesting to see if the government makes any amendments to the draft Bill before it is presented to Parliament in the 2008-9 session. If it does not, the Bill should provoke a lively debate.

### ...and the OECD

In October, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Bribery will receive a

report into the UK following the dropping of the investigation. This is unlikely to make easy reading for the UK government.

In the light of the Lords' ruling, it is now even more vital that the Working Group draws up clear guidelines that state that there is no national security exemption to the OECD Convention, and making clear in what circumstances a defence of 'absolute necessity' is allowed.

## CAAT continues to challenge the Saudi deals

Articles by investigative journalists, documents from the National Archives, the witness statements in the Judicial Review and Information Tribunal cases (see page 12), requests under the Freedom of Information (Fol) Act, parliamentary answers – these are all helping build a picture of the cosy UK government-BAE-Saudi relationship which facilitates arms sales to one of the world's most repressive regimes. It also helps CAAT to challenge these sales.

### ...Salam and the SBDCP

So, in a nutshell, what's going on now? The Air Defence Variant Tornados supplied under the Al Yamamah contracts of the mid-1980s are now being replaced by 72 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft under the Project Salam. This was agreed in outline between the UK and Saudi governments in 2005 with a more detailed contract signed in 2007. The UK MoD complements this with a contract with its main contractor, BAE.

The first 24 planes will be built at Warton in Lancashire, with the remainder likely to be assembled in Saudi Arabia. The other Saudi

Tornados will be upgraded and serviced under what is now called Saudi British Defence Co-operation Programme (SBDCP). Whilst the original Al Yamamah purchases were paid for in oil, both Project Salam and the SBDCP are being paid for out of the Saudi defence budget.

Recently, there has been talk of selling even more Eurofighter Typhoons to Saudi Arabia. These would be those the UK is committed to buying for the RAF, but struggling to find the money for in the defence budget.

### ...MODSAP

Ever since 1973, in a pre-Al Yamamah deal, there has been a team of UK civil servants supporting Saudi arms sales. Now known as the Ministry of Defence Saudi Armed Forces Project, it employs 200 civilian and military staff in the UK and Saudi Arabia. All the costs – £41.8 million in 2007-8 – are met by the Saudi government. In other words, UK public servants are being paid by an overseas government to work on a project that benefits a private company.

### ...and export credits

Following a CAAT Fol request, the Export Credits Guarantee Department has agreed to reveal how much cover is given to BAE's Saudi arms deals in its annual reports. This cover is taxpayer-backed insurance that would pay out if BAE was not paid by the Saudis. It stood at £750 million at 31st March 2007 and the same a year later.

## Nowhere to turn

Wherever BAE's bosses turn, their reputation and relationship with government are under threat. Whether it's the US, Switzerland, the OECD or the UK's own media, BAE are faced with hostility and scrutiny. As we keep campaigning, public opposition to BAE's privileged position and deadly trade can only increase. There is no way out for BAE.

# Australian arms fair cancelled!

**The Asia Pacific Defence & Security Exhibition (APDS) was due to take place in South Australia in November 2008. This September, anticipation of mass protest saw the event being cancelled. Jacob Grech of OzPeace gives a campaigner's perspective on this momentous decision.**

While military companies have consistently held small shows as add-ons to conferences and air shows, there has not been a full blown arms expo in Australia since the AIDEX exhibitions of 1989 and 1991. These shows attracted so much public opposition that the planned AIDEX '93 was banned from Canberra and, after its organisers unsuccessfully tried to find an alternative venue, was quietly cancelled.

Australia is a very small player in the international arms trade. With a small population and shrinking manufacturing base, our main involvement has been to supply niche products and parts. This has been changing in recent years, with major arms companies establishing regional headquarters in anticipation of a boom in business in South and East Asia. While the arms themselves may have no Australian content, the deals processed and administered in Australia are fuelling conflicts around the world.

## A thousand flowers

As the APDS was intended to be a showcase for Australia as a place for arms companies to do business, it was important to the peace movement to do what we could to make it a negative one. Deciding that major arms companies and regional government would not succumb to pressure, we began by lobbying smaller military companies that had advertised in industry journals and websites. Leaving aside the moral arguments, these companies were reminded of the AIDEX blockade and the bad publicity they could receive if they attended the APDS. This may have



had a bearing on the small number of bookings APDS received.

After many meetings and email discussions over protest tactics, it was decided to 'let a thousand flowers bloom' and have a campaign as diverse in its approach as we are as a community. A range of events were planned, including a peace and remembrance concert, an alternative exhibition, pickets, lobbying and a blockade. This approach of divergent forms of protest was extremely successful in that local authorities, arms companies and the arms fair organisers were kept busy on so many fronts.

## Cancelled!

On 7 September we received the news that the APDS was cancelled after the South Australia (SA) Police and Government met with the APDS organisers to discuss 'civic disruption' and 'threat to public safety' from the planned protest. Acting Premier Kevin Foley described peace activists coming to the protest as 'low-life feral anarchists' who

'wanted to disrupt civil society for their own perverse pleasure'.

As CAAT's supporters will be aware, arms companies make billions of dollars convincing governments that there are barbarians at the gate. On this occasion their myth-making and financial demands blew up in their collective faces and their own showcase was cancelled as a result.

We have since received leaked information alleging that the SA Police tried to use the protest as a lever for A\$1.5–2.0 million in additional government funding, but the Government would not grant this. I believe that the Government may have sought to recover this money from the organisers, who were already beleaguered by bookings at only half the level they hoped for and, in addition, were receiving absolutely no support from the Federal Government.

## Arms trade back on agenda

While we are thrilled to bits that we won this campaign, we are of course aware that the arms trade continues unabated and we will continue to monitor and oppose all Australian involvement in this death trade.

Congratulations must go not only to the Australian campaigners involved but to anti-arms trade activists around the world who continue to keep the issue alive. Thanks also to APDS organisers who have managed to put the arms trade back on the public agenda in Australia in a way we never could have achieved without them.

# Progress and prospects for university campaigners

**As another academic year gets under way, CAAT's Media Co-ordinator Symon Hill describes how students and university staff across the UK are renewing their efforts to end their universities' links with arms companies**

The arms trade manifests itself in many ways. Campaigners focus on the issues most relevant to their own institution, by, for example, lobbying university authorities and talking with other students. Some also take direct action and many engage with the media, aware that university heads are conscious of their public image. CAAT's Universities Network brings these campaigners together, providing support and advice while ensuring that university activists benefit from being linked with the rest of CAAT.

## Clean Investment

The last year has seen considerable progress over universities' arms investments. St Andrew's has joined other institutions such as Bangor and London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in deciding to ditch its arms investments. In other places, including University College London (UCL), the authorities have begun formal inquiries into ethical investment policies following opposition by students and staff to arms investments.

CAAT is working with several student campaigners to make requests under the Freedom of Information Act to discover up-to-date details of their universities' arms shares. CAAT can provide advice on how to do this.

## Recruitment and research

Recruitment fairs often give arms companies a chance to recruit graduates, especially those from engineering, management and business courses. Student activists



**Birmingham students give their own version of a BAE presentation** CAAT

have taken the opportunity to protest at careers fairs, making other students aware of the real business of such companies. For example, Birmingham students delayed a BAE Systems recruitment talk for long enough to give their own presentation on BAE and its trade (see picture). Students at Lancaster have demonstrated outside a department sponsored by BAE, which is also becoming a common practice.

There has also been considerable debate and activism around the issues raised in *Study War No More*, a report produced by CAAT and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The report exposed the level of influence enjoyed by arms companies and military bodies at some of the UK's most prominent universities, often through the funding of research, which in several cases is subsidised by the state. Student action on the report has played a big part in getting this issue onto the agenda.

## Speaking up

We can look forward to a year that builds on the progress we've made and on increased public awareness of the realities of the arms trade. This is a great time for new students to join in with campaigns. Get in touch if you want to know more about CAAT's campaigns at universities and the CAAT Universities Network. Or, if you're campaigning on arms issues already, please keep us informed! You can email [universities@caat.org.uk](mailto:universities@caat.org.uk) or call us on 020 7281 0297.

There will also be a Universities Networking opportunity at CAAT's National Gathering (see Page 7).



**UCL students call for clean investment** DISARM UCL

# Saudi document can remain confidential

When the Freedom of Information Act (FoIA) came into force at the beginning of 2005, CAAT put in a request to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for four Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) regarding arms deals between the UK and Saudi Arabia. Researcher Nicholas Gilby subsequently found two of them in the National Archives, but CAAT had to pursue its request for the others all the way to the Information Tribunal where a hearing took place in March 2008.

At the end of August, CAAT learned that judgment been given in the MoD's favour and that it did not have to hand over the 1986 and 1988 MoUs on which the Al Yamamah deal was founded. The Tribunal members ruled that the prejudice to international relations and UK interests abroad that would be caused by the release of the MoUs outweighed the public interest in releasing them. One reason for the Tribunal's decision was that the

previous, accidental, disclosure of information around the arms deals, including the other two memoranda, had greatly undermined the trust between the two governments.

The judgment did, however, criticise the MoD's approach to the Saudi authorities. The latter had been asked whether they minded the release of the information in a manner that suggested they would. The Tribunal felt the questions should be put neutrally, with the importance of the FoIA explained to the overseas government.

## Second judgment awaited

In the second case, held alongside CAAT's, Nicholas Gilby appealed against the decision to withhold Foreign Office documents from the late 1960's and early 1970's concerning Saudi arms sales. Judgment has not yet been given in this case.

## Definitely worthwhile

Although CAAT's case was lost, it was definitely worth pursuing. Information from witness statements and the cross-examinations has helped our quest to gain a fuller understanding of UK arms deals with Saudi Arabia.

There were also more general benefits regarding freedom of information. CAAT's case has helped clarify what we can expect to be released under the FoIA when an overseas government is involved, and how UK government departments should handle such requests. Additionally, the successful application by CAAT's lawyers for a Special Advocate or security cleared barrister broke new ground for an Information Tribunal. The full reasoning for this is in the judgment, which, along with more details about both cases, including witness statements and transcripts, is on the CAAT website at [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk).

ANN FELTHAM

# New CAAT staff



## Sarah Waldron

Hello, I'm Sarah Waldron and I started in September as the Core Campaign Coordinator. I'm really delighted to be working for CAAT: it was the arms trade that first sparked my passion for campaigning, and I've always been inspired by both CAAT's approach and what it has achieved.

Prior to joining CAAT, I worked at People & Planet, where I coordinated

economic justice and human rights campaigns.

I'll be working part-time and my role is to develop and promote CAAT's main campaign, organise events and protests and produce resources. [sarah@caat.org.uk](mailto:sarah@caat.org.uk)

## Anne-Marie O'Reilly

Hello, I'm Anne-Marie O'Reilly. I started work as CAAT's Local Campaigns Co-ordinator in August. I will be working Monday to Wednesday, and will be a point of contact for supporters and local groups, while developing support, training and resources for campaigners, as well as building up our speakers' network.



My most recent job was supporting local members of a teaching trade union to get active. I am excited about working at CAAT at a time when more people than ever are aware of the corruption and profiteering surrounding the arms trade. I hope to help turn this awareness into widespread, effective action against the arms trade. [annemarie@caat.org.uk](mailto:annemarie@caat.org.uk)

# Arms trade plus comedy on the BBC??

**CAAT media volunteer Todd Higgs spoke to a man who combined these three elements – *Safety Catch* writer Laurence Howarth, whose arms trade-based sitcom was first broadcast on Radio 4 in 2007**

## What prompted you to write a sitcom set around the arms trade?

I got to thinking about how people relate to their jobs, and of people generally having a job but disowning it. I thought, is it possible to have somebody who thinks he's a nice person – which the main character does – and yet have a job like this. Would this create a comic tension? Every day he has to find ways of justifying it to himself: having to use all those excuses, because I think when people within the industry talk about it I think what they're offering is not reasons but justifications and the sort of excuses that are along the lines of things that we all do. It has this stark dramatic backdrop, but also it stands for a lot of things about ourselves we don't like. There are also some aspects of his character that I hope people do sympathise with.

## Are any of the arms industry stories in the show based on real events?

One of the things I wanted to do with the arms trade side of it was to try and make it as close to how I would imagine it would be. So there is a character called Boris who is sort of more a cartoon character who thinks that everyone should have a gun. I wanted him to be like an arms dealer. There are often little satirical references to some of the more famous deals through Boris, things like 'Saudi Arabian Princes don't bribe themselves you know'. But even if the attitudes are caricatures in some ways, I think the industry itself



Laurence Howarth BBC

is portrayed fairly accurately. I thought it was my responsibility to do that.

## What was your individual take on the BAE/Saudi Arabia/SFO saga?

I was writing something dramatic, so in a way I didn't want my view to be in there. This is about how a person with weak beliefs accounts for himself. My own view about the trade, the more I look at it, is that it's one of the great human scandals. I'd like to think that in 200 years time we'll look back on the arms trade as we look back now on slavery. And so, in retrospect, I think organisations like Amnesty and CAAT are absolutely right, for the sake of humanity, to do what they do. I felt that I wanted people to know about this world.

## To perhaps lead them to the door but let them open it?

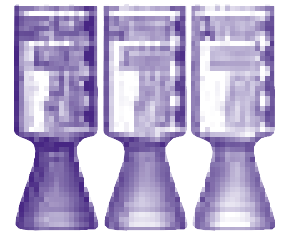
Yeah. I think perhaps one of the things that struck me when I was

researching was what a huge industry it is and how when you say 'the arms industry' to a lot of people they think of something that happens somewhere else. It's huge, such a big thing.

## Are there any plans for another series of *Safety Catch*?

We're doing another series of six episodes for the radio in February next year, and I'm writing a TV pilot script at the moment. The reviews were very good. There were some people who really didn't like it, who felt that you shouldn't do comedy about this. I think there's no reason why comedy shouldn't tackle big questions. I'd really like to do it on TV; on radio you can't quite jolt people with the reality of it in the same way but visually it's a lot easier to do that. People choose not to imagine. Whether that will happen is a long way off but it's a very intriguing challenge.

# Fundraising



## Workers Beer report

A total of 37 hardworking volunteers put on their wellies, pitched their tents and braved the summer's unpredictable weather conditions to raise a fantastic £4,600 for CAAT by working with the Workers Beer Company (WBC) at a variety of music festivals throughout the UK this year.

The WBC is a non-profit making company founded in the 1980s by Wandsworth & Battersea TUC. It is the country's leading supplier of bars to festivals and outdoor events. Volunteers working with WBC gain free entry to the event and work one shift in the beer tents each day, serving drinks to thousands of thirsty festival goers. Their wages are then donated to the organisation they represent. This year, CAAT volunteers were present at Glastonbury, The Mighty Boosh/Hop Farm, Rise Festival, Latitude, WOMAD, Reading, Leeds and SW4/Loaded in the Park.

## Feedback

The scheme is a great opportunity for CAAT to raise a significant sum of money whilst also giving our teams of committed supporters the chance to meet and work

alongside one another. In addition, CAAT representatives get to be part of a bigger team of volunteers from a whole host of campaigning organisations, making for a lively and friendly atmosphere. The request for feedback on how each event has gone is usually met with the same answer: 'It was really hard work, but great fun!' The chance to get to see some great acts makes up for the tiring days and the majority of volunteers come back to work for CAAT year on year.

We would like to thank all of the WBC volunteers for their efforts over the summer. Their dedication and hard work has meant that we have increased the total raised by over £1000 on last year – a wonderful result!

## Interested?

If you haven't volunteered before but would like the chance to help us raise money with the Workers Beer Company next year, please contact Sally by emailing [sally@caat.org.uk](mailto:sally@caat.org.uk) or phoning 020 7281 0297. If you feel it's still a bit early for you to put yourself forward for next year, keep an eye out for more details on how to take part in future editions of CAATnews. SALLY CAMPBELL

## Vacancy: Media Co-ordinator


CAAT is looking to recruit a Media Co-ordinator to work four days per week to sustain and develop CAAT's media profile and the media components of its campaigns.

CAAT receives national, international, regional, local and specialist media coverage. The Media Co-ordinator will be responsible for the development, planning and execution of CAAT's media work. This will include developing strategies, pitching stories to journalists, producing news releases, acting as principle media spokesperson, assisting local media activists and developing CAAT's use of new media. To apply you should be a good communicator with at least two years' experience in media work.

Salary £26,736 pro rata.

For further information and a downloadable application pack please see the CAAT website:  
[www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/vacancies.php](http://www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/vacancies.php)

**Closing date for applications is 12 noon,  
Monday 20th October**



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# Participate in CAAT – here's how

**For more information on all of these or any enquiries not covered below contact the CAAT office on 020 7281 0297**

To notify CAAT of a change of address please email [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk) with 'change of address' in the subject line.

## Subscribe to an email list

Sign up to receive the monthly CAAT bulletin with the latest news and events, and receive press releases. 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

Our supporters' donations enable us to strive 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 Sally at [sally@caat.org.uk](mailto:sally@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 Anne-Marie at [annemarie@caat.org.uk](mailto:annemarie@caat.org.uk) for info, including the Local Campaigns Pack.

## Universities Network

The Universities Network provides students and staff in higher education with information on arms companies' ties to universities. It encourages people to actively campaign and participate in breaking these ties. Contact [universities@caat.org.uk](mailto:universities@caat.org.uk).

## Order publications

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

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

## Protest

A protest against the arms trade can show that many people do not think it is an ordinary, acceptable business. It can also generate publicity, raising awareness about individual companies and the arms trade in general. CAAT is a nonviolent organisation and any protest organised under the name of CAAT must be nonviolent (contact the office for the CAAT guidelines). Contact [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk).

## Christian Network

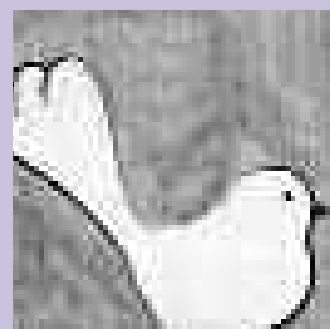
The Network raises arms trade issues within national church structures and local churches. Contact Alun Morinan at [christian@caat.org.uk](mailto:christian@caat.org.uk).

## Greetings cards

CAAT's 2008 greetings cards are now available to buy.

Our greetings cards can be used all year round and are a great way to support CAAT and let others know about our work! You can choose from this year's new design or take advantage of the special offer on last year's card.

Use the form enclosed with this edition of *CAATnews* to place your order. If you prefer to pay with a credit/debit card, you can do so by visiting our website: [www.caat.org.uk/resources/materials/greetingscards](http://www.caat.org.uk/resources/materials/greetingscards)



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# Order form

This is a selection of our recent materials. For a full list, see the insert in this issue of CAATnews.

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## Recent publications

- Making Arms, Wasting Skills: Alternatives to Militarism and Arms Production**, April 2008, by Steven Schofield (£3) Quantity
- The Facade of Arms Control**, Feb 2008, by Anna Stavrianakis (£3) Quantity
- Study War No More: Military involvement in UK universities**, Nov 2007, by Martha Beale and Tim Street (£3) Quantity
- Bribing for Britain: Government Collusion in Arms Sales Corruption** (Goodwin Paper #5, Oct 2007) by Tim Webb (£3) Quantity

## Postcards

- Corporate Mercenaries postcard** (free) Quantity
- Stop Arming Israel postcard** (free) Quantity
- Recruiting postcard** (free) Quantity

## Other resources

- T-shirts** Black with small white logo (women's fitted: small, medium or large; unisex: medium, large or extra large) (£10) Quantity
- Greeting cards**  
Thoughtful Dove - £4.50 for 10 cards and envelopes. Quantity  packs  
Three Doves of Peace (last year's card) - £3.50 for 10 cards and envelopes. Quantity  packs  
Please include 50p postage for each pack of cards.
- Introduction to CAAT** (free) Quantity
- Housmans 2009 Peace Diary, with World Peace Directory** (£8.95) Quantity

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