

CAATnews

JOIN OUR DEMOLITION TEAM



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Cover: CAAT

IN THIS ISSUE...

Welcome to this issue of CAATnews

The general election is imminent and for CAAT supporters it represents an excellent opportunity for action: a chance to put the arms trade on the agenda of MPs in the new Parliament.

CAAT continues to campaign for the closure of the UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO), the government unit that drums up business for the arms companies. Our campaign materials include a template letter to send to new MPs – it would be great if as many of

them as possible had a personalised version of this pass across their desks! Sending this letter can be a quick and easy action. More details on the campaign, including ideas for actions during Stop Week in June and info on getting hold of campaign materials including Demolition Orders, are on pages 8 and 9.

In this issue we've also included summaries of the arms trade policies of the main political parties – see page 12.

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Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) works for the reduction and ultimate abolition of the international arms trade, together with progressive demilitarisation within arms producing countries.

BAE off the hook?

Ann Feltham gives an update on legal cases surrounding BAE Systems

It all moved very quickly. Just a week after the Austrian Count Alfons Mensdorff-Pouilly was charged with conspiracy to corrupt in connection with BAE Systems' deals with central European governments, on 5 February the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) announced its plea bargain. BAE would pay £30 million and plead guilty to failing to keep reasonably accurate accounting records in relation to its activities in Tanzania. All the SFO's investigations of BAE were at an end.

Simultaneously, the US Department of Justice announced that BAE would plead guilty to paying commission payments in connection with several countries, including the Al Yamamah deal with Saudi Arabia, and that it would pay a fine of \$400 million.

Court challenge

CAAT was shocked and angered by the SFO's decision, which meant that there would be no opportunity to discover the truth behind alleged bribery and corruption in the many BAE deals under investigation. Together with The Corner House, CAAT mounted a legal challenge to the decision on the grounds that the SFO failed to properly apply prosecution guidance, in particular that the plea agreement that was reached had failed to reflect the seriousness and extent of BAE's alleged offending.

Unfortunately, documentation given to the court by the SFO indicated that its case against BAE was not as advanced as its own press releases had said, leaving us with no alternative than to regretfully withdraw our legal challenge. BAE still has to formally plead guilty in a UK criminal court.



Global reverberations

On 3 March, two days after making the formal guilty plea in the US courts, the US State Department placed a "temporary administrative hold" on weapons export licenses sought by BAE. Although there is a lack of clarity about exactly what is covered— probably not equipment produced by the company's US factories— or how long it will last, this nonetheless could have a significant impact on BAE's business.

The authorities in Austria, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Tanzania are reportedly still investigating the allegations. However, South Africa— after Saudi Arabia the subject of the biggest alleged corruption— has abandoned its action against Fana Hlongwane, an adviser to the late Defence

Minister Joe Modise, despite fresh evidence of payments. South Africa's excellent *Mail & Guardian* newspaper has linked its website to hundreds of pages of documentation regarding the case. Stories abound of the marked lack of enthusiasm by the current South African government for taking action.

Dick Evans out

One small moment of joy was the revelation in BAE's annual report that Sir Richard Evans had ceased to be employed by the company as an adviser on its Saudi deals at the end of February. BAE's boss during the period from which many of the allegations date, Evans' £247,000 a year advisory role was defended by current Chief Executive Ian King just a week previously.

Join the People's Jury

If the legal system can't hold BAE to account, you can. As we prepare for BAE's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 5 May (see page 10), CAAT has launched its People's Jury. Add your comment at <http://baepeoplejury.wordpress.com>.

If you are not online, send your reasonably short and pithy contribution to the office and we will add it for you.

Military spending

Greece's military procurement plans may suffer as a result of the country's financial turmoil, with major acquisition programmes pending for some time possibly now on hold. However, Greece's overall debt on military acquisitions has been reduced due to an austerity campaign by the former conservative government.

DEFENSE NEWS, 22/2/10

South Africa's financial crisis has led to a 4.1 per cent cut in its 2010 military budget compared to the previous year. This represents a 15.9 per cent decrease on a previous forecast. The following two years will also see cuts. Key army procurement is expected to remain unchanged.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 24/3/10

Morocco has increased its military budget by \$1bn over 2010 and 2011, leading to suggestions that Morocco is trying to keep pace with Algeria. Much of the additional funds will be spent on 24 F-16 aircraft from Lockheed Martin. Morocco's increasing reliance on US suppliers coincides with a three-fold increase in US military assistance.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 3/3/10

BAE

BAE Systems has lost out to US rival General Dynamics in a competition worth more than £1bn to build the army's next reconnaissance vehicle. BAE is now likely to go ahead with 500 redundancies in the UK. This would leave its Newcastle site facing closure.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 23/3/10

A Unite union representative has said that 375 redundancies at BAE Systems sites in Warton and Samlesbury have been completed without any compulsory cuts. The news came as the company revealed that it had "aggressively" cut costs in expectation of reduced military budgets.

LANCASHIRE EVENING POST, 26/3/10

BAE is to share in £33m set aside by the EU to develop technologies to snoop on its citizens. The projects, which the European Commission say have undergone "rigorous ethical review", include teaching CCTV how to "make inferences about the acceptability of human behaviour". Any new technologies will be the property of BAE Systems and other participants, rather than the taxpayers behind the £33m.

PRIVATE EYE, 19/3/10

Saudi Arabia and BAE Systems have agreed on the next major phase of Project Salam, meaning that assembly of the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft is due to start in Saudi Arabia in 2010.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 6/1/10

China

China has said that cooperation with the US will be detrimentally affected after Washington's announcement of a \$6.4bn arms deal with Taiwan. The Chinese foreign minister described the deal as "a violation of the code of conduct between nations" and China then severed military-to-military links with the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, in the first aerospace sale to Taiwan by a European contractor in nearly two decades, Eurocopter has beaten Sikorsky to supply helicopters to the Taiwan Air Force. This was followed by suggestions that the deal could jeopardise Europe's commercial ties to China.

OBSERVER, 31/1/10; DEFENSE NEWS, 8/2/10

Spain's ambassador to Beijing has said that his country will use its presidency of the EU to push for an end to the EU arms embargo on China. Critics say that any such move should depend on concessions from China.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 3/2/10

China's military budget has seen an unexpected slowdown in growth, falling to single figures for the first time since 1989.

Analysts said that this did not necessarily mean that the country would curtail its fast-rising military spending, with the US claiming that China spends more than its budget figures suggest.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 10/3/10

Israel

Israeli company Plasan has formed a joint venture with Marshall Land Systems to design, manufacture and market armoured systems for the UK military.

DEFENSE NEWS, 2/2/10

US European Command and the Israeli military have completed an agreement that allows up to \$800m of US war reserves to be stored in Israel. The agreement caps a process to determine conditions under which US-owned stockpiles can be made available for Israel's emergency use.

DEFENSE NEWS, 11/1/10

Airbus

Spain has suggested relocating high-skill aviation production jobs from Filton (near Bristol) to Spain if the UK does not contribute its share of an aid package to rescue EADS' Airbus project.

EADS and Airbus customer nations have reached an agreement in principle to save the troubled project.

TIMES, 5/3/10; JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 10/3/10

Babcock/VT

Babcock has won control of the VT Group (formerly VosperThornycroft) with a £1.36bn bid. Both companies provide engineering and support services to the Ministry of Defence and other government customers.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, 24/3/10

Outsourcing drones

Civilian contractors employed via the privatised UK military technology

company QinetiQ are being sent to Afghanistan to operate drones, fuelling debate about the use of outsourcing in frontline operations.

Outsourcing is expected to grow as pressure rises on military spending but is controversial, not least because it may lead to a situation where the decision to pull a trigger is part of a commercial contract.

TIMES, 8/2/10

Italy

Italy's Finmeccanica is developing links in foreign markets, thanks to the travels of Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The company recently sealed deals in Libya, Kazakhstan and Belarus following Italian diplomatic initiatives in those countries. Finmeccanica also signed a deal with Russia during the Russian President's visit to Rome.

DEFENSE NEWS, 7/12/09

Ukraine

Ukraine has signed a major military contract to supply the rebuilt Iraqi security forces. It is estimated to be worth between \$2.4bn and \$2.8bn.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 23/12/09

Georgia

Georgia has denounced a proposed French sale of tanks and warships to Russia, saying that it would allow the country to invade neighbours "within hours". The Georgian President also suggested that the sale of an amphibious ship could lead to Black Sea confrontations between Nato and Russia.

TIMES, 19/2/10

India and Pakistan

The US is expanding weapons sales to both India and Pakistan. It has made billions of dollars in weapons deals with India, which is in the middle of modernising its military. At the same time, US

military aid to Pakistan is set to double next year.

India and Pakistan have both been critical of US military sales or transfers to the other.

India has been described as the most important market in the world for military contractors looking to make foreign sales in 2010 and 2011, with the US and Russia battling over lucrative deals.

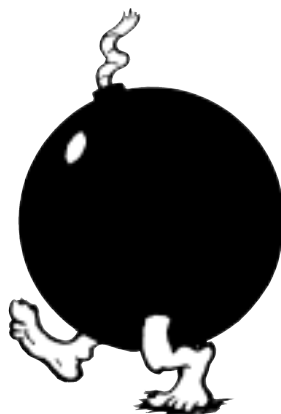
WALL STREET JOURNAL, 25/2/10

South America

Increased military spending in South America has led the US secretary of state to question whether an arms race is underway in the region. Venezuela, Brazil and Chile have made significant arms purchases and the value of arms transfers to the region has nearly doubled between the five-year periods 1999-2003 and 2004-2008.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) think tank argues that, for countries other than Venezuela and Colombia, this does not necessarily add up to an arms race, as current build-ups are driven by factors other than competition and perceived threats from other countries in the region. SIPRI suggests that motivations include modernisation, driven by high commodity prices for copper, oil and soya, and also efforts to promote domestic arms industries.

SIPRI, 10/1/10



Defence Services Asia arms fair

Malaysia, April 2010

Some VIPs from the official list, with total numbers of VIPs from each country shown.

UK (7 VIPs)

Bob Ainsworth MP

Secretary of State for Defence

Sir David Richards

Chief of General Staff

Sir Paul Stephenson

Commissioner of the Met. Police

Richard Paniguan

Head of UKTI DSO

Air Vice Marshal Nigel Maddox

The Senior Military Adviser

Burma (11 VIPs)

General Thura Shwe Mann

Chief of Staff

Police Major General Khin Yi

Chief of Myanmar Police Force

China (13 VIPs)

General Chen Bingde

Chief of the General Staff

H.E. Meng Jianzhu

Minister of Public Security

Indonesia (12 VIPs)

General TNI Djoko Santoso

Chief of National Defence Forces

Pakistan (10 VIPs)

General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani

Chief of the Army Staff

Rwanda (1 VIP)

General James Kabarebe

Chief of Defence Forces

Saudi Arabia (2 VIPs)

Field Marshal Saleh Al-Muhaya

Chief of General Staff of the Army

Sri Lanka (7 VIPs)

Lieut. Gen. Jagath Jayasuriya

Commander of Army

Sudan (3 VIPs)

Lieut. Gen. Mohamed Abdul Gadir

Joint Head of Staff Sudan Army

Yemen (2 VIPs)

Major General Abdulmalik Altayeb

Central National Security

Zimbabwe (7 VIPs)

H.E. E. Mnangagwa

Minister of Defence

General Constantine Chiwenga

Chief of Defence Forces

Commissioner Chihuri Augustine

Commissioner General of Police

University action on arms

CAAT Universities Coordinator Sarah Reader introduces this year's highlights

As we enter this year's final academic term, students continue to take action against their universities' links with the arms trade.

Talks, skill sharing and planning at the Universities Gathering

On 6 March students from different universities gathered in York for a day of workshops and skill sharing. Noted peace researcher Steve Schofield spoke on arms conversion and the economy, which are issues that often confront students when they take action at recruitment events. There were also workshops on campaign skills and the new campaigns guide "How to disrupt arms company recruitment" was launched.

New campaign guide!

With the end of the academic year approaching, the Universities Network is preparing for a new session of arms trade recruitment in autumn by launching a counter-recruitment guide. The guide sets out the campaign against arms companies and the way they target students, and gives tips on how to carry out a successful action. From disrupting evening events to sabotaging stalls and handing out leaflets, the guide will be a useful tool for groups wishing to stop arms companies from accessing students. Copies of the guide will be available at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of BAE Systems (see page 10) and it will soon be available for download from the CAAT website.

Targeting the BAE AGM

CAAT Universities Network has some exciting plans for the BAE AGM. Students, universities and arms companies continue to be linked



Participants at the Universities Network Gathering

through their investments, funding of research and recruitment practices. BAE Systems is in regular attendance at university recruitment events and students continue to take action

against this. Academic institutions and arms companies should not mix! Join us on 5 May, everybody welcome! See page 10 for more info.

Campaign Focus: DISARM York

DISARM York is a group of students that came together in January 2009 after finding out that the University of York ranked higher in league tables of university investment in arms manufacturers than in academic league tables.

The university implemented an ethical investment policy after hundreds of students turned out to demonstrate and after receiving a petition of two thousand signatures. It has pledged not to knowingly invest in any company that causes direct harm to individuals. However, York University continues to invest up to a million pounds in BAE Systems through its pension fund, on the basis that the fund is a "separate corporate body" from the

university, and therefore not subject to the Ethical Investment Policy.

DISARM York used a Day of Action as an opportunity to keep up pressure on the university and pension fund managers. The group held a candle-lit vigil outside the Vice-Chancellor's house for victims of the arms trade, and posted hundreds of postcards from students supporting the campaign. The vigil was a moving reminder of the damage caused by corporate greed.

We were privileged to host the Universities' Network Gathering. We were so inspired by the actions and campaigns at other Universities and left with a revived energy to do whatever it takes to end our university's investment in arms manufacturers.

Alexandra Peck, DISARMYork

Speak's Day of Action

1 March – What made this Monday morning so different for the staff of UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO)? Well, a crowd of about 70 young people had congregated in front of UKTI's headquarters at 66 Victoria Street in London, dancing, singing and enjoying themselves. And they were colourful too, with their banners and slogans like "no bailouts for bombs" or "British arms exports: aiding repression and harming development". Best of all was the huge tank made of cardboard and decorated with flowers.



Speak's cardboard tank and flowers

Some passers-by took photos of the unfamiliar scene. This was probably the first they knew of this being the address where arms deals are promoted by the Government, paid for by taxpayers' money.

The demonstration was organised by Speak, a Christian network of young people who campaign against Government support for the arms trade, and for other progressive causes. In the afternoon the Speak supporters headed to the Houses of Parliament where they lobbied ten MPs with the anti-arms trade message. **Niki Goridis**

Spring gatherings

York played host to a fantastic day of inspiring interactions and workshops for 25 CAAT supporters in March. Debates on the day included "What keeps the myth alive that the arms trade is essential for the British economy?" and "How to get our MPs to go beyond their party lines on closing the Government's arms sales department".

Lots of exciting plans were shared, among them: organising a hustings involving over ten campaigning groups including the CAAT group in Edinburgh; the London group beginning to share their news on Twitter; three people joining CAAT's Speaker Network; and lots of people planning on targeting their candidates and MPs around the election!

Many people said that the best thing about the day was meeting all the other great people involved.

By the time this issue of CAATnews hits your doorstep, another Spring Gathering will have taken place in Bristol and plans will be shaping up for Stop Week (see pages 8 and 9).

Election campaigns

Sharen Green, a CAAT Local Contact, has been busy lobbying parliamentary candidates to sign a Demolition Order for UKTI DSO (see pages 8 and 9) at a hustings and surgery. Dr Sue Farrant, a Liberal Democrat candidate and serious contender for the marginal seat (currently held by the Conservatives) agreed to sign. She also supported an immediate arms embargo on Israel. This was a promising sign that thoughtful candidates are willing to go beyond their party lines and call for the closure of the Government department that exists solely to maximise arms company profit.

Your news please!

If you take action against the arms trade, let us know! We'd love to have your stories and photos for our website, or for CAAT Twitter, or for CAATnews (the next deadline is 28 June). Email Anne-Marie at annemarie@caat.org.uk.

We don't want BAE

A public meeting in Washington, Tyne and Wear, attracted 147 people concerned about a BAE System's development in their town, which will replace their Birtley site. While BAE claim the development will boost the local economy, it is suspected that jobs will be lost in the move and residents have concerns that consultation for the planning permission was very poor.

If you live or work nearby and want to get involved then email Anne-Marie at annemarie@caat.org.uk.

Day of prayer

If you would like to be involved in CAAT's Christian Network, please support the Arms Trade Day of Prayer on 20 June and publicise the UKTI campaign in your Church, Meeting or Justice & Peace Group. Order a FREE copy of our Day of Prayer pack by calling the office or emailing christian@caat.org.uk.

GET EQUIPPED FOR ACTION AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE

Sarah Waldron, Anne-Marie O'Reilly and Niki Goridis outline plans for Stop Week, 19-27 June

Few people think that the UK should sell arms to countries in conflict or to regimes that abuse human rights, but this is the reality of UK arms export policy (see the shaded box, 'UK arms in conflict'). The policy around arms is, first and foremost, to sell them.

These sales line the pockets of the arms companies, but they couldn't happen without the Government's support, funded by the UK taxpayer. The UK government doesn't just approve weapons sales to tyrants, conflict zones and human rights abusers: it actively promotes them. The UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) is a unit of 160 civil servants with the remit of drumming up business for the arms companies.

Take action

Hundreds of new MPs will be elected on 6 May and we need your help to put the arms trade on the agenda for the next government. Join in with Stop Week – CAAT's national week of action against the arms trade – and ask your MP to support our call for the closure of the government's arms sales unit, UKTI DSO. We want MPs to make a public commitment to support our campaign by signing a Demolition Order for UKTI DSO's closure.

Stop Week is a fantastic opportunity to link up with other CAAT supporters in your area to meet your MP. Even if you're not able to take part in a lobby meeting, please take a couple of minutes to send your MP a brief letter asking him or her to support our campaign. If just 20 per cent of CAATnews readers did so, we could reach 90 per cent of MPs!

Arguing the case

CAAT's new report 'The Case for Closure' makes a powerful argument against Government support for arms exports and the closure of UKTI DSO. Shorter background information can be found in our briefings 'Arms Trading at UKTI', 'UKTI DSO in Action', and 'Making the Case', which is a two-page guide to refuting the main

arguments for arms exports. All this and more can be ordered from the CAAT office or found online at www.caat.org.uk/ukti.

Find out about your MP

Before contacting your MP, it's useful to do some research to find out what their views and interests are. This not only helps you select the arguments that are most likely to convince your MP, it also makes you feel more confident and comfortable in answering questions.

You can find out what their party position is on page 12 or visit <http://www.caat.org.uk/election>.

Local newspapers may also have reports on MPs views and interests.

Much more information can be found online as more and more



UK arms in conflict

The UK has consistently sold arms to Israel, licensing exports worth between £10 million and £30 million a year, as well as supplying parts for incorporation into weapons exported to Israel by US suppliers. In 2009, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary David Miliband admitted that Israeli equipment used in Gaza "almost certainly" contained UK-supplied components. This equipment included Saar warships, which had fired into civilian settlements on the Gaza coastline during Israel's assault on Gaza in December 2008 to January 2009.

On 31 December 2009 Ian Lucas MP, the Minister for Business and Regulatory Reform, wrote that he "could not state categorically" that UK-supplied equipment was not used by the Sri Lankan Government in the suppression of the conflict against the Tamils.



UKTI
ARMED &
DANGEROUS

DANGER Unsafe Structure

This government department exists to make profits for arms companies

- ! Taxpayers' money squandered in this area
- ! Weapons sold to unstable & repressive regimes
- ! Your security is threatened

Stop Week will take place shortly after the election. We're aiming to lobby over half of all new MPs by the end of the week. **Can you help us reach yours?**

politicians are using the internet to engage with their constituents. Contact the CAAT office if you don't have internet access.

Meet your MP

There are many ways to get in touch with your MP. You can call or write a letter –



contact us or visit the website for a template – but a face-to-face meeting is probably the best way to get the campaign message across. If the MP supports our campaign, a meeting gives you the opportunity to ask him or her to take action in signing a giant Demolition Order, posing for a picture with your group, or writing a joint press release. Order a campaign pack or visit the website for a step-by-step guide to successful meetings.

After your meeting send a letter or press release about it to the local media, including some pictures, and send a thank you note to your MP reminding him or her of any agreed action points.

Also, let CAAT know how the meeting went. Even if they were discouraging it's extremely useful for us to know what was said so we can better understand their position. And if they supported the campaign, we want to record and celebrate this!

Get the word out

Demonstrate public support for closing the Government's arms sales

department and link up with others in your area. CAAT's Demolition Order cards are a great, visual way to collect support for the campaign. You can present them to your MP directly or send them to CAAT to pass on with others.



- Organise a stall or bring the cards along to public meetings to gather signatures. See our top tips for organising a stall here: <http://www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/runningastall.php>
- We can contact other supporters in your constituency to see if they want to help with a stall, lobbying meeting or fundraiser. Email julia@caat.org.uk. It could be the start of a new CAAT group in your town!
- If you are a member of the Christian Network, order a Day of Prayer pack to raise awareness about the campaign in your faith community.

Gather for Good

We're asking supporters to organise a social event – Gather for Good – on Saturday 26 June to end the week and provide an opportunity for campaigners, friends and family to gather together, celebrate the success of Stop Week and raise money for CAAT. The event doesn't have to be



big and needn't involve lots of organisation. We can provide resources to help you plan and carry off a successful event. See page 14 for more details.

Action checklist

- 5 minute action: welcome your new MP with a letter, and a copy of CAAT's report. Call 0207 281 0297 or email sarah@caat.org.uk to receive a copy of the report 'The Case for Closure' and a template letter.
- Arrange a lobby meeting with your MP: contact annemarie@caat.org.uk for a Stop Week pack with all you need to know, and to link up with other CAAT supporters in your area.
- Organise an event to raise awareness of the arms trade and get public support for the campaign.
- Celebrate your efforts by Gathering for Good at the end of the week.
- Order a Stop Week pack. Contact annemarie@caat.org.uk.

BAE Systems AGM

It's time for the BAE Annual General Meeting (AGM) again and the motivation for being there is as compelling as ever.

BAE is now the world's largest arms company, producing fighter aircraft, warships, tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery systems, missiles, munitions and much more. The weaponry is produced across its seven "home markets" (these include the UK, US, Saudi Arabia and, as of last year, India) and is sold indiscriminately across the globe.

The company is not just known for its massive arms selling but for its record of corruption. In February it agreed a plea bargain with the Serious Fraud Office and US Department of Justice following investigations into its arms deals with several countries. The resulting fines (small in the UK and significant in the US) were clearly good business decisions for BAE, allowing it to keep

bribery details out of court and the public eye (see page 3).

If you'd like to watch the BAE board being held to account or even question the board yourself, you can become a proxy shareholder and attend the AGM. And we've got some entertaining ideas for the protest outside the AGM, including a nine foot tall image of BAE Chair Dick Olver and nearly 100 judge wigs, music and cake.

We will be meeting at 10am on Wednesday 5 May at Kingsgate House (66-74 Victoria Street, SW1E 6SW), home to the government's arms sales department (the UKTI) and from 10.30am at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster. For more about the protest see www.caat.org.uk/events. To become a proxy shareholder ring Ian on 020 7281 0297 or email ian@caat.org.uk. Ian Prichard



CAAT supporters at last year's AGM

Hello Kirk



Hi! I'm Kirk Jackson and I am delighted to be taking on the role of Online Communications Coordinator, which is a new position created to boost CAAT's online presence. One of my main tasks will be redeveloping the CAAT website.

I've been involved with anti-arms trade campaigns for years; demonstrating at DSEi, helping to set up and run local groups, and getting involved with *Peace News* and the Anti-Militarist Network. As well as raising public awareness and lobbying for change I believe it is vital to take direct action against the arms industry. I've had a career in information technology and, for me, this is the ideal job!

Goodbye Sal

After nearly two and half years of maximising CAAT's funds and improving our fundraising systems, our Fundraising Coordinator Sally Campbell is leaving us. It is with great sadness that we say farewell. Sal has been offered an exciting position of Individual Giving Fundraiser at the Fawcett Society, which is a great opportunity for her. We'd like to thank Sal for all her hard work and excellent new fundraising ideas, as well as being good fun to work with. She will be hugely missed from the team, and everyone at CAAT wishes her all the very best with the new job.

Film review: Micmacs



Sally Campbell reviews a quirky and heartwarming tale of opposition to the arms trade

Director Jean-Pierre Jeunet's latest film, *Micmacs* (2009, cert12A) is the perfect antidote to those days when struggling against the power of the arms trade feels just a tad overwhelming.

Like Jeunet's most popular film *Amelie*, it relies on the viewer to suspend disbelief and enter a quirky world where the values of banding together and doing good for others are treasured.

Background

The film follows the story of Bazil, a man set on avenging the arms companies whose evil products have killed his father and left him with a bullet precariously lodged in his head. He soon realises he won't defeat the arms dealers on his own and befriends a fellow busker who takes him to a wonderful underground world made of salvaged junk, where circus acrobats live alongside kooky inventors.

Behind the PR

Bazil and his band of friends manage to successfully pit two directors of rival arms companies against one another. The portrayal of these two characters is cleverly built up to show that behind the sanitised façade and public-relations gleam of their corporate worlds lie two men driven by greed and a quest for personal supremacy. (Some may argue that it's not necessary to suspend disbelief on that point!).

A must see

It is a must see for all anti-arms campaigners in need of a reaffirming lift. It manages to convey important messages about the corruption and consequences of the arms trade while not losing its humorous and imaginative edge. Its heart-warming ending is encouragement to us all that the might of the arms industry can be defeated by individuals working together to overcome it.

'They said it'



"The sense of welcome we have received at BIAS has been truly stunning. It is great to see leadership which is truly understanding and responds to international needs."

Richard Paniguan, Director, UKTI Defence & Security Organisation, attending the aptly acronymed BIAS – Bahrain International Air Show

"DSO is doing a good job. UKTI's business focus with 1,300 commercial counselors spread around world markets has been excellent for industry."

Rees Ward, Chief Executive, Areospace, Defence and Security (ADS)

"In the UK human rights are not exactly respected like they are in Austria. I wasn't given underwear that was my size despite asking for it several times. And they didn't give me a comb."

Count Alfons Mensdoff-Pouilly, BAE agent, on his English prison experience (see page 3)

"If you are coming down the motorway from London or Blackpool and saw that when you got to Red Scar, you would think, 'What a wonderful thing, like the Angel of the North'."

Ken Hudson, Conservative leader of Preston Council, supporting the erection of a huge statue of a military aircraft as a tribute to Preston's aviation industry (ie BAE)

"The concept of a warplane on a huge stick is bad taste."

John Collins, Leader of the Labour Group, Preston Council

General Election – what the parties say

These are condensed versions of the arms trade policies of the main political parties, except those in Northern Ireland. Fuller and updated versions are available on the CAAT website – go to www.caat.org.uk and follow the 'Election Action' link or just go straight to <http://www.caat.org.uk/election>



Conservative Party

The Conservative Party believes that a better understanding of the diplomatic and economic value of defence and security exports is needed and will give them a higher priority than the present Government. We will review the assistance and co-ordination necessary between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to provide our defence and security exporters with the maximum support to continue to expand their role in securing the UK's national interests. We will not move the UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation immediately back into the MoD, but will have a period of assessment to see how we can best maximise Britain's defence exports.

Green Party

The Green Party would:

- * act to reduce arms sales worldwide by ending Government support for and subsidies of arms exports, including through UKTI DSO and the Export Credits Guarantee Department;
- * press for successful negotiations over a robust and comprehensive global Arms Trade Treaty;
- * use skills and resources at present tied up in military industry in the UK to create new jobs and produce socially useful products, especially in the renewable energy sector.

Labour Party

The Labour Government believes that responsible defence exports help governments ensure that their people enjoy security. They also assist this country to forge closer relationships

with allies and partners which helps support defence and international security objectives.

The defence industry makes a vital contribution to the UK economy and plays a leading role in stimulating and encouraging innovative science and technology. UK-based defence firms provide high quality jobs. Exports by these firms play an essential role in maintaining a strong, competitive defence industry here in the UK which underpins its capabilities in terms of what the UK armed forces can do.

We do not consider that support for defence exports is disproportionate with other UKTI sectors. The larger proportion of Defence & Security Organisation staff in UKTI Headquarters reflects the different nature of its business with its emphasis on government-to-government support for commercial campaigns.

The Government supports the defence industry's work on ethics, including anti-corruption. Securing a robust Arms Trade Treaty is a very high priority for the UK.

Liberal Democrats

Liberal Democrats will continue to demand that all arms exports are received by the intended and appropriate end-user. We have been critical of recent British arms sales, in particular to Libya and Israel. We welcome the United Nations vote to commence negotiations on an International Arms Trade Agreement.

Regarding UKTI DSO, while we recognise that properly regulated arms sales are legitimate, we do not believe that arms companies should be given disproportionate taxpayer

support. We do not believe that taxpayers should be expected to subsidise major arms exporters through credit guarantees.

Plaid Cymru

Plaid Cymru thinks that the arms trade causes untold misery and death to millions of people throughout the world, not just by means of destructive force, but by diverting resources from socially beneficial activities such as food production, education and health. The Government subsidises the arms industry to the tune of £856 million annually yet only 0.2 per cent of the British workforce is employed in the arms industry.

Scottish National Party

The SNP is still discussing its policies, but points to its 2005 election manifesto: "We will also help tackle the arms trade. Currently, the UK is the second biggest arms exporter in the world, with an appalling record of unethical sales." *Ann Feltham*

Links

Then Shadow Defence Secretary Liam Fox accepted a £50,000 donation from a venture capitalist involved with Gardner Aerospace, which supplies military parts for Airbus, BAE Systems and other firms. The company's clients are involved in a number of military programmes that face cuts after the general election.

TIMES, 9/2/10

Nottingham arms company shut down

Earlier this year, six activists (including CAAT's new Online Communications Coordinator, Kirk Jackson) effectively closed a Nottingham arms company for the day. Heckler & Koch (H&K) is one of the world's leading brands of small arms, including assault rifles, submachine guns, pistols and grenade launchers. The UK division can be found in an unmarked warehouse on a Nottingham industrial estate.

The activists moved into position before employees arrived for work. Four locked themselves to the gates using D-locks and home-made arm-tubes, while the other two climbed onto the roof and unfurled banners accusing the company of "arming repressive regimes". It took police nearly eight hours to remove all of the protesters using cutting equipment and a cherry picker.

The action was taken in response to the company's failure to address concerns about its business. H&K weapons continue to be supplied to armed forces that are known to commit human rights violations.



The demonstration at Heckler & Koch

The six people arrested were charged with aggravated trespass. Five pleaded guilty and were ordered to pay costs and fines of between £40 and £195. The sixth is pleading not guilty and the trial is set for 20 May at Nottingham Magistrates' Court. *Kirk Jackson*

More information on the campaign against Heckler & Koch in the UK can be found at www.shutdownhk.org.uk.

Putting arms exports to Israel on trial

On 17 January 2009, during Israel's attacks on Gaza, six activists entered a weapons factory in Brighton calling themselves "citizens' decommissioners".

Machinery used to make bomb release mechanisms and an assembly area were put out of action. In 2010, these activists hope to put arms exports to Israel on trial. One of them said:

"At the preliminary hearing on 1 March this year, the prosecution claimed that by causing over a quarter of a million pounds worth of damage...we in no way could have saved lives in the Occupied Territories. This therefore meant we had no right to a jury trial. The judge asked the prosecution to provide evidence to substantiate such a claim, but the prosecution had nothing to show. The defence came back with arguments including the common law defence of necessity: acting reasonably in the circumstances to prevent a greater evil.

The judge took a favourable decision for the defence: that the case should be heard by a jury. This is excellent because it means evidence and witnesses can be brought into court as legally relevant."

The trial has now been set for 17 May.

For more information, including information on contacting Elijah Smith, held on remand since the action, see <http://decommissioners.co.uk>.

Raytheon campaign

Campaigners in Derry celebrated victory in February after ten years of action, when the arms company Raytheon announced that it was going to leave the city.

Raytheon is the world's largest manufacturer of missiles and the fifth largest weapons manufacturer. Raytheon's Derry software plant had developed the firmware for transponders, targeting software and other crucial weapons guidance system-related work.

In one of the most high profile actions ever against the site, nine people "decommissioned" Raytheon's Derry offices to prevent war crimes by the Israeli armed forces, which

used weapons supplied by Raytheon during the Lebanon war in 2006. Accused of criminal damage, the Raytheon 9 were found not guilty in a unanimous jury verdict in 2008. One of the nine said: "We remain proud of the action we took and only wish that we could have done more to disrupt the 'kill chain' that Raytheon controls."

However the legal battles continue for some campaigners, with 14 facing criminal damage charges after accessing the Derry plant in January 2009 in an attempt to disarm the mainframe computer. For the latest information see Indymedia Ireland at www.indymedia.ie.

Fundraising



Stop Week fundraising

We've designated Saturday 26 June as a fundraising day during Stop Week, and hope that everyone involved in Stop Week (see pages 8 and 9) will take part.

We're asking supporters to organise a social event – Gather for Good – to end the week and provide an opportunity for campaigners, friends and family to gather together and raise money for CAAT.

The event doesn't have to be big and needn't involve lots of organisation – we can provide resources to help you plan and carry off a successful event.

We are sure you'll all think of some imaginative and fun ways to socialise and raise money, but here are a few ideas to get you started.

Dinner4Good

Hold a dinner or barbeque and ask guests to make a small donation in return. Just visit www.dinner4good.com/TREAT where you can set up your own fundraising page and invite friends and family. Guests can make a donation of their choice to the Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade (TREAT). TREAT has kindly agreed to donate all proceeds to CAAT to fund our research and education work.

Questioning the Arms Trade

Organise a quiz night and charge teams an entry fee in aid of CAAT. If you don't have the time to look up enough brain-teasing questions, just

get in touch and we can send you some we've come up with.

Baking not bombs


Hold a cake sale or coffee morning and double up by using the opportunity to distribute leaflets and collect petition signatures while raising money for CAAT.

Information on the fundraising day and a copy of our Local Fundraising Guide are included in the Stop Week Pack. Use the enclosed flyer to order your pack, or contact niki@caat.org.uk.


We hope you'll get involved in ending Stop Week on a high and helping us raise vital funds for the campaign.

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Get phone and broadband from a telecoms supplier with a difference and support CAAT at the same time



As a CAAT supporter, we will give you a £10 credit on your first bill AND 6% of your spend will go to CAAT to help them continue their excellent work

Call: 0845 458 9040
Visit: www.thephone.coop/CAAT
QUOTE: 'CAAT' and AF0302



Come to the Peace News Summer Camp
OXFORDSHIRE
23-27 JULY 2010

Join people from across the broad spectrum of the British peace movement for five days of exploration, celebration and empowerment.

"Fascinating and engaging discussions, debates and conversations seemed to be taking place all the time all over the camp. Fantastic networking amongst groups and individuals"
A 2009 PN Summer Camper

Fed by local organic fruit and veg (lovingly cooked by the wonderful Veggies of Nottingham), we are camping in a family-friendly and renewably-powered way from 23-27 July near Faringdon, Oxfordshire, to make the world a better place.

The camp costs £15 - £60 depending on income. See more at: www.peacenewscamp.info



*empowering, inviting, sharing, training, creativity,
community-building, play, learning, entertainment*

Participate in CAAT – here's how

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 or visit 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.

Campaign locally

CAAT's campaigns are effective because people like you take action around the country. Have a look at our campaigners' "to do" list (see box) to find out our key campaign priorities. You might run a CAAT stall, contact your local media or invite a CAAT speaker to speak at an event. You can also get more involved in a campaign by taking on one of these campaigner roles:

Join or start a local CAAT group – visit www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/local/groups.php to find out if there is a group near you or contact Anne-Marie annemarie@caat.org.uk to start a group in your area.

Become a Local Contact – act as a contact for CAAT supporters in your area. Co-ordinate local campaign activities or keep a local campaign group updated on CAAT's work.

Become a Supporter Media Activist – help build CAAT's profile by contacting media with the help of a briefing from CAAT. Contact David at david@caat.org.uk.

Join the CAAT Speakers Network – raise awareness about CAAT and get people campaigning by committing to arrange at least three talks a year. CAAT will provide training and a speaker's pack with information and presentations.

Become a Key Campaigner – receive campaigner updates from CAAT and help spread the word about CAAT in your area.

More information on how to campaign locally can be found at www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/local

Order a copy of the Local Campaigns Guide or find out more about these campaigner roles by contacting annemarie@caat.org.uk.

Universities Network

Join our vibrant network of students and staff taking action for clean investment, stopping the arms trade's graduate recruitment and exposing the arms trade's research involvement in universities.

- Visit our new Universities Network wiki – wiki.caat.org.uk.
- Join the discussion and planning list – send an email to caatunis-subscribe@lists.riseup.net
- Contact universities@caat.org.uk to find out more and sign up for our monthly email!

CAAT Christian Network

The network raises arms trade issues within national church structures and local churches. Contact Alun Morinan at christian@caat.org.uk.

Leave a legacy

If you are currently making or re-writing your Will, please consider leaving a gift to help fund our campaigns. Your legacy will make a real difference to CAAT's future work. Please call 020 7281 0297 to discuss the different ways you can remember CAAT.

Campaigners' 'to do' list

- Take action at the BAE AGM on 5 May (see page 10)
- Order a Stop Week pack and take part on 19-27 June (see pages 8-9).
- Five minute action - welcome your new MP with a letter and a copy of CAAT's report. Call 0207 281 0297 or email sarah@caat.org.uk for the report and a template letter.
- Arrange a lobby meeting with your MP - contact annemarie@caat.org.uk for a Stop Week pack with all you need to know, and to link up with other CAAT supporters in your area.
- Organise an event or stall to raise awareness of the arms trade and get public support for the campaign
- Celebrate your efforts by Gathering for Good at the end of Stop Week.

Donate today!

You can donate to CAAT by either visiting our website at www.caat.org.uk, or by completing the form below (in block capitals) and returning to: CAAT, Freepost, LON4296, London, N4 3BR.



Name

Address

Postcode

- I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to CAAT.
- I wish to donate by credit/debit card and have completed my card details.
- Please send me the CAATnews quarterly magazine.
- Please send me CAAT's monthly email bulletin.
- Please acknowledge my donation.

Telephone number

Email address

Card details

Credit/debit card type (please tick appropriate box):

Solo Switch/UK Maestro Visa Visa Delta

Credit/debit card number:

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To: The Manager Bank/Building Society:

Banks/building societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions from some kind of accounts.

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Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Bank/building society a/c no.

Sort code

I wish to donate £_____ every month/quarter/annually (please delete).

Reference (CAAT use only)

Please pay Campaign Against Arms Trade Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Campaign Against Arms Trade and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

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Date

