

CAATnews



BAE: OUR VERDICT

Issue 217
July-September 2010

£1.00

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Thank you also to our dedicated team of CAATnews stuffers.

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

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

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COVER: CAAT

IN THIS ISSUE...

Welcome to this issue of CAATnews

Different Government – different stance on arms trade? Well, articles on pages 3 and 12 of this issue suggest that we're going to have to wait and see.

Positions have been known to change as individuals move from Parliamentary opposition into Government and we will be following developments closely over the next few months to see what happens.

One thing is clear though – it is as important as ever to carry on

with our campaigning work. With many influences exerted on politicians we want to make sure that concerns over the arms trade are kept firmly in their sights.

Finally, well done to all those who worked so hard over the last few months to make the People's Jury at the BAE AGM (see cover picture and page 6) and Stop Week (see pages 8 and 9) such a success.

Keep up the excellent work!

Analysis	3
Arms Trade Shorts	4–5
CAAT around the UK	6–7
Stop Week	8–9
News	10
Street action	11
Parliamentary	12
India	13
Fundraising	14
Get active!	15
Order form	16

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.

All change... or not?

Ann Feltham considers how the change of Government may impact on arms policy.

It was very odd. A small group of people from development, human rights and environmental organisations met in May to discuss the next steps to ensure that export credit support, a kind of Government insurance, is only given where projects meet minimum standards. In recent years, most of this support, through the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), had gone to either military projects or Airbus. In its dying days the Labour government had bowed to the demands of exporters and was replacing the standards it had itself introduced earlier with weaker ones. The meeting had been called to see if we could persuade the new Government to do better.

The situation had, however, become surreal. Just before we got together we learned that the junior minister responsible for the ECGD was the Liberal Democrat MP Ed Davey. His boss as Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills is, of course, Vince Cable, whose own appointment had come a few days earlier. This meant that MPs who had worked with the organisations in the group to criticise the Labour government were suddenly themselves in a position where they theoretically could make changes. But would they? Could they? Do they have any power in a Conservative-led administration?

Change or business as usual?

As the Business Secretary, Vince Cable is now responsible for the arms export promotion unit, UK Trade & Investment's Defence & Security Organisation, as well as the ECGD. He is also in charge of export licensing. So does having a leading Government minister



A change of Government – will there be a policy change on arms sales? WWARBY/FLICKR

previously sympathetic to CAAT mean a change in policy?

He is not the only Liberal Democrat member of the Government to have been supportive of CAAT's campaigns in the past – there is more about this on page 12. Now, however, these people are teamed up with Conservatives who have been the most ardent supporters of the arms industry. For example, Defence Secretary Liam Fox and Gerald Howarth, the Minister with responsibility for arms exports, have been vociferous in their support for arms companies.

The only official statement we have from the Coalition at the time of writing does not engender optimism. It states: "We will support defence jobs through exports that are used for legitimate purposes, not internal repression." This has been the standard policy for years, a policy which in practice has seen military equipment sold to repressive regimes and into conflict zones.

History also tends towards caution. Leading Labour Party figures, including Robin Cook, who was Foreign Secretary, had been very supportive of CAAT's aims when they came to power in 1997. This was not enough for the highly controversial licences granted by the previous Conservative administration for the export of Hawk jets and armoured vehicles to Suharto's Indonesia to be revoked. Robin Cook was overruled by the arms company-loving Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Opportunities for change

Whatever the current situation, this is not a time for despondency. There are a lot of unknowns, including new MPs to influence as well as old MPs, particularly those in the Labour Party, freed from the shackles of government and maybe willing to speak out. Whatever the situation with your MP, please do contact him or her. For more on this see pages 8 and 9.

Turkey-Israel

As well as announcing a possible break in diplomatic ties over Israel's raid on the Gaza-bound Freedom Flotilla, Turkey has declared the scrapping of all military deals with Israel and has cancelled three planned joint military exercises. A blanket ban on Israeli military aircraft using Turkish airspace is also in place.

Despite this stance, the two countries continue to push exports of their jointly refurbished M60A1 tank, starting with a bid to sell to Colombia. Turkish manufacturer BMC is also expected to continue its production of 400 military vehicles in cooperation with Israel's Hatzehof. Another ongoing programme, the contract to provide Ankara with Heron unmanned aerial vehicles, is in jeopardy after Israel's Elbit Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries pulled their employees out of Turkey, citing fears that they could be targeted in retaliation for Israel's actions. Whether or not the withdrawal is temporary and the contract will continue remains unclear.

Relations between the two countries had begun to deteriorate prior to the flotilla attack. In April Israel temporarily froze military sales to Turkey in response to perceived mounting of anti-Israel rhetoric by the Turkish Prime Minister, and stated that it would evaluate Turkish military requests on a case-by-case basis. The two also remain in opposition over sanctions against Iran, with Israel a staunch supporter while Turkey has voted against new sanctions and tried to broker a nuclear swap deal. US administration officials back Israel's stance, telling Turkish counterparts that growing ties with Iran and deteriorating relations with Israel will see arms sales to Turkey face obstacles in Congress. However, US companies continue to compete for multi-billion dollar military contracts with Turkey, the winners of which are due to be announced later this year.

DEFENSE NEWS, 14/6/10 AND 21/6/10;
JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 21/4/10 AND 23/6/10

Spending

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has found that the global financial crisis has had little impact on military budgets, with £1 trillion spent on weapons last year, an annual increase in real terms of 5.9 per cent. Spending increased fastest in Asian countries, with China raising its expenditure most. Of European countries, the UK accounted for the biggest absolute increase.

SIPRI also found that global spending has risen by nearly 50 per cent over the past decade.

GUARDIAN, 2/6/10

Pakistan's 2010-11 military budget is up 31 per cent on last year at \$5.2bn. Reasons for the increase include anti-Taliban operations, maintenance of force against India and training.

DEFENSE NEWS, 14/6/10

Spain set a new record for military exports in 2009, with sales of \$1.6bn. Spain's main customers are still EU members, who account for 39 per cent, significantly down on the 79 per cent share of five years earlier.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 16/6/10

Israel is anticipating record military sales of \$8bn in 2010 and promoted new equipment at the Eurosatory arms fair in June. The Israeli Ministry of Defence director general described arms as "the most lucrative industry for the state of Israel".

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 9/6/10

BAE Systems

BAE Systems has become the world's largest arms company, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). This is mainly due to BAE's push in the US, where the headquarters of two of its largest groups are based. Increasing US sales have offset decreases elsewhere, including in the UK.

BAE group business development director Alan Garwood has said that the US and Canada are key to the

company's future, conceding that BAE Systems was "almost in a care and maintenance phase" in the UK.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 14/4/10; JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 23/6/10

The Iraqi government is in talks to buy 24 BAE Hawk trainer jets for up to £1bn. The deal would be Iraq's first large arms purchase from the UK in over 20 years.

Korea and Italy are also in the competition for jet contracts as Iraq rebuilds an air force destroyed by coalition forces during the Gulf War.

BAE's predecessor British Aerospace was in talks with the Iraqis in 1989 to sell 50 Hawks. The deal was blocked by the UK government after campaigns by CAAT and others and amid concerns that the jet could be converted for combat, contravening arms restrictions put in place during the Iran-Iraq war.

TIMES ONLINE, 29/4/10

BAE has won a \$500m contract to supply the Malaysian government with armoured vehicles. The vehicles will be manufactured locally under a joint venture between BAE Systems and Nurol Group of Turkey and would represent the Turkish arms industry's largest ever export deal.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 20/4/10; DEFENSE NEWS, 10/5/10

In May BAE entered a definitive agreement to buy Atlantic Marine Holding Company for \$352m. The company will become part of BAE's ship repair business, and the deal enhances BAE's naval support and upgrading abilities.

The same month saw BAE announce that it is to open an office in Jordan.

BAE SYSTEMS, 18/5/10

Russia

Russia has signed a deal to sell Syria jet fighters, anti-tank weapons and air defence systems. This is likely to be watched with unease by Israel and the US, which has imposed sanctions on Damascus.

A deal with Venezuela earlier this year also raised US concerns, with Venezuela pledging to buy more than \$5bn in Russian weapons. Elsewhere, Russia continued efforts to corner the north African market with progress in the proposed sale of anti-aircraft gun and missile systems to Algeria and Libya.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 15/5/10; JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 14/4/10 AND 16/6/10

Israel-US

Israel is seeking more bombs from the US and has asked Washington to make a 50 per cent increase in the emergency arms store kept in Israel. It is not so long since Washington last increased the emergency cache: last December it doubled stores to \$800m worth of arms. Israel is allowed to use the equipment with US approval in the case of an emergency.

The requests are said to come in response to Israeli fears of an imminent regional conflict. Several proposed and nearly completed US-Israel military initiatives are aimed at improving Israel's offensive as well as defensive capabilities.

INDEPENDENT, 9/6/10; DEFENSE NEWS, 3/5/10

China

Norwegian electronics manufacturer Sensoror was one of the few foreign firms to exhibit at the Chinese Defence Electronics Exhibition (CIDEX) earlier this year.

The company was offering products based on Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems technology, which could transform the accuracy of Chinese missiles. The US forbids its companies to offer this product to the Chinese market and Sensoror is the only firm active in China because, it says "there is no ITAR [International Traffic in Arms Regulations] content to our product".

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 2/6/10

Taiwan

Taiwan has finalised the acquisition of 30 Boeing attack helicopters despite speculation that Boeing could delay or even cancel the deal due to pressure from Beijing.

Taiwan has also featured in arms trade headlines over the ruling by the International Court of Arbitration that Thales owes Taiwan more than \$800m for violating agreements related to the 1991 sale of six frigates.

Taiwan sued to recover commissions allegedly paid to French and Taiwan government officials despite an agreement by Thales not to pay commissions to intermediaries. Thales has said it will appeal.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 21/4/10; DEFENSE NEWS, 10/5/10

Libya

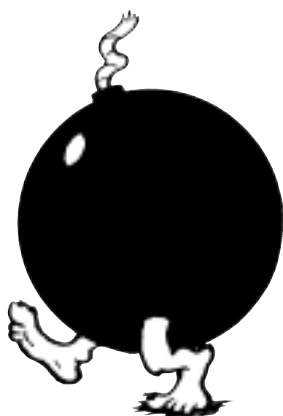
Italy's Finmeccanica, which owns AgustaWestland, has opened a helicopter plant in Libya in a joint venture with the country at a cost of almost \$24m.

ASDNEWS, 28/4/10

Turkey

Turkey has launched urgent talks to buy nine helicopters from AgustaWestland in order to fight separatist Kurds. These come in addition to 50 helicopters to be jointly made by AgustaWestland and Turkish manufacturers.

DEFENSE NEWS, 18/6/10



Farnborough International

19-23 July: private trade days

24-25 July: public airshow

Events and pavilions included:

- a drone pavilion and indoor drone flying display
- UKTI market briefings, including China and India
- UKTI aerospace specialists discussed business opportunities in countries including Israel and Russia.

Military delegations

"The delegations invitation list has been developed in consultation with industry and with UKTI/DSO to provide a beneficial and wide-ranging series of business meetings and visits to exhibitor stands and chalets."

Military delegations attended from 36 countries including Algeria, India, Iraq, Jordan, South Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Exhibitors

These included all of the world's top 10 arms companies: BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Raytheon, EADS, Finmeccanica (owners of AgustaWestland), L-3 Communications and Thales.

They were joined by arms companies from around the world including:

- Elbit Systems and Rafael of Israel.
- Korea Aerospace Industries
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited of India.
- Turkish Aerospace Industries
- ST Engineering of Singapore.
- MiG, Sukhoi and Tactical Missiles Corporation of Russia.

Main source: www.farnborough.com

Ban BAE: Stop arms recruitment

Students are gearing up for a year of protests against BAE Systems. From September students will be targeting the arms company's recruitment efforts and making it clear that arms companies and education don't mix.

Graduates are vital for arms companies and we hope that by targeting their recruitment practices we will hinder their ability to produce the next generation of weapons and weapons systems. Past actions against BAE include disrupting evening presentations and confiscating BAE materials and freebies, holding a "die-in" at a careers stall, banner drops and leafleting. We hope to see widespread action by students and will be tracking each protest with an interactive map.

Counter-recruitment campaigns can be hugely successful. For example, the energy giant E.ON abandoned its recruitment tour in 2008 following constant opposition



A "die-in" at a recruitment stall brings home the impact of the arms industry

by climate change activists. We hope that BAE will follow suit and that universities will stop inviting arms companies to campus.

A new campaign pack will be available in September which will include the campaign guide 'Countering Arms Company Recruitment', posters, stickers, leaflets and ideas for talks. If you would like to order one get in touch at universities@caat.org.uk.

SARAH READER

The People's Jury at the BAE AGM

One 12-foot high puppet (literally armed to the teeth – see cover picture) + 30 judge/jurors in wigs and cloaks = a strange sight for civil servants, tourists and shareholders in the City of Westminster on 5 May!

The giant puppet was Dick Olver, Chair of the world's largest arms company BAE Systems, and the thirty judge/jurors were Campaign Against Arms Trade activists. The scene was set for the People's Jury outside BAE's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Chanting "BAE can't you see: corruption is your legacy", the People's Jury pursued giant Dick Olver from 66 Victoria Street (home to the Government arms sales department from which he receives so much support) to justice outside the AGM. There, the crowd put

forward evidence on charges including:

- corruption
- selling weapons to repressive regimes
- targeting students and influencing university research agendas
- undermining South Africa's democracy
- misleading the public about its commitment to UK jobs.

When asked for their decision, the People's Jury was unanimous: **GUILTY!**

Meanwhile, CAAT supporters pursued the shorter and more life-like version of Dick Olver inside with relentless and detailed questions on corruption. Olver's response was comically shallow and scripted: repeating several times that BAE

would "self-report" anything dodgy that they found out about, or knew. Former Member of the South African Parliament Andrew Feinstein called for Olver to resign on this issue.

Other comedy moments came when Olver described how BAE is "doing our bit" for the environment: limiting their number of corporate jets to one, and profiting from a couple of small renewables spin-offs from their military work.

CAAT activists will continue to ensure that while BAE managed to escape justice in the courts, the company will not achieve the same feat in the court of public opinion.

You can still add your judgement to the People's Jury at <http://baepeoplesjury.wordpress.com>

ANNE-MARIE O'REILLY

Mark Thomas to be at Gathering!

CAAT National Gathering
6 November, 9.45am–4.30pm,
Conway Hall, London. £5
waged/£3 unwaged. Includes
tea, coffee and light lunch.

The new Government brazenly claims that there is “no embarrassment” in pushing arms exports (see Peter Luff quote on page 10). But resistance to the arms trade is increasing. With the world’s largest arms fair coming up in the UK in 2011, this Gathering will be crucial for making links, sharing ideas and hatching plans to shut the arms profiteers down.

CAAT is delighted to welcome guest speaker, comedian and activist, Mark Thomas (pictured right). He

reckons: “CAAT is a frisky minx of an NGO... These folk do serious business.”

Why should you be there this year?

Because:

- You shouldn’t miss out on comedian Mark Thomas on stage!
- You’ll get to meet like-minded people and can link up with them for future actions in the year leading up to the world’s largest arms fair.
- You’ll meet CAAT staff to discuss the latest developments regarding the arms trade and hear how the change in government affects our campaigns.

- You can hear first-hand about the impact of the UK’s weapons sales around the world.

Book now to get a place at your preferred workshop! See the flyer in this CAATnews or visit www.caat.org.uk/nationalgathering.



Day of Prayer

CAAT’s Christian Network coordinated a Day of Prayer at the start of Stop Week in June. Over 60 supporters took part and raised awareness in their communities about the arms trade.

For example, Penarth CAAT Christian Network held a service and a campaign stall.

Elsewhere, the Justice and Peace group in Corpus Christi parish in Brixton, London, made a visual display for the weekend’s Masses and asked people to sign Demolition Order postcards; and Christian Network Co-ordinator Alun Morinan preached at a service led by Lesley Misrahi at Wood Green Mennonite Church.

Other activities include talks by Alun at Cambridge University and Oxford University, where he discussed divestment from the arms trade. Despite being held in the summer term with exams looming, both meetings were well attended and generated plenty of discussion.

ALUN MORINAN

“Decommissioners”

In a victory for justice, and as an important demonstration that juries and the UK public put human well-being above arms company profits, the anti-arms protestors known as the “Decommissioners” have been acquitted on charges of “conspiracy to create criminal damage”. The jury accepted their defence of necessity: that they acted reasonably in the circumstances to prevent a greater evil.

As reported in the last issue of CAATnews, on 17 January 2009, during Israel’s attacks on Gaza, six activists entered weapons factory EDO/ITT in Brighton calling themselves “citizens’ decommissioners”. EDO MBM make bomb release clips for fighter aircraft of a type used by Israel and have been extensively involved in the design and manufacture of unmanned aerial vehicles.

The Decommissioners barricaded themselves inside the factory and proceeded to break computers and other equipment, with the aim of

preventing the production of weapons. They put an assembly area and machinery used to make bomb release mechanisms out of action. EDO/ITT later estimated the cost of the damage at £250,000.

The Decommissioners’ trial began on 7 June. One of the defendants was acquitted on 15 June, even before the defence had begun to present their evidence, as there was no evidence that she had known about the decommissioning until after the event. By 2 July the final seven defendants had also been acquitted.

Commenting in the *Guardian* one of the seven, Robert Nicholls, said: “I’m joyful really, at being a free man. The action was impulsive really, we just wanted to do something that would make a real difference to the people of Palestine.”

ANNE-MARIE O’REILLY

Take action over arms to Israel – see page 10.

STOPWEEK

Anne-Marie O'Reilly and Sarah Waldron report back from Stop Week, when activist demands included the "demolition" of the Government arms sales unit.

The new Coalition Government has asked for people's views on what spending cuts should be made. In our view there's one clear step to take: stop spending taxpayers' money helping arms companies market their weapons!

This year, CAAT's annual Stop Week coincided with the week of the budget. While essential public services faced cuts, hundreds of anti-arms trade campaigners took action across the UK to call for the "demolition" of the Government's arms trading unit, UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO). Its cost to the world in terms of bloodshed, human rights abuses and corruption is well established, but it is now clear that the UK can no longer afford the financial cost of supporting the arms trade either.

During Stop Week local activists put pressure on newly elected MPs, getting the ball rolling for our campaign to ensure that every MP in the country feels the pressure to stop wasting millions on Government support for the arms trade.

Targeting Vince Cable

The Conservatives have said they want to increase the support given to arms exports, and use arms sales "as a foreign policy tool". But in the past, as Ann Feltham outlines on pages 3 and 12, many senior Liberal Democrats have supported our campaign to end Government support for arms exports. These

include Vince Cable, now the Minister responsible for UKTI.

In the run-up to Stop Week, hundreds of people emailed Vince Cable calling on him to put his past commitments into practice now that he has a real opportunity to tackle arms exports. During Stop Week constituents visited him to put the case for closure in person. For more on one of these meetings see Hilary Evans' report in the box on the opposite page.

Action around the country

Hundreds more CAAT supporters met with and wrote to their MPs, and took the message to the public with stalls and events throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Here are a few highlights:

- In Poole a successful street stall shifted nearly 200 campaign postcards. Chris Rocha, one of the six activists involved commented: "I think the arms trade has gone unchallenged for so long. It's counterproductive ... where they waste money which could be spent on development."
- Edinburgh CAAT held a petition stall on Princes Street and arranged a week-long exhibition at Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre.
- Sheffield CAAT ran a stall at the 25th Annual Green Party Fair. Lots of interest was shown, petitions signed and money raised!
- Norfolk CAAT gave a visual presentation at the Norwich Peace Camp and lobbied local MPs.
- Hull CAAT used the week to focus public attention on why UKTI DSO



London CAAT dressed as demolition workers outside the government's arms sales department – see box on right

Meeting the Minister

CAAT supporter Hilary Evans reports on her meeting with Vince Cable:

"Seven CAAT supporters met with Vincent Cable MP by arrangement on Friday 25 June. The group of Twickenham constituents included members of Kingston Peace Council, Amnesty and United Nations Association and a Quaker.

We decided upon two priorities:

1. To find out if he is still sympathetic to the former Lib Dem view that arms exporters receive a disproportionate degree of taxpayer support. And, if he is of



this opinion, whether he plans any changes to UKTI DSO.

2. To present him with a copy of the new CAAT report 'Private Gain, Public Pain' which details how the Government actively promotes arms sales even to repressive regimes with bad human rights records.

Peace campaigners in Kingston present a copy of CAAT's 'Private Gain, Public Pain' report to Vince Cable MP in Stop Week

Dr Cable began by stating that he isn't against arms trading provided it is properly regulated and carefully monitored, and he believes this to be the case now. It is an area which has been of great concern to him in the past and he stated that he has been jointly responsible for instigating the tightening of arms control legislation.

The really positive outcome was that he agreed to read CAAT's 'Private Gain, Public Pain' report and comment fully on it. We will follow it up and it should open a very valuable dialogue."

should be demolished and lobbied local MPs.

- London CAAT set up a mock demolition site outside UKTI (see box below).

Street stalls took place in many other locations, including Macclesfield, Trowbridge and Birmingham, reaching thousands of people. Many people also took part in the Christian Network's Day of Prayer – see page 7 for more details.

What next?

Stop Week is just the start! The new Government has yet to decide what to do about its arms trading unit, the UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO). The coming months will also see a review of defence policy and a Comprehensive Spending Review – all great opportunities for us to exert influence.

However, there are some very worrying signs. Peter Luff, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, chose Stop Week to give journalists the now infamous quote: "There's a sense that in the past we were rather embarrassed about exporting defence products. There's no such embarrassment in this Government."

But there may also be some hope. Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, who has overall responsibility for UKTI DSO, has supported CAAT's campaigns against Government support for the arms trade in the past. Perhaps he may be embarrassed where Peter Luff is not!

See page 3 and page 12 for more analysis of the new Government's position on the arms trade.

Help us keep the pressure on

Through meetings and hundreds of letters and emails CAAT supporters have already contacted 50 per cent of the new MPs: can you help us reach the other half?

- Making it easy: You can email your MP in a minute or two using the easy tool on the CAAT website (www.caat.org.uk) or we can send you a template letter.
- If you've already written to your MP, please let us know what response you received. Please also let us know if they have not responded.
- Keep up the correspondence – see our website, or call or write for up-to-date tips.
- Meet your MP: the most effective way to get the message across. It only takes a phone call to book an appointment at a constituency surgery, and we can provide you with info and everything you need to prepare.

London CAAT

"On the Monday morning of Stop Week London Campaign Against Arms Trade descended on the UKTI department dressed as construction workers to highlight the unsafe nature of the work taking place inside. 200 of CAAT's 'Danger: unsafe structure' leaflets were handed out to passers-by and UKTI staff.

We felt that our presence was particularly pertinent in light of the

imminent budget. A lot of cuts would be unnecessary if the disproportionate support given to the arms trade was redirected into more socially beneficial areas such as addressing climate change.

One member of the London group said: "Before the Government cut spending on health and education they should cut harmful subsidies to arms exports that promote conflict and corruption." **IAN POCOCK**

Take action! Tell William Hague to stop arming Israel

On the morning of 31 May, armed Israeli commandos stormed aboard boats in the Free Gaza flotilla, which was attempting to break the blockade of the Gaza Strip. The Israeli action resulted in the deaths of nine Turkish activists aboard the *Mavi Marmara* and at least thirty people were injured.

Three-year blockade

The three-year blockade deprives 1.5 million Palestinians of fuel, utilities and household supplies as well as freedom of movement and has been described by the United Nations as a war crime. The Gaza blockade is enforced by Israel's military which is routinely supplied with weapons

components by the UK. Diplomatic notes and United Nations condemnations have had little effect on Israel. CAAT believes that the only effective action is a full arms embargo.

CAAT supporters are asked to contact Foreign Secretary William Hague and tell him to stop arming Israel with immediate effect.

Go to the CAAT website for a letter/email template: <http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/israel/emailhague/>. Alternatively, you can write to him at William Hague MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

KAYE STEARMAN

Rage Against the Machine



CAAT was privileged to be one of a small number of UK organisations invited to have a stall at a gig by US political rap-metal band Rage Against The Machine on 6 June. The 40,000-capacity event was free as a 'thank you' to fans for making the band reach the Number 1 spot in the UK music charts last Christmas. For the full story plus pics, see <http://bit.ly/rageAT>

'They said it'



"There will be a very, very, very heavy ministerial commitment to the process. There's a sense that in the past we were rather embarrassed about exporting defence products. There's no such embarrassment in this Government."

PETER LUFF, MINISTER FOR DEFENCE EQUIPMENT, SUPPORT AND TECHNOLOGY, *TIMES*, 24 JUNE

"I felt vulnerable and intimidated. It was not known if the protesters were armed with any type of missiles."

MIKE THORNTON, MANAGING DIRECTOR, HECKLER & KOCH, NOTTINGHAM, DESCRIBING HIS TERROR DURING A PEACEFUL ANTI-ARMS TRADE PROTEST ON 18 FEBRUARY

"Does the number of warships we have and are building really put America at risk when the US battle fleet is larger than the next 13 navies combined, 11 of which belong to allies and partners? Is it a dire threat that by 2020 the United States will have only 20 times more advanced stealth fighters than China?"

ROBERT GATES, US SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE, 8 MAY

"As a guy who has spent most of his career in the aerospace and defence industry, I know a lot about corruption. I'm probably better qualified than a lot of people to talk about it."

SIR DICK EVANS, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF BAE AND NOW INVESTMENT ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF KAZAKHSTAN, *TELEGRAPH*, 14 JUNE

"It was like a scene from a horror film. There were these tiny black spiders with a red stripe down their back running around a container of parts from Australia. It caused a major panic. Big tough men were yelling with fear when they saw these things crawling all over the place."

A BAE "SOURCE" DESCRIBES THE SCENE AS REDBACK SPIDERS INFILTRATE BAE AT WARTON, *SUN*, 24 JUNE

Public priorities?



Kingston Peace Council engage people at their stall in Stop Week

Anne-Marie O'Reilly introduces CAAT's survey for use on stalls this summer.

The drastic cuts to public services proposed by the Government pose big questions about where our society's priorities lie. The new Prime Minister has told us that the cuts will affect the country's "whole way of life" for decades to come, yet the Government has indicated that the Defence budget will be less affected than that of most other departments and it has stated it is determined to support arms exports.

Now is the time to engage people in the campaign to end the massive support that arms companies get from the taxpayer! And summer is the season for stalls at fayres, community events and on the high street. This year, CAAT has designed a simple survey to help you get talking and changing perceptions of the arms trade.

Survey

The survey asks simple questions such as: "Arms represent 1.5 per cent of what the UK exports. What percentage of the Government's support for exports should they receive?" (It's pretty unlikely any sensible person would wish to see current levels of support – which are 53 per cent of the staff at the export

promotions unit, UK Trade & Investment).

The survey seeks to communicate some key facts and challenge the common misconception that the arms trade is good for the UK's economy. It highlights how:

- the arms industry receives sixty times more research and development funding from the taxpayer than the renewable energy industry does (figures from 2007)
- each job in the arms industry is subsidised to the tune of at least £9,000.

Reaching out

With many of us already seeing the impact of the spending cuts, the survey should be a useful tool to engage people in our campaign. By press releasing the results of the survey you could reach even more people through your local media too.

If you don't have an opportunity to do a stall, why not order copies of the survey and quiz your friends or colleagues? Or go to CAAT's website, take part in the survey yourself and share the link with your friends online.

Resources

Help for your stall that is available from CAAT:

- Survey and press release – order these from the office or download

New arms export briefing

Private Gain, Public Pain – the case for ending Government's arms selling details the destructive and indiscriminate activities of the Government's arms sales unit (UKTI DSO) and assesses the justifications for its grotesque remit.

While arguments relating to national security and jobs dominate the debate, the reality is that both aspects would benefit from a radical change in arms export and military policy. A more objective approach to security would mean serious, imminent threats such as climate change could be allocated the resources they need.

For copies of the briefing see the CAAT website at www.caat.org.uk or contact the office on 020 7281 0297 or email claire@caat.org.uk.



from <http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/jobs/>

- Campaign materials – contact the office to order posters, leaflets, action postcards, briefings, badges, etc.
- Top Tips for your stall – order a copy from the office or download them from <http://www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/runningastall.php>
- CAAT also has a small fund for paying for stalls at large fayres and events. If you need help with the cost of a stall, contact claire@caat.org.uk to find out more.

A new Parliament

Some on our side?

The Liberal Democrats have been very supportive of CAAT's campaigns in the past. Back in 2006, CAAT was campaigning for the closure of the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO), the Government's arms sales unit located within the Ministry of Defence. Nick Clegg, Vince Cable, Ed Davey and Nick Harvey – all now Government ministers – signed an Early Day Motion, or parliamentary petition, calling for DESO to be shut down and for its functions not to be transferred elsewhere or paid for from public funds. In 2008 DESO did shut, but many of its functions were transferred to UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) where the arms sales unit is now called the Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO).

In September 2008, the Party's 'Security and Liberty in a Globalised World' paper stated: "Liberal Democrats oppose the use of public money to promote the export of arms. We will end export credit guarantees for arms exports."

Business Secretary Vince Cable frequently voiced concerns about BAE Systems, Saudi Arabia and the ending of the Serious Fraud Office inquiry into corruption in the deals between them. He even gave evidence for CAAT at an Information Tribunal hearing related to this in early 2008.

Nick Harvey, now Armed Forces Minister, has worked on CAAT's issues for even longer. He was a leading challenger to arms sales, under both Conservative and Labour governments during the 1990s, to Suharto's Indonesia.

Some probably not

While Defence Secretary Liam Fox and junior minister Gerald Howarth are probably the Government's most vocal advocates of the arms industry, Defence Equipment minister Peter Luff was quick to say that the coalition Government was not "embarrassed"



L-R: Nick Harvey, Peter Luff and Vince Cable

about arms exports and to promise the support of senior ministers for them.

On the other hand, some Conservative backbenchers, as well as senior military personnel, are asking whether the close relationship between military industry and government has led to poor procurement decisions in the past, more to the benefit of the arms companies than to the armed forces.

Lots of unknowns

We are not only unclear how the Government will treat arms export promotion, there are other uncertainties too.

- The Strategic Defence and Security Review has been trumpeted and much discussed, but vital details such as the timetable for organisations and individuals to make their contribution have not been announced.
- The Labour government was proposing a totally unsatisfactory system of self-regulation for corporate mercenaries, euphemistically known as private military and security companies. Now Henry Bellingham, the Conservative Foreign Office

Minister into whose remit this falls, is examining the issue again.

- Select Committees scrutinise the work of the individual departments. In the last Parliament, several of the Committees produced detailed and considered reports on aspects of the arms trade. Chairs have now been elected for the Committees, but the remainder of their members have yet to be appointed.
- It is not yet certain whether the Committees on Arms Export Controls, which was made up of some members of the Business, Industry & Skills, Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees will continue in this Parliament. Unfortunately, its excellent Chair in the last Parliament, Roger Berry MP, lost his seat in the election.
- The Labour leadership election has yet to take place and only after that will we know who is in the Shadow team. The people in crucial roles and their attitudes to the arms trade will make a big difference to how CAAT can get its message across in the new Parliament.

ANN FELTHAM

UK vying for Indian arms deals

Niki Goridis takes a look at one of UKTI DSO's customers – India.

The UK Government's arms sales unit, UK Trade & Investment's Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO), counts India as well as Pakistan among its key customers – two countries that have been engaged in conflict for more than sixty years and that have poor human rights records.

India is even identified as a "priority market" and, as such, is given a lot of attention by top-ranking civil servants in UKTI DSO and its Export Support Team, which demonstrates the products of UK arms companies at arms fairs around the globe. This relationship is fostered by inviting the Indian Minister of Defence, the Chief of the army and other high-level army staff to UK arms fairs like DSEi and Farnborough International.

Customers in conflict

India is an up-and-coming economic power with a huge appetite for cutting-edge weapons. Having steadily increased its arms expenditures over the past decade, it now ranks among the world's top arms shoppers. India is replacing Soviet-era equipment to keep up with its regional rivals.

The dispute between India and Pakistan erupted after Kashmir was assigned to India when the UK withdrew colonial troops from the Indian sub-continent. Since then the conflict has escalated to war in 1947, 1965 and 1999. Although the last war was more than ten years ago, tensions remain high and on several subsequent occasions have led the two contenders – both nuclear powers – to the brink of war.

This February India's Defence Minister A.K. Antony said that the country's defence policy "is not against any one country" but admitted at the same time that it was



The Pakistan Ordnance Factories display at DSEi 2009; Pakistan and India have fought three wars over Kashmir

of utmost importance "to strengthen our armed forces to act as an effective deterrence". The comment was made at Defexpo, an Indian arms fair that attracted more companies than ever this year. Defexpo was also attended by UKTI DSO.

Human rights concerns

Although Pakistan is classified as a "country of concern" by the UK government's human rights report, India is generally perceived as a full-blown democracy abiding by the rule of law. However, numerous reports by local human rights organisations as well as the Asian Human Rights Centre (AHRC) leave this perception open to dispute. For example, an AHRC report on torture in India demonstrates that torture remains a widespread and systematic practice that is used to extract confessions of detainees including women and even children.

Moreover, the AHRC finds that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to investigate accusations of human rights violations conducted by members of the Armed Forces. These can hide behind the Armed Forces Special Act of 1958 that comes into effect in situations of armed conflicts like the one over Kashmir. In light of this, the revelation of 15 illegal secret interrogation centres where torture is common practice comes as no surprise.

A weak justification

The UK's arms sales body UKTI DSO likes to suggest that its work makes the world a safer place because it chooses its customers carefully. However, the fact that UKTI DSO wants to equip two countries that are engaged in an ongoing conflict with each other, combined with the fact that both have alarming human rights records, shows considerable disparity between rhetoric and reality.

Leave a gift in your will



What better way to remember your support for an end to the arms trade than to leave a gift in your will to CAAT? By remembering Campaign Against Arms Trade in your will, you are providing support for campaigns that make a real difference.

Legacies are one of the most important ways that CAAT's work is funded. Without them, CAAT would not have the resources to run the effective campaigns that in the last three years have seen the government taken to court on the decision to drop to the BAE Saudi

corruption investigation, Reed Elsevier pull out of running arms fairs, and the closure of the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO).

If you have already made your will, amending it is a simple process. If you haven't made a will but are planning to make one in future, please consider leaving a share of your will to CAAT, to help fund our campaigns.

Alternatively, if you are making a donation in memory of a deceased

friend or family, please consider donating to CAAT.

If you would like more information on leaving a share of your will, please contact Henry on 020 7281 0297, email henry@caat.org.uk, write to CAAT at 11 Goodwin Street, London, N4 3HQ or visit <http://www.caat.org.uk/fundraising>. Once you decide to leave a legacy to CAAT, please drop us a note to let us know. Legacy gifts, large or small, really do make a difference.

HENRY MCLAUGHLIN

CAAT's runners...

Four fantastic volunteers are taking part in the Great South Run on 24 October to raise funds for CAAT. Kat Hobbs, Debbie Payne (pictured), Beth Smith and Chris Browne are all in training to complete the 10-mile run and we wish them the best of luck.

We are aiming for a sponsorship target of £3,000 and if you would like to sponsor our team or an individual runner then please go to



www.caat.org.uk/fundraising, or fill in and return the sponsorship form enclosed with this issue of CAATnews.

Interested?

If you would be interested in registering for a sponsored event in the future, we can help you obtain sponsorship for the race by publicising the event on the CAAT website and through CAATnews. We can also provide you with help and advice on raising money online, so get in touch today by emailing henry@caat.org.uk or phone 020 7281 0297 for more details.

HENRY MCLAUGHLIN

Hello Henry

I'm Henry McLaughlin and I started as the Fundraising Co-ordinator at CAAT in mid-May after a couple of years working for the Liberal Democrats.

Like many people I got involved in campaigning on the arms trade after seeing Mark Thomas' programmes on Channel 4 and I hope we can use the profile of people like Mark to bring in new supporters to the campaign.

I've been impressed that CAAT is 80 per cent funded by its supporters – this is a really stable foundation on which the organisation can grow.

I'm also looking at increasing the number of people who leave a gift to CAAT in their will as this income could really boost CAAT's campaigning capabilities. If you would like to speak to me about any fundraising ideas you have, please do not hesitate to contact me at henry@caat.org.uk.



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 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

- Make sure your new MP knows that we think Government support for the arms trade has to go – see page 9.
- Book now to hear Mark Thomas at CAAT's National Gathering on 6 November - see page 6 and the enclosed flyer.
- Sponsor CAAT's fabulous runners in the Great South Run – see enclosed flyer.
- Survey to end the arms trade: help CAAT show the answers are obvious – see page 11.
- Please consider including CAAT in your will – see page 14.

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.
 I wish to set up a Direct Debit (complete form below)
 I'd like information on setting up a legacy to CAAT.

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:

Cardholder's name

Start date

Expiry date

Security number (3 digit number on back of card)



A direct debit is the most convenient and cost effective way to support CAAT. £10 a month will make a real difference.

Service User Number: 250347

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society:

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

Address of Bank/Building Society

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.

Signature(s)

Date

