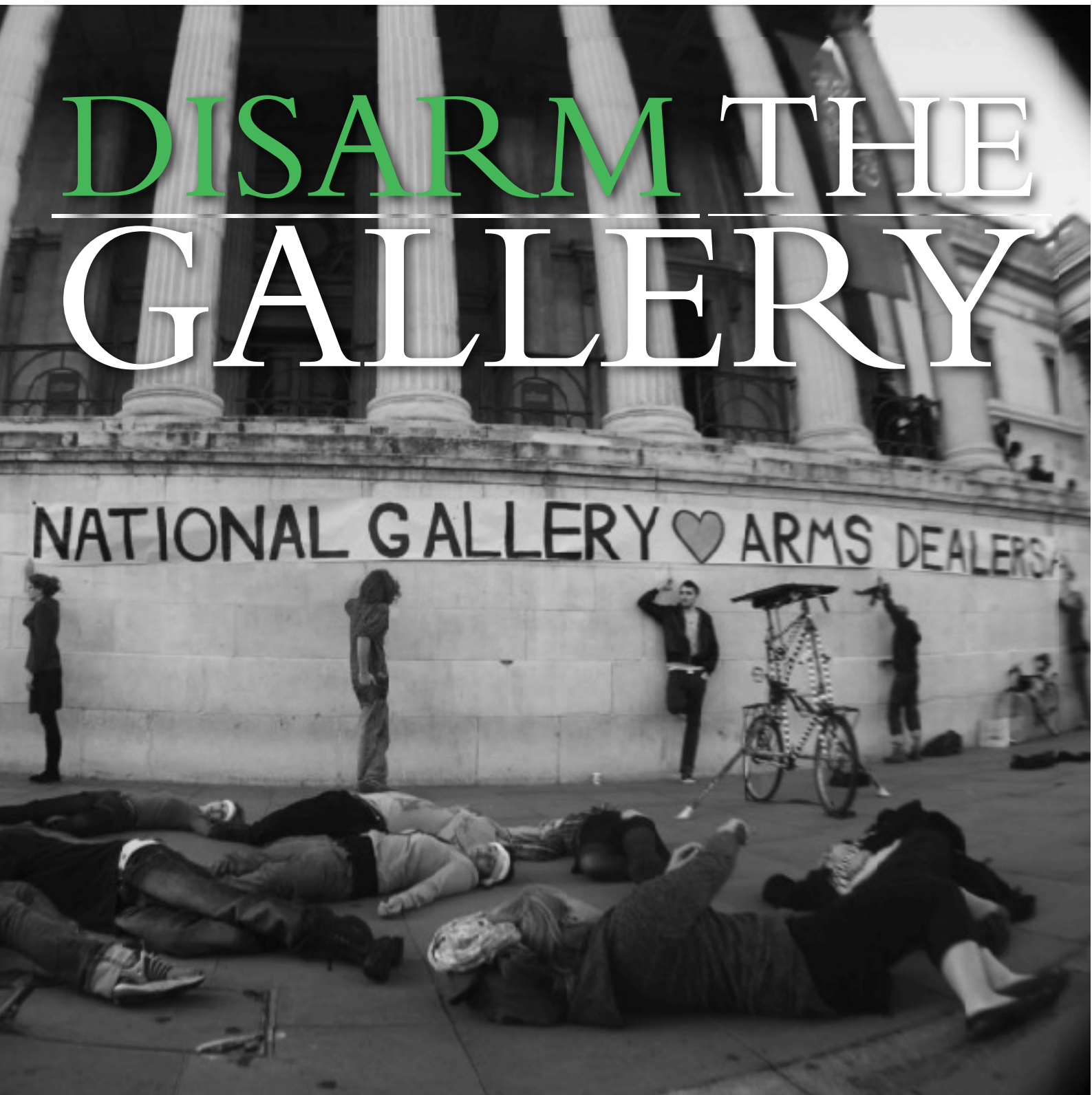


# CAAT*news*

## DISARM THE GALLERY



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## IN THIS ISSUE...

### Welcome to this issue of CAATnews

This issue is packed with information to inspire action during the coming months. Pages 8 and 9 feature Disarm the Gallery, an excellent – and winnable – campaign that aims to break an insidious intervention into popular culture by one of the arms trade's biggest players. As Kaye Stearman points out in reference to the BBC on page 11, one way in which the

arms industry attempts to prove its legitimacy is to build connections with public institutions.

Alongside reading these pages, I hope you also get a chance to look at the CAAT website, as it's had an overhaul recently. New content includes a web app that aims to make arms export licence data more transparent. Have a look and see what you think.

<b>This is NOT OK</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Arms trade shorts</b>	<b>4–5</b>
<b>Universities Network</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CAAT around the UK</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Disarm the Gallery</b>	<b>8–9</b>
<b>CAAT web app</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>News</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Parliamentary</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Arms Trade Treaty</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Get involved</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Donate</b>	<b>16</b>

Campaign Against Arms Trade works to end the international arms trade. The arms business has a devastating impact on human rights and security, and damages economic development. Large scale military procurement and arms exports only reinforce a militaristic approach to international problems.

# Continuing to challenge weapons sales to repressive regimes

**Anne-Marie O'Reilly gives an update on the This is NOT OK campaign.**

## One year on in Egypt

Since the popular uprising in Egypt began on 25 January 2011, activists calling for democracy have been put through military trials, tortured and killed. And the UK is still arming Egypt.

On the first anniversary of the uprising, CAAT delivered the This is NOT OK petition of over 7,000 signatures to the Foreign Office, the department responsible for licensing weapons sales to the regime.

Our message was clear: we want an end to the UK's promotion of arms sales to repressive regimes. The UK can choose to support democracy and human rights, or it can continue to prop up authoritarian regimes with weapons sales. It cannot do both.

In Egypt, hundreds of protesters have been killed in the uprisings and thousands injured. In October, 28 people were killed when armoured personnel carriers were driven at protesters and live ammunition fired. More than 40 died in a violent crackdown on protests in November.

The UK government is well aware of the ongoing repression and human rights abuse: in November William Hague condemned "the unacceptable violence" by the Egyptian authorities and called for an end to military trials for civilians. Yet the UK has continued to promote and approve arms sales to the military rulers responsible.

## In solidarity with democracy protesters in Bahrain

Since the New Year, at least ten people have been killed by security forces in Bahrain. Three were killed in custody. Others suffocated on tear gas, which has been fired into the confined spaces in people's homes.

We have known of Bahrain's horrific human rights abuses since a year ago, when the crackdown on



**Campaigners outside the Department for Business, 14 February 2012**

protest began, but the UK continues to arm the kingdom regardless. In Vince Cable's words: "We do business with repressive governments and there's no denying that."

On 14 February, a year after demonstrations started in Bahrain, CAAT campaigners paid a visit to the Department for Business, which promotes these sales. Dressed in black and displaying bloodied hands, we unrolled a list of names of those known to have been killed in the crackdown.

We went on to join Bahraini opposition activists demonstrating outside Downing Street, where we met a young man who had lost an eye in the protests in Bahrain. His interpreter told us that his eye could have been saved, but police ordered surgeons not to operate. The importance of showing solidarity with civilian protesters and ending weapons sales to a regime engaged in mass repression could not have been clearer.

## We are having an impact

In February the Committees on Arms Export Controls grilled Vince Cable and William Hague on arms sales,

showing that CAAT's message is finally getting through. Not only were they challenged about the licences they were granting, but the committee opened with a question about how the Government can reconcile promoting arms sales with defending human rights. The Committee also reprimanded ministers for failing to submit key documents in advance.

In January, David Cameron paid a visit to Saudi Arabia to "deepen business relations" with the UK's largest weapons customer. But unlike a year previously where his trip to the Middle East with eight arms dealers in tow was trumpeted, this trip was a much quieter affair. It looks as if the Government may finally be beginning to realise that public opinion is against its casual dealings with dictators.

.....  
Many thanks to the thousands of people who signed the This is NOT OK petition (see CAAT website). It's not over yet. We'll be taking it to key decision-makers throughout 2012. Please help us reach 12,000 signatures by the end of the year.

## BAE AGM 2012

**11am, 2 May, Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London**

CAAT supporters will ask BAE executives the awkward questions they keep trying to dodge. Questions about the role of BAE weaponry in the Arab Spring, the company's relationship with government, belated reparation payments to Tanzania and much, much more.

.....  
To take part contact [research@caat.org.uk](mailto:research@caat.org.uk)

### Corruption?

A subsidiary of the arms company EADS is being pursued for damages after cancelling subcontracts amid bribery allegations relating to its work in Saudi Arabia. The subsidiary, GPT Special Project Management, is prime contractor on a communications systems project for Saudi Arabia's national guard. A former GPT employee passed allegations on to the Serious Fraud Office last year.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 7/3/12

Finmeccanica, Italian arms manufacturer and sponsor of the UK's National Gallery (see pages

8–9), is under investigation in India over allegations of irregularities involving a €560m helicopter deal. This could endanger future contracts and comes on top of corruption probes in its home country.

The helicopters intended for India are being built in the UK by AgustaWestland, a subsidiary of Finmeccanica, which denies involvement in any wrongdoing.

Finmeccanica's Chairman quit the company last November and is currently under investigation in connection with alleged false accounting, which he denies.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 28/2/12 & 1/12/11

A former employee of Finnish military company Patria has been detained in relation to allegations of bribery. The arrest is part of an ongoing probe into an arms deal in Croatia. The alleged crime took place in Helsinki in January 2005.

In 2009 the Finnish National Bureau of Investigation launched an investigation into the sale of armoured vehicles to Croatia, in which bribes were allegedly paid to Croatian representatives, although no arrests were made in the case.

Patria was at the centre of separate investigations over sales to Egypt and Slovenia.

DEFENSE NEWS, 19/1/12



**Activists protect themselves from the tear gas in Athens during protests in May 2011**  
(Mkhalili/Flickr)

### Greece

European Council data on arms licences granted by member states show that EU countries sold Greece over €1bn of arms at the same time as negotiating its first bailout back in 2010. France was the biggest seller, its wares including a €794m aircraft deal.

An aide to the then Greek leader told Reuters: "No-one is saying 'Buy our warships or we won't bail you out.' But the clear implication is that they will be more supportive if we do."

Greece remains one of the biggest arms spenders in the region due to a perceived threat from Turkey.

EU OBSERVER.COM, 7/3/12

### Jobs at BAE

BAE Systems has confirmed that 845 jobs will be lost at Brough in Yorkshire, part of a programme of job cuts blamed on a slowing down of orders in BAE's Military Air and Information and Shared Services businesses.

Concerns over further job losses arose after India announced that French company Dassault was its preferred bidder for a £7bn jet contract, rather than the Eurofighter Typhoon consortium, of which BAE is part.

DEFENCE MANAGEMENT, 1/3/12;  
TELEGRAPH, 31/1/12 & 16/3/12; BBC NEWS, 20/2/12

### Skills transfer

In response to news of job cuts at pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca in Cheshire, one local MP, David Rutley, flagged up the transferability of skills from between sectors, saying that after the closure of BAE Woodford, due to the skills shortage in the UK, "within a year most people had found jobs because of the skills they had."

BBC NEWS, 2/2/12

### Cameron at Farnborough?

David Cameron is expected to open this year's Farnborough arms fair: a first for a UK prime minister in recent history. This follows on from Cameron's promotion of military exports on trips to Asia and the Middle East.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 24/2/12

### Prince Andrew

Prince Andrew appears to have returned to business-as-usual, embarking on Government trade missions despite stepping down as the UK's Special Representative for Trade last year. This followed criticism of his association with a child sex offender and business connections with dictators.

The Prince's diary has included a December meeting with the king of Bahrain and a meeting with the dictatorial President of Azerbaijan.

GUARDIAN, 31/1/12



## Sweden-Saudi controversy

A Swedish Parliamentary committee had been caught in controversy after plans for a \$600m weapons plant in Saudi Arabia were leaked. The Swedish government has been accused of trying to cover up its involvement in the plant and the defence minister has stepped down. He cited media pressure over the leaked plans while insisting they were consistent with a military agreement between the two countries, despite Swedish laws that prohibit military co-operation and capital investment partnerships with "undemocratic states".

The committee has said it will establish a formal inquiry into the affair, although not before the summer parliamentary recess.

DEFENSE NEWS, 15/3/12; GUARDIAN, 29/3/12

## UK arms to Bahrain

The UK has continued to sell arms to Bahrain despite unrest continuing there, with more than £1m of military equipment approved for sale in the months following a violent crackdown on demonstrators a year ago. In February Business Secretary Vince Cable told a committee of MPs: "We do business with repressive governments and there's no denying that".

GUARDIAN, 14/2/12

## NI-Syria

In February the *Belfast Telegraph* reported that military equipment manufactured in Northern Ireland was being used against opponents of the regime in Syria.

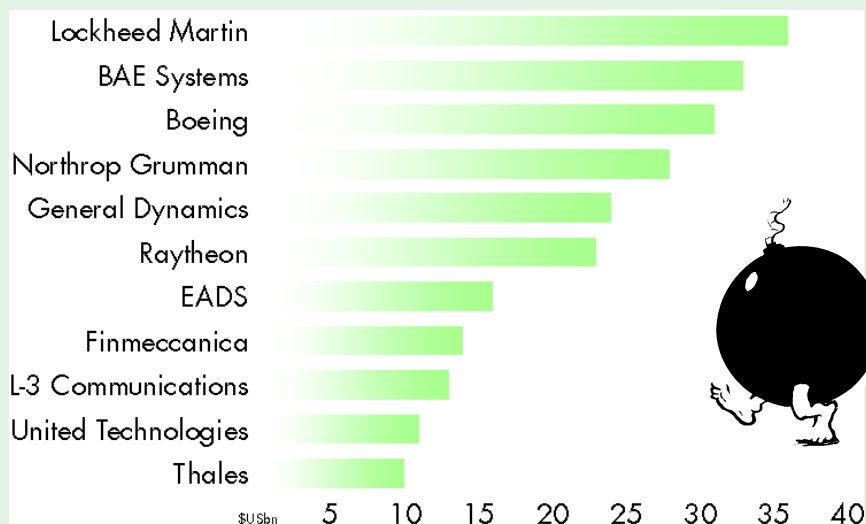
Shorland armoured cars, which were sold by Shorts Bros to the Assad regime in the 1980s, could be seen patrolling the streets of Homs.

BELFAST TELEGRAPH, 11/2/12

## The world's largest arms companies

Each year the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) compiles information on the world's arms companies and produces a Top 100.

Arms sales are defined by SIPRI as sales of military goods and services to military customers. The companies are ranked according to the value of their arms sales in 2010. Further information is available at [www.sipri.org](http://www.sipri.org).



Company	Sector
Lockheed Martin	Aircraft, Electronics, Missiles, Space
BAE Systems	Aircraft, Artillery, Electronics, Missiles, Military vehicles, Small arms/ammunition, Ships
Boeing	Aircraft, Electronics, Missiles, Space
Northrop Grumman	Aircraft, Electronics, Missiles, Ships, Space
General Dynamics	Artillery, Electronics, Military vehicles, Small arms/ammunition, Ships
Raytheon	Electronics, Missiles
EADS	Aircraft, Electronics, Missiles, Space
Finmeccanica	Aircraft, Artillery, Electronics, Missiles, Military vehicles, Small arms/ammunition
L-3 Communications	Electronics, Services
United Technologies	Aircraft, Electronics, Engines
Thales	Artillery, Electronics, Missiles, Military vehicles, Small arms/ammunition, Ships

## Russia-Syria

In March Russia insisted that it would not stop supplying arms to Syria despite mounting evidence that the regime was committing crimes against humanity. In February Syria had signed a \$550m contract for Yak-130 jets from Russian state arms exporter Rosoboronexport.

On 13 March Russia's Deputy Defence Minister said: "Russia enjoys good and strong military technical co-operation with Syria, and we see

no reason today to reconsider it." He also admitted that Russia had military instructors on the ground in Syria training the Syrian army.

INDEPENDENT, 14/3/12; JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, 1/2/12

## France-Libya

France is to renovate Libya's Dassault Mirage fighter jets as part of military cooperation plans between the two countries. DEFENSE NEWS, 1/3/12

# Universities Network

## Growing the network

This quarter has been a busy one for the Universities Network, with a particular focus on creating links with the London universities, where CAAT has had less of a presence recently. Amnesty International groups have been particularly keen to find out more and to get involved, as well as Palestine and United Nations groups. We have held talks at Royal Holloway, Kingston, London Met and Birkbeck and made links with SOAS and UCL.

### Universities' role

While students attending these workshops tend to be informed about the arms trade, they are often surprised by the complicity of their own universities. This direct link to the institution of which they are a part really motivates students to act. Students are uniquely placed to challenge universities' legitimisation of, and financial support for, the arms trade and this local focus enables different groups to work together to kick arms companies off campus. In addition, some very exciting action ideas have come out of these workshops, which will help to shape the future direction of the Universities Network.

### Across the UK

Beyond London, students have been active in universities all over the UK. York CAAT, a long-standing and dedicated group, held a workshop for new supporters to ensure that the group will continue after several current members graduate this summer.

Faith groups have a long history of dedicated involvement in the peace movement and students are an important element. The CAAT Universities Network has been at the Student Christian Movement (SCM) conference at York St John and the



Workshop info at the Warwick gathering

SPEAK Soundcheck conference in London.

For the future we're looking forward to talks at Portsmouth University and at Kingston University Human Rights Festival.

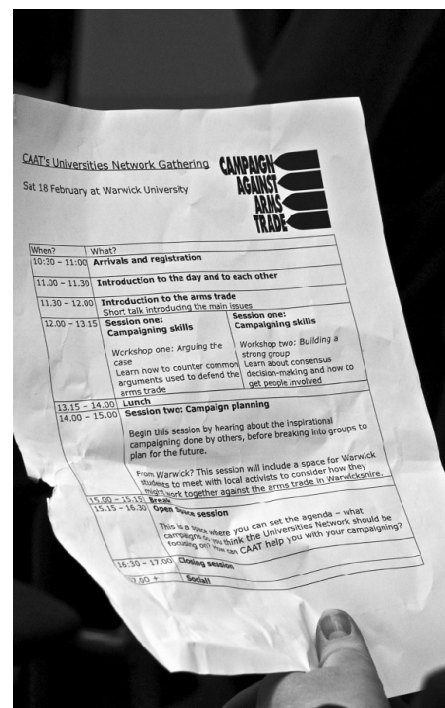
## Student Gathering

In February, students from universities across the UK gathered at the University of Warwick to find out more about the arms trade and to plan ahead. It was a great day, full of energy and ideas, and the vegan buffet at lunch was a real highlight!

A central aim was the development of skills for creative and engaging campaigning, through skills-sharing. There were productive sessions on "arguing the case" (countering common arguments used to defend the arms trade) and on consensus decision-making.

### Planning

Time was also spent planning campaign actions. Students got into university groups to plan for the



future. This was especially successful with the Warwick students.

"Weapons out of Warwick" is a long-standing group and the students used the opportunity to think about how to keep their campaign dynamic and creative and to ensure it continues long into the future. Chris Rosedale, a student at Warwick, said of the day: "The gathering was a really good chance to get to know other activists and has been a great platform for developing our own campaign at Warwick."

## Get involved

- Find out what's happening at your university and more about our campaigns at <http://universities.caat.org.uk>
- Like us on Facebook – look for 'Campaign Against Arms Trade Universities Network'
- Email Beth on [universities@caat.org.uk](mailto:universities@caat.org.uk) with any questions or to get connected with others at your university.

BETH SMITH

# Speak out

Giving a talk about the arms trade in your local areas need not be a daunting task. CAAT has speakers' resources prepared and can help you get ready. You'll be surprised at how impressed an audience can be by your enthusiasm and by how much you already know about the arms trade. Here, Liz Morton describes her recent experience talking to a local Amnesty Group:

*"Will you give a talk about CAAT to our local Amnesty Group?" A pang of anxiety! Must say "Yes." If I don't, I shall be letting CAAT down. Phone CAAT Office. Anne-Marie very supportive. Says she will send online info and also leaflets etc. They have all arrived by the next day. Brilliant. I feel much*

*better. Read the CAAT website carefully and realise just how good it is. It is all there! Why do they need a speaker?!*

*Talk went well – what a relief!! Audience undaunted – took the leaflets and website info. I explained my enthusiasm for CAAT's way of working – non-hierarchical, valuing every supporter, and no pressure – so we all do what we feel we can.*

*The talk gave people hope and hearing about the report of the Select Committee on Arms Exports Controls was very cheering.*

.....  
Join us at a workshop for people interested in speaking for CAAT at the Campaign Day in London on 28 April, 10.30am-4.30pm, ULU, Malet Street, London WC1.

# Day of Prayer

**The Day of Prayer will be on Sunday 3 June, the day before the International Day for Children as Victims of War.**

On this day, ask your Christian community to join with others across the UK to reflect and pray for an end to the arms trade and the death and devastation it inflicts on children and families around the world.

*Through your Spirit you draw us back to you and call us your children. Help us to re-examine our lives, that each of us may ask ourselves what part we can play in restoring and redeeming your creation.*

.....  
To order leaflets and materials for the CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer on 3 June contact Anne-Marie on outreach@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297.

## A thank you to CAAT volunteer Christine

CAAT staff would like to thank Christine Warner for her years of cheerful, friendly and invaluable volunteering at the CAAT office. Christine has helped in the CAAT office for longer than most of us can remember, and is the person behind the smooth processing of many of CAAT's petitions and donations.

A big thank you from all of us and we'd like to wish you good luck in your new city of Nottingham!

## Campaign Days – build for a year of action

Rather than hold our National Gathering in London this year, we thought we'd hit the road and host Campaign Days across the UK. This is turning out to be a great way of building new links and sparking new plans across the country.

In **York** campaigners from university age to 90 years old and from as far away as Edinburgh hatched plans for a nonviolent direct action training; work with local artists to build for the Disarm the Gallery campaign; and innovative ideas for the Global day of Action on Military Spending.

In **Birmingham**, new links were made across the Midlands and more great plans were floated.

Feedback from those involved shows how powerful it can be when CAAT campaigners get together:

*"Empowering, informative and friendly, a lovely way to spend a Saturday!"*

*"An excellent opportunity to meet with like-minded campaigners and plan effective actions against the arms trade."*

*"Meet others. Share ideas. Feel connected and leave more informed and energised."*

There's still time to get involved. Join us for our Campaign Days on 21 April in **Cardiff** (at Chapter Arts Centre) and on 28 April in **London** (at ULU, Malet Street).

Each day will run from 10.20am to 4.30pm. Everyone welcome.

ANNE-MARIE O'REILLY

# DISARM THE

**The National Gallery is one of our most iconic public institutions. It is also supporting the arms trade. Sarah Waldron reveals how.**

Finmeccanica is a global weapons manufacturer. As the world's eighth biggest arms company (see shaded column on page 9) its name often appears in the pages of CAATnews. This arms company buys the opportunity to use the Gallery's rooms for its "corporate entertaining" – that is, for impressing its clients and for lobbying decision-makers. Finmeccanica currently pays the Gallery £30,000 annually, which buys it the right to hold two dinners or evening receptions each year, alongside other benefits such as special access to exhibitions.

## Arms fair drinks

Last year, as a result of Finmeccanica's deal, the National Gallery hosted the official reception for DSEi, the world's largest arms fair

## DSEi

DSEi – Defence & Security Equipment International – brought more than 25,000 weapons buyers and sellers to East London in 2011. More than 1,300 arms companies were in attendance, selling everything from bullets to battleships. The UK government extended official invites to 63 countries, including 14 authoritarian regimes. This included Bahrain and Egypt: both countries were violently suppressing protest at the time. DSEi is an arms-dealing free-for-all. It might help UK sales, but it also enables buyers to "network" and make deals with suppliers from all over the world.

(see box below). Sipping wine and surrounded by one of the world's greatest collections of art, the arms dealers were possibly able to pretend that they were in a business like any other.

Richard Paniguan, the head of the UK Government's arms sales unit, and former Defence Minister Geoff Hoon, now employed by Finmeccanica, were among the guests.

## Business, not charity

For Finmeccanica, this deal is not a benevolent gesture. It is a shrewd business investment which helps the company impress its clients and woo decision makers.

One law firm said of arts sponsorship: "Activities like that are for marketing and keeping close to clients to help your business. We are doing an evening at the Leonardo and one at the Hockney because it's a good atmosphere to talk to clients. It's not to be nice."

By allowing Finmeccanica to buy the privilege of using the Gallery's rooms as a backdrop for its corporate events the Gallery is giving both practical support and a veneer of legitimacy to an industry based on death and destruction.

Yet arms company sponsorship of the arts has long been considered a no-go area. Only last year the BBC arts editor wrote: "Connections with arms manufacturing, cigarettes or companies which attract widescale protests are generally avoided."

We need to show such an association is still unacceptable.

## Gallery ethics

When CAAT asked the Gallery how it could justify working with the arms industry we were referred to its "ethical fundraising policy". Unfortunately this says nothing at all about what might be considered ethical or unethical.



However, it does say: "As an institution that exists for the public and receives public funding the Gallery has...a desire to show that it is sensitive to the general concerns of the public regarding ethical issues of fundraising and the investment of funds." In addition, it says that sponsorship should not be accepted if it would harm the Gallery and that harm was "disproportionate to the benefit derived" from the sponsorship. Harm includes the Gallery incurring "a level of criticism from the press, public or any other relevant community of professionals disproportionate to the benefit derived" and serious damage to the Gallery's reputation.



# THE GALLERY

## Arms trade campaigners outside the National Gallery



### Newsflash: we're already having an impact!

In July, the Farnborough International Airshow will again bring authoritarian regimes and weapons manufacturers from around the world to the UK to do business. Finmeccanica has held a reception at the National Gallery on the Tuesday

evening of every Farnborough Airshow since 2006, so the Gallery was expected to also host arms dealers for this year's event.

After receiving hundreds of letters condemning its support for arms fairs the Gallery has said it will not host a Farnborough reception this year. On 31 March, as the launch action for our campaign unfolded outside, the Gallery announced it would not be hosting any corporate events during the week of the Airshow. This is fantastic progress! Now we need to keep up the pressure until it ends all support for the arms trade.

### Please take action to help get the arms dealers out of the arts

The Gallery's current deal with arms company Finmeccanica runs until October 2013, but negotiations for renewal will start much earlier. Now is the time to put on the pressure.

The Gallery's executive team, led by Director Dr Nicholas Penny, can decide to reject controversial sponsorship. Hundreds of letters to the Director will give him a taste of just how controversial it is to support the arms trade. If you haven't already written, please do!

Letters can be sent to Dr Nicholas Penny, Director, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN.

If you're in London join us for arty protests at the Gallery itself – see [www.caat.org.uk/events](http://www.caat.org.uk/events) – and, wherever you are, call us or email [campaign@caat.org.uk](mailto:campaign@caat.org.uk) for campaign postcards and other action resources.

**How did the National Gallery get away with getting involved with an arms company? Perhaps because it's not a household name.**

### Finmeccanica

You may never have heard of it, but Finmeccanica is the world's eighth biggest arms company. Its products include military helicopters, fighter aircraft, drones, missiles, radar and targetting systems, naval guns, artillery and armoured combat vehicles.

It's an Italian company, 30 per cent owned by the Italian government, but it also has substantial production in the UK and is now this country's third largest arms exporter. Through Finmeccanica UK, it owns what used to be Westland Helicopters, now part of the AgustaWestland brand.

It has used the revolving door with government to embed itself in the UK political establishment. One example is former Defence Minister Geoff Hoon, who is now AgustaWestland's Senior Vice President of International Business. He was Defence Secretary when a £1 billion deal for 70 of AgustaWestland's Future Lynx helicopters was approved without competition.

Finmeccanica supplies the militaries of Italy, the UK and the US, among others. Sales include attack helicopters to Turkey for use against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), military helicopters to Algeria for "battlefield and internal security requirements", a border control and security system to Libya, drones to Pakistan, and armoured vehicles to Oman.

BETSY BARKAS

## Farnborough

The Farnborough Airshow takes place biennially in the years when DSEi is not held. The event may be best known for its family-friendly public airshow, but for its first five days it is an arms fair, once again supported by a taxpayer funded arms sales team. Libya, China, Algeria and Saudi Arabia were all invited in 2010.

# Revealing UK arms exports

**Ian Prichard introduces a new tool to help hold the government to account.**

A new CAAT web application has transformed the accessibility of government arms export licence data. Until now the data, compiled by the Export Control Organisation in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, was difficult to access, use and understand.

The new CAAT app provides easy-to-access and highly searchable information on UK arms export licensing, including details of licences according to destination country, type of licence, type of equipment and value from January 2008 onwards.

The application conforms to accessibility standards and provides the raw data for use by other programmers.

## Reviews

So far the CAAT web app has been welcomed with enthusiasm: activists have used it to gather information; journalists have told us that it will greatly aid their work.

The web app was praised by the Guardian Data Blog, which stated that it “finally gives us a way to navigate the official data – which we struggled to extract here for arms sales to Arab Spring countries”.

## Openness

As well as promoting accountability in and of itself, CAAT hopes the web app will prompt the Government to apply its own open data policies to arms exports and substantially increase the level and accessibility of information available. It is hard to think of an area of Government policy and practice that merits transparency more than arms export licensing.

Try it out: the web app is available at [www.caat.org.uk/resources/export-licences/](http://www.caat.org.uk/resources/export-licences/)



## Key app features

- Open access: anyone can view data without registering and can make and refine searches in real time.
- Data has been disaggregated, providing itemised licences with ratings and values.
- Comprehensive searchability (including commonly required groupings, for example region of the world or type of weaponry).
- Graphs showing values of items licensed alongside listings of licences.
- Easy-to-access explanations of terms throughout.
- Revoked licences identified in conjunction with initial licence approvals.
- Individual pages/searches can be linked to directly.
- Basic accessibility standards adhered to.
- The full raw data is available as CSV files for download.

# BBC pulls out of arms award

**BBC Security Correspondent Frank Gardner was forced to step down from an arms dealer award ceremony in April.**

CAAT was shocked to discover that Gardner was advertised as the Master of Ceremonies at the Counter-Terrorism and Specialist Security (CTSS) Awards. Award categories included "most-cutting edge surveillance tool" and "best supplier of armoured vehicles".

CAAT complained to the BBC: "This is not just a direct conflict of interest with Frank Gardner's reporting duties but against the BBC's own policy guidelines which saw George Alagiah made to step down as a patron of the Fairtrade Foundation in 2009 ... It is shocking that a supposedly impartial BBC

correspondent is fronting a dinner of arms company executives – an industry whose activities elicit widespread public revulsion."

CAAT's complaint received no acknowledgement or reply. But when the *Independent* spoke to the BBC, BBC managers immediately contacted Gardner and announced that he would no longer be acting as MC at CTSS or speaking at Counter Terror Expo exhibition. The BBC said: "Once the established extent of his involvement became clear it was apparent that it would not be appropriate."

The arms industry wants to prove its legitimacy by building connections with public institutions, whether the National Gallery or the BBC. If you find further evidence of such connections, please contact CAAT.

KAYE STEARMAN

## They said it



"We have driven the company to the front edge in ethics."

DICK OLVER, CHAIRMAN OF BAE SYSTEMS, ACCEPTING THE TOP AWARD AT THE NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AWARDS, 14 MARCH 2012

"The judges were very impressed with the consistent aims that Dick has driven for, his conviction about what needed to be done and what he finally delivered."

SIR JOHN PARKER, CHAIRMAN OF MINING GIANT ANGLO-AMERICAN AND HEAD JUDGE (SEE ABOVE)

"As well as the excellent continuing support received from ministers in the MoD, BIS, FCO and the Home Office, the Prime Minister – who recognises the important contribution that defence and security exports make to the UK economy – has also been active in raising UK interests in meetings with his counterparts."

RICHARD PANIGUIAN, HEAD, UKTI DSO, DEFENCE MANAGEMENT JOURNAL, ISSUE 55

"None of it is very nice."

ALISTAIR BURT, FOREIGN OFFICE MINISTER (PICTURED BELOW), DEFENDING UK ARMS SALES DURING THE ARAB SPRING, FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE, 20 MARCH 2012



# Take action against your local arms company

## Why?

A BAE factory in Tyneside made the armoured vehicles that were sold to Saudi Arabia and used to repress protest in Bahrain. Tear gas made in Hampshire was used against protesters in Egypt.

In September 2012, one year before the world's largest arms fair is due to return to London, we want to show the arms companies that exhibit at the fair that their activities will not go unchallenged with a month of action against local arms company sites.

## What?

There's no limits to the creative ways to build local awareness and challenge arms company activities.

Here's a few examples:

- Hastings Against War organised a triathlon between three arms

company sites and Southampton CAAT organised a cycle ride.

- Direct action in Derry caused arms company Raytheon to shut down its site.
- In the Midlands, groups have staged vigils outside UAV Engines Ltd. in Shenstone. It is alleged that parts made at this factory were used in drone attacks in Palestine.
- Smash EDO in Brighton has mounted a sustained campaign against the local arms factory, including weekly noise demos, mass actions and direct action.

## How?

See the website for tips and resources: [www.caat.org.uk/on-our-doorstep](http://www.caat.org.uk/on-our-doorstep).

ANNE-MARIE O'REILLY

# Defence Exports Support Group

In February, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) published the snappily entitled "National Security Through Technology: Technology, Equipment, and Support for UK Defence and Security." This includes a chapter on "Supporting exports" in which the boast is made that "UK Ministers are now more personally involved in supporting defence and security exports." The MoD is also exploring how equipment can be made more exportable with MoD requirements modified to meet overseas customers' needs.

While the Government's arms export agency was moved from the MoD in 2008 to become what is now UK Trade & Investment's Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the MoD is now establishing its own Defence Exports Support Group, chaired by the Defence Secretary and with representation from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, BIS, UKTI and the Home Office. The MoD has also appointed a Director with responsibility for export co-ordination.

## Other enquiries

Sometimes Commons committees hold inquiries which are not about the arms trade itself, but that cover subjects vital to CAAT's work. There are two such at the moment. The first, by the Justice Committee, is looking at the workings of the Freedom of Information Act. Since it came into force in 2005, CAAT has made great use of the Act, getting information on everything from local authority investments to Saudi arms deals and speeches by UKTI DSO officials.

CAAT is arguing against any watering down of the Act or charging for information. The other inquiry of interest is that of the Public Administration Select Committee, which is looking at business appointment rules amid a widespread feeling that these are inadequate. In theory, they are supposed to govern the "revolving door" whereby former politicians, civil servants and military officers move into the private sector, disproportionately the arms industry.

## BAE finally pays up on Tanzania

In December 2010 the many allegations of BAE Systems corruption resulted in a Judge agreeing a "plea bargain" and ordering the company to pay a £500,000 fine and £29.5million to the people of Tanzania.

Following a bruising appearance before the International Development Committee in July 2011, which questioned the delay, BAE said last September that it would be making the payment.

However, it was only on 15 March this year that the Serious Fraud Office and BAE announced that an agreement had been signed enabling the £29.5million plus interest to be paid for educational projects in Tanzania.

ANN FELTHAM



## More information?

Business Secretary Vince Cable announced on 7 February that he is proposing to bring greater transparency to the export licensing system. A consultation has begun and an announcement about changes is due before Parliament breaks for the summer on 17 July.

The first proposal concerns "open" licences. These usually cover less sensitive equipment going to less

sensitive destinations so currently only need an exporter to keep a record rather than make an individual application to the Export Control Organisation. It is suggested that exporters be required to report on their use of such licences and that the details will be made public.

Another proposal is that more information, including possibly company names, is given in the

reports on standard export licences. This would add greatly to the information available.

While more information in itself does not stop arms deals, it does increase Government accountability and assists those who analyse and question the arms trade. CAAT would welcome this move.



# Arms Trade Treaty: CAAT's view

The campaign, by organisations such as Amnesty International and Oxfam, for an Arms Trade Treaty reaches its climax as international negotiations culminate at a UN Conference in July. Ann Feltham explains why CAAT is sceptical about this development.

Those working for a treaty think it could do much to prevent the devastating impact of the arms trade. And CAAT has been asked why there was nothing in the last CAATnews about the Arms Trade Treaty. Well, as well as being sceptical about such a treaty, we worry it could even be used to legitimise arms sales. This happens now when the UK government approves licences which would be refused under any commonsense interpretation of the UK's current guidelines. We hope we are wrong to be worried, but fear we are not.

## Treaty only worthwhile if sales are stopped

A treaty will be worthwhile only if it stops arms sales, from the UK as well as elsewhere, to areas of conflict and to human rights violators. This seems unlikely. The UK government is one of those most supportive of a treaty. Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt says: "A global Arms Trade Treaty has the potential to prevent human rights abuses, reduce conflict and make the world a safer place." However, further down the page on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website, it argues that a treaty will be "good for business, both manufacturing and export sales." Unsurprisingly, therefore, a treaty is supported by the arms industry which sees it as providing a level playing field rather than imposing additional constraints.

The FCO stresses it envisages a treaty will stop weapons reaching "the hands of terrorists, insurgents



A scene from DSEi 2009 – an Arms Trade Treaty will not stop the promotion and sale of weapons at arms fairs.

and human rights abusers." Given no significant change in current practice is envisaged, how effective would a treaty actually be in stopping weaponry going to the likes of Gaddafi's Libya?

## Different from landmines

CAAT does not accept that there is any such thing as a "responsible" trade, but this does not stop us from promoting meaningful interim steps.

For example, in 1993, CAAT co-organised the first conference of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and was one of the founding organisations of the UK Working Group on Landmines, later Landmine Action. This concerned a particular type of weaponry that caused havoc for years after its use and where the financial interests of the manufacturers were not great.

In contrast, the arms trade as being discussed by the treaty negotiators covers a business lucrative for commercial giants such as Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems.

## Promotion is the real problem

While talking of an arms trade treaty and giving the impression of action, the real UK government priority is the promotion of arms exports. So in the last year we have seen the UK government approve and promote sales to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt despite existing controls supposedly banning sales where there is a clear risk of "internal repression".

If the UK government seriously wanted to do something to end the devastation caused by the arms trade it would shut its arms export promotion unit, currently the UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation. There needs to be a change from the mindset that puts helping companies secure lucrative (for them, not the taxpayer) deals before all else. That is why CAAT concentrates its efforts on revealing and opposing Government military export promotion rather than on the proposed treaty. The Government must be embarrassed into a meaningful change of policy.

# We're moving – can you help?

On 1 June CAAT is moving from 11 Goodwin Street, our home for 25 years, to a new office around the corner, next to Finsbury Park underground station. We are moving because a 20-storey building is due to be built next door to 11 Goodwin Street.

Our new address from 1 June will be: Wells House (Unit 4), 5–7 Wells Terrace, London N4 3JU. Please use the 11 Goodwin Street, London, N4 3HQ address until 31 May. Our Freepost address will continue to work after the move.

## Can you help us with moving costs?

If you can help us cover the costs of the move please send a donation using the form on the back cover of this issue of CAATnews.

Examples of the costs you could help cover include:

- Tin of paint: £15
- Desk: £40 each
- Van hire: £60 per day
- Phone: £80 each (4 needed)
- Meeting room table: £120
- Legal advice: £1,000

Please bear with us in the weeks either side of the move, as we may be a little slower than usual in replying to enquiries.

HENRY MCLAUGHLIN



Phone, broadband & mobile
**thePhoneCo-op**  
it's your call

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

**CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE**

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](http://www.thephone.coop/CAAT)

QUOTE: 'CAAT' and AF0302

# 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. Contact [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk) or visit [www.caat.org.uk/lists](http://www.caat.org.uk/lists).

## Make a donation

Our supporters' donations enable us to strive for a world without arms trading. Without your help, there would be no campaign. Support CAAT by sending us a cheque, setting up a regular payment, or by taking part in a fundraising event.

## Campaign locally

CAAT's campaigns are effective because people like you take action around the country. The "to do" list on this page gives a few ideas, but if you'd like to do that bit more for CAAT in your area why not consider one of these roles?

### Diary dates

- **21 April** Campaign Day in Cardiff (page 7)
- **28 April** Campaign Day in London (page 7)
- **19 May** Non Violent Direct Action Training in London (contact [outreach@caat.org.uk](mailto:outreach@caat.org.uk) for more info)
- **3 June** Christian Network Day of Prayer (page 7)
- **September** Month of action against local arms company sites (page 11)

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Contact [outreach@caat.org.uk](mailto:outreach@caat.org.uk) or 020 7281 0297 to book or order materials for these dates. For even more events and actions see [www.caat.org.uk/events](http://www.caat.org.uk/events)

- **Join or start a local CAAT group** – why not start with a street stall or public meeting?
- **Become a Supporter Media Activist** – with the help of monthly briefings from CAAT.
- **Join the CAAT Speakers Network** – help spread the word!
- **Become a Local Contact** – co-ordinate local campaign activities or keep a local campaign group updated on CAAT's work.
- **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](http://www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/local).

Order a copy of the Local Campaigns Guide or find out more about these campaigner roles by contacting [outreach@caat.org.uk](mailto:outreach@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 website – [universities.caat.org.uk](http://universities.caat.org.uk)
- Join the Universities Network and get the monthly ebulletin: [www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/universities/getinvolved.php](http://www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/universities/getinvolved.php)
- Contact [universities@caat.org.uk](mailto:universities@caat.org.uk) for any questions or if you want to share a planned action.

## CAAT Christian Network

Share CAAT issues with your Christian community. Order a Christian Network introduction pack and join our mailing list for details of our next Day of Prayer on 3 June. Contact [outreach@caat.org.uk](mailto:outreach@caat.org.uk).

## Bring your enthusiasm

CAAT is always looking for people to participate in sponsored events to raise much-needed funds for CAAT. So if you would like to run, walk, cycle or do any other sponsored activity which can bring in money, please email [henry@caat.org.uk](mailto:henry@caat.org.uk).

### Campaigners' "to do" list

- By beginning of May: ask your MP to sign CAAT's parliamentary petition (EDM 2166) for an end to weapons sales to repressive regimes.
- Write to the Director of the National Gallery calling on him to end the gallery's support for the arms trade (pages 8–9).
- Order materials and run a CAAT stall at a summer event near you. Contact [office@caat.org.uk](mailto:office@caat.org.uk) or 020 7281 0297.

### Pat Milton

CAAT says a sad farewell to Pat Milton of Sheffield Peace Forum, who died after a short illness on 17 February. Pat was a dedicated peace campaigner throughout her long life and had been a CAAT supporter for well over two decades. Pat's children asked for donations in her memory to be sent to CAAT – many thanks to all those who contributed.

# Donate today!

You can donate to CAAT by either visiting our website at [www.caat.org.uk](http://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.
- ☐ I wish to donate towards CAAT's moving costs.

Telephone number

Email address

## Card details

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

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

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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 Debit 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

