

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE

CAAT NEWS

JANUARY-MARCH 2013 • ISSUE 227



CAMERON: ARMS PUSHER TO THE MIDDLE EAST

The PM's recent activity **P3**



Where next after the National Gallery campaign **P7**

Taking on the arms trade in 2013 **P8-9**

We gate-crashed the arms dealers' dinner **P14**

CAAT NEWS

JANUARY-MARCH 2013

The most obvious thing to mention in the editorial this issue is the new design!

This comes along with a new designer, Chris Woodward. So this issue also calls for a goodbye and huge thanks to Richie Andrew, who worked on CAAT NEWS for many years. We're grateful for all

his fantastic work – not just as the magazine designer but as a member of the CAAT steering committee.

Please do let us know your feedback on the new look. We'd also love to hear your response to arguments raised on pages 12 and 13 – difficult issues but ones that come up time and again.

CONTENTS

- 3** Feature
- 4-5** Arms trade shorts
- 6** Universities Network
- 7** Sponsorship of cultural institutions
- 8-9** Action in 2013
- 10** Parliamentary: They said it
- 11** Vince Cable
- 12-13** Debate – issues raised by the arms industry
- 14-15** Group news
- 16** Donate



On 7 December 2012, CAAT was presented with a 2012 Right Livelihood Award in the Swedish Parliament. CAAT was one of four recipients of the Award, known as the “Alternative Nobel Prize”.

Speaking on behalf of CAAT, Anne-Marie O'Reilly said:

“Arms control will never work when governments also promote arms sales. David Cameron talks about democracy and human rights in the Middle East but continues to push arms to

Saudi Arabia, a regime with a terrible human rights record.

“This award is a testament to the work of thousands of people around the UK whose collective action has managed to expose, challenge and impede the arms trade since we began our work nearly 40 years ago.”

More on the award and the full version of Anne-Marie's speech to the Swedish Parliament can be found online at blog.caat.org.uk



Award winners display their certificates
Image © Wolfgang Schmidt

EDITOR Melanie Jarman

DESIGN Chris Woodward

PROOFREADER John Moseley

LEGAL CONSULTANT Glen Reynolds

PRINTED BY Russell Press on 100% recycled paper using only post-consumer waste.

THANK YOU also to our dedicated team of CAAT NEWS staffers.

The content and views expressed in articles, advertisements and promotional material included within CAAT NEWS by other organisations are not necessarily endorsed or supported by CAAT. Any related enquiries or concerns should be addressed to the relevant organisation.

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.

Campaign Against Arms Trade, Unit 4, 5-7 Wells Terrace, London, N4 3JU

Tel: 020 7281 0297

Email: enquiries@caat.org.uk

Web: www.caat.org.uk

To receive this issue of CAAT NEWS in large print please call **020 7281 0297**

Ann Feltham looks at recent activity by the Prime Minister and the challenge it presents to CAAT

CAMERON: BAE'S ARMS-SELLER-IN-CHIEF

David Cameron is desperate. He is determined to help the arms companies, in particular BAE Systems, sell their wares. His problem is that many of the customers are autocratic rulers in the Middle East, highlighted in the last two years. Their disregard for human rights has led many parliamentarians, the press and the public to express disquiet at arms sales to them.

The sales trip

The Prime Minister's reaction has been to jet off to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia as BAE's arms-seller-in-chief to promote the Eurofighter Typhoon. In response, the *Guardian* said that Cameron should admit that the interests of the military-industrial complex take precedence over human rights.

While the *Guardian's* stance might not be entirely unexpected, much of the media shared this unease about the sales trip. The *Daily Telegraph*, for instance, ran the headline "David Cameron defends arms deals with Gulf states". The media consensus that arms sales are to be applauded seems to be breaking down.

0.2%
**of the British
workforce is
employed on
arms exports**



"Some people are a bit squeamish about me flying off round the world to help our defence industry"

The speech

A week later David Cameron used a speech to talk about arms sales. Saying he understood "why some people are a bit squeamish about me flying off round the world to help our defence industry" he told his audience: "with 300,000 jobs [dependent on the defence industry], it's right that we should be at forefront of this market, supporting British jobs and British allies and that's why last week, in the Gulf, I was pushing for new contracts for Typhoon jets worth billions of pounds and thousands of jobs. That's vital new business for Britain. And I make no apology for going out there and trying to help win it."

Beaming in Oman

Just before Christmas it was all smiles as Cameron dropped in on Oman to mark a £2.5 billion

Eurofighter and Hawk deal. Once again, he cited the 300,000 jobs, 6,000 of which, he claimed, would be safeguarded by this deal.

Jobs

The Government's reference to 300,000 jobs requires scrutiny. It is based on five-year-old data from a declining industry, includes around 100,000 jobs from non-equipment expenditure by the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the majority of the remaining jobs are supported by MoD equipment purchases, not exports.

Just 0.2 per cent of the UK workforce is employed on arms exports. All arms industry jobs are heavily subsidised by the taxpayer, and military exports get Government support not given to other industries.

In 2013 CAAT will be increasing its efforts to get the argument across on jobs, as well as redoubling its efforts to influence the Labour Party and the trade unions. Their support for human rights and green jobs, instead of, as at present, for military sales and the arms industry, is sorely needed.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIONS



Image © Ndecam/Flickr

Former BAE Systems lobbyist Alfons Mensdorff-Pouilly has been cleared of laundering millions of euros on behalf of the company in order to win arms contracts in central and eastern Europe. However, he was given a two-month suspended jail sentence for tampering with evidence.

The presiding judge said: “The whole affair stinks, but it doesn’t stink enough”.

In 2010 the UK’s Serious Fraud Office (SFO) dropped its investigation into bribery allegations concerning Mensdorff-Pouilly after BAE made a deal with British prosecutors.

In a separate case, EADS offices in Germany were raided in connection with investigations into alleged bribes to Austrian officials to smooth the sale of Eurofighter jets to Austria five years ago.

Austrian prosecutors gained insights into the Eurofighter deal when they helped the SFO during its investigation referred to above.

EADS already faces a criminal probe by the SFO into whether a UK subsidiary bribed Saudi officials.

Defence News, 17/1/13;
Financial Times, 7/11/12

India is investigating alleged corruption in helicopter deals that involved the Finmeccanica company AgustaWestland.

The Italian government has been asked for a response and for any relevant documents.

Jane’s Defence Weekly, 7/11/12

The CEO of Finmeccanica has been arrested in Italy on suspicion of seeking to rig Naples police department public contracts.

At the time of the alleged wrongdoing Carlo Gualdaroni was head of Finmeccanica unit Elsag Datamat, which had won contracts to provide Naples police with surveillance systems.

Defence News, 10/1/13

Six employees of Finnish military company Patria have been charged with bribery and corporate espionage in connection with a Slovenian contract for armoured vehicles.

Agence France-Presse, 18/12/12

UNJUST DEBTS

An analysis of UK government figures by the Jubilee Debt Campaign (JDC) shows that the UK is owed hundreds of millions of pounds of unpaid debt on loans to autocratic governments in Argentina, Indonesia, Iraq and Zimbabwe for UK weapons, many of which were used against civilians. Up to £50m was lent to the Argentinian junta to buy British arms before the 1982 invasion of the Falklands.

JDC is calling for an end to these “unjust poor country debts”.

Guardian, 6/11/12

GERMANY

The German government is said to be considering a request from Saudi Arabia for the supply of armoured vehicles. The vehicles have been described as suitable for combating uprisings.

Independent, 21/12/12

IRAQ-CZECH

Iraq has agreed to buy 28 Czech combat jets in a deal estimated to be worth around \$1bn.

Ria Novosti, 21/10/12

INDIA

India has despatched a request to the US to buy 145 BAE M777 howitzers. The deal would be conducted through the Foreign Military Sales programme.

Jane’s Defence Weekly, 14/11/12

ALGERIA

A subsidiary of Germany’s Rheinmetall intends to produce up to 1,200 armoured vehicles for Algeria over the next 10 years.

Agence France-Presse, 21/11/12

UK SPENDING

The National Audit Office has warned that major military projects are being hit by delays and overspend. It found that costs of the 16 largest projects had risen by £468m and slipped in timescale by 11 years, seven months in the past year.

The annual report on the Ministry of Defence's major equipment projects said the overall costs of the department's projects have risen by a total of £6.6bn and commissions have been delayed overall by 39 years since being ordered.

BBC News, 10/1/13

Costs of the 16 largest projects have risen by £468m

INFLUENCE

An undercover investigation by the *Times* has found former military chiefs willing to cash in on their contacts.

Undercover reporters visited former army chief and former adviser to David Cameron Lord Dannatt claiming that they hoped to hire him for a South Korean company that wanted to sell a drone to UK armed forces. The *Times* alleged

The UK is to spend an extra £350m on new nuclear submarines. The money will go towards designing the Successor submarines. In 2028 these will replace the Vanguard submarines that carry Trident nuclear warheads.

Reuters, 29/10/12

AgustaWestland has won up to £46m of government funding from the Regional Growth Fund for the development of civil helicopter projects.

AgustaWestland.com, 19/10/12

that Dannatt boasted about using his contacts to gain an advantage during the bidding process.

Five other top-ranking armed forces officers were interviewed by the reporters, who claimed to have uncovered a world in which former military leaders can be hired by private firms.

Sunday Times, 14/10/12

UKTI IN IRAQ

UKTI Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) may attend a new arms fair in Iraq this March. The UKTI website states: "As Iraq both becomes increasingly prosperous and looks to increase its military capabilities, there will be potential for it to become a significant market for UK defence and security exports."

UKTI website, 10/1/13

CHEMRING

Talks between Carlyle and Chemring Group on a possible takeover of the latter have collapsed. The deadline for takeover talks had already been extended a number of times.

Jane's Defence Weekly, 14/11/12

IRAQ-RUSSIA

A \$4.2bn arms deal between Iraq and Russia has been delayed by the Iraqi Prime Minister after allegations of corruption. Iraq now plans to renegotiate the deal and acquire more sophisticated equipment.

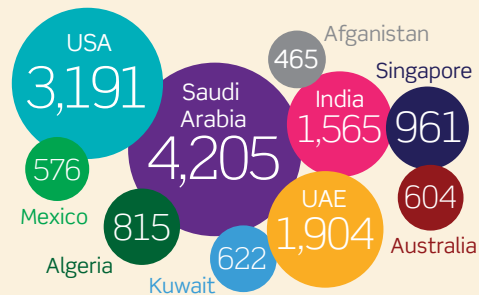
Jane's Defence Weekly, 21/11/12

EU ARMS EXPORTS

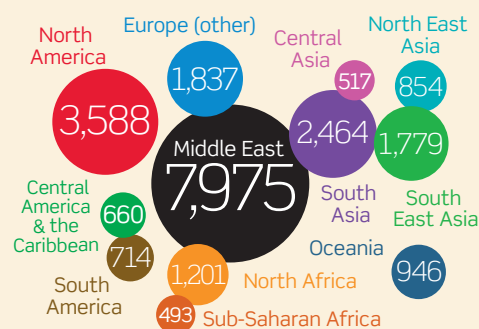
The EU's arms export Annual Report for 2011 has been published, providing data on arms export licences approved by EU member states.

- For the full report see bit.ly/XVj9VI
- For CAAT's press release go to bit.ly/SofKNO

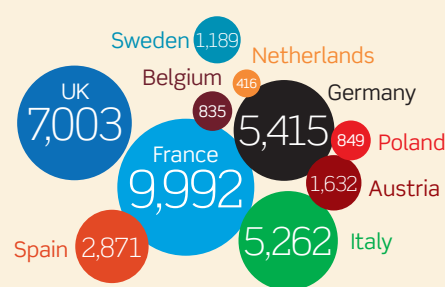
Top recipients, 2011 (€, million)



Sales by region, 2011 (€, million)



Top suppliers, 2011 (€, million)



BURMA

Weapons made in Sweden by Saab Bofors Dynamics used by Burmese troops against rebels have been traced back to a shipment of arms sold to India in 2003. Selling or passing on such weapons would have been in breach of regulations on arms trading.

A Saab spokesperson said deals included end-user agreements that prohibited the weapons being sold on.

Independent, 14/12/12

Universities' Network Co-ordinator Beth Smith describes a term of successful student campaigns

UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

NOT WELCOME ON CAMPUS

The autumn term saw a wave of protest against arms company recruitment on campus with even more universities taking part than last year. Demonstrations took place at Edinburgh, Warwick, UCL, Islington,

Bristol, Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, Southampton, Sheffield, Lancaster and Kent. Arms companies need new student recruits, so promotion opportunities such as careers fairs are very important to them.



Lancaster students protest against BAE Systems

VICTORY IN ESSEX

October saw a fantastic victory in the campaign to kick arms companies off campus. Students at the University of Essex discovered that BAE Systems was planning to attend their Careers Fair and quickly sprung into action to stop it!

The activists emailed every university department and all the other stallholders and planned a protest. The Essex Careers Centre then announced that BAE Systems would not be attending the fair due to health and safety concerns. Congratulations to everyone at Essex for this victory!

IN THE NEWS

We were pleased to find that students were as shocked as we were about the *Huffington Post* report on arms company funding of Russell Group universities. Lots of student newspapers have expressed interest in following up the story, and articles have been published at King's College London, University College London, Leeds, Cambridge and Cardiff. This will inform even more students about the ways in which arms companies impact upon universities.

Well done to everyone who has been involved so far this year, now let's rise to the challenge of keeping the pressure up!

SHARING IDEAS

In November, a student society at the University of Sheffield called "Fund Education Not War" (see page 15 for more on the group) kindly hosted the CAAT Universities Gathering. Activists from around the UK gathered to share ideas and learn more about

campaigning. It was also a great opportunity for students from different places to meet each other and to make links between their universities. All in all the day was a great success, full of energy and exciting ideas for the future.

Get involved:

- Find out what's happening at your university and across the network at universities.caat.org.uk
- If you're interested in finding out more or getting involved, email Beth at universities@caat.org.uk

SPONSORSHIP OF OUR CULTURE: THE CAMPAIGN DEVELOPS

Following on from success in CAAT's National Gallery campaign, Sarah Waldron gives an update on arms trade sponsorship of cultural institutions

As the previous edition of CAAT NEWS went to print last September we received exciting news. The National Gallery called to say that its sponsorship deal with arms company Finmeccanica had ended!

The Gallery's role

The Gallery says its paintings "inspire and enrich life" but from 2006–2012 it allowed arms dealers to use its rooms, hosting receptions for the UK's two main weapons fairs, Farnborough International and DSEi.

Finmeccanica wasn't just buying the use of the Gallery's rooms; it was buying the Gallery's good name to give the appearance of legitimacy to its business. But no more! After an amazing effort from CAAT supporters, the National Gallery told us we'd won (and could we please call off the protests).

Campaign results

The contract had been due to run until October 2013, and Finmeccanica had already made advance bookings for the Gallery's rooms – so this was undoubtedly a response to the campaign.

Thousands of emails and letters to the Gallery, support from the arts world, and a series of creative interventions put on the pressure. Together we've shown that arms companies and their deadly deals have no place in our arts institutions. Thank you!

Now we need to keep up the good work. The Gallery isn't the only cultural institution to have made deals with arms companies



Spelling out the message

Royal Opera House

Chemring is a Gold Patron of the Royal Opera House. Its weapons were used in Kuwait in October 2012. Baton rounds were fired at Bedoon protesters, stateless people denied official documents and access to education, healthcare and employment. Teargas made by the company was used against protesters in Egypt in 2011.

Write to Sir Tony Hall, Chief Executive, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 9DD to express your concerns about the Royal Opera House's association with Chemring, a company that profits from conflict and repression.

London Transport Museum

The London Transport Museum (LTM) takes sponsorship from weapons giant Thales, whose products include missiles, drones and aircraft carriers. The UK government recently helped it sell Starstreak missiles to Thailand, after they were used as part of the 2012 Olympic "defence" systems.

The LTM's rooms have been used for meetings between Thales and UK Trade and Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO), the Government body responsible for promoting arms sales, and for a meeting between UKTI DSO and an Indian military group.

Write to Sam Mullins, Director, London Transport Museum, Covent Garden Piazza, London, WC2E 7BB to express concern about the London Transport Museum's association with Thales, a global weapons manufacturer, and the use of the Museum's room for the promotion of arms sales.



TAKING C

MAKING THE THE ARMS

UNACCEPTABLE

Challenge the arms fair

DSEi, one of the world's largest arms fairs, is a surreal and disturbing place. Every two years the ExCel centre in East London becomes home to acres of weaponry.

Those organising and attending like to think of it as just another gadget show and marketing opportunity. But conflict and repression are fuelled from here.

DSEi stands for "Defence & Security Equipment International", but the "defence" equipment is designed to intimidate, repress, injure and destroy. "Security" is offered to tyrants, browsing equipment to be turned on their own citizens.

Around one in three of the world's militaries attended DSEi in 2011. Adversaries shopped alongside each other for weapons to use against each other. Bahrain, Egypt and Saudi Arabia were there at the invitation of the UK government, despite continuing human rights abuses and violent repression of protest.

➔ **The next event** is booked for 10-13 September 2013. We cannot let this go unchallenged.

Attend a workshop to Stop the Arms Fair

Are you planning to take action against the arms fair? Or maybe you'd like to do something but are not sure how to get started? Stop the Arms Fair is a coalition of groups, including CAAT, which have pledged to resist the arms fair. It will be running a series of workshops in the first half of 2013, where you can find out more about DSEi, build essential campaigning and action skills and share ideas for local and national action.

➔ If you'd like **to attend** a workshop, or can **help organise** one, contact Anne-Marie.



Bahraini weapons buyers were special guests at DSEi both before and after the uprising began in 2011 - invited and courted personally by the UK government. Even though the crackdown on democracy protests continues to this day, the UK still bolsters the regime with weapons sales.

Take action to burst the arms dealers' bubble

In the bubble of the arms fair - supported by the Government, protected by a huge security and

An arms fair is like a double glazing sales convention - but where every last bit of UPVC is designed to kill you.

Liz Stephens, politics.co.uk

police operation and insulated by euphemism - arms dealers are desperate to ignore the human consequences of promoting weapons to whoever will pay. But that's been getting harder.

Over the last year, protesters have intervened at arms trade conferences, receptions and expensive dinners to challenge the arms trade and offer a reminder of the lives at the other end of UK arms sales (see page 14 for the latest).

➔ **Join** a Non-Violent Direct Action training day to explore non-violence and direct action, and to develop your skills for impeding the arms trade. The next training is in Leeds on 23 March.

➔ **Keep up the pressure** on BAE: see **page 14**.



ON THIS IS NOT OK TRADE MAKING IN 2013 THE CASE FOR ALTERNATIVES

DSEi is on your doorstep! Time to shift priorities

Hundreds of companies have already booked a place at DSEi 2013.

- ➔ **Find out** which are near you on CAAT's arms trade map: www.caat.org.uk/resources/mapping/

No cultural credibility

Arms companies have quietly been making their way into our cultural institutions through sponsorship deals. Museums and theatres provide beautiful and useful venues for corporate events, but it's the

Imagine if human lives and the environment were valued more than arms company profits.

appearance of legitimacy that such an association brings that the companies are really keen to buy. Last year, our campaigning ended the National Gallery's support for the arms trade.

- ➔ **Turn to page 7** to see how we can take this forward in 2013.

The UK's military spending is the fourth largest in the world, but despite public spending cuts and austerity, UK military expenditure has seen one of the smallest reductions in Europe.

It is predicted that 56,000 jobs in the NHS will be lost, but the Government subsidises the arms export industry to the tune of £700 million a year.

The Government has halved the budget for social housing yet it plans to spend £25 billion designing and constructing a new Trident nuclear weapons system.

Our Government could choose to tackle climate change. Instead it spends 30 times more researching weapons

than green energy.

We urgently need to imagine and pursue alternatives. Cutting arms trade subsidies and military spending could save our youth services, mental health services, support for disabled people and social housing. Shifting priorities to tackle climate change

could also have a dramatic impact. It could secure jobs in renewables for the future and improve human security rather than threaten it.

- ➔ **Take action** on 15 April, the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. Contact Anne-Marie to order materials and find out more.
- ➔ **Watch out for** the launch of our new campaign later this year to push for positive choices on public spending.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9 February Train to be a speaker for CAAT

9 March National Gathering in London (**page 14**)

23 March Non-Violent Direct Action training day in Leeds

15 April Global Day of Action on Military Spending

8 May Take action at BAE's AGM (**page 14**)

8 September CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer

10-13 September The DSEi arms fair plans to return - but will it? Take action to stop it.

Contact Anne-Marie on outreach@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297 for more information.

ISRAEL

UK-supplied military equipment was used by Israel in Gaza in 2008-9; it is likely that the same happened in November 2012. This prompted a multi-party group of MPs to table an Early Day Motion (EDM), which is a kind of parliamentary petition.

EDM Text

EDM 788 includes: "[This House] notes that the then Foreign Secretary confirmed that Israeli equipment used in the 2008-09 conflict in Gaza almost certainly contained UK-supplied components... is concerned that this is likely to be the case with Israeli equipment used in November 2012; believes the Government should conduct a thorough assessment of the possible use of UK-supplied equipment by the Israeli Defence Force during the recent conflict in Gaza; and calls on the Government to fundamentally re-examine all military relations between the UK and Israel, including imports from Israeli

defence contractors and co-operation through the EU Security Research Programme, until such time that the long-term safety of Palestinian civilians is secured."

Scrutiny continues

The Commons' Committees on Arms Export Controls initiated a debate on the issue on 13 December. The CAEC Chair Sir John Stanley MP, a former Conservative Defence Minister, continued to try to convince the Government that there is a conflict between arms sales and human rights, calling this "blindingly obvious".

A welcome export is CAEC's expertise. Sir John visited Berlin and Paris recently to tell parliamentarians there about CAEC's work.

Write to your MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA and ask her or him to sign the EDM. You can also do this via the CAAT website www.caat.org.uk/resources/countries/israel/

EXPORT CREDITS

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on International Corporate Responsibility published a report in November 2012 into UK Export Finance (UKEF), formerly the Export Credits Guarantee Department. This Government department insures companies selling overseas.

Recommendations

Among the report's recommendations was that there should be a consultation on a prohibitions list for arms.

Amounts

Although currently at a low level, export credit support for arms exports has usually been high. Papers on export credit debt, released by UKEF in October, give details of the amounts outstanding from military deals to Indonesia's Suharto, Egypt's Mubarak and Argentina's Galtieri (also see "Unjust debts" on page 4).

Ann Feltham

THEY SAID IT!

I do not think that people in this country really appreciate the extraordinary lead that the Prime Minister has given in the promotion of defence exports. Having been the Minister responsible for defence exports, I can testify to his determination, vigour, enthusiasm and commitment.

Sir Gerald Howarth,
former defence minister,
speaking in Parliament,
22 November 2012

A significant section of the NGOs (non-governmental organisations)... are deliberately provoking parliamentarians into taking positions which are unnecessarily unsympathetic to the conditions on the ground in the Middle East, which does real damage to our arms exports... I'm not condoning human rights abuses, of course not, but... sometimes you have to be pragmatic.

Peter Luff, former defence minister,
quoted in Reuters,
2 November 2012

[Cameron's support] makes a huge, huge difference. First of all, it sends a very strong message to our customers... It also sends a message internally within government, that this is something the Government wants to do. It is an active leadership and it is one that has had a big ripple effect through government and through industry.

Nigel Whitehead, Head UK BAE Business,
Telegraph,
25 November 2012

MINISTER VINCE CABLE QUESTIONED ON ARMS TRADE

More than 200 residents of south-west London turned out to question local MP Vince Cable on Government support for the arms trade at a public meeting on 29 November

Supporter of TRAKNAT (Twickenham, Richmond and Kingston Network against the Arms Trade) and local resident Paul Tippell described how local people had been motivated to act after seeing pictures of UK-made weapons helping to suppress democracy protests in the Middle East. With Vince Cable in charge of the department that both licences and promotes UK arms sales, his constituents felt they were in a unique position of influence.

Cable's thoughts

Cable told the meeting he does think about the arms trade as a moral issue, but proceeded to give reasons for reconciling himself to his job of promoting it. Local

resident Harald Molgaard said: "I was disappointed in the way Vince batted away the detailed serious questions with comments that really didn't answer the points raised. We were told that countries had the right to defend themselves; that democratic countries had the right to decide for themselves how they spend their money; and that all would be well, once we had the international arms trade treaty, which the UK is working for."

His constituents felt they were in a unique position of influence



Public opinion

Cable also claimed that 95 per cent of those lobbying him were calling for more arms promotion, not less. However, at the meeting he was handed a 1,000-strong petition against Government support for the arms trade, with all the signatures collected in the local community. Hilary Evans of Kingston Peace Council also added 9,000 signatures collected nationally by CAAT. She welcomed Cable's personal vision of "a better and fairer world" but called for more action:

"It is not OK for the Government to facilitate the arming of repressive regimes. It's not OK for



A packed hall questioned Business Secretary Vince Cable (below) on arms exports

the Government to help organise the massive DSEi arms fair every two years at the ExCel Centre in London; and it isn't OK to welcome customers to this fair from repressive regimes... And it's not OK for the Government to waste... public money every year on subsidising arms exports. All these things are wrong, wrong, wrong."

Ongoing issues

The meeting felt like a very powerful expression of grassroots opinion. As Harald put it: "Vince Cable was left in no doubt that his constituents are well-informed and very concerned about his department's role in promoting arms sales; he must also have noticed the spontaneous applause as key points were raised. This concern has continued to be aired in the letters page of the local paper."

TRAKNAT has pledged to continue lobbying Vince Cable. For details see www.traknat.org.uk.

NEURON
EUROPEAN STEALTH UCAV
TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATOR

SKY-Y
SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY
DEMONSTRATOR

SKY-X
AUTONOMOUS MISSION
MANAGEMENT UAS TECHNOLOGY
DEMONSTRATOR

ISSUES BY THE ARMS

CAAT supporters are opposed to the arms trade because it is destructive, abusive and wasteful. For years CAAT supporters have protested against the sale of weapons to repressive and aggressive regimes, against UK government support and promotion of the arms industry and against the dangerous and corrupt activities of arms companies.

It is easy to protest against well-publicised cases like arms giant BAE Systems selling military aircraft to an authoritarian regime like Saudi Arabia, with successive British prime ministers acting as deal makers. But other issues are not so clear cut, and these are the issues that are most likely to impinge upon our lives.

Difficult questions

For example, how do we deal with industries developed from military technologies, like electronics or the space industry, with many beneficial aspects? What should be our attitude to companies, like Rolls-Royce, that make both civil and military goods?

What about the workers, or potential workers, in these industries? Is it right to work for such companies or is it acceptable if the work is in the civilian sector? How can workers influence company policies to move away from the military sector to other areas, including renewables?

But questions go beyond those of employment. You may not hold shares in arms companies directly but your employer or pension fund may do so. Your bank may have investments in arms companies or act as their banker. Your university

may have investments or receive endowments or research grants from individuals or organisations connected with the arms trade. You may even find that the church you attend or the charity you support owns arms company shares, although thankfully this is much less likely than in the past.

There are no definitive answers to many of these questions. While CAAT campaigns for an end to the international arms trade, we know that this is unlikely to happen quickly and that we need to be strategic in our aims. That's why we focus on stopping arms sales to repressive regimes and countries in conflict, and for an end to government promotion of arms exports. As individuals, living our lives, it can be even more difficult to find a definitive answer.

CAAT wants to encourage debate on these issues, which is why we are printing a recent letter to CAAT together with our response. We would love to hear reader feedback. Send your thoughts on a reply to enquiries@caat.org.uk or by post to CAAT NEWS at the address printed on page 2.

A NON-MILITARY SPACE INDUSTRY

Weather satellites save hundreds of thousands of lives, human and animal. Mobile phones, satnav and satellite TV enrich our lives. Space missions teach us about our place in the universe. But the space industry rides on the back of the military. Everything space-related, from the mobile in my hand to Sky Sports down the pub, is deeply intertwined with military technology.

I hate the military-industrial-political combine, it is a monster which feeds on blood. I am a long-standing member of CAAT and work in the space industry. My company has military divisions and a separate space industry division. To date, the space division has done no military work and many of us hope that it never will.

I love my job and think space science is important. I want to help the space science side of the company grows as the military side withers away (something that is already happening).

Richard Essex

**I love my job...
but the space industry
is deeply intertwined
with military
technology**



RAISED TRADE

CAAT'S RESPONSE

Military investment has been an important driver of technological developments, including the space industry and the internet. The reason is not because the military is more creative or innovative but because it has Government support and vast resources and is prepared to invest in long-term development. However, the system also produces enormously expensive, deeply wasteful and highly destructive weaponry with no public benefit.

CAAT wants to see a shift from military to more beneficial civilian industries, especially renewables, which use many of the same skills and resources as the arms industry and which help to overcome a genuine threat to human security in the form of climate change. With western military budgets under pressure, this is an excellent opportunity for governments and companies to make the shift to useful and ethical alternatives.

What do you think?

How can we support workers in the space industry to resist military contracts and develop civilian applications?

Going forward

In 2013 CAAT will be publishing a research paper looking at alternatives to arms industry jobs, especially in the renewables sector. All too often we hear politicians declare that the arms industry provides massive numbers of jobs, and if these were to disappear the economy would suffer hugely. Some public figures even have the gall to suggest that arms exports are vital to economic growth.

However, to reiterate a point made on page 3, nothing can be further from the truth. Arms industry jobs have been in decline for many years and the

Finmeccanica, one of the world's largest arms companies, focuses on military aircraft and its business is 58% military (SIPRI).
Image © Peter Fletcher

arms industry faces competition for skilled workers from other industries. The renewables sector (which is much more than wind farms) has potential to employ many more people, to support green energy and to enhance our environment – if there is the political will to make it happen.

CAAT does not have the vast resources of the arms companies but we do believe that our research and action can make a difference. We welcome your ideas on how we deal with difficult ethical issues and how we move forward our agenda for change.

“The military is a driver of technological development because it has Government support and vast resources”

200 ARMS
DEALERS AND
THEIR GUESTS

7 OF US TO REMIND
THOSE PRESENT
OF THEIR VICTIMS

HOW WE **GATE-CRASHED** THE ARMS DEALERS' DINNER

Let us hope that some of the guests lost their appetite!

In November, around 200 arms dealers and their guests (including military "top brass" and high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Defence and foreign embassies) gathered for a dinner. At these events companies that manufacture and sell weapons entertain their clients, network and promote their deadly wares.

Seven of us went along to remind those present of their victims. Dressed in our smartest clothes (it is amazing what a suit will do!) we entered the plush surroundings of

the Institute of Directors in Pall Mall. Once inside the double doors, four of us sat down with arms linked to block the entrance. The arms dealers and all those entering had to climb over us, while we said we were there to protest against the export of arms to regimes that abuse human rights.

Meanwhile two of us had walked confidently into the dining room and left "calling cards" – in the form of photos of victims of conflict – on the tables.

It should have been a good dinner (at £170 a head), but let us hope that some of the guests lost their appetite having been reminded of the victims of their shameful trade. The Institute of Directors should think twice before hosting another such event.

Rhiannon Rees, London CAAT

Put BAE on the spot

**Wednesday 8 May, 10am–1pm,
BAE AGM in Central London**

BAE, the world's second largest arms company, sells arms indiscriminately to over 100 countries. Its armoured vehicles were used by Saudi troops to help suppress pro-democracy protests in Bahrain in March 2011. Marred with corruption allegations, BAE wants to use its Annual General Meeting to help whitewash its image.

But we can be there to make sure this doesn't happen! Contact Anne-Marie on outreach@caat.org.uk or **020 7281 0297** to arrange for a proxy share in your name so you can enter the meeting and help hold BAE to account.

Be there on 9 March

**CAAT's National Gathering,
Saturday 9 March, 10.30am–
4.30pm (Arrive from 10am),**

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square,
London, WC1R 4RL. £7 waged / £3
unwaged (includes tea, coffee and
a light veggie lunch).

Vital public services are being cut, yet UK military spending is among the highest in the world. Elsewhere, repression and death are a direct result of our government's zealous promotion of weapons.

Gain ideas and inspiration to make an impact on the arms trade at our National Gathering. Hear from author Owen Jones, attend workshops on drones, the security industry, disarming our cultural institutions, direct action, and others!

**Book online or with the
enclosed flyer.**



Photos of victims of conflict were left on each of the arms dealers' dining tables.

SOUTHAMPTON CAAT IS BORN

Our CAAT group was initially inspired when one of our members met someone from CAAT on an arms trade protest at the DSEi fair in 2011.

We all feel very strongly about the arms industry; and for each of us it represents a violation of our principles. Because we're quite relaxed, meetings are social events too, and I think this friendly atmosphere helps to keep us motivated and moving. However much time people are able to commit, we are all important and needed, as this helps with energy levels and creativity.

Our tips for starting up a group are: infuse some fun and do things other than campaigning together. Really include new people who turn up and be prepared to change what you do to include them, but stay on track. We do not have a leader but allow each other to lead at times – it's important to know at the end of a meeting who is doing what, who is writing up minutes and when you will next aim to meet.

So far our group has hosted a speaker from Drones Campaign;

we experimented with a “theatre of the oppressed”-style drama in a presentation with students; we took action at the recent careers fair with a large banner saying “arms industry hands off”.

Coming up, the company LUSH has agreed to donate soap bombs for a new campaign on campus highlighting the issues around drones. The plan is to hide the bombs around campus, attached to messages about the questionable role of drones in warfare.

Southampton CAAT



Banner preparation

CAMPAIGNERS TO DO LIST

Book now for an inspiring day with other campaigners at CAAT's National Gathering **P14**

Order materials for the Global Day of Action on Military Spending on 15 April **P8-9**

Register for a proxy share to attend the BAE AGM on 8 May **P14**

Challenge the Royal Opera House and London Transport Museum to end their ties with arms companies **P7**

Book a workshop / talk to help stop the arms fair **P8-9**

Add 2013 campaign dates to your diary! **P8-9**

SHEFFIELD UNI: FUND EDUCATION NOT WAR



Raising voices over the vote

When Sheffield Students' Union Council put a policy to referendum which watered down the existing anti arms-trade position, activists mobilised to ensure that their own, stronger, policy would also be put to a student vote, giving students the option to choose between the two policies. Students from a range of groups worked together to collect the 1,000 signatures needed to bring the issue to referendum in just one day! Out of this collective action, Fund Education Not War was born and has gone from strength to strength. When the referendum happened, the stronger Fund

Education Not War policy passed with a majority of over 1,000 votes.

The group is raising the profile of the issue on campus through events and discussions, and in November they hosted CAAT's Universities Gathering. A recent panel event helped to put the University of Sheffield's links with arms companies in the broader context of the arms trade, war and high military spending in a time of cuts. Next, Fund Education Not War will be focussing on arms company recruitment.

To get involved look for them on Facebook or email **universities@caat.org.uk** to be put in touch.



You can donate to CAAT by either visiting our website at www.caat.org.uk, or completing the form below (in block capitals) and returning it to:
Freeport RSYR-UCBS-GHEE, CAAT, Unit 4, 5-7 Wells Terrace, London, N4 3JU

Donations direct to CAAT are the most useful for the campaign, but if you send a Charities Aid Foundation cheque please make it payable to TREAT (Trust for Research and Education on Arms Trade) making clear that you wish for your donation to support CAAT's research programme. Unlike CAAT, TREAT is a registered charity (No.328694).

SINGLE DONATION

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel: Email:

DONATION DETAILS

- ☐ 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 CAAT NEWS quarterly magazine.
- ☐ Please send me CAAT's monthly email bulletin.

CARD DETAILS

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

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Visa Delta

Cardholder's name:

Credit/debit card number:

Start date: Expiry date:

Security number: (3 digit number on back of card)

REGULAR DONATION



A direct debit is the most convenient and cost effective way to support CAAT. Just £5 a month makes a real difference.

INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK/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

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: