

CAAT NEWS



APRIL – JUNE 2014 • ISSUE 232

DANCING FOR ARMS SALES



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PLUS

The Royals
Promote Arms **P3**

Military Spending
P8–9

Scotland
P11

CAAT NEWS

APRIL – JUNE 2014

We cover a wide range of issues in this issue of CAAT NEWS: from the dance moves of the future king on the cover and page 3; through a look at spending priorities on pages 8 and 9; via an extra factor in the debate around Scottish independence on page 11; to a different perspective on another subject in the mainstream news, with an overview of World War One

comic-books on page 13.

Hopefully within the broad coverage of this edition there will be something that inspires you to take action in the next few months. Do let us know if you do, as it's always interesting to have feedback from readers of CAAT NEWS and hear about what you find useful and/or inspiring in the magazine.

CONTENTS

- 3** Royal family and arms deals
- 4-5** Arms trade shorts
- 6-7** Actions
- 8-9** Military spending
- 10** Universities; DSEi
- 11** Scotland
- 12** European elections
- 13** World War One; They Said It
- 14** Fundraising; Comic Relief
- 15** NATO
- 16** Donate



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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.

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DANCING TO BAE'S TUNE

Sarah Waldron considers the latest instalment in a shameful record of royal support for arms deals.



These activists were threatened with arrest for unveiling a banner at Buckingham Palace. Apparently it's OK for royals to aid arms deals, but not for us to highlight that help.

Our front cover shows Prince Charles in Saudi Arabia in February. Human rights organisations had urged Charles to use his trip to speak up against Saudi Arabia's appalling human rights record. Instead he joined its autocratic rulers in a ceremonial sword-dance, an image which was particularly distasteful in a country where more than 70 people were executed last year, mostly by public decapitation with a sword.

By Government request

Charles' last visit to Saudi Arabia, only eleven months before, had been explicitly requested by the UK government to help "enhance military links". This time the trip was billed as a series of private engagements for the prince – although it was then revealed it had actually been made at the request of the UK Foreign Office.

What possible reason could they have had for requesting the visit?

BAE

CAAT pointed out that the visit came two days before BAE was due to issue its latest results and amid rumours that its share price was set to fall unless agreement could be reached on the pricing of

The royal family claims to be apolitical, but these are not apolitical actions ... they are a shameful international representation of the UK

the Eurofighter deal. Sure enough, the next day Saudi Arabia and BAE Systems announced they had finalised their latest multi-billion pound weapons deal.

The UK government had sent in the royals to seal the deal. Saudi Arabia later honoured BAE Systems

for its support of the festival at which Charles had performed his sword dance. BAE commented that such activities "offer us the opportunity to showcase our products and services."

Role of the royals

The royal family claims to be apolitical, but these are not apolitical actions. They are political actions that put the interests of private weapons companies before human rights and they are a shameful international representation of the UK.

Thousands of people have signed our petition to Buckingham Palace and the Foreign Office to say that the royal family should not be promoting arms sales. Add your name at <http://act.caat.org.uk/petition/103>

JOIN US ON 7 MAY AT BAE SYSTEMS' AGM

Last year, the Chairman was overheard to comment "That was much worse than usual," after CAAT took over the meeting with challenging questions and cheeky disruptions. Get in touch if you'd like a proxy share to come and keep up the pressure this year!

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

INDIA

India's anti-fraud agency is investigating Rolls Royce over allegations of corruption in the supply of Hawk jet engines to state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

Rolls Royce is also being investigated by the UK Serious Fraud Office over allegations of bribery.

For India, this is the latest controversy to hit the country's military procurement programme.

A broken "integrity pact" has led to the cancellation of a helicopter contract with AgustaWestland. Former UK defence secretary Geoff Hoon (pictured) is to be called as a witness in the related trial in Italy, where he is expected to help deny bribery charges against two former colleagues from the company.

Defense News, 3/3/14;

Agence France-Presse, 3/3/14;

ExaroNews, 20/1/14



© James Alexander/Flickr

BAE

BAE Systems' new Chairman Roger Carr said that branching out into non-military areas is not a priority for him. In 2012 the company explored such a direction through a proposed but failed merger with Airbus Group.

BAE reported a 65 per cent fall in profits in February, thought to be due to cuts in US military spending.

Bloomberg, 23/1/14;

Press Association, 20/2/14

SPENDING

The UK government accepted thousands of pounds from fraudster Gary Bolton – who sold fake bomb detectors – despite a Whitehall-wide warning that Bolton's equipment was ineffective and potentially deadly.

Bolton paid the Government for promotion by serving soldiers at arms fairs and for a UK ambassador to Mexico, who set up meetings with senior officials.

Guardian, 26/1/14

UK-RUSSIA

David Cameron has ordered a review of arms export licences to Russia saying: "It is hard to see how anything that could be used in Ukraine could be justified." He did not say how this leaves plans for UK-Russia co-operation that included UK military companies working with the Russian arms industry and the UK buying arms from Russia.

Telegraph, 26/1/14;

Hansard, 10/3/14

AIRBUS

Airbus is demanding €900m in compensation from Germany for cancelling an order for 37 Eurofighter jets.

Asdnews, 24/2/14

ISRAEL-VIETNAM

Israeli Weapon Industries (IWI) has set up a production unit in Vietnam and is supplying assault rifles to the country's army.

Jane's Defence Weekly, 12/2/14

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is set to buy more BAE M113 personnel carriers to add to its existing stock. Commenting on the planned acquisition, a Philippine army spokesperson said that the "M113s will be quite lethal."

Separately, AgustaWestland won a bid to supply helicopters for the country's air force.

UPI.com, 16/1/14;

The Philippine Star, 28/2/14

SWISS REFERENDUM

The Swiss public could vote in May over whether the country should buy 22 Gripen fighter jets from Sweden after opponents

to the proposed €2.45bn deal submitted over 100,000 signatures seeking a referendum.
Agence France-Presse, 14/1/14



© Matt Morgan/Flickr

IRAN LEGAL MOVES

Iran is taking a company owned by the Ministry of Defence to court over tanks paid for by Tehran in a \$650m deal but never delivered as a result of the 1979 Iranian revolution. A UK spokesperson said no money would be paid to Iran while EU sanctions are in place.

Independent, 28/2/14

BAHRAIN

The UK is keen to have further talks with Bahrain about Typhoon sales and there was UK government representation at this year's Bahrain International Airshow.

TwentyFourSevenNews.com, 28/2/14

UKRAINE-DRC

Ukraine's state-run military group Ukroboronprom has signed a contract to deliver battle tanks to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Defense News, 17/2/14

POLAND-MALI

Poland has declared that it has supplied arms to the army in Mali. The Polish Army also operates in Mali as part of the European Union Training Mission.

Defense News, 18/11/13

F-35S

The UK is set to spend £2.5bn on Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter jets. The UK had hoped for F-35s to enter service in 2012, but questions have been raised as to whether they will be combat-capable by 2018.
BBC News, 11/2/2014

COBHAM

Military company Cobham has self-reported to the US Ministry of Justice "potentially irregular sales practices" at a subsidiary in Asia. The information is thought to have come from a whistleblower on the company's staff.
Independent, 26/2/14

PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES PAID £50 MILLION OR MORE BY THE MoD IN 2012/13



KEY: Over £500million £250–£500million £100–£250million £50–£100million

ACTIONS

BUSES NOT BOMBS: ACTION AT THE LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

The London CAAT group used a special Valentine's Day event to build support for the campaign calling on the museum to end its links with the arms trade.

The arms company Thales makes missiles, drones and other military products and has dealt with repressive regimes including Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the UAE. Thales has sponsored the

"Arms companies have no place in our public institutions, and it's a disgrace that they can use these buildings to do their dirty deals. After the successful Disarm the Gallery campaign, we need to delve into the links that our local

"It's absurd that the museum was more worried about our paper confetti than the drones, missiles and rockets made by their sponsor Thales."

London Transport Museum since 2007, becoming a corporate member in 2012.

On Valentine's Day, campaigners did a banner-drop and confetti shower inside the museum, while also leafletting outside. Ian Pocock, one of the activists who showered bystanders with paper-hearts asking the museum to end their arms trade links, said: "It's absurd that the museum was more worried about our paper confetti than the drones, missiles and rockets made by their sponsor Thales."

Outside the museum, visitors queuing for the event were given special edition "love heart" sweets with campaign information on the wrappers. There was a great response, with lots of people expressing support. London CAAT volunteer Beth Smith explains why she took part in the protest:

galleries and museums have and start kicking the arms companies out!"

London CAAT is planning further action. If you'd like to get involved you can take action online at act.caat.org.uk/lobby/72 or email londoncaat@riseup.net to find out more about upcoming actions and events.

Attendees at a black tie dinner at the London Hilton Hotel were surprised to find some grim reapers in their midst. The dinner, hosted by the ADS group, had a ticket price of over £200 and a guest list that included Vince Cable, several MPs and executives from all the UK's largest arms companies. But there was controversy even before the event started. BBC political editor Nick Robinson pulled out of giving the after-dinner speech after a complaint from CAAT. And as the arms dealers arrived on the night, they were met with a lively crowd of protesters. **The full action report is on the CAAT blog.**



WEST MIDLANDS ACTIVISTS UNITE TO CHALLENGE THE ARMS TRADE

Campaigners met up in Coventry on 1 March for a day of sharing skills, knowledge and ideas for action. With the Big Bang fair taking place a fortnight later and an active campaign to put an end to local councils' investments in the arms trade, it was a great time to build local links.

Big Bang

The Big Bang is a children's science and engineering fair sponsored by some of the UK's biggest arms manufacturers. The fair allows arms companies to present themselves as legitimate businesses, as well as giving them an opportunity for positive media coverage. The Big Bang was in Birmingham from 13-16 March, and will be visiting Coventry on 24 June. There are plans to challenge the event, so get in touch to find out more.

From Shenstone to Gaza

Also present were Corporate Watch, who reported on the links between Litchfield and Gaza, with a vivid account of life in the Gaza Strip beneath Israel's drones. The UAV Engines factory in nearby Shenstone is a subsidiary of Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit Systems and is a regular target of actions and vigils.



The group seeks local links, particularly in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and is keen to meet people from the area.

Disinvestment

Also up for discussion was the disinvestment campaign run by the Coventry Peace and Justice group. Coventry Council is one of the seven West Midlands Councils that pays into the West Midlands Pension Fund and has investments in some of the UK's biggest arms manufacturers.

The group is looking to build local links, particularly in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and is keen to meet people from the area.

As well as sharing information, plenty of actions were planned across all three campaigns.

One activist said: "It was a great way to learn about local opposition to the arms trade, and so encouraging! The sheer scale of the arms trade means it can sometimes seem impossible to combat, but through finding out more about action being taken locally and discussing how this action can be furthered with like-minded people, it demonstrated to me that I can play a role."

Plenty of actions are planned this year, and the local network is growing. If you're in the West Midlands and want to get involved email outreach@caat.org.uk to find out more.



As public spending cuts continue to drive homelessness, hunger and inequality in the UK, the floods aren't the only reason to point out that it's time for the Government to shift its priorities.



Scope estimate that 20,000 disabled people will lose support for the basics in life when the Independent Living Fund closes. **But £6.2 billion will be spent on aircraft carriers for "power projection."**



350,000 people are using food banks to survive (over 13 times more than did five years ago). **But the UK has the 4th highest military spending in the world.**



More than one in four children in the UK live in poverty. **But the Government plans to spend £100 billion on new nuclear weapons.**



The "bedroom tax" means thousands of people are having to choose between heating or eating. **But £2.5 billion will be spent on 14 fighter jets to fight unnamed "future threats."**

FIGHTER JETS: £2.5 BILLION



© George Lansom/Flickr

IT'S TIME TO SHIFT PR

Military spending is being prioritised over meeting real threats and basic needs. It's time to shift priorities.

In February the Government committed to spend a huge £2.5 billion on F-35 fighter jets to go with its hopelessly overbudget £6.2 billion aircraft carriers. The decision has been questioned from many sides by people wondering what strategic threat these could possibly help address. Defence Minister Phillip Hammond's comments revealed it had little to do with meeting identified needs and was in

fact to secure the UK's "power projection for years to come".

Meanwhile, those with flooded homes were left to question why the flood defence budget had been cut by nearly £250 million and planned schemes to protect vulnerable communities had not been delivered. At the same time as it damages lives here, climate change has a catastrophic effect on millions of lives across the globe. Politicians

FLOOD DEFENCES: UNDERFUNDED



© 10 Downing Street / Flickr

TO PRIORITIES

may finally be waking up to this. During the flooding, Labour leader Ed Miliband said: “We are sleepwalking into a national security crisis on climate change.” As well as the “consequences for destabilisation of entire regions of the world, mass migration of millions of people and conflict over water or food supplies” he said that “the events of the last few weeks have shown this is a national security issue in our own country too” Conservative Defence Minister Philip Hammond also agreed climate change was an issue

of national security - yet neither the government nor the opposition are backing up this rhetoric with appropriate policy or action.

Tackling the real threats

The threat to people's livelihoods and homes posed by the predicted rise in extreme weather as climate change intensifies is far from the top of the agenda. In fact, the UK spends 30 times more researching weapons than renewable energy. We need to shift priorities.

ACTION FOR A SAFER WORLD

In 2010 the Government conducted a National Security Strategy that identified the most pressing risks to UK security so that action could be taken to address them. However, even though most of the threats identified in 2010 were not military in nature, subsequent spending has focussed on military force.

When Parliament returns in May, we want to ensure that there is proper debate on the UK's strategy from 2015. This is our chance to demand a strategy that focuses on what will really build a safer world. We'll be calling for a wider debate not driven by military and arms company interests. Rather than fuelling conflict and repression with arms sales and wastefully spending more on destructive military intervention, we'll be asking political parties to focus on real threats – such as climate change – and deliver the resources we need to tackle them.

We'll need your help to put it on the agenda of all MPs in May. Keep in touch with the latest by signing up to our email list at www.caat.org.uk or follow us on Facebook facebook.com/campaignagainstarmstrade or Twitter twitter.com/wwwcaatorguk – or let us know if you'd prefer information by post.

TAKE ACTION ON 14 APRIL

Global military spending is worth \$245 per person every year. This takes its toll in devastating conflict and repression around the world. It also affects every one of us as military ‘solutions’ trump human needs.

On 14 April, hundreds of groups in many countries will take action simultaneously to push a call to cut military spending and meet human needs. Be part of the action:

- Order postcards and posters to spread the word (keep this going even after the date!)
- Plan a stall, photo stunt or demonstration to mark the day and reach more people. Loads of great ideas are on the website: www.demilitarise.org.uk
- Find out what's already planned and get involved: www.demilitarise.org.uk/events

Get in touch for help planning your action on 14 April: events@caat.org.uk or **020 7281 0297**

UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

COMBAT AND THE CAMPUS

Nuclear Information Service and Medact have released a report revealing the extent of research links between UK universities and the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), the body responsible for designing and manufacturing the UK's nuclear weapons.

Almost half of the UK's universities have ties with the Atomic Weapons Establishment

The report shows that almost half of the UK's universities have ties with AWE. While most of the research has no particular application, some of the research could undermine treaties that aim for nuclear disarmament and could also be used for military purposes.

The report calls for more transparency regarding university research funded by AWE as well as a strengthening of the weak ethical guidelines that surround military research.

You can read the full report at www.nuclearinfo.org

SUCCESS

In the last issue of CAAT NEWS we reported an action from the University of West England (UWE) campus in November. Students and locals joined forces to block the gates of the Defence Procurement, Research, Technology & Exportability conference (DPRTE), which is a networking opportunity for companies looking to promote ideas and products to the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Due to the hard work of local campaigners, DPRTE has been moved away from the University of West England

Well, we're happy to say that, due to the hard work of local campaigners, the conference has been moved away from the university! Though there is still work to be done (deep ties remain between UWE and the MoD and many of the demonstrators faced threats from the university for their part in the action) this is a massive milestone and shows just how effective a group of passionate people can be!

STUDENT GATHERING

CAAT's Universities Network student gathering took place in February and what an event! Students travelled from across the country to plan next steps as a network and discuss campaigns. It was very exciting to meet so many and look forward to what comes next!

To contact Holly-Rae, the Universities Network Co-ordinator, email universities@caat.org.uk

London's DSEi arms fair last September met with daily direct action, including the arrest of thirty people, who placed their bodies in the way of DSEi's deadly business.

After a trial this February, Christian protesters who blocked the main entrance were found not guilty. Another group that blocked a vehicle entrance and stopped an HGV had the case against them dropped. They speculated that this was because they intended to call expert witnesses and effectively put the fair itself on trial.

Another case was dropped on 24 February, but Sylvia Boyes was found guilty of obstructing the highway. She spoke powerfully in court about the reasons behind her actions. For more on all of the court cases see www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/ontrial



PUTTING HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF SCOTTISH FOREIGN POLICY

CAAT's Media Co-ordinator [Andrew Smith](#) evaluates the Scottish government's commitment to a "do no harm" arms exports policy in the event of a Yes vote: a policy of engaging positively with the outside world.

The Scottish government's Minister for External Affairs and International Development has cited the Swedish export policy of "do no harm" as one he would like to see Scotland replicating. The problem with this is that the Swedish policy has almost as many inconsistencies and contradictions as the UK's. Swedish exports from 2012 included €57 million worth of military exports to Algeria and €6.5 million to Bahrain. If we look to 2011, Sweden's largest customers included Saudi Arabia, to whom they sold almost €500,000,000 of military equipment, and UAE, which bought over €70 million. While it could be argued that Sweden's policy is an improvement on the UK's, it's also clear that it's a policy to be challenged rather than replicated.

Manufacturing

A disappointing aspect of the recent debates about the impact of Scottish independence on jobs in the Govan shipyard and Rosyth naval base is that they have focussed almost entirely on how the status quo can be maintained. Very few voices have focussed on the ways in which the Scottish government can encourage a positive and constructive manufacturing sector with less focus on military industry and the arms trade.

Diversification

Unite union's Scottish Secretary Pat Rafferty has said: "We also believe there is a case for the creation of a Scottish defence diversification agency to help offset the employment impact on



HMS Ambush preparing to leave builder's yard at Rosyth, Scotland © Mike Vallance / MoD

the proposed removal of Trident." With a wider brief, such an agency could also examine alternative work for the other people currently employed in the military industry in Scotland. For example,

impact UK arms exports have on global peace, security and human rights and reflect on how this can be improved.

This isn't the first time that a high-ranking politician has

A "do no harm" foreign policy would set a challenge to pro-union campaigners to look at the impact UK arms exports have on global peace, security and human rights.

if the Government, whether in Scotland or the UK, transferred the resources it provides to the arms industry into promoting renewables, it could produce more and better jobs.

"Do no harm"

Not only would a "do no harm" foreign policy present fresh and ambitious new thinking on an area that is traditionally done in the dark, in the short term it would set a challenge to pro-union campaigners to look at the

spoken about the need to make human rights central to foreign policy. In 1997 the late UK foreign secretary Robin Cook spoke about the need for a foreign policy with human rights at its heart. He also argued for the conversion of military industry to socially useful production. Unfortunately neither of these goals were realised, but Scottish people should remember his arguments and take warning from his failures, whether in an independent Scotland or as part of the UK.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: STOP THE WARFARE LOBBYING

European Union governments, the bureaucrats at the European Commission and military industry have been adapting the EU machinery to assist the arms companies. They want more money for military projects and fewer controls over transfers of equipment and technologies.

The arms company lobbyists do not want public discussion or Members of the European Parliament who will ask questions about their activities. The European Parliament has hardly been involved in the discussion and many MEPs do not know what has been happening.

The European elections on 22 May are a good time to make sure the candidates, some of whom will be our MEPs for the next five years, do know what is going on with regards to the actions of the warfare lobbyists. It is only then that the latter can be stopped.

to make a commitment to expose the lobbying activities of big business, including military industry. The action will primarily be online and publicised in CAAT's ebulletin. Contact enquiries@caat.org.uk if you don't already receive this and would like to. If you are

CAAT is joining forces with other campaigns from around Europe to ask election candidates to make a commitment to expose the lobbying activities of big business

CAAT is joining forces with other campaigns from around Europe to ask the election candidates

not online, contact the CAAT office in April to be sent the information on paper.

[Ann Feltham](#)



© TPCOM/Flickr

DECEPTION IN HIGH PLACES

Find out more about the history of Britain's arms deals with Saudi Arabia, and Government involvement in arms trade corruption over several

decades with the publication in May of *Deception in High Places: A History of Bribery in Britain's Arms Trade*.

Author Nicholas Gilby played an

important part in CAAT's campaign to re-open the Serious Fraud Office investigation into the Al-Yamamah arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

WORLD WAR ONE GRAPHIC NOVELS

As we approach the centenary of the outbreak of World War One, CAAT's **Kirk Jackson** reviews recent comic-book depictions of the war.

Goddamn This War!

by Jacques Tardi and Jean-Pierre Verney, Fantagraphics Books, 2013



French comics artist Tardi tells the story of a working-class Parisian soldier caught up in the war.

The story begins in 1914 as the troops head off with much patriotic fanfare, the jingoism of the politicians and

the naïve optimism of the soldiers nicely undercut by the grim forebodings of our cynical protagonist.

Sure enough the horrors of the battlefield aren't long in coming, and as the war grinds on the colour bleeds from the pictures, leaving a hellish monochrome world of churned up mud and gunmetal grey. Tardi's ink-and-watercolour artwork is evocative, full of historically accurate detail, and unflinching in its depiction of the war's terrible human cost.

The story touches on various interesting themes, including the French army mutinies of 1917, and, of course, the changes in warfare brought about by the monstrous technology of killing. The comic is complemented by a 40-page chronology of the war by historian Jean-Pierre Verney.

The Great War

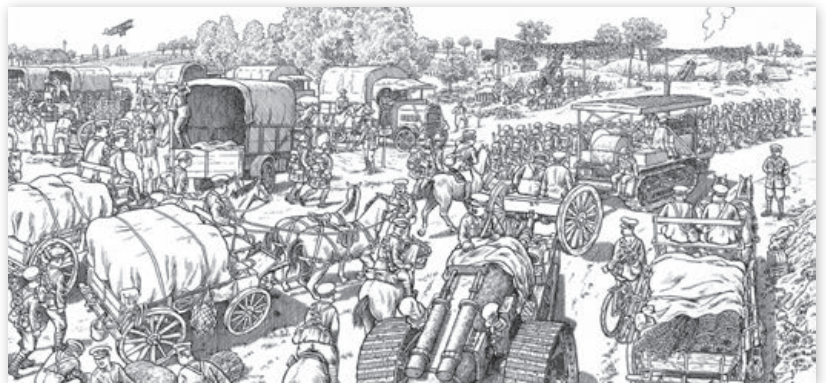
by Joe Sacco, WW Norton & Co, 2013

Joe Sacco is well known for his comic-book journalism about Palestine and the Bosnian War. His latest work stretches the definition of comics insofar as it contains no words and only one picture. But what a picture – a concertina-folded, 7.3-metre-wide illustration depicting the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

The panorama takes us on a journey from General Haig, comfortably billeted in a château behind the lines, via the massive

deployment of troops, horses and materiel, past the field guns and into the trenches to the front line, then over the top into the hell of no man's land, and finally back behind the lines to medical stations overwhelmed with casualties, and hastily dug mass graves.

This highly detailed work is based on meticulous research. An accompanying booklet provides annotation for the main illustration and background notes by historian Adam Hochschild.



Perhaps the greatest achievement of these two books is how they use the strengths of the comic book medium to give the reader a sense of individual lives caught up in a churning mass of humanity, fighting and dying on a scale that tends to defy the imagination.

THEY SAID IT

"I was criticised by the party opposite for taking defence contractors on trade missions overseas. They don't think it's appropriate. I think it is appropriate. We should be standing up for the defence industry and defence jobs."

David Cameron, Prime Minister's Questions, 05/03/14

"The significant number of defence and security companies at the air show reflects the value we place on our relationship with Bahrain."

Philip Hammond talking about GREAT British Week, Gulf Daily News, 16/01/14

"His Royal Highness's second visit to the Kingdom in my time here as Ambassador exemplifies our wish to engage at the most senior levels and our determination to sustain the personal touch."

UK Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Sir John Jenkins talking about Prince Charles' visit, 11/02/14

A BAD JOKE

Last December the BBC's Panorama programme revealed that Comic Relief had invested £630,000 in weapons manufacturer BAE Systems. This was met with public outrage, as such investments are in clear contradiction to Comic Relief's charitable aims.



© Comic Relief

- Comic Relief works to alleviate poverty in Tanzania. In 2010, BAE was fined £30 million for selling an outdated military air traffic control system to Tanzania.
- Comic Relief funds HIV/AIDS projects in South Africa – but BAE's dodgy deals with South Africa led it to spend billions on unnecessary weapons, for deals agreed at a time when millions of people living with HIV and AIDS were denied access to lifesaving medication.
- BAE has supplied many of the world's most repressive regimes including Mubarak's Egypt. Comic Relief has a project working with the victims of conflict in Egypt.

After an outcry from donors, including CAAT supporters, Comic Relief finally agreed to review its investments and sold its arms, alcohol and tobacco investments while it conducted the review.

Unfortunately the terms of the review focussed only on the risk to Comic Relief's investment strategy. CAAT has urged Comic Relief to recognise that there are no circumstances in which it is acceptable to invest in a company such as BAE. We forwarded a petition signed by over 1200 supporters and hope to be able to report a positive result soon.

CAAT has urged Comic Relief to recognise that there are no circumstances in which it is acceptable to invest in a company such as BAE

If you'd like to support urgent actions on issues like this sign up to CAAT's email list at <http://www.caat.org.uk/get-involved/join-us>

RAISING FUNDS FOR CAAT

Two CAAT supporters are taking part in sponsored runs to raise money for the campaign over the next few months.

Ollie's incrEdible run

Ollie Lawson is running the Edinburgh Marathon on 25 May. After completing a half marathon in 2013, Ollie was encouraged by friends to sign up for his first full marathon and to raise sponsorship for Campaign Against Arms Trade. To sponsor Ollie online please go to:

bit.ly/sponsorOllie



David Watson's Great North Run

David Watson is running the Great North Run on 7 September. Walthamstow resident and former CAAT office volunteer David will be travelling to Tyneside to take part in the world's second largest half marathon. This will be his first half marathon, so any sponsorship raised will really help to motivate him. To sponsor David online please go to: bit.ly/SponsorDavidforGNR



Raising money through sponsored events is a great way of supporting CAAT. If you would like to take part in a sponsored event, or have an idea for raising money for the campaign in your community, please contact CAAT's Fundraising Co-ordinator Henry McLaughlin at henry@caat.org.uk

NATO IN NEWPORT

On 4–5 September, South Wales will play host to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) next full summit meeting. Local people and wider supporters are already building towards an impressive week of resistance.

Aggression not defence

Established in 1949 as a Western counter-power to the Soviet Union, NATO commits members to treat an attack on one as an attack on all. This was used to justify the disastrous NATO invasion of Afghanistan, which has cost the lives of tens of thousands of civilians.

A military alliance will only propagate military solutions: it will not look at what is really needed for human security.

Since member states aren't often under attack, NATO has further justified its existence through "humanitarian intervention". In 2011, this meant "intervening" in Libya, including backing rebels who delivered collective punishment to whole villages for supposedly "supporting the Gaddafi regime". Commentators pointed to Libya's significant oil reserves as a deciding factor in defining this "humanitarian" crisis as a priority.

The huge cost of military spending

NATO member states account for 70 per cent of the world's \$1.75 trillion a year military spending.

It is estimated that since 2006, the cost of the Afghanistan War to the UK alone amounts to at least £15 million per day. A military alliance will only propagate military solutions. It will not look at what is really needed for human security. It will not decide to shift military spending to end austerity, relieve poverty, improve health, or tackle climate change.

For the meeting this September, an estimated 140 "VIPs" and 7500 delegates will spend two days at the Celtic Manor Resort, a luxury golfing hotel just outside Newport. So even the cost of hosting the summit will be significant. Security bills for previous summits have been over £60 million, and

the Chief Constable of Gwent has already said that 200 of the 300 police support units in the whole of the UK will be deployed. This allocation of resources is particularly galling in Newport, where £34 million of cuts to local services are planned up to 2017.

Taking action

Well-attended public meetings in Newport have pulled together diverse groups committed to taking action to challenge the summit and its costly militarism. They're inviting you to join them. Plans include:

- a mobilising gathering a few months before
- peace walks converging on Newport, doing outreach and events along the way
- direct action trainings to groups around the country
- a big demo the weekend before the summit
- a counter-summit the weekend before
- a demo and direct actions during the summit
- a camp during the summit

For more info follow [@NoNATONewport](https://twitter.com/NoNATONewport) on Twitter or visit network23.org/stopnatocymru



It is estimated that since 2006, the cost of the Afghanistan War to the UK alone amounts to at least £15 million/day



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:
Freepost 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).

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