

CAAT NEWS



APRIL - JUNE 2016 • ISSUE 240

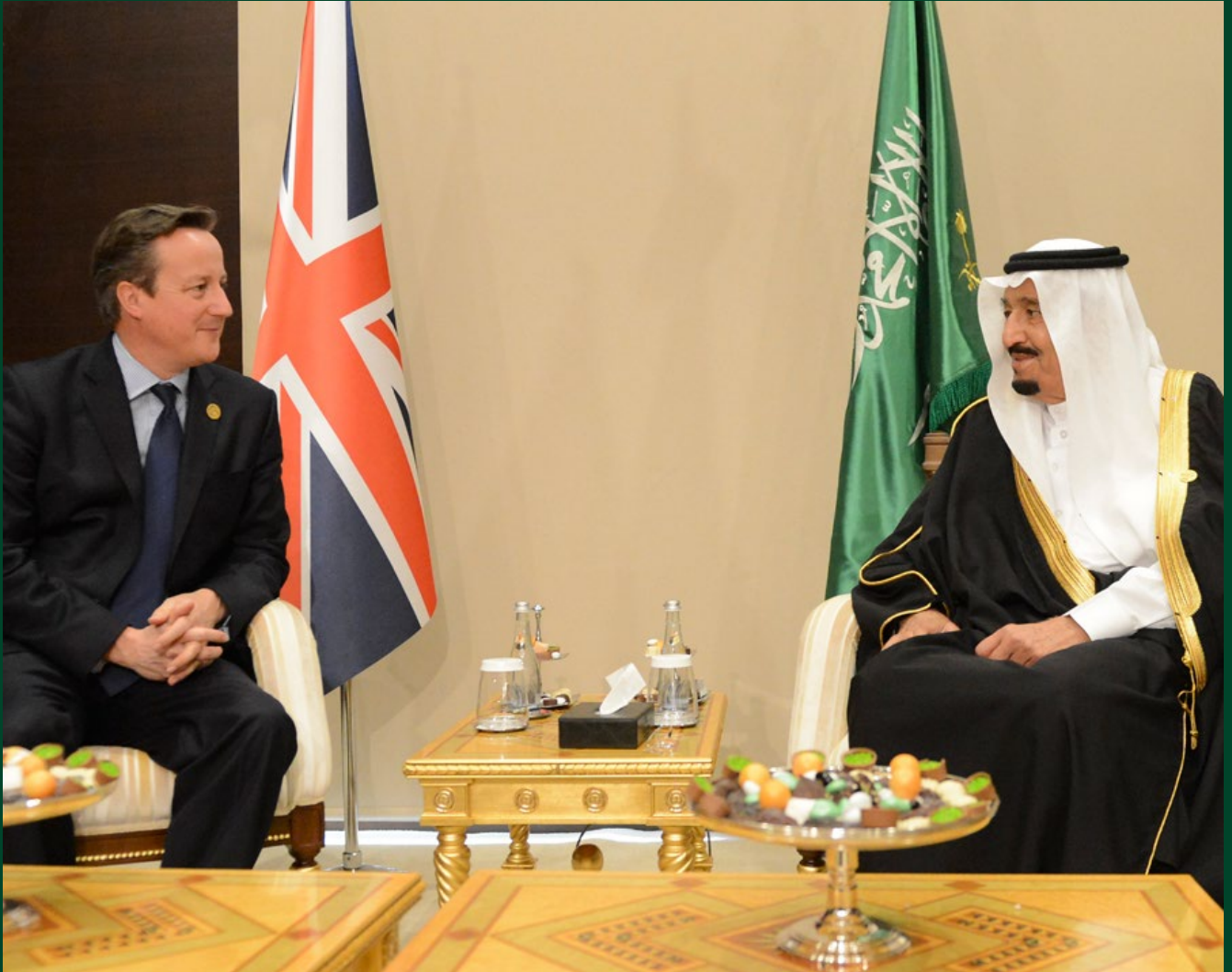


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UK & SAUDI: TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT?

PLUS

Saudi legal action
launched **P8-9**

Help shift debate
on security **P3**

All about arms
fairs **P6-7**

CAAT NEWS

APRIL – JUNE 2016

This issue has a strong focus on UK sales to Saudi Arabia, with pages 8 and 9 giving an update on CAAT's legal challenge. Opportunities to use different tactics to challenge arms sales feature on page 7, which has info on arms fairs coming up this year. Opposite that, on page 6, there's inspiration from actions

that have already taken place at arms fairs in 2016.

If you don't have the opportunity to get out and about then there are still things to do from home, such as taking part in the security review featured on page 3. Have a look through the pages of CAAT News and see what suits you.

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

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

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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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HELP SHIFT THE DEBATE ON SECURITY

A Labour Party review of defence policy is a chance to influence debate. Whether you're a Labour member or not, your views are welcome.

Those who oppose militarism, nuclear weapons or the UK's support for authoritarian Saudi Arabia are often accused of jeopardising the UK's national security. However, the current approach to security, including military intervention overseas, has fuelled the very threats it purports to tackle while neglecting the root causes of insecurity, such as climate change and inequality.

The Labour Party

The Conservative Government's 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review prioritised arms sales and spending on expensive vanity projects, such as Trident and aircraft carriers. Now the Labour Party is undertaking its own Defence Review and is inviting everyone, whether a party member or not, to contribute by 30 April.

The Review document can be found at yourbritain.org.uk/defencereview. It poses a series of questions about the UK's place in the world, threats to security, military spending, nuclear weapons, the arms trade and protecting the jobs and skills of arms industry workers.

CAAT has a briefing to help with responses to the Review, as well as other materials including a draft motion for Labour Party branches. The briefing is online at caat.org.uk/real-security. If you do not use the internet, CAAT can send the materials by post.

The trade unions

The labour movement has traditionally supported jobs and peace. However, as Labour undertakes this review, both Unite and the GMB are campaigning hard to



HMS Queen Elizabeth in Rosyth Dockyard © Crown Copyright

preserve existing arms industry jobs. They aren't questioning the massive waste of resources involved.

As Labour undertakes this review, both Unite and the GMB are campaigning hard to preserve existing arms industry jobs

Research shows that more and better jobs could be provided if the subsidy currently enjoyed by the arms industry was switched to the renewable energy sector. Since energy security and climate change are acknowledged threats to security, it would seem a win-win situation to use the skills of current arms industry workers to address this.



If you belong to Unite or the GMB please **ask your union leaders to think again**, to investigate and support the alternatives to arms industry jobs. Contact

- Len McCluskey, Unite – len.mccluskey@unitetheunion.org
- Tim Roache, GMB – tim.roache@gmb.org.uk

Background information and a motion for trade union branches can be found at caat.org.uk/get-involved/unions.

Again, if you're not online please contact the CAAT office for materials.

CLYDE JOBS CASE STUDY

To complement CAAT's report on jobs, *Arms to Renewables: work for the future*, there is now a regional case study, *Arms industry in the Clyde & renewable energy options*. This finds that the several thousand jobs that could be created in the wave and tidal industries in the Clyde would more than offset job losses from reduced UK military spending and arms exports. Both reports are free of charge and can be ordered from the office.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

EXPORT FIGURES

The peace research institute SIPRI has released new data on the arms trade, finding that the US is the world's biggest exporter, well ahead of Russia. Next comes China, which doubled its arms exports in 2011–15 as compared to 2006–10.

The main customers are in Asia and the Middle East: India topped the list, followed by Saudi Arabia. 14 per cent more arms were exported

worldwide in the last five years than in the preceding five.

DW.com, 22/2/16

France is said to have signed arms export contracts worth a record €16bn in 2015. The figure was driven by the sale of 48 Rafale fighter jets to Egypt and Qatar. Sales to Asia came second after sales to the Middle East.

Defense News, 15/1/16

SAUDI ARABIA

Canada's recently elected Liberal Party government is continuing with the previous administration's multi-billion dollar armoured vehicle deal with Saudi Arabia, despite concerns about human rights abuses in the country. The Canadian foreign minister said the process by which contracts are assessed would be reviewed in future.

Defense News, 16/1/16

BAE Systems has signed a contract to supply the Saudi air forces with a second batch of Hawk jet trainers.

Flight International, 1-7 March 2016

Germany is continuing to build patrol vessels for Saudi Arabia and is still planning to deliver 23 Airbus helicopters, despite German politicians' talk of looking harder at arms exports to Saudi after the Gulf kingdom carried out its biggest public executions for decades in January.

Navaltoday.com, 27/1/16; Reuters 14/3/16

Saudi Arabia has said it will keep French military supplies it bought with the intention of sending them to Lebanon. The change of mind over the Saudi-funded \$3bn aid package to the Lebanese Army is due to concerns about Hezbollah's support for the Syrian regime and influence over decision-making in Lebanon.

Defense News, 19/2/16 & 6/3/16



SINGAPORE

The UK's minister for defence procurement led a high level delegation to an arms fair in Singapore in February.

While he was there he also announced interest in stronger military ties with the country. UK-based companies also attended the Singapore Airshow.

Straits Times, 15/2/16

INVESTIGATIONS

Brazilian prosecutors have reopened an investigation into alleged wrongdoings surrounding the purchase of Saab Gripen jet fighters by the Brazilian air force. An initial probe in 2015 was closed due to lack of evidence.

Wall Street Journal, 5/2/16

French prosecutors are investigating whether a former president of Thales paid bribes to the Malaysian prime minister when the latter was defence minister. The investigation relates to a \$1.2bn submarine deal.

Financial Times, 4/2/16

ARMING SAUDI ARABIA WHILE IT ATTACKS YEMEN

The Government's Export Control Organisation provides summary descriptions of the equipment it approves for export. Below are some of the descriptions for arms that the UK has licensed for Saudi Arabia since it started bombing Yemen. The data covers the period from 26.3.2015 to the most recently released data: 30.9.2015.



ML10: Aircraft, helicopters, drones

- ⊕ combat aircraft (x2)
- ⊕ components for combat aircraft
 - ⊕ components for combat helicopters
 - ⊕ components for military helicopters
- ⊕ military aero-engines (x3)
- ⊕ components for military support aircraft
- ⊕ components for military training aircraft (x5)
- ⊕ equipment for the use of military training aircraft (x2)
- ⊕ components for military aircraft head-up/down displays
 - ⊕ military airborne equipment
- ⊕ military aircraft ground equipment



ML9: Warships

- ⊕ components for combat naval vessels (x10)
- ⊕ components for military auxiliary/support vessels (x4)



ML4: Grenades, bombs, missiles, countermeasures

- ⊕ bombs (x2)
- ⊕ components for bombs
 - ⊕ air-to-air missiles
 - ⊕ components for air-to-surface rockets
- ⊕ components for launching/handling/control equipment for munitions
- ⊕ military improvised explosive device decoying/detection/disposal/jamming equipment (x2)



ML14: Military training equipment

- ⊕ military training equipment
- ⊕ small arms training equipment
 - ⊕ components for firearm training simulators
 - ⊕ military scenario simulation equipment
- ⊕ components for military scenario simulation equipment



ML6: Armoured vehicles, tanks

- ⊕ military support vehicles
- ⊕ components for military combat vehicles (x2)
- ⊕ components for turrets (x2)
- ⊕ general military vehicle components



ML11: Other electronic equipment

- ⊕ electronic warfare equipment (x3)
 - ⊕ components for electronic warfare equipment
 - ⊕ military communications equipment (x3)
- ⊕ equipment for the use of military communications equipment (x2)
 - ⊕ military electronic equipment (x2)
 - ⊕ components for military electronic equipment (x4)
- ⊕ equipment for the development of military electronic equipment

ML refers to the Military List rating of the equipment. This is followed by a broad overview of what the rating covers. The (x2) etc refers to the number of times equipment with that description was approved for export during the period. The data refers to only one type of export licence: Single Individual Export Licences. In addition to these, many Open Individual Export Licences were approved. For more details of licences see bit.ly/1Mc1hd2

UAE

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is waiting for final assurance from France for the go-ahead to sell a fleet of Dassault Mirage fighters to the Iraqi Air Force. A UAE source noted UAE strategic interests around Erbil and said that the UAE had wanted to provide the planes to the Kurdish territories, but the Iraqi central government requested that the fighters go to them.

DEFENSE NEWS, 23/1/16

PENTAGON SECRET MONEY

Analysis by *Aviation Week* reveals that the US Pentagon's secret budget – money spent on programmes and activities unacknowledged in unclassified documents – is around \$68bn for 2017. This amount is similar in magnitude to the entire military budgets of France, Russia or the UK.

Aviation Week, 9/3/16

ARMS FAIRS

March was a busy month for the UK arms industry, with two arms fairs taking place.

SECURITY AND POLICING: THE HOME OFFICE'S FESTIVAL OF REPRESSION

The secretive Security and Policing arms fair brought governments, police forces and military delegations from around the world together with arms companies supplying weapons and other equipment used for repression and surveillance. Held in March at the Farnborough air base, it was marketed as a “discreet environment” to “display products which would be too sensitive to show in a more open environment.” The UK government’s arms export body was responsible for officially inviting international delegations. The invite list included Saudi Arabia, Israel, Bahrain, Turkey and Mexico.

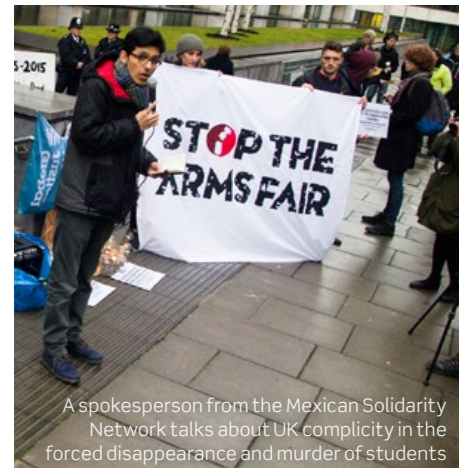
Candles were lit to remember those killed by the governments or companies attending Security and Policing

Campaign presence

CAAT joined a wide range of groups including the Network for Police Monitoring, Global Justice Now, Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants and Stop the Arms Fair for a protest outside the Home Office (pictured) to call for an end to the fair. People with firsthand experience of torture, state surveillance and repression shared their stories and candles were lit to remember those killed by the governments or companies attending Security and Policing.

What security?

Heavy policing of borders, militarisation of police, increased surveillance of civilians and high military spending do not improve security, they make the world a more dangerous place.



A spokesperson from the Mexican Solidarity Network talks about UK complicity in the forced disappearance and murder of students

- Follow the hashtag [#TheyDontMakeUsSafer](#) on Twitter to find out about other ways people took action during Security and Policing and to find out more about the growing campaign to end police militarisation.

STOP CARDIFF ARMS FAIR PROTESTS CAUSE HAVOC FOR ARMS DEALERS



A spoof arms fair advert

Meanwhile, in Wales, Stop the Cardiff Arms Fair was also busy giving arms dealers the runaround at the Defence Procurement, Research, Technology & Exportability arms fair (DPRTE). Cardiff commuters awoke to spoof adverts for the arms fair at bus stops all over town. A rooftop occupation of the Motorpoint Arena alongside a lively demonstration outside caused havoc for the arms fair’s organisers.

DPRTE takes place at the Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff and exists to let smaller arms companies meet bigger buyers. The fair relocated to South Wales in 2014 after it was driven out of Bristol by demonstrators.

Campaigners had already succeeded in getting artists performing at the Cardiff Arena to speak out against it. Punk-ska band The King Blues even denounced it while live onstage at the Arena. A day of creative action with food, music, dancing and games outside the Motorpoint Arena meant that the arms dealers found no welcome for them in Wales either! You can read more about the Stop Cardiff Arms Fair protests on the CAAT blog.

A day of creative action outside the Motorpoint Arena meant that the arms dealers found no welcome for them in Wales

People in England and France are gearing up to challenge two major arms fairs taking place this summer: Eurosatory in Paris and the UK's Farnborough Air Show.

FARNBOROUGH AIR SHOW: 11–17 JULY

Farnborough International is best known for its family-friendly weekend airshow, but most of the world's major arms companies have a presence during the week, exhibiting a range of weaponry.

Farnborough takes place every two years, alternating with the DSEI arms fair in London. In 2014, activists held a vigil outside the fair and targeted the arms dealers' gala dinner at the Science Museum in London (pictured below). Some delegates were turned away from the event and the Bahraini delegation fled when they were confronted by activists. After attending Farnborough in 2014, CAAT's campaigns coordinator Sarah Waldron wrote:

"It was the most surreal and chilling day... I stood by the glossy stands of Israeli arms companies,



The UAE delegation at Farnborough in 2014 examines a BAE combat aircraft

In 2014 the Bahraini delegation fled when activists from the Bahraini Institute for Rights & Democracy confronted them

promoting 'battle-tested' weaponry with slick videos of missile strikes and drone attacks. While outside, in the real world, the death toll in Gaza mounted. I came face-to-face with a member of Bahrain's royal family as he was

ushered into BAE's display area to browse its warplanes. I thought of the Bahrainis I have met in London – shot, imprisoned, tortured and exiled by their government because they dared to call for democracy."

Taking action

There will be lots of opportunities to take action against Farnborough and on Sunday 10 July CAAT is hosting an international anti-arms trade gathering in London. Contact Sarah Reader at action@caat.org.uk or call **020 7281 0297** to book a (free) place.



At the 2014 protest at the Science Museum

EUROSATORY ARMS FAIR: 13–17 JUNE

Eurosatory is one of the world's largest arms fairs and takes place every two years in Paris. A coalition of European groups is preparing to take action: see pasdesalondelarmementaparis.fr.

Plans include:

- **12 June:** action briefing (in English)
- **13 June, noon:** blockade of the Eurosatory venue, Paris Nord Villepinte
- **14 June:** mass action at the arms fair dinner

Get in touch for more info: action@caat.org.uk



STOP ARMING SAUDI LEGAL ACTION

On 8 March Campaign Against Arms Trade began formal legal proceedings against the UK government over its arms exports to Saudi Arabia.

The focus of our case is Saudi Arabia's use of UK weapons in Yemen, which it has been bombing since March 2015. The Saudi-led attacks – using UK-made warplanes and UK-made bombs – have hit refugee camps, schools, hospitals, a wedding and aid facilities. Air strikes killed more than 100 civilians in February alone. There is overwhelming evidence that these attacks have repeatedly breached international humanitarian law.

Licences

UK arms export rules say that a licence for military equipment should not be granted if there is a clear risk that it might be used in violation of international humanitarian law – but the UK government has continued to allow weapons sales. It licensed an astounding £2.8 billion of weapons sales to Saudi Arabia in the six months after the bombing started.

This is in clear violation of the UK's own rules and of European and international law. It makes a mockery of the Government's claims to "rigorously" control arms exports.

Of course, the UK should never have been arming authoritarian Saudi Arabia in the first place. Saudi Arabia executed 47 people in a single day at the start of 2016; it's a country that flogs bloggers, that represses women and minorities, and that helped crush democracy protests in Bahrain (see page 13).

For decades, successive UK governments have prioritised arms deals with Saudi Arabia over human rights, and made us complicit in this regime's crimes. Now though, this relationship is under the spotlight like never before. In February, Parliament's International Development Committee called on the Government to suspend arms sales and support an independent inquiry into Saudi Arabia's indiscriminate bombing. Then, after thousands of us wrote to our MEPs, the European Parliament voted by 359 votes to 212 for an immediate arms embargo to Saudi Arabia.

Thank you to those of you who emailed your MEPs asking them to support the resolution. This helped ensure that it passed despite strong Saudi lobbying in opposition.

 **Sign up** to CAAT's email list to hear about more urgent actions like this: caat.org.uk/get-involved

Meanwhile, back in the UK, Parliament's Committees on Arms Export Controls, the group of MPs that scrutinise UK arms exports, has finally reconvened. In March the committee announced a full-scale inquiry into UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

It's vital that we now keep up the pressure.



SAUDI ARABIA: ON LAUNCHED!

HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE IN YEMEN

80% of the population
require humanitarian
assistance

2.4 million people
have been forcibly
displaced

14 million people
are facing food
insecurity

1.4 million children
are acutely
malnourished

Over 2,000 children
have been killed
or injured

**“The scale of human
suffering is almost
incomprehensible”**

Stephen O'Brien,
UN Emergency Relief Coordinator

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Spread the word

- In April CAAT will publish a new report on the UK's shameful relationship with Saudi Arabia. Order a copy and campaign postcards by emailing enquiries@caat.org.uk or calling the office.
- Please keep sharing our online petition to stop the arms sales at caat.org.uk/stop-arming-saudi.

Lobby your MP

- Whoever your MP is, we need them to know that the UK is complicit in Saudi Arabia's crimes – and to share their constituents' concerns with the Government.
- If they can, we need them to show their support by signing EDM 1170, a parliamentary petition calling for an embargo on arms sales to Saudi Arabia. You can find a template email to send in two minutes at caat.org.uk/stop-arming-saudi.

Target your local arms company

- Expose the arms companies on your doorstep to raise awareness of UK complicity in Saudi Arabia's crimes and to make it harder for the arms companies to go about their deadly business.
- More than 80 companies at more than 400 locations in the UK have applied to export military equipment to Saudi Arabia. Find them all – from Raytheon in Glasgow to MBDA in Stevenage – on CAAT's company map and learn about how they're supporting Saudi's aggression and human rights abuses: caat.org.uk/stop-arming-saudi.

Go to the BAE AGM

BAE's sales to Saudi Arabia include the Typhoon and Tornado combat aircraft that are being used to bomb Yemen, and the Tactica armoured vehicles used by Saudi Arabia in Bahrain to help suppress democracy protests. Join us at BAE's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4 May to hold the company to account. For more info see page 12.

Attend Farnborough

Farnborough International is a major UK arms fair. It takes place every two years, with the next event this July. The UK government always invites Saudi Arabia to send a military delegation to the fair, where weapons from most of the world's major arms companies are available to browse. Read more on page 7 about how you can get involved in protests.

BOOK REVIEW: A HAMMER BLOW

An inspirational story with a question at its core – what do we do when the Government refuses to act?

Evidence mounts that UK-made weapons – planes manufactured by BAE Systems and promoted by the UK government in multi-million pound arms deals – are being deployed by a brutal government attacking a civilian population. The UK government refuses to act. Instead it denies the evidence and continues to license weapons sales.

This will sound depressingly familiar to anyone following the story of UK support for Saudi Arabia today (see pages 8 and 9). However, the same situation was in place twenty years ago, when

The women used household hammers to cause an estimated £1.5 million worth of damage to a Hawk jet war plane, before calling security themselves

ten women disarmed a war plane committed for sale to Indonesia, and likely to be used against the people of East Timor. The full story is told for the first time in *The Hammer Blow*, written by Andrea Needham and published in January.

The action

In January 1996 Andrea was one of a group of women who cut through a fence in the middle of the night and entered a British Aerospace hangar at Warton in Lancashire. Once inside they used household hammers to cause an estimated £1.5 million worth of damage to a Hawk jet war plane, before calling security themselves. Four were charged and spent six months in prison awaiting trial.

East Timor

The Hawk jet the women had disabled was being prepared for export to Indonesia, which was occupying East Timor. Over a third of the population had been killed since its invasion in 1975.

The UK government could be in no doubt about evidence that showed that Hawk jets were being used against East Timor's civilian population. Alongside thousands of others, the women who took action at Warton had written letters, signed petitions, handed out leaflets, marched, attended rallies, organised peace camps and taken part in nonviolent direct action. Still, the UK government refused to act and sales continued. Andrea says: "In that situation, with our Government aiding and abetting genocide, what else could we do but disarm the weapons ourselves?"

Verdict

In July 1996, in a historic verdict, a jury in Liverpool acquitted all four women, finding they had acted reasonably to prevent a greater crime.

Andrea's book tells the full story of the action, from its meticulous planning and audacious execution, through the challenges of preparing a case while imprisoned, the tireless work of the wider support team outside, to the trial itself. It's a gripping story of a remarkable action, one with particular resonance and relevance today.

Be inspired by ordinary people prepared to take action and personal risk and learn from a practical case study in effective resistance.

"In that situation, with our Government aiding and abetting genocide, what else could we do but disarm the weapons ourselves?"

- Find – or organise – a speaker event with Andrea near you. Contact **0207 278 3344** or hammerblow@peacenews.info.
- Find out about action to stop similar deals today – see 'Taking action' on page 15.
- *The Hammer Blow* – how 10 women disarmed a war plane is available from Peace News – **0207 278 3344** or at peacenews.info/webshop.



UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

EXCITING NEW DATA FROM THE NUS

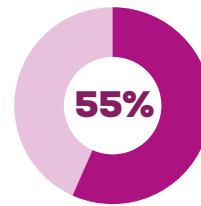
In January the National Union of Students (NUS) published two reports, one about universities' unethical investments and research and the other about university student and staff attitudes to unethical investments and research.

The reports revealed a lot of info on the amount that universities invest in arms companies, but also the level of opposition from students and staff. UK universities have millions of pounds invested in

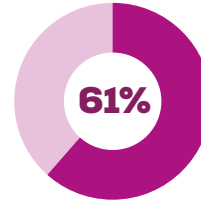
The reports revealed a lot of info on the amount that universities invest in arms companies, but also the level of opposition

arms companies and do millions of pounds' worth of research for them each year.

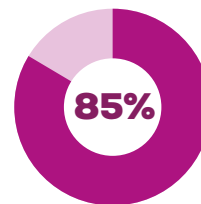
This information will be a powerful campaigning tool. Get in touch for copies of the full reports.



55% of respondents said universities should avoid research into arms/munitions.



61% of respondents said that universities should avoid investment in arms/munitions



85% of HE staff who responded said arms/munitions should be avoided by pension schemes.

STOP ARMING ISRAEL

Student-led Stop Arming Israel campaigns are growing, with lots of wins along the way. Liverpool University Guild of Students and UCL Student Union both recently

adopted Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions policies that include arms. This means they now have a mandate to lobby their universities to cut all ties with

arms companies that supply Israel or collaborate with Israeli arms companies.

Meanwhile, students across the country marked Israeli Apartheid Week in February and seized the opportunity to raise awareness of universities' support for the arms industry, hosting speaker events, workshops and film nights. Campaigns were launched at several universities to end arms company recruitment and research at universities.



University of York Palestine Solidarity Society protests about arms companies attending a careers fair

Students across the country marked Israeli Apartheid Week in February and seized the opportunity to raise awareness of universities' support for the arms industry

JOIN US

For more information about the Universities Network or about the arms trade's involvement at your university and what you can do about it, get in touch!

- Check out our website: universities.caat.org.uk
- Email universities@caat.org.uk
- Like us on Facebook: search **Campaign Against Arms Trade | Universities Network**

HOLDING BAE TO ACCOUNT AT ITS AGM

Saudi Arabia, the country that executed 47 people in a single day at the start of 2016, that flogs bloggers, represses women and minorities, is “a good ally to be worked with” and “an important customer” according to the arms company BAE Systems. BAE fighter jets, including the Eurofighter Typhoon, are being used in the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen.

The AGM is the one day of the year where the company is held to account and the company’s board has to answer questions

That conflict has caused a severe humanitarian crisis and seen thousands of civilians killed.

BAE Systems is holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 4 May

in Farnborough. It’s the one day of the year where the company is held to account and the company’s board has to answer questions on arms sales to repressive regimes.

 **Join CAAT at the AGM** to question BAE on its arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other repressive regimes. Contact Ian by emailing research@caat.org.uk or by phoning **020 7281 4900** to request a share.



Outside the 2014 BAE AGM

THREAT TO ETHICAL INVESTMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

The Government’s proposal to ban ethical boycotts is an attack on local democracy.

The Government may talk about support for local decision-making but its proposal to ban councils and public bodies across England from boycotting unethical companies flies in the face of such rhetoric.

The media has focussed on the potential of such legislation to curb ethical procurement decisions and stop the Boycott, Disinvestment & Sanctions campaign against Israel. However, the issue goes even wider than that.

The Government is also seeking to stop councils from boycotting arms companies because that would “risk harming Britain’s

export trade.” In other words, central government believes that arms company profits are more important than local democracy.

Boycotts can work. From the

The Government is seeking to stop councils from boycotting arms companies because that would “risk harming Britain’s export trade.”

1960s to the 1980s over 100 local authorities banned South African goods from offices and schools. By 1985, two thirds of the population lived in local

authorities that supported the anti-Apartheid movement.

At present the rhetoric may be limited to scaremongering about the impact of Israeli boycotts and disinvestment in arms companies, but in the long run these proposals could impact on almost all campaign groups.

Councils are meant to be free to make their own decisions when it comes to representing local people. Surely, if the Government really believes in empowering councils then it should allow local people to decide where their money is spent?

UPDATE ON BAHRAIN

The UK still fuels oppression in Bahrain despite abuse continuing.

It has been five years since activists across Bahrain rose up against the authoritarian Al-Khalifa regime. Dozens were killed over the months that followed and hundreds were locked up as the ruling family used the full power of the state to assert its autocratic rule.

What sort of justice is it when people who have experienced state repression are put on trial, while the red carpet is rolled out for the regime that was responsible?

The crackdown has only continued since, and so has the UK government's uncritical support. Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond has described Bahrain as an ally and a country that is "moving in the right direction."

The UK has licensed £45 million worth of arms to the regime

since the uprising began. These include machine guns, sniper rifles, gun mountings, assault rifles and anti-armour ammunition.

Isa Al-Aali, a Bahraini activists living in London (pictured above), is among those facing a court case for protesting the DSEI arms fair last September. Isa was tortured

During the Security and Policing protest outside the Home Office (see page 6) Isa shared his story of being arrested and tortured in Bahrain



by the Bahraini police for taking part in a peaceful protest and was held in a detention centre when he sought asylum in England.

What sort of justice is it when people who have experienced state repression are put on trial, while the red carpet is rolled out for the regime that was responsible?

ON TRIAL FOR TRYING TO STOP DSEI

Several people are due to be in court from 11-15 April for taking action against the DSEI arms fair. They were arrested during the week of action, which saw daily blockades of vehicles and equipment destined for the fair.

"Why is it us – and not the profiteers and war makers who are on trial?"

The group released a statement saying:

"While we find ourselves due to stand trial for opposing the DSEI arms fair, we invite you to question why it is us – and not the war makers and profiteers – that are on trial."



What you can do:

- **Send a message of support** to those on trial: email stopdsei2015@riseup.net.
- **Make a donation** to the defendants' solidarity fund to help with travel, childcare and other campaign costs. Email stopdsei2015@riseup.net.
- **Join the court solidarity demonstration:** there will be a presence outside Stratford Magistrates Court, 389-397 High Street, London E15 each morning from 9am.
- **Spread the word:** see stopthearmsfair.org.uk, join and share the court solidarity protest on Facebook and follow [#StopDSEI](https://twitter.com/StopDSEI) on Twitter.

Protest at the DSEI arms fair

THE BIG RIDE

From 4-6 August, cyclists will be taking action in support of the Stop Arming Israel campaign – and if you'd like to fundraise for CAAT, you can join them!

Why Stop Arming Israel?

In 2014 UK weaponry was once again used by Israel in a devastating assault on Gaza. 2,205 Palestinian civilians were killed in 51 days, 521 of them children. Yet in the following four months the UK government went on to approve £4 million worth of arms sales to Israel.

“The Big Ride is an initiative by supporters of the Palestinian people which combines a love of cycling with practical solidarity and awareness raising”

What's happening?

There will be four organised rides over one long weekend leaving from London, Manchester, Bristol and Sheffield to converge in Birmingham for a Sunday afternoon of music and other entertainment, food, stalls and speakers from the Palestine

solidarity movement. The ride will end on Monday with a mass cycle ride of about 18 miles to the final destination in Shenstone, Staffordshire.

Why Shenstone?

The cyclists will head to a Shenstone arms factory called UAV Engines, which is owned by Israeli arms company Elbit Systems. Elbit Systems is Israel's biggest private arms company and the factory in Shenstone makes drone parts that are then exported all over the world. The factory has already been the target of mass protests. There'll be a rally outside calling for the UK to stop arming Israel.

Dermot MacWard, director of the Red Spokes tour company and one of the organisers of the Big Ride, explains how he and his cycle tour company came up with the idea for the ride: “The Big Ride is an initiative by supporters of the Palestinian people which combines a love of cycling with



practical solidarity and awareness raising. In 2015 we were motivated to organise a marathon 450-mile, nine-day cycle ride from Edinburgh to London, involving more than 200 participants and supporters. In 2016, we are again setting out on the road for Palestine solidarity.”

For more information, see redspokes.co.uk/thebigride. If you would like to join the ride and fundraise for CAAT please contact fundraising@caat.org.uk.

RUN THE ARMS DEALERS OUT OF TOWN!

Taking part in sponsored events is one of the best ways to help support CAAT's work. If you would like to take part in a sponsored run or cycle, or have any other ideas on raising money then please do get in touch today. We can help you set up an online sponsorship page, promote your event online and provide sponsorship forms. Contact Tom at fundraising@caat.org.uk.

Two CAAT supporters currently have sponsored events lined up. Please support the campaign and sponsor them by returning the enclosed form.



David Watson raised over £2,500 for CAAT taking on the Great North Run last year

TAKING ACTION

APRIL

- **SUPPORT ACTIVISTS** arrested for taking action during the DSEI arms fair (see page 13)
- **JOIN** the Sussex Stop Arming Israel campaign as they target Drone Manufacturer Thales in Crawley on Friday 8 April. More details: ssai2016.wordpress.com

MAY

- **CHALLENGE** BAE Systems at its AGM on arms sales to Saudi Arabia (see page 12)
- **LOOK OUT FOR** CAAT's new report on Saudi arms sales and find your local arms dealers using CAAT's arms company map: caat.org.uk/map

JUNE

- **JOIN GROUPS** in France to challenge the Eurosatory arms fair (see page 7)

JULY

- **BOOK A PLACE** at the gathering on 10 July, ahead of the Farnborough arms fair (see page 7)

AUGUST

- **GET ON YOUR BIKE** and join the Big Ride (pictured below), and raise money for CAAT (see page 14)



THEY SAID IT

“Yes of course I’ve got it, but I haven’t received it”

Tobias Elwood, Foreign Office Minister, referring to UN Panel report on Saudi Arabia’s bombing of Yemen while he is holding a copy. Independent, 28/1/16

“We are not there to form judgements on individual countries... For us this is a very important customer, of which we have a very strong relationship”

Roger Carr, Chair of BAE Systems responds to questions about human rights in Saudi Arabia. Channel4News, 20/1/16

“I spoke earlier with Foreign Ministry Director General Dori Gold, who is in London, and asked him to demand from the British government that the posters be removed”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responds to critical posters put up on the London Underground. Haaretz, 22/2/16

“I will not be taking my eye off the ball, making sure the brilliant things you make here at BAE Systems are available and sold all over the world”

David Cameron, speaking to a room full of BAE employees. Guardian, 25/2/16



You can donate to CAAT by either visiting our website at **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).

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel: Email:

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:

SINGLE DONATION

DONATION DETAILS

I wish to donate £_____ to CAAT and enclose a cheque or have completed my credit/debit 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)