THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE





TIME TO SHUT DOWN THE ARMS FAIR FOR GOOD



DSEI pictures and updates **P3,8-11**

Public views on arms sales **P12**

News from the Uni Network **P13**



This issue has a dynamic feel, with engaging photos from September's actions at the DSEI arms fair (pages 8, 9 and 10); interesting developments on diversification and on investment News too: after 13 years as editor (page 6); and news of the Universities Network's plans for this academic year (page 13). It's exciting that so much is going

on with CAAT supporters, and that the level of public support for the issues with which CAAT is concerned remains strong (page 12). It's a dynamic time for CAAT this is my last issue. Many thanks to CAAT supporters and staff for being such a fantastic source of inspiration during that time.

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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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BLOCKING & EXPOSING^{THE} ARMS FAIR

DSEI (Defence & Security Equipment International) is one of the world's largest arms fairs. CAAT supporters got in the way during the set-up of the fair at London's ExCeL Centre in September.

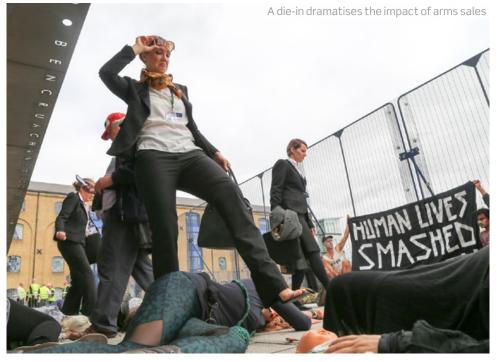
Dabke-dancing, aerobics, a gig on a flatbed truck, abseilers dangling from a bridge, theatre, military veterans undertaking unofficial vehicle checks for banned weapons, Kurdish dancers, rebel clowns, religious gatherings, hip-hop artists, radical picnics, a critical mass of cyclists, conference workshops, Daleks, political choirs, and lots of people in arm-locks all blocked the entrances to the DSEI arms fair repeatedly over the course of a whole week.

As lorries and trucks transporting armoured vehicles, missiles, sniper rifles, tear gas and bullets attempted to get on site, people from around the world were there to put their bodies in the way. From 4 to 11 September, rolling blockades disrupted the set up of the arms fair and forced the arms trade into the public eye.

"I have no doubt that history will judge kindly those who peacefully put their bodies in the way of an arms fair which sells weapons to some of the world's most brutal dictatorships"

Opposition to DSEI

Several public figures came out in opposition to DSEI. Mayor of London Sadig Khan said he wants the arms fair banned and



is "opposed to London being used as a marketplace for the trade of weapons to those countries that contribute to human rights abuses." Co-leader of the Green Party, Jonathan Bartley, attended a day of protests, saying to participants, "We can take people out of the industry of death and use their skills for a renewables revolution."

Even celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall said he would donate any profts made at his River Cottage outlets during DSEI to charity, saying, "We do not want to profit from the spend of the arms trade."

Further comment came from Caroline Lucas MP who said."Over 100 people have been arrested because of their actions, but I have no doubt that history will judge kindly those who

peacefully put their bodies in the way of an an arms fair which sells weapons to some of the world's most brutal dictatorships."

Huge involvement

Thank you to the hundreds of people who put their bodies in the way of the arms fair; to the many thousands of others who amplified the protests by signing petitions and by speaking out online and in their own communities: and to all whose who helped in diverse ways in order to make the protests possible, from pet-sitting so others could protest, to making beautiful For more on props or food the actions and for protesters, protests at DSEI to sending see pages messages 8-10

of support.

DSEI • 3

ARMSTRADE MIDDLE EAST



Qatar has signed a letter of intent to buy 24 Typhoon combat aircraft from BAE Systems in a move that could anger Gulf countries boycotting Qatar, such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain. Reuters, 17/9/17

In September the UK and Saudi Arabia announced that they had signed a new Military and Security Cooperation Agreement. Gov.uk, 19/9/17

Saudi Arabia is planning to buy BAE Systems' M109A6 howitzers with new turrets. Jane's Defence Weekly, 26/7/17 The RAF's Red Arrows performed right across the Middle East this autumn, part of a "significant tour" that was intended to demonstrate that the UK is "open for business."

Gov.uk, 28/8/17; raf.mod.uk, 9/10/17

Saudi Arabia's multi-billion dollar order for General Dynamics' Light Armoured Vehicles (LAVs) could be jeopardised by video footage showing other Canadianmade vehicles purportedly being used in a security operation in a Shia area. Use of Canadian-made vehicles by forces violating human rights could lead to pressure on the Canadian government to cancel the LAV order. Jane's Defence Weekly, 11/8/17

BAE

The UK's biggest military contractor BAE Systems has announced plans to cut 2000 jobs. Up to 1,400 jobs will go at its military aerospace business over the next three years, along with a further 375 in maritime services and 150 in cyber-intelligence. It's been described as the first move in a cost-cutting programme following a lack of orders for the Typhoon combat aircraft. Guardian, 10/10/17

AEROSPACE

United Technologies (UTC) has confirmed a \$30bn deal to buy Rockwell Collins, securing its place as one of the world's largest aerospace suppliers. Flight Global, 5/9/17

SHELL COMPANY

Amnesty International has exposed the use of a London-based shell company as an intermediary in prospective arms deals to South Sudan, citing regulatory gaps that make the UK a hotspot for companies involved in illicit arms transfers. Amnesty International, 25/9/17

UK SHIPS

The UK unveiled a new national shipbuilding strategy in September, with plans for the Government to buy at least five frigates, with work shared between UK shipyards, and with hopes that future ships will be bought by foreign navies. BBC, 6/9/17

AUSTRALIA

Australia has said it intends to become a major weapons exporter, with investment in naval platforms and systems as a basis for the export drive.

Jane's Defence Weekly, 26/7/17



RUSSIA

The export order backlog of Russian arms exporter Rosoboronexport has reached \$45bn, with aviation accounting for 42% of the total. Jane's Defence Weekly, 5/7/17

ISRAEL

A \$1.4bn submarine deal between Israel and Germany is in jeopardy after the widening of an Israeli scandal over suspected criminal offences. A former Israeli Navy commander and the personal attorney of the Prime Minister are the latest to be caught up in the probe, known as the Case 3000 Affair. **Defense News, 14/7/17**



INDONESIA

An Indonesian ex-Air Force officer has been named as a suspect in a probe over the procurement of a helicopter from AgustaWestland. The officer is alleged to have given orders for the project to continue, despite the President's instruction to cancel the purchase.

The Jakarta Post, 5/8/17

COUNTRIES AT WAR AND THE DSEI ARMS FAIR

PRIMARY WAR ZONE:



WARRING PARTIES THAT ATTENDED DSEI:

C PAKISTAN



PRIMARY WAR ZONE:

ALSO: BELGIUM, LIBYA, SYRIA WARRING PARTIES THAT ATTENDED DSEI: AUSTRALIA COMMARK



PRIMARY WAR ZONE:



WARRING PARTIES THAT ATTENDED DSEI:

🕑 TURKEY

PRIMARY WAR ZONE:



WARRING PARTIES THAT ATTENDED DSEI:



Data on locations and warring parties is taken from the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute** (SIPRI) Yearbook 2017 and refer to wars active in 2016.

- "An armed conflict that results in 1000 battle-related deaths in a year is classified as a 'war' in that year."
- Primary war zone is the state whose government is being challenged. All other countries where fighting took place are then listed.
- "Attended DSEI" refers to country delegations, information about which can be found at **caat.org.uk/issues/arms-fairs/dsei/delegations**.

Wars where no warring parties are known to have been represented by delegations at DSEI are not included.

TUC VOTES FOR A SHADOW DEFENCE DIVERSIFICATION AGENCY

CAAT helped organise a conference in Birmingham last year to mark 40 years since the 1976 Lucas Plan, when workers at arms company Lucas Aerospace sought to retain jobs by proposing alternative, socially useful applications for the company's technology and their own skills.

After the Birmingham conference a group continued work on arms conversion, or defence diversification. There is no agreement as to what to call it! CAAT is involved and others include Nuclear Free Local Authorities, Scientists for Global Responsibility and the PCS union. We want to ensure that arguments about jobs can't be used to justify arms exports or Trident.

Another active participant in this work is Newcastle Trades Council. Its motion calling for the establishment of a shadow Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) was passed at September's Trades Union Congress (TUC) with support from Unite, which covers many skilled arms industry workers, though, unfortunately, not from the GMB or Prospect unions. The BAE job cuts (see page 4), shows just how necessary a DDA is.

Motion

The motion called on the "trade unions and the TUC to lobby the Labour Party to establish ... a 'shadow' Defence Diversification Agency, to work closely with the Shadow Department for Industry in developing an overall national industrial strategy including

We want to ensure that arguments about jobs can't be used to justify arms exports or Trident

the possibility of conversion of 'defence' capacity. The first task of this Agency would be to engage with plant representatives, trade unions representing workers in the 'defence' industry, and local authorities, to discuss their needs and capacities, and to listen to their ideas, so that practical plans can be drawn up for arms conversion while protecting skilled employment and pay levels." See caat.org.uk/get-involved/ unions/shadow-dda-motion for the full wording.



LOCAL AUTHORITY INVESTMENTS

In June the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) won a legal challenge against the UK government.

> The story began at the Conservative Party Conference in 2015. It was announced then that the Government would bring in measures to stop Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) in England and Wales boycotting investments in arms companies or for foreign policy reasons. Campaigns for

disinvestment from companies involved in Israeli settlements in Palestine had prompted the latter.

Despite a public consultation indicating that 98 per cent of respondents thought this was the wrong thing to do, guidance was announced by the Department for Communities and Local Government in September 2016 preventing local authorities from avoiding investments in companies for these reasons.

PSC challenged the guidance in court with CAAT, War on Want and the Quakers supporting the case with witness statements. The judge ruled the Government had acted for an improper purpose by seeking to use pension law to pursue its own foreign and military policy. LGPS are now free to act in accordance with their members' wishes.

The judge ruled the Government had acted for an improper purpose by seeking to use pension law to pursue its own foreign and military policy

6 • INDEFENCE DIVERSIFICATION AGENCY / INVESTMENT

LEGAL ACTION -CAAT APPLIES TO APPEAL

In July the High Court rejected CAAT's legal action challenging the continued licensing of exports to Saudi Arabia where there is a clear risk that they might be used to commit serious violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Yemen.

CAAT's lawyers, and many informed legal commentators, felt that there are strong grounds to appeal, so CAAT has asked for permission to do so. At the time of writing, CAAT is waiting to discover whether a Court of Appeal judge, who is looking at papers from CAAT and the Government, will grant permission to appeal, refuse permission but grant an oral permission hearing, or

A UN agency reported the number of Saudiled coalition airstrikes in the first six months of 2017 had already exceeded the 2016 total totally refuse permission to take the case any further. If permission is granted, the full appeal hearing is unlikely to take place until well into 2018. Full information about the case, including all the documents that can be made public, can be found at caat.org.uk/resources/ countries/saudi-arabia/legal-2016.

Air strikes

In the meantime, Saudi Arabia continues to pound Yemen using UKsupplied equipment. A UN agency reported in August that the number of Saudi-led coalition airstrikes in the first six months of 2017 had already exceeded the 2016 total.



Dun.can/Flickr

You can support the ongoing legal action by donating to our Appeal crowdfunder at caat.org.uk/saudi-appeal

LABOUR PARTY AND SAUDI ARABIA

Parliamentarians from all the opposition parties continue to press for an end to arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

In her speech to the Labour Party Conference in September, Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry said, "We have to listen to Michael Fallon saying that the thousands of children killed and injured by air strikes in Yemen are just a consequence



of Saudi Arabia 'defending itself'." She committed a future Labour government to setting a new standard for controlling arms exports which would be a "shining example to the world."

Local parties

This is encouraging but we need to make sure the Labour leadership keeps its word and that the inevitable lobbying by the arms industry does not undermine the commitment. That the issue had such a high profile must have been helped by Labour members among CAAT supporters who persuaded their local Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs) to put forward a "contemporary motion" on arms sales to Saudi Arabia. 15 of the

180 CLPs who put forward a "contemporary motion" chose this as their single allowed motion. Unfortunately, it was ruled not to be contemporary by the Conference Arrangements Committee.

We need to make sure the Labour leadership keeps its word and that the inevitable lobbying by the arms industry does not undermine the commitment

> While not successful on this occasion, the Labour members concerned are hopeful that rule changes will mean that issues such as this can be raised more easily within the party structures. Please email parliamentary@caat.org.uk if you would like to work within the Labour Party on this.

Monday Stop Arming Israel

The Stop Arming Israel day of action used creative activities to block the road, including Dabke dancing, a football game with giant balls and live music and DJs playing late into the evening.

Protesters heard how Israel markets its weapons as "battletested" on the Palestinian population – as they blocked a Sandcat vehicle from Israeli manufacturer Plasan from entering the fair.

FREE PALESTING

Tuesday No Faith in War

Faith groups came together for a day of peaceful nonviolent resistance and prayer to say no to the arms trade and no to profiteering from war. Protesters locked themselves together in arm tubes to block the road and had to be cut out before vehicles could get through, while abseilers came from above to block the road with a clear message for the Government.





In September the global arms trade car Two amazing weeks of action confror

WAR CRIMINALS ARE

NOT WELCOME HERE



Wednesday No to Nuclear & Arms to Renewables

CND Regional Groups and Trident Ploughshares coordinated actions to say No to Nuclear. Many of the companies that are central to Trident replacement were at DSEI. Arms to Renewables actions showcased positive alternatives. Roads were blocked for hours at a time, with police taking six hours to cut some protesters out of their blockades.

NTIS TER

HOTS RMSFAIR me to London in the form of DSEI.

ited and exposed the arms fair





© David Mirzoeff/Global Justice Now



Thursday Free Movement for People Not Weapons

Many of the companies at DSEI directly profit from conflicts that drive people from their homes, as well as from deadly borders and the inhumane treatment of migrants.

Organised by migrant-led feminist and queer groups, the day of action featured workshops, theatre and dance led by people on the front lines of military and border violence.

Veterans for Peace carried out citizen's inspections of the vehicles arriving at the Arms Fair to ensure that no weapons banned under the Geneva Conventions were being brought into the fair for sale.

A picnic in the road blocked the road at lunchtime with amazing food from North London Food not Bombs.

All Africa Womens Group performed their play, We Are Here Because You Were There.

DSEI • 9



Friday Scholars and supervillains against the arm fair

Conference at the Gates moved academia out of the lecture theatre and onto the street, blurring the lines between activism and academia. Meanwhile, striking Supervillains from all over the universe gathered to picket the arms fair, to protest being put out of a job by human rights abusers from all over the planet.





Saturday Festival of Resistance

Artists, performers and many others converged for a festival of resistance.

Human rights campaigner Sayed, who left Bahrain after being beaten, tortured and jailed said, "There are decent people who will stand against war, and we are so proud to be with this movement."



AMING ISIS



NANGA SKERTSS.

Sunday International resistance

War Resisters' International brought together people from around the world for a seminar exploring how the arms trade is international – and so is our resistance. Kurdish solidarity protesters calling for the UK to Stop Arming Turkey held the road with speeches, dancing and singing.

© Paige Ofosu

ART THE ARMS FAIR

Amy Corcoran is an artist and PHD student. Here she talks about the week-long art fair in opposition to DSEI, in which she played a central role.

Art The Arms Fair consisted of over 130 works of art, from the tiniest paintings and postcards to a massive half-scale replica of a Tomahawk missile! It showcased work by people from all sorts of backgrounds, from sketches by people sat at the side of the road during the DSEI week of action right through to an exclusive new piece by Banksy that was auctioned to raise an amazing £102,500 for CAAT.

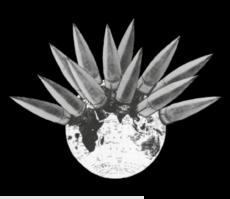
Walking around the exhibition you got a sense of people's anger, but also their desire for something new, something peaceful and beautiful

Art as a medium

Walking around the exhibition you got a sense of people's anger, but also their desire for something new, something peaceful and beautiful. It was both uplifting and energising to see the passion put into the works and that was another reason why art was a fantastic way to raise awareness of the arms fair and its impacts.

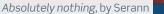
By combining art with political argument and the empathy this generates, Art the Arms Fair aimed to spread awareness, push more people to speak out and to add to the momentum needed to stop the arms fair for good.

CAAT would like to thank all the artists and organisers who were involved with the Art The Arms Fair project for their work in making the arms fair visible and for the funds raised for CAAT. Take a virtual tour round the Art The Arms Fair gallery at bit.ly/ataf-tour.



Warhead 3 by Peter Kennard







Arms Fair Poster by Rowan Abbott



View from the Drone by Steve Pratt



POLLING

One thing that CAAT supporters should always remember is that public opinion is on our side. The overwhelming majority of people in the UK are appalled by events like the DSEI arms fair.

The scale of that opposition was made clear in a recent poll of over 2000 adults, conducted by Opinium LLP on behalf of CAAT. It found that:

76% oppose the Government's role in promoting arms exports to countries with poor human rights records (6% disagree)

710% believe that the Government should not be involved in organising arms fairs to which human rights abusing regimes are invited

63% of people oppose arms sales to countries that are not democracies (9% disagree)

68% oppose arms sales to Saudi Arabia (12% support)

68% oppose arms sales to Turkey (12% support)



We need to do all we can to mobilise public opinion and keep the pressure on Government ministers and arms companies if we are to end DSEI and UK complicity in human rights abuses around the world.

AROUND THE UK

People across the UK mobilised around DSEI – but other actions took place too

This July, on the third anniversary of Israel's terrible 2014 bombardment of Gaza, people from Sheffield, Manchester and Birmingham united to close the Israeli Elbit Systems-owned drone factory at Shenstone. People of all ages and backgrounds blocked factory entrances, stopping production for a full two days.

People of all ages and backgrounds blocked entrances to Israeli Elbit Systems-owned drone factory at Shenstone, stopping production for a full two days

Five campaigners were arrested for taking part in the protests. Charges have already been dropped against three of them but, at time of going to press, the other two are still due to appear in court. Court solidarity demonstrations are being organised to show support and to make clear that the movement against Elbit Systems is stronger than ever.

Edinburgh

In Edinburgh, campaigners have met with council representatives in the hope of ending the local authority's investment in arms companies. Edinburgh CAAT supporters made a powerful presentation and next steps will be discussed at a council committee meeting in December.

In Edinburgh, campaigners have met with council representatives in the hope of ending the local authority's investment in arms companies



Edinburgh campaigners with their petition against arms company investments

UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

STUDENT ACTION AT THE ARMS FAIR

Students across the country used their campaigning skills developed over the past year to join Stop the Arms Fair in the campaign to stop DSEI arms fair in London (see pages 8, 9 and 10). Many took part in Conference at the Gates, the academic action where students, academics and others took part in workshops, talks and interactive theatre.



Arming the World is street theatre that brings the arms trade to life. It's part stage performance, part fashion show, part educational exposition.

OPEN LETTER

Over 200 academics signed an open letter condemning the DSEI arms fair. These included Professor Sara Ahmed (Independent), Professor Nadje Al-Ali (SOAS), Professor Judith Butler (University of California, Berkeley), Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos (University of Coimbra), Professor Lisa Duggan (New York University) and Professor Cynthia Enloe (Clark University).

Extract from the open letter, first published on TheDisorderOfThings.com

We support this week of action and Conference at the Gates, and call on the UK government to end its support for DSEI. As academics working on topics related to war, conflict, security, human rights, and international relations, we are opposed to the presence of this arms fair in London, and to the substantial support provided by the UK government to make it happen. It is wrong to argue, as the government does, that the arms trade contributes to security – it fuels conflict, facilitates repression, and makes the world a more dangerous place. In a world of complex challenges militarism should be regarded as part of the problem, not the solution.



Demilitarise King's students held their Freshers Fair stall this September to bring a new generation of students to their anti-Arms Trade campaign on King's College London campus.

Coming up

Students are now gearing up for another year of actions, talks and workshops to mobilise support for campaigning against the arms trade. The Universities Network has lots of new data on university involvement in the arms trade, and new opportunities to engage students on campuses with film and live theatre.

Investments

Thanks to a huge collaborative Freedom of Information project with People and Planet, we now have data on investments at more than 100 universities. We will be releasing the data over the months ahead: see the website **caatunis.net** to find out more.

We've also sent Freedom of Information requests to 22 universities across the country that have strong engineering departments to see if any of their modules have been designed in partnership with arms companies. Check out the requests at: whatdotheyknow. com/user/jessica_poyner/ requests.

Theatre and film

Feeling inspired? Bring anti-arms trade action to your campus by booking a workshop or talk this semester. Funding is available to help bring to campuses the exciting show Arming the World – an arms trade-focused comedy by the theatre company ice and fire. Funding is also available for student groups to show the film Shadow World.

Keep an eye out for dates or get in touch to bring these shows to your university.

DANCING TO DISARM!

On the evening of Saturday 22 July, nearly 300 people attended a night of performances to raise funds for CAAT and build solidarity through music. The evening kicked off with spoken word from **Mizan the Poet**, whose powerful poetry took aim at a range of foreign policy issues, including the UK's role in Iraq and the proliferation of child soldiers.

A night of performances to "come together, build community, show solidarity and be proud of speaking out against the arms trade"

Then Camden-based rapper **Awate** came to the stage. The audience went wild as he prompted, "If you hate arms dealers and property developers, make some noise!" Next up was more hip-hop from **Logic** of People's Army who wowed the audience with politically conscious tracks like "Spectator" and "Question Everything".

Coldcut's DJ set kept everyone dancing and thinking with stunning live visuals, including some great photos from past CAAT actions. Finally, feminist DJ collective **Resis'Dance** topped off the evening with some classic floor-filling tunes.

It was an amazing night that raised over £2,300 for CAAT and was, in the words of Awate, a chance for CAAT supporters to "come together, build community, show solidarity and be proud of speaking out against the arms trade."

Thanks to all who attended Dance To Disarm and all the artists who put on such a great show! There's more info on all the artists online - please do show support for them by following them on social media. If you are interested in organising a gig or any other kind of event for CAAT, please email **fundraising@caat.org.uk**.

RUNNING THE ARMS FAIR OUT OF TOWN

On 9 July, our fantastic supporters Rebecca Tully and Luke Sudberry completed the Norwich Triathlon to raise funds for CAAT. They swam 750 metres, cycled 18 kilometres and then finished off with a five-kilometre run. Rebecca and Luke worked really hard to fundraise and spread the word about CAAT in their local area, including organising a screening of the arms trade film *Shadow World*.

Rebecca and Luke raised a whopping £3,640 for CAAT – thanks so much to them both and all who helped them beat their sponsorship target.



Awate





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TAKING ACTION

DSEI

The Stop DSEI defendants in court need your support! Head on down to show your solidarity at Thames Magistrates Court on the 9th and 10th November, then at Stratford Magistrates Court on the following dates:

- 7th December
- 10–12th January 2018
- 24–25th January 2018
- 1–8th February 2018
- 7–9th February 2018
- 14–16th February 2018
 - 21–23rd February 2018

Check **caat.org.uk/events** for further events and dates as they are confirmed.

NEW SCIENTIST

New Scientist's "Live" event billed itself as a celebration of science – but celebrated arms and oil companies with prominent sponsorship from BAE Systems and Shell. Ask the New Scientist to adopt an ethical sponsorship policy: **caat.org.uk/new-scientist**

SAUDI ARABIA

Keep up the pressure for the Government to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia: **caat.org.uk/stop-arming-saudi**



THEY SAID IT

The UK hosts one of the most highly sophisticated, structured and multi-faceted export licensing regimes in the world. At the same time they are not designed to hinder trade or prohibit exports??

Liam Fox, UK Secretary of State for International Trade, admits arms export controls aren't meant to reduce arms sales. *The Guardian*, 12/09/17

There is no point wasting an explosive Hellfire or Brimstone missile on a guy on a donkey ??

Kyle Flynn, BAE Systems manager. *Middle East Eye*, 12/09/17

We've all got wives and mortgages. When they come home, we want to make sure they are not living in some pagan hovel ??

Anonymous arms dealer quoted in the Newham Recorder, 20/09/17



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).

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	Postcode:
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