

CAAT NEWS



APRIL - JUNE 2018 • ISSUE 248



MAY WELCOMES THE SAUDI CROWN PRINCE. THE PEOPLE SAY NO



PLUS

How activists beat BAE **P6**

Shut down Farnborough **P10**

UK arms sales to Turkey **P12**

CAAT NEWS

APRIL – JUNE
2018

This March saw the UK government pulling out all stops to welcome Mohammad bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, to London. He wasn't just met by Government ministers and dignitaries though, he was also met by hundreds of protesters.

This issue of CAAT News doesn't just focus on the Crown Prince. We also have a great piece by our friends at Support the

People of Turkey about the UK government's complicity in the repression of people in Turkey and the bombing of Afrin.

There are also reasons to be hopeful. This issue includes stories about local actions taking place across the country and the story of how local activists and artists forced Europe's biggest arms company to withdraw from sponsoring a major arts festival.

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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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STOP ARMING SAUDI

Court challenge

This April we were back in court for a one-day hearing trying to overturn a High Court judgement that allows the UK government to continue exporting arms to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen. We are currently awaiting judgement.

If we can stop the arms sales and put a brake on UK government support for Saudi actions, we can help end the suffering in Yemen.

140 children a day are dying from preventable diseases and one million people have contracted cholera in the worst outbreak on record

Yemen

Our action is as urgent as ever. In April 2018 the United Nations declared the three-year war in Yemen to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with more than 22 million people in desperate need of aid and protection. Yemen has become the single largest food security emergency in the world, 140 children a day are dying from preventable diseases and one

million people have contracted cholera in the worst outbreak on record.

What more would it take before the UK government stopped prioritising arms company profits over human lives?

Pursuing more arms sales

In March, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, the regime's second in command and the architect of the war in Yemen, was welcomed to the UK and feted by a government desperate to secure more arms sales.

But we can stop it. This was the visit that was supposed to present the Prince as a reformer and moderniser, and gloss over the impact of the war in the Yemen – and it was accompanied by a huge advertising campaign trumpeting the “change” he is bringing in Saudi Arabia.

But despite spending what one PR agent speculated must have been an “eye-watering amount of money” we helped ensure that the focus was firmly on The Crown Prince's role in the war in Yemen,

and his position as the figurehead of a regime with one of the worst human rights records in the world.

Read about the actions on pages 8-9.

Nor was our Government's complicity through its ongoing arms sales forgotten. Polling carried out on behalf of CAAT shows that only 6% of people in the UK support arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

The Crown Prince's visit ended with the announcement of a “memorandum of intent to finalise discussions” on a deal for 48 more Eurofighter Typhoons, the same planes being used to bomb Yemen – but we know that Saudi Arabia is sensitive to public criticism and this can make it harder for the Government to secure arms deals.

These negotiations have already been underway for three years, and have still not been finalised. Lets do all we can to stop them. **From actions against arms companies and arms fairs to contacting your MP, see the centre pages for more on how you can help keep the pressure on.**

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

SAUDI ARABIA



The UK government announced that it has signed a memorandum of intent to sell 48 new Typhoon aircraft to Saudi Arabia. This followed a UK visit by Mohammad bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. At present, Saudi-led forces are using Typhoon aircraft in the ongoing bombardment of Yemen.

BBC, 09/03/18

After visiting the UK, the Crown Prince visited the US where he agreed a billion dollar arms deal with Donald Trump. The deal includes 6,700 US-built anti-tank missiles. As well as support, maintenance and spare parts for American tanks, helicopters and other equipment from previous deals.

Washington Post, 22/03/18

CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS

In January 2018, the Serious Fraud Office launched a criminal investigation into alleged money laundering, bribery and corruption at Chemring, a UK-based arms company that specialises in producing ammunition and explosive weapons.

The Guardian 18/01/18

In February 2018, German prosecutors ordered Airbus to pay \$99 million to settle one of two investigations into alleged corruption surrounding the 2003 sale of Eurofighter aircraft to Austria.

Reuters, 09/02/18

AUSTRALIA

The Australian government has announced a plan to become one of the biggest arms exporting nations in the world. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has put aside \$200 billion for the military, some of which will be used to fund research and encourage exports over the next decade. The target regions for exports are the United States and the Middle East.

News.com.au 29/01/2018

INDIA

Research from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has found that India is the world's largest arms importer. Figures from SIPRI show that India accounted for 12% of the total global arms import between 2013–17.

Hindustan Times 18/03/2018

FRANCE

Polling from YouGov found that 75% of adults in France want the government to end arms sales to the Saudi and United Arab Emirates military. The poll also found that 88% believe the government should stop arms exports to all countries where there is a risk they could be used against civilian populations.

Reuters 26/03/2018

France has agreed to sell 28 NH90 military helicopters to Qatar. The deal is reported to be worth €3 billion.

Defence News 15/03/2018

ARMS FAIRS

The Saudi government hosted Armed Forces Exhibition for Diversity of Requirements and Capabilities, a seven-day arms fair. The event is coordinated with Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI), the state-owned Saudi arms company, and is part of a drive by the Saudi government to expand its domestic industry.

Arab News, 26/02/18

Over recent months the UK has hosted a number of arms fairs. These include:

- Security & Policing, which took place in Farnborough between 5–7 March and focuses on “internal security” equipment
- Security & Counter Terror Expo – which focused on “national security” and “border security.”
- DPRTE, which took place in Cardiff on 27 March and focuses on military procurement.

caat.org.uk/issues/arms-fairs for more information

NIGERIA

The Nigerian government has announced that it will start manufacturing Beryl assault rifles locally after signing an agreement with a Polish arms company. Nigeria’s 2017 federal budget proposal allocates a sum of 364 million naira (\$1 million) to establish a production line for the Beryl M762 assault rifle and 390 million naira for AK-47 assault rifle production.

Defence Web 29/03/18

ARMS DEALS

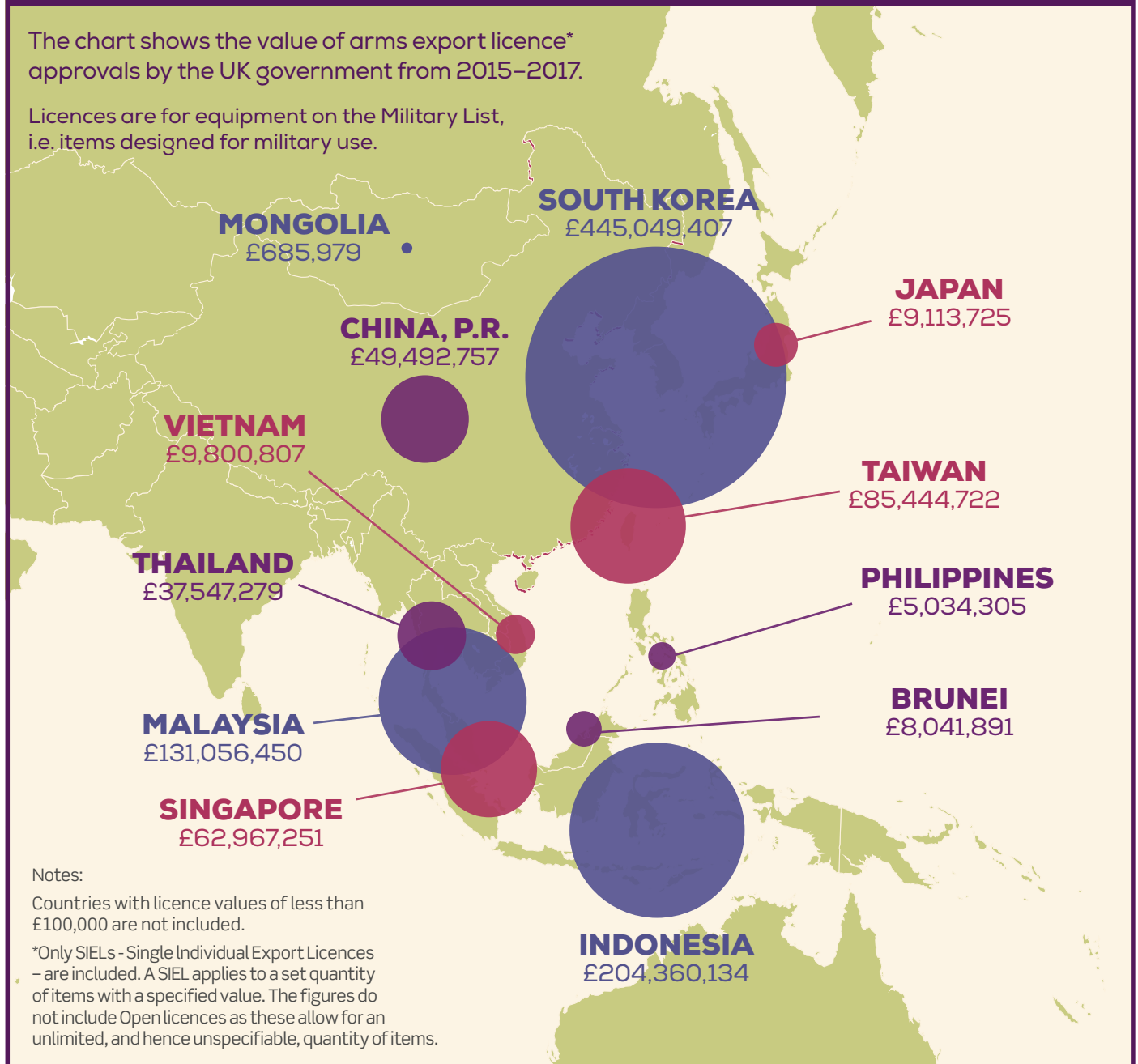
The Croatian government has announced that it will buy 12 used F-16D combataircraft from Israel. The deal is thought to be worth \$500 million.

Defence News 28/03/18

UK ARMS TO EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIA

The chart shows the value of arms export licence* approvals by the UK government from 2015–2017.

Licences are for equipment on the Military List, i.e. items designed for military use.



Notes:

Countries with licence values of less than £100,000 are not included.

*Only SIELs - Single Individual Export Licences – are included. A SIEL applies to a set quantity of items with a specified value. The figures do not include Open licences as these allow for an unlimited, and hence unspecifiable, quantity of items.

GET NORTH: BAE DROPPED

Artists and musicians in the North of England were horrified to discover the cultural festival they had been working on for months was to be sponsored by arms company BAE Systems. It took them just a week to force the world's third largest arms company to withdraw.

The Great Exhibition of the North, or "GET North" is a three-month long cultural events programme planned for the summer of 2018. Based in NewcastleGatehead, it aims to celebrate "great art and culture, design and innovation from across the North."

The first most people heard of the event's sponsorship was at its programme launch at the end of February. For members of the Commonsers Choir, it was going through the goody bag and wondering, "So why are we getting a free coffee cup carrying the logo of an international arms dealer?"

And there it was: the company's logo on the back of the programme – one of three "premier partners" and a press release from earlier in the month confirmed that BAE was "proud to be part of the exhibition."

It's understandable that an arms company in need of an improved public image might wish to be associated with such an event. But artists and performers were having none of it.

Some, like the Commonsers Choir and ceramicist Emily Hesse withdrew immediately. Singer-songwriter Nadine Shah caused a media splash by announcing her withdrawal on twitter "I am disgusted to hear of their involvement and refuse to be in any way associated with them."

Other performers, including the Unthanks, said they had entered into "negotiations that we hope result in a successful exhibition that doesn't hold or rely on these associations."

Artist Jill Gibbon's public



petition calling on the exhibition organisers to drop the sponsorship gathered thousands of signatures, and a coalition of artists and cultural workers mobilised under the umbrella "Art not Arms."

"Inspired Work" it says on the cup. I can't for the life of me work out what might be inspiring about manufacturing weapons built specifically to kill people

Boff Whalley, Commonsers Choir

Within three days, exhibition venues, the Sage Gateshead and the BALTIC Centre, issued statements distancing themselves from the sponsorship and some ticket sales had been frozen. BBC Radio DJ Lauren Laverne Tweeted that BAE's involvement "raised questions

for many of the artists on the lineup... I am working with the team at @Sage_Gateshead in the hope of finding a solution that will allow our shows to go ahead."

On 6 March the Museums Association reported that the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport was in "crisis talks" with the organisers. The next day, it was all over: BAE quietly announced "We have decided to redirect our support to other initiatives better suited to both our skills and innovation objectives."

Such an about-face would not have been undertaken lightly. It is testament to all those who organised and their principled refusal to be co-opted by the arms trade, and indicates the extent of public outrage over BAE's role in conflict and repression around the world.

SECURITY

Organisations, including CAAT, have come together to seek a new vision of common security.

Rethinking Security, as the grouping is now called, has published "Contrasting Narratives: A Comparative Study of European and North American National Security Strategies".

There are a wide range of responses to contemporary security challenges, with many countries putting greater emphasis on strategies such as international cooperation and ensuring basic rights and freedoms

This shows that many other countries are better than the UK at defining their vision for national security and spelling out assumptions behind it. There are a wide range of responses to contemporary security

challenges, with many countries putting greater emphasis on strategies such as international cooperation and ensuring basic rights and freedoms.

Meanwhile the Cabinet Office is due to report on its National Security Capability Review (NSCR). This cross-Government approach has not been to the liking of some commentators. They think it fails to emphasise the armed forces and their perceived need for increased military spending. They achieved a partial victory when the Ministry of Defence was given the go-ahead to start its own Modernising Defence Programme (MDP) in January.

While the NSCR was a recognition that "security" is not a synonym for "defence", and

that causes of insecurity include climate change, bad governance and more, resources are still given disproportionately to the Ministry of Defence. The MDP risks further distorting the UK's response to security challenges.

Links to further information can be found at caat.org.uk/issues/security/news



MPS ENJOYING LUXURY FLIGHTS AND HOTELS PAID FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSING REGIMES

New research from CAAT shows that over the last five years, MPs have enjoyed almost £700,000 worth of luxury flights and hotels paid for by regimes with appalling human rights records.

House of Commons figures, compiled by CAAT, show that MPs have had lavish international trips paid for by the governments of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Egypt, Kazakhstan and Oman. By far the largest spender was the Saudi dictatorship.

MPs from all parties have taken part, although more than 80 per cent of those participating in the tours were from the Conservative Party.

The regimes spent an average of nearly £4,000 per participant on perks including first and business class flights and five-star hotels. They are not spending this much money on expensive flights and hotels in order to be kind. They are doing it to win friends and increase their influence in Westminster.

Saudi Arabia
£197,177
41 • £4,809

Bahrain
£116,590
42 • £2,775

Azerbaijan
£62,168
21 • £2,912

Egypt
£11,803
12 • £983

Oman
£4,900
1 • £4,900

UAE
£124,594
32 • £3,893

Qatar
£106,963
21 • £5,093

Pakistan
£28,867
10 • £2,887

Kazakhstan
£7,700
2 • £3,850

Country
Total spend
No. of MPs • Average



SAUDI CROWN PRINCE NOT WELCOME

On 7th March, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman visited the UK for a three-day trip. The UK government responded by rolling out the reddest of red carpets.

On his first day, he enjoyed lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace, met with Theresa May, and had dinner with the Prince of Wales at Clarence House. But we were there every step of the way, reminding the world of the appalling humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen caused by Saudi bombing and brutal human rights violations within Saudi Arabia.

He was hoping for the visit to be a PR coup, but our messages of #SaudiPrinceNotWelcome and #StopArmingSaudi were everywhere

Bin Salman is the principal architect of the Saudi-led coalition assault on Yemen, which has caused devastation across the country. There was no way we were going to let him forget that. We heard about his planned visit in December last year and cooked up some plans, alongside human

rights organisations such as Human Rights for Yemen, Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, War on Want, Stop the War and Global Justice Now.

We held a demonstration and handed in an open letter in January, and worked with MPs to prepare an Early Day Motion that received over 50 signatures from backbench MPs across all opposition parties. This meant that we were able to take the narrative right out of the Prince's grasp.

He was hoping for the visit to be a PR coup, whitewashing his crimes and enabling more arms sales to Saudi Arabia, but our messages of **#SaudiPrinceNotWelcome** and **#StopArmingSaudi** were everywhere. His PR team even desperately tried to gloss over opposition by starting their own **#Welcome_Saudi_Prince** promotion!

Hundreds of thousands of pounds were spent on garish advertising, with billboards and posters all over London to welcome the prince, and even a fleet of black and pink taxis taking to the streets to reassure people about what a reformer he supposedly is.

It didn't work. By the time the 7th March arrived, we had multiple political parties directly supporting our demonstration, with speakers including Shadow Secretary for International Development Kate Osamor and the Deputy Leader of the Green Party. Hundreds of activists took part, sending the message loudly and clearly that the Crown Prince was not welcome.

Our resistance to arms sales to Saudi Arabia just keeps growing. Become a part of it, take action now: tell Boris Johnson that enough is enough! caat.org.uk/stop-arming-saudi

Take action

As the war in Yemen enters its fourth year, still using UK made warplanes and UK made bombs, and with the support of the UK government, we must remember that it could be very different. The UK is uniquely placed to help bring this conflict to an end – if it stops putting arms company profits ahead of Yemeni lives. The UK is both a UN Security Council member and the “pen-holder” for Yemen at the UN (meaning it leads on proposing resolutions and



COME

statements) so it could be driving calls for a ceasefire.

Instead the Government continues to allow the supply of billions of pounds worth of arms to Saudi Arabia, the UK's largest arms customer. Thousands of us have already told the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson that enough is enough.

Add your voice to the petition at caat.org.uk/stop-arming-saudi

Do you have a Labour MP?

If so, please take action to help create alternatives to arms trade jobs.

Too often, the argument that we need to protect jobs in the arms industry is used to justify the unjustifiable, such as the UK's continued arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen, despite the humanitarian catastrophe that has created.

With a push we could make arms conversion part of the Labour party's industrial strategy

But we don't need to fuel war and conflict to support jobs. Instead of pouring resources into an industry that

has such a devastating impact on security at home and abroad, a future government could support alternatives.

CAAT's research has shown that offshore wind and marine energy could produce more jobs than the entire arms industry, providing highly skilled jobs in most areas where arms workers are currently located.

Right now, there are exciting opportunities in the Labour Party to promote these ideas. With a push we could make arms conversion part of the party's industrial strategy. Find out more at caat.org.uk/labour-dda

ROXEL ACTION

In April, activists from Put Down the Sword held a "weapons inspection" at arms company Roxel, which manufactures propulsion systems for rockets, including boosters for Storm Shadow cruise missiles. Storm Shadows have been used by the Royal Saudi Air Force in Yemen.

Take action to target the companies supplying Saudi Arabia and to stop the deals where they are made.

Find the arms companies on your doorstep at caat.org.uk/map

Get involved in protests when Saudi Arabia is among the countries invited to shop for more weaponry at the Farnborough arms fair this July - see page 10.



FARNBOROUGH

This July, arms dealers will return to Farnborough International. Best known for its weekend air show, Farnborough's real purpose is to provide a week-long combined arms fair and civil aerospace exhibition. Its "family-friendly" air display is a way of whitewashing the war and human rights abuses that underpin the event.

Whitewashing humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen

Many of the companies exhibiting at Farnborough are directly involved in the Saudi-led assault on Yemen. In 2016, BAE Systems, Raytheon and Rolls Royce were all present.

BAE Systems has been selling arms to the Saudi Arabian regime for decades, and has supplied a vast array of equipment to Saudi forces since the beginning of the bombardment of Yemen three years ago. Its Eurofighter Typhoon and Tornado combat aircraft have both been used in Yemen.

Raytheon's arms sales to Saudi Arabia include air-to-air missiles and Paveway guided bomb kits. Human Rights Watch have documented the use of Paveway IV guided bombs in airstrikes

on civilian infrastructure such as warehouses storing food. Paveway IV bombs are made here in the UK.

Rolls Royce manufactures engines for the Eurofighter Typhoon jets used by the Royal Saudi Air Force, which is currently bombing Yemen.

Take action!

Farnborough takes place every two years, and every time we expose it for what it is: an arms fair that enables weapons to be sold to human rights abusing regimes.

In 2016, actions took place all over the arms fair and the capital! Grim reapers rode the rails to Farnborough, protesters raised awareness at the station, we handed in an 8,000-strong petition to Downing Street, threw an "unhappy birthday" party for the Government's arms sales promotion unit DSO, took over the London Science Museum where arms dealers were hoping to schmooze, and made it clear that BAE Systems Eurofighter Typhoon was being used in Yemen.

We need YOU to help us to make actions happen this year! We will be holding a Stop the Arms Fair meeting on Saturday the 19th May to get planning. Email action@caat.org.uk to get involved.

Farnborough takes place every two years, and every time we expose it for what it is: an arms fair that enables weapons to be sold to human rights abusing regimes.

Bahraini delegates having a go in BAE's plane



LOCAL ACTIONS

CARDIFF

On 27 March, the Cardiff Arms Fair (DPRTE) made an unwelcome return to the Motorpoint Arena. It was greeted by hundreds of boisterous activists from Cardiff and South Wales, but also from as far away as Hull, Birmingham, London, Brighton, Cornwall and, last but not least, Bristol, where campaigners had helped kick the event out of their city several years ago.

The Cardiff Arms Fair was greeted by hundreds of boisterous activists, from Cardiff and South Wales, but also from as far away as Hull, Birmingham, London, Brighton, Cornwall and Bristol

DPRTE describes itself as “the UK’s leading defence and procurement event.” This year saw participation from some of the largest arms

companies in the world including BAE Systems, Raytheon and MBDA, which is deeply involved in supplying the Saudi attack on Yemen, as well as General Dynamics, which has been accused of supplying bombs to the Turkish government.

A key goal is to help “SMEs and non-traditional suppliers to bid for defence and security contracts more easily.” Or in English: to make more arms dealers!

Activists responded with creativity and passion, telling local people what was happening in their city, as well as saying no to the arms trade. The determined protests and heavy handed policing saw six arrests, many for “aggravated trespass.” It is very clear, though, that the real trespassers are the arms trade, who are not welcome in Cardiff.

Find out more via Stop the Cardiff Arms Fair on Facebook: facebook.com/stopcardiffarmsfair.

BOLTON

Campaigners held their third vigil outside MBDA Factory just south of Bolton on 22 March, on the 3rd anniversary of the start of the Yemen war. Around a dozen activists explained to passers-by how the company contributes to the dreadful casualty statistics of the war in Yemen. They have been regularly getting people to sign petitions calling for an end to the weapons sales fuelling the conflict.

Regular vigils outside arms factories and high street stalls with petitions can be a great way of building support, and making it clear to arms companies that they should not be working in our communities.

You can find out about your local arms dealers via our online browser: caat.org.uk/resources/companies.

If you’d like help organise a street stall or a vigil, contact Kirsten, our Local Outreach Coordinator, outreach@caat.org.uk.





Earlier this year, Turkish forces entered Afrin, Syria. Ceren Sagir and Cinar Altun from Solidarity with the People of Turkey (SPOT) highlight the UK's complicity in the atrocities that are taking place.

World leaders have watched idly as Turkey has fallen into ever worsening authoritarianism and repression under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP).

There are more journalists in prison in Turkey than in any other country, with over 160 news organisations closed since the coup attempt in July 2016: including 45 newspapers, 32 radio stations, 30 TV channels and 19 magazines. That is one reason why Freedom House has taken the step of declaring Turkey “not free” for the first time this year.

Human rights and the foundations of democracy are being dismantled, but many EU countries have willingly ignored the oppression taking place while distastefully bartering over refugee numbers and quietly continuing to arm the regime.

Last year, Theresa May signed a £100m fighter jet deal with

Erdogan during a high profile visit to Ankara. Turkey is listed among the “priority markets” for UK arms exports. That means that civil servants from the Department of International Trade will work to promote and prioritise arms exports to it. Turkey was also present at the DSEI arms fair last year.

There are more journalists in prison in Turkey than in any other country, with other 160 news organisations closed since the coup-attempt in 2016

In recent years, as the conflict in Syria has grown, the Turkish government's foreign policy has become increasingly aggressive. Turkey's aggression both against its own people and across its borders in Syria have been largely ignored by Western states, including our very own Government.

On 20 January, the Turkish government launched an

unprovoked invasion against the Kurdish-held region of Afrin, which we believe was in violation of international law.

Even in its early days, this invasion utilised widespread air strikes and shelling, killing hundreds and forcing thousands to flee. The Turkish State has also carried out a bloody crackdown on its own Kurdish population and anyone expressing support for the Kurds is routinely branded a terrorist.

Turkey claims that the Kurds in northern Syria are a threat to its security and has vowed to purge them from the region. The UK government has expressed support for Turkey saying that it has the right to defend its borders, but it is clear that Erdogan's motives go far beyond defending borders. More than 300 people were arrested in Turkey after posting messages online criticising the offensive in Afrin.

The Turkish Government has



been implicated in recruiting ex-ISIS fighters who have been accused of killing, looting and terrorising civilians. The intervention has left an estimated 150,000 people displaced and 500 civilians killed.

International solidarity is urgently needed to fight against the war and repression being pursued by Erdogan and his colleagues

Meanwhile, Erdogan has boasted that “Almost all of the armoured carriers in Afrin are domestically produced,” whilst simultaneously blaming the deaths of Turkish soldiers in Afrin on countries that did not sell Turkey complex weapons, including armed drones. In recent years, Erdogan has taken direct control of Turkey’s arms industry, with

the goal of reducing its dependency on imported arms.

But Erdogan’s warmongering is as much about drumming up nationalist sentiments ahead the Presidential elections in 2019 as it is about making sure Turkey remains a dominant player in regional politics. It is therefore no surprise that in order to entrench his leadership, he has vowed to expand Turkey’s invasion of northern Syria into other Kurdish-held areas.

The question now is how far will he go ahead of the next year’s elections? International solidarity is urgently needed to fight against the war and repression being pursued by Erdogan and his colleagues. Calling the UK government to account for its complicity in Turkey’s aggression is a vital first step.

UK ARMS LICENCES TO TURKEY

2013

£55 million

2014

£164 million

2015

£212 million

2016

£138 million

2017

£571 million

Total

£1.1 billion

About SPOT

Solidarity with People of Turkey (SPOT) is an umbrella group made up of progressive organisations, campaign groups and trade unions in the UK. Chaired by Louise Regan, President of the National Education Union, SPOT aims to support those struggling for democracy and fundamental freedoms in Turkey, whilst also contributing to working people’s struggle in the UK.



SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY

UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

It's been fantastic to have the chance to work with energetic and enthusiastic students all across the country who've been doing tons of great work to cut ties between their universities and arms companies.

These have been some of the highlights of working at CAAT:

- Running dozens of workshops up and down the country with students who care deeply about opposing the arms trade and supporting their growing campaigns.
- Coordinating Conference at the Gates, where over 60 students, academics and activists came together to run workshops, talks and public theatre on the arms trade.
- Developing our arguments around the arms trade with People and Planet and unveiling the links between the refugee crises, the arms trade and the growing border-security industry.
- Producing beautiful new resources for students to use as campaign tools!
- Our brand new campaign guide packed with info!

In April we worked with the Observer to expose the extent of collaboration between arms companies and some of our best universities.

Using Freedom of Information requests, we found that over the last three years universities have received over £40 million worth of funding from arms companies, including those that have fueled and profited from the destruction of Yemen.

Although I'm leaving, there's still loads happening at CAAT and within CAAT Universities Network. Events like The Shadow World screenings and Arming the World performances are being planned, new campaign actions are in the pipeline and the number of students taking action against the arms trade keeps growing. Keep an eye out on social media for updates on what the network is up to.

For campaign support between now and July (when the next coordinator will be in position) get in touch with Kirsten, our Local Groups Coordinator by emailing Kirsten@caat.org.uk.

Lastly, if you like the sound of what I've been up to, keep your eyes peeled for the advert for this amazing job, which will be advertised in April/May.

Good luck and solidarity,

Jess



ARMS TRADE ART

For the last 10 years, war artist Jill Gibbon has been attending arms fairs all around the world: masquerading as an arms trader with a suit, pearls, and a sham business. Once inside, she draws and collects complementary gifts. Her new exhibition explores

the etiquette of the arms trade through drawings, gifts, and elements of her masquerade.

The Etiquette of the Arms Trade: Ten Years Drawing in Arms Fairs by Jill Gibbon will run until 28 June at the Peace Museum, Bradford.



TAKING ACTION

Shadow World

Want to book a Shadow World screening in your community?

Email outreach@caat.rog.uk

Stop Arming Saudi

Want to hold a Stop Arming Saudi talk or workshop?

Email outreach@caat.org.uk

Arming the World

Want to get the excellent Arming the World performance on your university campus? Our new Universities Intern will be in place in July and will be able to arrange this, so in the meantime email enquiries@caat.org.uk

BAE Systems AGM 10th May

We will be paying BAE Systems a visit at their AGM on the 10th May: if you would like to be involved in this, email action@caat.org.uk

#BahrainRoyalWhitewash: Stop Arming Repression, 12th May

Bahrain's King Hamad will be visiting the UK to support the Royal Windsor Horse Race and gloss over his human rights abuses. Last year, the families of exiled Bahraini activists were arrested and harrassed to prevent them from protesting. This year they want your support. 11.45am, Paddington Station, 12th May, to head to the venue. For more info, see our Facebook page.

Stop the Arms Fair 19th May

Want to organise against the Farnborough arms fair? Come to our meeting on May 19: email action@caat.org.uk for more details.

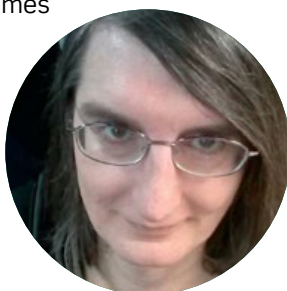
Nonviolent direct action training

We will be running an NVDA training on the 2nd June, with a focus on taking action around Farnborough. If you're interested in coming along, email events@caat.org.uk

WELCOME KIRSTEN

I've been involved with CAAT as a volunteer since 2011, principally with the Stop the Arms Fair network. Campaigning against the London DSEI arms fair has kept me busy, sometimes involving dropping banners and staging the occasional sit-in (!), workshops and speaking for the campaign.

I'm very excited to be covering for Kat Hobbs while she takes a six-month sabbatical. CAAT works with some wonderful local groups and I'm looking forward to helping them grow and bring their plans to fruition!



THEY SAID IT

"It's to get away from this perception that the UK just cares about selling arms to the Gulf States, which traditionally has been the way in which the success of our relationship with each of these Gulf States has been measured."

Michael Stevens from pro-military think tank, Royal United Services Institute, explains reason for the Saudi Crown Prince's London visit, on the same day as the UK government announces a major new fighter jet deal with the regime. The National (Australia), 10 March 2018

"We've become very good friends over a fairly short period... Saudi Arabia has been a very great friend and a big purchaser of (military) equipment and lots of other things."

Donald Trump welcomes the Saudi Crown Prince, to the White House. Los Angeles Times, 20 March 2018

"Roses are red, Violets are blue, We love the Falcon, the Raptor, and the Lightning II."

Lockheed Martin posts a distasteful poem celebrating its fighter jet range for World Poetry Day. Lockheed Martin official Twitter account, 21 March 2018



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