

CAAT NEWS



APRIL – JUNE 2019 • ISSUE 252



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CAAT NEWS

APRIL – JUNE 2019

It's a busy time for everyone at CAAT. This April we were in the Court of Appeal for the latest stage of our ongoing case against UK arms exports to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen. We are awaiting the verdict, which we hope will come in the weeks ahead. Once we get news we will share it straight away.

In the meantime, activists

are busily preparing for the DSEI arms fair. In this issue you can find out more about the protests that are planned and how you can get involved. In this packed edition we also have reports of local resistance from Newham and Farnborough, and details of how Brexit may affect the arms trade.

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Credit: Bob Bob / Source Flickr



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Credit: Safa Kadhim



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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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THE EU, BREXIT AND THE ARMS TRADE

The European Union is about to give vast sums of public money to arms companies to subsidise their Research & Development. The UK government is desperate for UK participation, whether Brexit happens or not.

The European Defence Fund

The proposal for a European Defence Fund (EDF) was announced by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in 2016 and backed by the European Council later that year. Between 2017–2020, a total of €590 million was paid to the military industry for pilot projects. A secretive advisory group, known as the Group of Personalities (GoP), initially developed the proposal. The GoP had sixteen members and was dominated by arms industry executives.

Such EU programmes need the agreement of the Member States, the Commission and the European Parliament. The final backing came when the Parliament voted on 18 April, by 328 votes to 231, to support a €13 billion budget for the EDF for shared military research and development from 2021 to 2027. The Parliament's motion specifically mentioned "disruptive technologies" as a focus. This means weapons or technologies that "can radically change the concepts and conduct of" war, such as artificial intelligence.

One expected result of the EDF is that it will strengthen the arms

industry's capacity to export outside of the EU. **There is more information about the EDF at enaat.org/eu-defence-fund.**

Brexit

The UK government and arms companies have been keen to maintain military industrial links with EU countries after Brexit, not least because of the number of collaborative projects. This is reflected in the November 2018 Political Declaration governing relationships after Brexit which provide the option for the UK to participate in capability projects through the EDF. It is likely that, if it leaves the EU, the UK would be an associate member.

The growing opposition

The EU had not previously funded military projects and opposition is now growing, led by the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAAT). It was largely down to ENAAAT's work that, in June 2018, the European Commission cited as a "reputational risk" to the EDF "expected difficulties with some NGOs which contest [its] rationale". The EU, it said, needed "to justify the existence

and the functioning" of the EDF.

One success came with the complaint from ENAAAT and its Flemish member, Vredesactie, about the secrecy surrounding the GoP. In February they learned that the European Commission was taking up the Ombudsman's recommendation and will apply transparency rules to such ad hoc advisory groups.

"Investing EU funds in military research will not only divert resources from more peaceful areas, but is also likely to fuel arms races, undermining security in Europe and elsewhere"

In April, 1000 scientists and researchers warned of the consequences of the establishment of an EU military research programme. According to Dr Stuart Parkinson of Scientists for Global Responsibility in the UK, it "points towards an unprecedented acceleration in the militarisation of the EU. Investing EU funds in military research will not only divert resources from more peaceful areas, but is also likely to fuel arms races, undermining security in Europe and elsewhere." The opposition is growing.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS



POLICING

The Metropolitan Police has trebled its spending on plastic bullets. According to an investigation by the Guardian, the force spent over £500,000 on the ammunition in 2017 – more than

three times the average annual spend for the previous five years. Other police forces throughout the UK increased spending too.

The Guardian, 19/02/2019

UK SPECIAL FORCES

According to the Mail on Sunday, at least five UK Special Forces commandos have been wounded as part of operation in Yemen. The UK government has previously denied that UK personnel play a military role in Yemen.

Mail on Sunday, 23/03/2019

GERMANY

The German Government has extended its ban on arms exports to Saudi Arabia until 30/09/2019. However, it has made concessions to allow other arms exporters to ship arms produced in cooperation with German companies. This compromise followed intense lobbying by the UK government and arms companies.

Politico, 29/03/2019

ARMS SALES

According to analysis from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the volume of international transfers of major arms in 2014–18 was 7.8% higher than in the previous five year period. The five largest exporters were the United States, Russia, France, Germany and China.

SIPRI, 11/03/2019

UK ARMS TRADE

Analysis by the research firm IHS Markit suggests that the UK will be a net importer of military equipment by 2024. The report bases its conclusions on long-term trends, existing orders and the UK's import backlog.

Tech Register, 06/02/2019

TECHNOLOGY



A group of Microsoft workers have opposed the company decision to supply the U.S. Army with HoloLens headsets that they say could turn real-world battlefields into a video game. Microsoft's

head-mounted HoloLens displays use augmented reality, which means viewers can see virtual imagery superimposed over the scenery in front of them.

CBS News, 23/02/2019

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE



Source Wikimedia

According to documents leaked to the Guardian, the UK military is recruiting philosophers, psychologists and theologians to research new methods of psychological warfare and behavioral manipulation. According to the documents, Cambridge University is among the institutions that were shortlisted for up to £70 million worth of Ministry of Defence funding. Cambridge pulled out its bid for reasons that have not been made public.

The Guardian, 13/03/2019

ARMS FAIRS ARMS TRADE TREATY

The organisers of the Farnborough International Airshow have announced that the public weekend that was part of the event will no longer take place. This means that the event will now be a five-day arms fair rather than having a mix of industry and public events.

Farnborough International, 05/03/2019

US President Donald Trump used a speech at a National Rifle Association event to announce that he will withdraw the US from the international Arms Trade Treaty. The President's predecessor, Barack Obama, signed-up to the UN-backed Treaty in 2013, although the decision had not been ratified by Congress. Numerous US NGOs have condemned the decision

BBC News, 27/04/2019

TURKEY

The United States has stopped delivery of F-35 fighter jet parts to Turkey. This follows a dispute regarding the Turkish government's decision to purchase a Russian surface-to-air missile system.

Defense News, 01/04/2019

ARMS COMPANIES

The UK's largest arms company, BAE Systems, has sold a majority stake in its Land UK tank and combat vehicle division to a German arms company, Rheinmetall, for £28.6m.

BBC News, 21/01/2019 CBS News, 23/02/2019



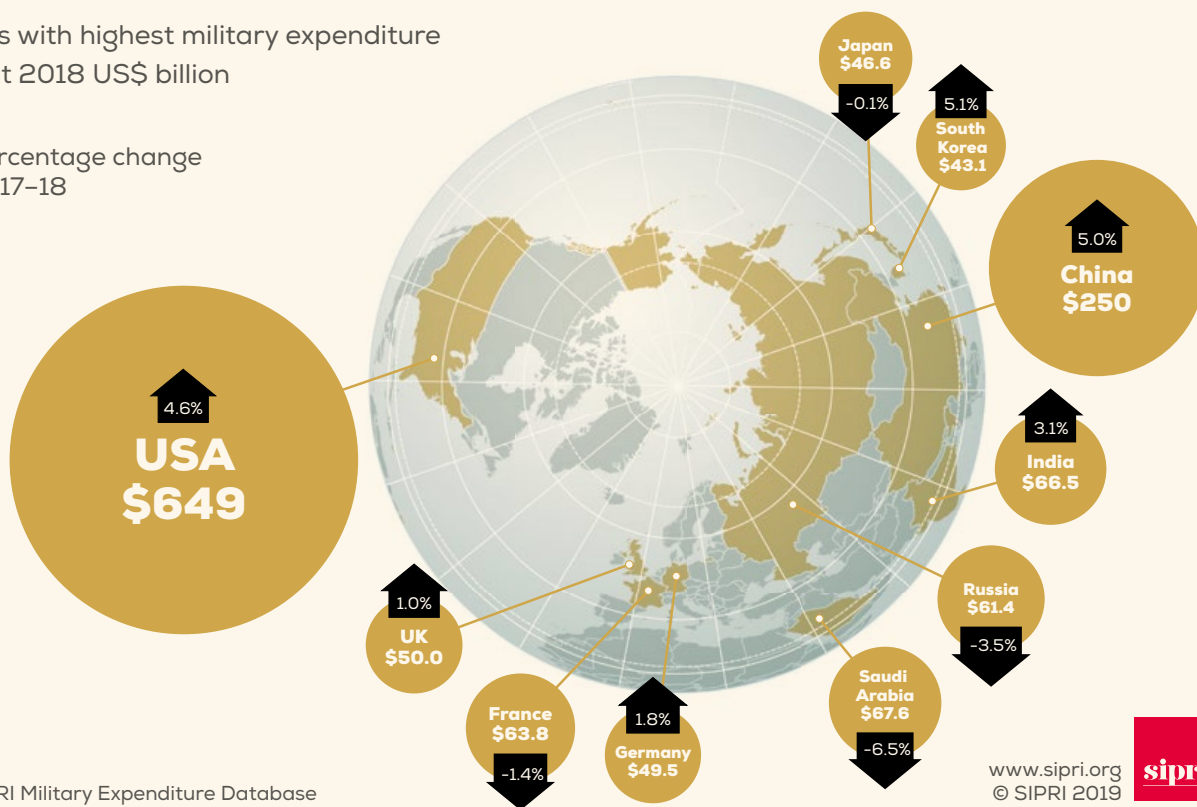
Credit Gustavo Olgiati, U.S. Army / Source Wikimedia

TOP 10 MILITARY SPENDERS IN 2018

Countries with highest military expenditure
In current 2018 US\$ billion



Percentage change
2017-18



Source: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database

www.sipri.org
© SIPRI 2019





Credit Safa Kadhim

On the 16th Feb, and to mark 16 years since the 2003 anti-war protests, CAAT took part in the largest protest of the British Museum's 260 year history. Alongside many others, we joined our friends at *BP or not BP?* to specifically target the BP-sponsored Assyria exhibition and expose the links between oil and war.

For far too long, corporations have profited from the exploitation, oppression and killing of people; whether it be, for example, arms companies profiting from UK sales to Saddam Hussain in the 80s (you can read more about this on the CAAT website) or oil companies like BP and Shell lobbying the Government to go to war before the Iraq invasion in 2003. In the case of BP, the Chilcot report mentions them (BP) having done a technical review of the third largest oilfield in the world (Rumaila in Basra) months before the invasion.

All of this is a crucial reminder that our struggles are interconnected; that economic injustice, climate wreckage, colonialism, corruption and war can and will only be fought collectively.

We wanted to showcase throughout our work that these issues are all related. We cannot effectively resist the arms trade without also challenging the role of oil companies and colonial institutions. Nor can we speak of climate justice without talking

of colonial roots, exploitation of people, land and environment and the resistance that is being led by affected communities.

In the same summer that the British Museum had announced the BP sponsored Assyria exhibition, people in Basra were protesting the dire state of water – which had left over 100,000 people hospitalised – and where BP is subcontracted to the third largest oilfield in the world.

“The prioritisation of BP’s own interests render them complicit in a war that has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and the displacement of millions”

In one of the articles, Iraqi organisers state: “The prioritisation of BP’s own interests render them complicit in a war that has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and the displacement of millions. The British Museum is legitimising BP’s actions in Iraq

by allowing their sponsorship of an exhibition that allows BP to be seen as benevolent guardians and gatekeepers of Iraqi heritage, when in fact they have actively contributed to its destruction.”

For more information about BP’s role in the lead up to the war, its history in the region, and its exploitation of people, land and environment (particularly where it operates in southern Iraq today), you can read the briefing we produced with our friends at Platform and Culture Unstained (part of Art Not Oil): behindthelogs.org/iraq.

Our blog also has more about the series of actions this was part of (including an action at the press launch, and the alternative exhibition set up by Iraqi organisers and artists on the realities of BP), media coverage, our video from the day, a spoof video exposing BP, and details of FOI responses. **For more details, check out blog.caat.org.uk!**

A VIEW FROM INSIDE THE UK'S BIGGEST ARMS COMPANY

Every year, CAAT activists attend the Annual General Meeting of the UK's biggest arms company, BAE Systems. We do this so that we can challenge the Board face to face and expose the hypocrisy and greed at the heart of the arms trade. One campaigner who attended this year was Arabian activist, [Ameen Nemer](#). Here he reflects on his reasons for going and how he found the experience.

“I attended because I wanted to provide a voice for Arabian people. The absolute monarch does not represent the people in Arabia. The House of Saud tries to kidnap our voices. BAE has believed the propaganda and presented the regime as a liberating force. I attended so that I could tell the Board and shareholders about what was really happening to my people and land.

I am sure the BAE AGM would be happier not to have that voice which reminds them of the dirty job they are doing. No matter how nicely they present themselves using polite language and advanced technology, criminals are still criminals. They need to be exposed, and CAAT is doing a great job.

Shareholders got to direct questions to BAE's Chair, Roger Carr. He was obviously well briefed and had prepared answers for questions about the bombing in Yemen. His words may have been delivered with confidence, but they were morally bankrupt.

Every time somebody spoke on behalf of Yemenis and people from Saudi Arabia, Carr disregarded them. He had absolutely no shame about parroting the lies and distortions of the Saudi Arabian regime. He told us how happy he was that there was such strong growth in terms of sales to the dictatorship. The way he was speaking, you could be forgiven for thinking that he was selling medicine or ice cream. But he is selling weapons! The sales might be good news for shareholders, but the profit comes from the misery of Yemeni people.



Credit Alan Wilson / Source Flickr

Carr talked about his desire to see peace, but BAE's arms sales have enabled the terrible war to continue for the 5th year. They have also empowered the authorities. The stronger the regime feels, the more repressive the situation will become.

“Those who empower such a regime are not simply business partners but are partners in crime. They are complicit in the abuse, even when they pretend to be horrified by it”

We cannot separate the Saudi dictatorship's aggressive foreign policy from its domestic repression. Those who empowers such a regime are not simply business partners but partners in crime. They are complicit in the abuse, even when they pretend to be horrified by it. Since Mohammed Bin Salman came to power there has been a significant increase in executions, yet BAE still maintains the lie that he is a liberal and a reformer.

BAE and the UK government claim that by selling weapons

they can gain influence and push for change. But, even if we accept the logic of their argument, it clearly isn't working. I believe that one of the main reasons why the Middle East is a “dangerous place” as Carr said, is because of this intervention. If the UK wants to promote peace and democracy then it must stop empowering such regimes and listen to people who seek peace and dialogue instead of war.

Contrary to BAE's delusions, you cannot bring peace through war. George Orwell would have been laughing if he had been there to hear Carr saying things like “to be protected you need strength. We provide that strength” and insisting that the provision of arms is distinct from the act of using them.

It might be simple for Carr, but for people in Saudi Arabia and Yemen it is impossible to separate the people who sell the weapons from the ones who use them. ”

Ameen Nemer is an Arabian activist. You can follow him on Twitter at [@AmeenNemer](#)



Fifth year of war

It is now more than four years since the Saudi-led coalition launched its first airstrikes in Yemen.

These attacks have hit sites including schools, hospitals, homes, a refugee camp, a wedding, a funeral, a market place and a school bus. According to the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, air strikes killed or injured more than 400 children in the last year alone.

The UK government has enabled the war with £5 billion of arms sales since the conflict began

Many more have died as a result of what the UN has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. It estimates that 400,000 children will need treatment for severe malnutrition this year.

As Radhya Al-Mutawakel of Yemeni-based research group Mwatana for Human Rights has said, this crisis is not a natural disaster, but a direct result of the war: "Yemenis are not starving, they are being starved."

UK complicity

This war couldn't have happened without the support of arms suppliers such as the UK. The coalition is deploying UK made aircraft in combat missions, dropping UK-made bombs and firing UK-made missiles.

The UK government has enabled the war with £5 billion of arms sales since the conflict began. Additional weapons are licensed under the secretive "Open Licence" system, meaning the real figure may be much higher.

In March, Mwatana published a report, "Day of Judgment," which documented the likely use of UK-made munitions in five attacks on civilian facilities. "It is clear that Saudi and Emirati promises to minimize harm to civilians were empty," they said. "The US, UK, and others should immediately halt arms transfers and all other forms of assistance to Coalition forces."

The UK also continues to provide military support and training, with UK support needed to keep the Royal Saudi Air Force flying. Stopping the arms sales could help stop the war.

Morally bankrupt

Yet the UK government has continued to defend and support the arms sales. Foreign



Secretary Jeremy Hunt chose the anniversary of the war to make the astounding claim that *ending* the UK's arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE would be a "morally bankrupt" act.

Hunt's argument was that "Our strategic relationship with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates allows us the opportunity to influence their leaders" and stopping arms sales would mean "we would also surrender our influence."

But what is this influence delivering? As Hunt defended continuing arms sales, an air-strike hit a hospital in northwest Yemen, with four children among the dead. Save the Children, who support the hospital, said that the Coalition had been given the coordinates of the hospital. Less

than two weeks later another attack killed several school girls in Sana'a.

Within Saudi Arabia, repression continues at home, apparently little affected by the international outcry over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Just last year, the UK government was lauding Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for his 'reform' agenda, including lifting the ban on women driving.

Yet, since May 2018, many of those who peacefully pushed for these reforms, including women's right to drive and an end to the male guardianship system, have been detained in Saudi jails.

Human rights groups have received reports that they are facing abuse including beatings, electric shocks and sexual assaults. A cross-party group of UK MPs who investigated the claims concluded that Saudi officials at "the highest levels could, in principle, be responsible for the crime of torture."

In April, ALQST, which advocates for human rights within Saudi Arabia, reported a further wave of arrests, targeting "activists, writers or social media bloggers who have previously engaged in public discourse on reforms."

Later that month, Saudi authorities executed 37 people, convicted of "terrorism" charges, which Amnesty described as an example of "how the death penalty is being used as a political tool to crush dissent from within the country's Shi'a

As Hunt defended continuing arms sales, an air-strike hit a hospital in northwest Yemen, with four children among the dead

minority." Abdulkareem al-Hawaj, was "convicted of offences related to his involvement in anti-government protests" when he was just 16 years old, with the conviction based on a forced confession.

Any influence exerted by the UK because of its "strategic relationship" seems to have little effect. In reality the UK could

choose to exert influence: the Saudi Arabian regime is highly dependent on UK support, both to continue its war in Yemen, and to maintain its rule at home. But instead successive governments have chosen to prioritise arms sales over human rights

Court case

In April, CAAT's legal challenge continued in the Court of Appeal, challenging the UK government's decision to continue allowing arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen. Our challenge asks the UK government to enforce its own rules, which say arms sales should not be allowed where there is a clear risk the items might be used in "serious violations of International Humanitarian Law." We hope this case will set a vital precedent and end UK complicity in this terrible war.

Our challenge asks the UK government to enforce its own rules, which say arms sales should not be allowed where there is a clear risk the items might be used in "serious violations of International Humanitarian Law"

At the time of writing we are still awaiting a verdict. It may still be some weeks before we hear, but we will let you know as soon as we have more news and, whatever happens, it will not be the end of our work.

Thank you

Meanwhile thank you to everyone who has continued to contact their MP; thanks to your efforts, the issue remains firmly in the public eye. Our Early Day Motion on Saudi Arabia's on-going violations was signed by over 100 MPs and, in March 2019, five opposition party leaders wrote to Jeremy Hunt urging him to end arms exports to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen. Let's keep up the pressure.



STOP THE ARMS FAIR

This September, the Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair will bring thousands of arms dealers and military buyers to East London.

DSEI is one of the biggest arms fairs in the world. It exists for one reason only: to promote the sale of arms, ranging from rifles to tanks to fighter jets to battleships.

The guest list hasn't been published yet, but if past years are anything to go by then the attendees will include military personnel and representatives from conflict zones and some of the most repressive regimes in the world.

A week of protest and blockades has been called for the week preceding the arms fair, so that we can disrupt the setup and stop the equipment from getting in to be sold

While there, buyers will be able to rub shoulders and mingle with the biggest arms companies in the world. The ten biggest arms manufacturers will all be present, and will be only too happy to show off and promote their latest wares.

The consequences can be deadly. Right now UK fighter jets, bombs and missiles are playing a central role in the Saudi-led bombardment of Yemen. There is no way of knowing what kind of deals will be discussed at DSEI or

what kind of weaponry could be sold as a result. We have no way of knowing how these weapons will be used, or who they will be used against. But the results could be horrific.

The arms dealers and military delegations will be joined by scores of civil servants, who will be on hand to help them every step of the way. The Government doesn't just facilitate DSEI, it is an active participant. The event, which is supported by the Ministry of Defence and the Department of International Trade, will see high profile speeches from government ministers.

That is why it won't just be DSEI attendees descending on the Excel Centre. There will also be thousands of campaigners and activists from across the country. A week of protest and blockades has been called for the week preceding the arms fair, so that we can disrupt the setup and stop the equipment from getting in to be sold.

In 2017, hundreds of people came together and took action to shut down DSEI. We will be working with our friends and colleagues in the Stop the Arms

Fair coalition to ensure that the protests are the biggest to date.

Over the next two pages you will see articles by our friends from Newham Against the Arms Fair and Women of Colour in the Global Women's Strike.

If you would like to join us, please contact us on events@caat.org.uk or visit StopTheArmsFair.org.uk for more details.

Monday 2nd Sept:
Stop Arming Israel

Tuesday 3rd Sept:
No Faith in War

Wednesday 4th Sept:
No Nuclear

Thursday 5th Sept:
Conference at the Gates

Friday 6th Sept:
Climate Justice

Saturday 7th Sept:
Festival of Resistance

Sunday 8th Sept:
Borders and Migration

Monday 9th Sept:
a Quaker vigil will be taking place as the arms fair starts.

LOCAL RESISTANCE AGAINST THE ARMS FAIR

Kevin White is a Canning Town resident and Newham Councillor who has been among those breathing new life into local DSEI protests through newly formed Newham Against the Arms Fair.

Residents in my home town of Newham, East London, have been protesting the Defence and Security Exhibition International arms fair (DSEI) since it first turned up on our doorstep at the ExCel Centre in 2001. The original campaign group East London Against The Arms Fair (ELAAF) have run monthly demonstrations outside the ExCel since day one, which continue to the present.

I was part of a group of residents and councillors who got together at the start of this year to do something to stop the arms fair coming back to Newham in September, and we've been working together with ELAAF to make the campaign stronger than ever.

Not here, Not anywhere.

Our protests have been joined by local MP Lyn Brown, London Assembly Member Unmesh Desai, local councillors, and the Newham Executive Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, all united in opposition. Ahead of the last DSEI arms fair in 2017, even

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said he was completely opposed to DSEI happening in London, but had no power to stop it. We're here to say to the UK government and the ExCel Centre that we don't want DSEI here, or anywhere else.

Newham was massively impacted by the Blitz during the Second World War, with 1,240 high explosive bombs and 67 parachute mines recorded over Newham in the WW2 census.

A clear and timeless message was sent out by senior Newham figures and residents after peace was declared, that war is such a regrettable, lamentable experience that peaceful alternatives should be exhaustively pursued before ever entering into armed conflict again.

Pictures and reports from inside the DSEI arms fair show that the event promotes the exact opposite, with its primary objective being corporate profit, not the protection of human rights and peace imagined by the post-war generation.

On sale at DSEI are weapons of war including sniper rifles, tanks and fighter planes, as well as spying equipment and tools of repression used to subvert democracy and suppress freedom. The weapons sold through deals done at DSEI force refugees and economic migrants to leave their homes to seek sanctuary in places like Newham. Militarily backed corruption creates harsh disparities between rich and poor.

Newham has a proud pacifist history. It was home to famous pacifists Keir Hardie, founder of the Labour Party, and suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst. We've long since been a place of sanctuary from war, proudly welcoming refugees from all over the world – many come from places where weapons sold through deals done at fairs like DSEI fulfil their devastating potential.

Not only is DSEI morally outrageous, but the bill for DSEI's policing costs is being picked up by the tax payer, with over seven days of intense activity. Neither the profit-making exhibitors or venue bear any real responsibility.

War starts here. Let's stop it here.

The arms fair is an ethical vacuum out of step with our local historical values of peace and equality, and our proclaimed national values of freedom, democracy and fair play. The subsidy it receives from the public purse is unacceptable. Join us this September in saying no to DSEI – here or anywhere.

Visit stopthearmsfair.org.uk to join the fight to stop DSEI.



Newham Against the Arms Fair and ELAAF protest, ExCel Centre London, February 2019



WHY WE'RE TAKING ACTION AGAINST THE ARMS FAIR

In this article, our friends **Chrissie** and **Sarah** from the Women of Colour in the Global Women's Strike explain why they are taking action against the DSEI arms fair.

Women of Colour in the Global Women's Strike is a network of women from Africa, India, Latin America, Europe, US and Indigenous lands, and part of the Global Women's Strike. We campaign for women's unwaged caring work to be recognised and paid for. Formerly Black Women for Wages for Housework, we were founded in 1975 by an ex-Black Panther and an immigrant welfare rights organiser.

We campaign against every discrimination, including sexism, racism and islamophobia, as well as the poverty and war that make us and our families more vulnerable to violence of every kind. "Invest in caring not killing" expresses the GWS strategy for change.

Many of us are immigrants. We are here because Western governments are militarily involved directly or by proxy across the global South, fueling poverty, destruction of our communities and plundering of our precious resources to enrich themselves. The arms trade props up dictatorships and

corrupts all it touches, paving the way for greedy corporations to steal more.

Millions of people are forced to flee war, rape, ecological devastation and the climate crisis, none of which we have created. We have every right to cross borders to survive. We have every right to be here: we are owed for 500 years of imperial theft, \$14.2 trillion in the African slave trade alone. We are here to collect alongside white working class colleagues who have also been exploited for centuries.

To stop climate change we must stop militarisation and the wars for control of the fossil fuel industries.

We support the campaigns to shut down DSEI. We can't allow the military and the elites they back to continue to kill and pollute. They are hooked on their own greed and we have to break their habit. The US military is the world's biggest polluter yet this is rarely acknowledged. To stop

climate change we must stop militarisation and the wars for control of the fossil fuel industries.

In 2017 we joined the anti-DSEI protest, when hundreds of people disrupted the arms fair. Asylum seekers campaigning against deportation came together with groups challenging ethnic cleansing and genocide in Palestine. We ran a workshop highlighting women's survival work in conflict zones with Kurdish, Tamil, Ugandan and Zimbabwean speakers.

The resources lavished on arms companies must come to our communities, for homes, land, healthcare, housing, schools and other vital services – for a caring economy where human beings and the environment are not at the mercy of the market.

We welcome people of all genders and races at the Crossroads Women's Centre (25 Wolsey Mews, London, NW5 2DX) where we are based. Find out more at: facebook.com/womenofcolour [globalwomenstrike](https://globalwomenstrike.org)

STOP DPRTE



Credit Mark Harkin / Source Flickr

In March, campaigners from Greater Rushmoor Against War protested against the DPRTE arms fair, in Farnborough. Owen from the group explains what happened. Well done to everyone who took action!

The organisers of the Defence Procurement Research, Technology & Exportability (DPRTE) arms fair decided to move their event to a "high security" site owned by Farnborough International Ltd so they could go about their ghastly business unimpeded. The arms fair has already been chased out of Cardiff and Birmingham, and we ensured that the companies in attendance received the iciest reception Rushmoor had to offer.

Setting off just before 7am, we carried the components of our peace camp up to the Queens Roundabout adjacent to the

entrance to the exhibition centre – sighting more police vehicles en route than any of us had ever seen in Farnborough.

We ensured that the companies in attendance received the iciest reception Rushmoor had to offer

With the roundabout ringed with both banners and protestors, those headed to DPRTE were given an energetic greeting as they lingered in the early morning traffic. Our numbers continued to swell with friends from both the local community and as far afield as Bristol and Birmingham.

Numerous passing drivers showed their support, with some interrupting their commute to join

us on the roundabout. One lady said she had never thought that she would see such a protest in Farnborough.

We are beyond grateful for the support we received from the local community, let alone those who travelled from far further afield. Such a demonstration of solidarity from such a diverse array of individuals has been as educating as it has been empowering.

With the event itself being conducted behind security guards and fences, we succeeded in showing the organisers of DPRTE that we are serious about our opposition to Farnborough being a byword for the arms trade.

BRIGHTON ACTIVITIES

Our local group in Brighton has lots of great FREE events coming up. For more information please contact Kat Hobbs at Kat@caat.org.uk.

ARMING THE WORLD

Ice and Fire will do a street theatre performance of Arming the World in Brighton city centre. Venue and time to be confirmed. This entertaining performance will bring the shadowy world of our Government's involvement in the arms trade out into the light of day.
22nd June

WAR SCHOOL

A powerful film about the battle for the hearts and minds of Britain's children in an increasingly militarised society.
– 26th June 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton, BN1 1AF
– 2nd July 7pm, Cowley Club, London Road, Brighton, BN1 4JA

SHADOW WORLD

This excellent film reveals the shocking realities of the global arms trade – the only business that counts its profits in billions and its losses in human lives.
16th July 7pm, Cowley Club, London Road, Brighton, BN1 4JA

TIME TO END THE GLOBAL ARMS RACE

World military spending is going up, according to data just released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

According to SIPRI, global military spending increased by 2.6% in real terms, reaching an estimated \$1,822 billion. The figure is almost certainly an underestimate, due to the omission of certain countries for lack of data, and large amounts of undeclared “off-budget” military spending by other countries.

SIPRI notes that world military spending in 2018 is 76% higher in real terms than its post-Cold War low in 1998. But it is also 19% higher than in 1988, when Cold War spending was near its peak. Thus, the current level of world military spending is almost certainly the highest since World War II.

Austerity in the West briefly led to small falls between 2010 and 2014, but since then the total has been climbing again – despite a crash in oil prices that year that caused falls in many oil-dependant countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, Oman, Algeria, Angola, South Sudan, and Venezuela – countries that had previously been splurging their oil wealth on the military while prices were high.

The current level of world military spending is almost certainly the highest since World War II

But oil fluctuations aside, the world is busily pursuing a renewed arms race, as conflicts rage in the Middle East, tensions soar in eastern Europe, and a new “great power” rivalry game is played out in the Asia Pacific region.

Europe is re-arming against a perceived Russian threat. Russia, in turn, has been re-arming in the face of overwhelming military dominance from NATO. China has been steadily building its military

power as its economy has grown, to counter overwhelming US military dominance, while the US seeks to maintain its advantage. China’s neighbours, in particular India, Japan, and countries bordering the disputed South China Sea, are arming themselves against China. And countries on all sides use terrorism as a reason

Total Overseas Development Assistance by the world’s richest countries amounted to just 8% of the latest military expenditure total

for ever more military spending, despite the disastrous results of military “solutions” to terrorism.

The sums spent worldwide on military power to counter these real or perceived threats, eclipses the sums spent on the most pressing threats to human

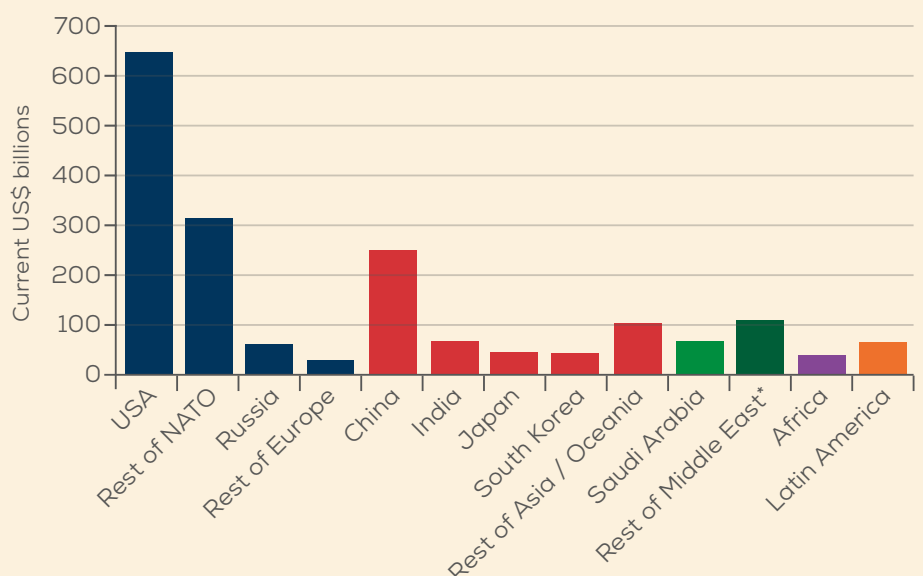
and international security. Total Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by the world’s richest countries (the OECD members) amounted to \$145 billion in 2017, the most recent year available, just 8%, or less than a twelfth, of the latest military expenditure total. According to the most recent data from Climate Policy Initiative, average annual world spending over 2015-2016 was \$463 billion – just over one quarter of world military spending.

Is this the right balance of priorities? We spend four times as much on fighting and preparing to fight each other as on fighting the climate catastrophe that could destroy us all, and 12 times as much as on tackling global poverty.

You can find out more at sipri.org/databases/milex

World military spending 2018

Major spending countries and groups



Source: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database

*SIPRI does not publish an estimate for the Middle East due to the lack of data for several key countries. The figure here is a rough estimate obtained by subtracting the figures for other regions from the world total.

TAKING ACTION

Stop the Arms Fair meeting

15th June, 12.30 – 5.30pm, St Hilda's East Community Centre, London

Get stuck into organising to Stop DSEI.

#StopDSEI skillshare

22nd June, 10.30 – 5.30pm, Bridge 5 Mill, Manchester

Skill up in creative direct action, media skills, social media skills and Knowing Your Rights.

Manchester DSEI Training for Trainers

23rd June, 10.30 – 4.30pm, Bridge 5 Mill, Manchester

This session will skill you up so you can join our crew of trainers! Email outreach@caat.org.uk for more info.

Citizen Journalism training

July, London

We are hoping to work with fantastic videographers Rainbow Collective to skill up some people to film and record the actions at DSEI. Venue and dates TBC, but email events@caat.org.uk to let us know you're interested.

Demilitarise Education – StopDSEI Party

31st August, 10pm, BLOC London

Demilitarise Education are organising a party to build for the #StopDSEI actions.

#StopDSEI weeks of action

2nd – 13th September

The DSEI arms fair will try to set up at the ExCel Centre from the 2nd September. We will be there to stop it. More details to come!

THEY SAID IT

"[It] would be morally bankrupt and the people of Yemen would be the biggest losers."

UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt concludes it would be morally bankrupt to stop arming Saudi Arabia. *Politico*, 26 March 2019

"We subsidise Saudi Arabia. I called the King. I like the King. I said, King, we're losing our ass defending you King, and you have a lot of money. And he said, 'But, why would you be calling me? Nobody's ever made such a call before.' I said, 'That's 'cause they were stupid.'"

US President Donald Trump on doing business with Saudi Arabia. *Daily Sabah*, 30 April 2019

"All of us as human beings don't seek war, we seek peace. And that is our role, to provide defence equipment that encourages ultimately peace."

Roger Carr, Chair of BAE Systems. BAE AGM, 09/05/19

INTRODUCING CAROLINE

Caroline Jones joins Sarah in the Public Campaigns team, to lead campaigning around the DSEI arms fair, and to support our other campaign work. She's had various regional and national campaigning roles on issues from tax justice to learning disability hate crime.

Most recently, Caroline worked for Friends of the Earth where she was Campaigner in the Fossil Free team, fighting Government proposals to force fracking on UK communities. She spends her spare time road cycling, being a ChildLine counsellor, searching for new vegan treats, and doing migrant solidarity campaigning. You can reach Caroline on caroline@caat.org.uk



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN CAAT'S STEERING COMMITTEE?

We are looking for new skills and experiences for our Steering Committee. The committee meets four times a year and has overall

responsibility for the running of CAAT. For more information please visit caat.org.uk/about/steering-committee.



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:

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Tel: Email:

I would like to receive the CAAT News quarterly magazine by post: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I would like to receive updates about the campaign and urgent action opportunities by email: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I would like to receive occasional updates about the campaign by post: ☐ Yes ☐ No

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☐ month ☐ quarter ☐ annually

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Date:

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Credit/debit card number:

Start date: Expiry date: Security number: (3 digit number on back of card)