

CAAT NEWS



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019 • ISSUE 254

SHUT DOWN THE ARMS TRADE



PLUS

Stop Arming Saudi **P3**

Shut down DSEI **P8-9**

Arms sales to Turkey **P13**

CAAT NEWS

OCTOBER –
DECEMBER 2019

It has been a very busy time for anti-arms trade campaigners, with massive protests against the DSEI arms fair in London. Hundreds of activists joined us from across the country. You can find out more on pages 7–10. Thank you to everyone that made it for the protests, or supported people who did.

The Government cannot be trusted to follow its own laws on arms sales, and has already

breached the Court order banning arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen.

This edition of CAAT News comes at a time of political turmoil, with an election in the weeks ahead. Whatever the result, it's more important than ever that campaigners do everything we can to keep the pressure on the Government to end these arms sales.

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Election 2019

Find out where the parties stand on the arms trade, and how to contact your candidates, at caat.org.uk/election-2019.



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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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COURT RULING HAVING AN IMPACT

The government has twice admitted breaching a Court of Appeal order on arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

In June the Court of Appeal found in CAAT's favour in a historic judgment, ruling that it was "irrational and therefore unlawful" for the Secretary of State for International Trade to have allowed the sale of UK-made arms to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen without making an assessment as to whether or not past incidents amounted to breaches of International Humanitarian Law.

There were 57 applications for export licences under consideration at the time of the ruling, so it is likely that hundreds of millions of pounds of arms sales remain on hold

In July the Government was given permission to appeal to the Supreme Court, but it was refused a stay of judgment. This means that it must retake export licensing decisions on extant licences to Saudi Arabia on a lawful basis and, until this is done, cannot issue new licences where the equipment might be used in the Yemen war.

There were 57 applications

for export licences under consideration at the time of the ruling, so it is likely that hundreds of millions of pounds of arms sales remain on hold. The ongoing controversy also means a new £10 billion deal for the sale of 48 more BAE Systems' Eurofighter Typhoon jets, agreed in principle in March 2018, has not yet been finalised.

Order breached

In September, the Secretary of State for International Trade, Liz Truss, twice had to confess to Parliament and the Court of Appeal that the Government had breached the latter's order by granting further licences for military equipment to the Saudi-led coalition for use in Yemen. The problem seems to have come about because the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), or part of it, failed to let the Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU) know that the Royal Saudi Land Forces had gone into Yemen.

The ECJU is located in the Department for International Trade, but includes civil servants from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence. This

arrangement is supposed to enable a good flow of information between the departments, but it clearly failed on this occasion.

UK support vital to Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen

Leaving aside the moral issue, it is often asked whether, if the UK stopped arms sales to Saudi Arabia, China, France or Russia would simply step in instead. The answer is that, while in the long-term they potentially could, the continuation of the Yemen war is totally dependent on the UK and the United States.

This is because the deals are not simply for an aircraft, but also cover maintenance and servicing by the 6,300 employees of BAE Systems based in Saudi Arabia. It is a huge operation which could not be replicated by another supplier for a long time.

The governments in London and Washington, which often boast of their influence over Saudi Arabia, could stop the war and the death and destruction being wrought on the people of Yemen.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

DRONES



Credit: Israel Defense Forces / Source Flickr

Elbit Systems, an Israeli arms company, has secured a \$150 million drone deal with an unnamed South East Asian country. The deal will include 1000 THOR mini-drones which can be used for surveillance missions. [Times of Israel, 06/10/2019](#)

ARMS FAIRS

The Welsh Government is to review its participation in the DSEI arms fair. This follows criticisms from opposition politicians and campaigners. The Welsh Government has sent representatives to the biennial event for the last eight years, including the attendance of Government ministers in 2015 and 2017. [BBC News, 13/09/2019](#)

SOUTH AFRICA

The former South African president Jacob Zuma will stand trial on corruption charges relating to a £2 billion arms deal after a high court denied his application for a permanent stay of prosecution. The 16 charges relate to major arms deals that took place in the late 1990s. The total value of the deals was at least \$5 billion. [The Guardian, 11/10/2019](#)

ARMS COMPANIES

The UK Government has intervened in the planned £4bn takeover of Cobham, a UK arms company, by a US private equity firm. The Business Secretary, Andrea Leadsom, instructed the Competition and Markets Authority to investigate the takeover on national security grounds. The investigation is not expected to delay the process. [The Guardian, 18/09/2019](#)

The DSEI arms fair saw the announcement that UK and Italian arms companies will partner for

the Tempest programme. The agreement, which includes BAE Systems and Leonardo, will commit the companies to “knowledge sharing, product definition and technology development for the joint development of future combat air systems.” [ADS Advance, 11/09/2019](#)

BAE Systems has received a new \$50 million contract for servicing nuclear weapons for US and UK submarines. The work covered by the contract is expected to end in September 2020. [UPI, 26/09/2019](#)

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Commission has established a new Directorate for “defence industries and space.” It will be tasked partly with “coordinating the EU’s fragmented defense industry on research and development projects.” This follows other moves towards the further integration of EU arms export and military policies. [Defense News, 16/09/2019](#)

AUSTRALIA

Figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute show that in 2018 Australia was the world’s second biggest arms importer. The largest importer was Saudi Arabia. Australia was the 4th largest importer over the five-year period 2014-18, after Saudi Arabia, India, and Egypt. [ABC News, 29/09/2019](#)

POLICING

The Metropolitan Police has announced that it will be arming more officers with tasers. The number of tasers in London has already risen by 50% over the last two years, with 6500 in use. [The Independent, 17/09/2019](#)



Credit: Marcelo Feixo / Source Flickr


CHINA

The Chinese Government has said that it intends to join the UN-backed Arms Trade Treaty in the months ahead. The Treaty, which CAAT is critical of, has been signed by 104 countries around the world. [Reuters, 28/09/2019](#)

UK ARMS EXPORT LICENCES

The UK government provides data on arms export licences, but it is hard to access, use and understand. CAAT's UK Licence Browser aims to correct this, presenting the data in a searchable web application and revealing detail not provided by the government.

An overview page from the recently redesigned browser is below. Dig deeper at caat.org.uk/resources/export-licences (feedback very welcome!).



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Search...

Resources » UK Arms Export Licences

UK Arms Export Licences

New search
Show hints

Filter results ✕

Destination +

Rating +

Item +

Company +

Date range ✕

Date from

2008

Date to ✕

2019
June
30

Use ?

Military

Dual use

Limit ?

Standard

Unlimited

Licence Type ?

Export

Trade

Transshipment

Status ?

Approved

Revoked

Refused

Unused

Permanence ?

Permanent

Temporary

UK export licences **approved** for **military** goods between **2008** and **June 2019**

Value of licences approved

£45bn

£44,603,843,076 from
65,535 limited-value "standard" licences

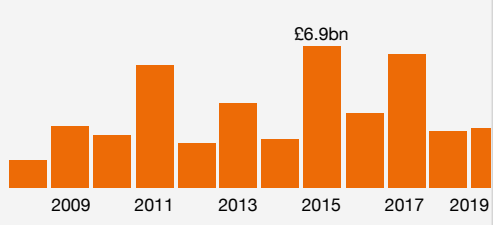
Number of unlimited-value licences approved

11k

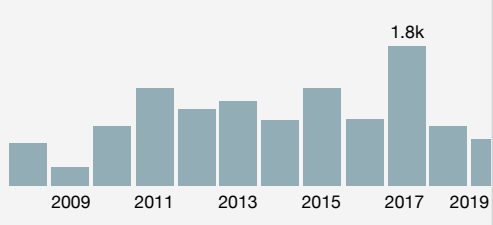
10,975 unlimited-value "open" licences

[See full results](#)

Value of exports approved over time



Unlimited-value licences approved over time



Value of exports approved by destination

Ordered by: most notable first

Country	value of licences
Saudi Arabia	£11bn
Oman	£2.4bn
United States of America	£5.7bn
France	£4.3bn
United Arab Emirates	£1.1bn
Algeria	£512m
Israel	£445m
Egypt	£222m
China	£253m
Afghanistan	£125m

[See full results](#)

Items approved for export

Ordered by: most notable first

Item	number of licences
small arms ammunition	4.3k
components for combat aircraft	6.6k
components for military support aircraft	5.1k
weapon sights	6.3k
general military aircraft components	3.4k
components for military training aircraft	5.1k
components for military aero-engines	3.9k
assault rifles	2.5k
military aircraft ground equipment	2.2k
sniper rifles	1.8k

[See full results](#)

ARMS TRADE SHORTS • 5



BAE SYSTEMS SPONSOR NEW SCIENTIST LIVE

Going against the grain of companies increasingly dropping unethical sponsors, science event New Scientist Live was again sponsored by UK arms company BAE Systems, as well as BP.

CAAT campaigners were there to meet them, protesting outside London's Excel Centre, which had been home to the DSEI arms fair only weeks before.

Arms companies sponsoring cultural and artistic events is nothing new. Through Freedom of Information requests in 2014, CAAT discovered that some of the UK's treasured institutions, including the Imperial War Museum and the British Museum, had accepted sponsorship from arms companies, or hosted arms company events.

Events like New Scientist and institutions like the Royal Academy of Engineering play a vital role. They create spaces for scientists and engineers to explore and develop science and technology that can make the world a better place, tackling the threats posed by climate change. Fossil fuel and arms corporations who use science and technology irresponsibly have no place in them.

We can win

The tide is turning against unethical sponsorship of our institutions and events. This is

thanks to years of determined and creative protest and awareness raising by campaign groups and grassroots resistance to fossil fuels led by people in communities around the world.

Fossil fuel campaigners celebrated this year as the curtain fell for Shell's sponsorship of the National Theatre in response to the climate emergency. Meanwhile, BP was dropped by the Royal Shakespeare Company, citing young people's concerns over climate change.

Increased awareness about the impact of oil sponsorship can only bolster calls for an end to arms trade funding. Only last year, campaigners forced the Great Exhibition of the North and the National Festival of Making to drop sponsorship from BAE.

CAAT supporters created an incredible outcry in 2018 when the Design Museum in London hosted a private function held by a global arms company. Thousands signed a petition, and artists removed their work from the exhibition, Hope to Nope, forcing the Museum to review its policies, although, disappointingly, it has not made the results public.

TAKE ACTION!

Rejecting the profits of the arms industry sends a powerful message to arms companies. Our public institutions – from culture to arts and science and education must adopt ethical investment and sponsorship policies.

Write to New Scientist at customerhelp@newscientist.com or Tweet it at [@newscientist](https://twitter.com/newscientist) and call on it to adopt an ethical sponsorship policy for future events.

If you buy or subscribe to the magazine, let them know. Your views as a reader are even more powerful. Points you could include:

- BP and BAE Systems have a devastating impact on human life and the environment
- BAE Systems supplied the fighter jets that are central to Saudi Arabia's devastating attacks on Yemen, killing thousands, displacing millions, and creating the world's worst humanitarian crisis.
- BP sold-off solar energy projects and invested £1.6 billion in tar sands extraction in Canada, trampling on Indigenous peoples' rights, causing huge environmental damage, and harming the health of local people and workers.

Write online: caat.org.uk/new-scientist.

ORGANISING AGAINST DSEI



This year, when organising the anti-DSEI protests, we wanted to make sure that we were centring the issues and voices that are most directly impacted by the arms trade.

We worked with campaigners from many different backgrounds to bring our issues together during our Week of Action.

Ahead of the protests, we produced a zine, *People Not War*, and in its introduction, our Training and Events Co-ordinator, Siana Bangura, reminded us that: “It is vital that the arms trade is not understood in isolation of other intersecting issues as, in the words of Audre Lorde, “There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.” The struggle against the arms trade must be anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-patriarchal, pro environmental justice and actively centring those most directly affected by its devastating consequences.”

The week of action and protests against DSEI mobilised thousands of people; with seven different themed days highlighting different impacts of the arms industry. Local community

activists shared stories and strategies with faith campaigners, pro-Palestine groups and migrant-rights activists.

It is vital that the arms trade is not understood in isolation of other intersecting issues as “there is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives”

Over the course of seven days, the roads outside the Excel centre saw dabka dancing from Palestine, prayer and observance from different faith groups, outdoor play led by the young people of Advocacy Academy, hundreds of people putting their bodies in the road to block the military equipment from entering, and late-night singing and film screenings. We worked together to send the message that the arms trade can never be acceptable, and that events like DSEI need to be shut down for good.

What is DSEI

DSEI is one of the world’s biggest arms fairs. It brings all the biggest arms dealers together with military buyers from around the world. It exists for one reason only, and that is to sell as many weapons as possible. Senior UK Government Ministers are on hand to promote the industry with keynote speeches, and civil servants from the Department of International Trade are there to greet them.

DSEI brings thousands of arms dealers to East London, but its impact will be felt all around the world. War, conflict and repression are fuelled by DSEI. The event doesn’t just provide military support for some of the most authoritarian regimes in the world, it also sends a clear political endorsement.

This year’s guest list included representatives from eight countries that are on the Foreign & Commonwealth Office’s list of “priority countries” for human rights and democracy. These include Saudi Arabia, which was joined by representatives from the rest of the coalition that is bombing Yemen.

The event was also attended by a delegation from Turkey, who were browsing weapons and doing deals only a matter of weeks before the invasion of Northern Syria. The Government also invited the Hong Kong authorities, which are presently using UK-made tear gas against pro-democracy campaigners.

As long as arms fairs like DSEI continue, thousands of people will take action to shut them down. Over the next three pages you can find out more about the resistance and read about our friends in New Zealand who successfully shut down a military conference in Auckland.



MONDAY

Hundreds of pro-Palestine campaigners took action to oppose the destructive two-way relationship between the UK and Israel.

RESISTING



TUESDAY

Over 50 activists were arrested on No Faith in War day, which saw campaigners of all faiths and none uniting to oppose DSEI.

WEDNESDAY

No Nuclear day focused on the role of DSEI in boosting nuclear weapons.



NG DSEI



THURSDAY

Conference at the Gates saw activists discussing the different structures that prop-up the arms industry and how they affect people from around the world. Workshops focuses on colonialism and racism, the hostile environment and arms sales to Saudi Arabia.



FRIDAY

Climate Justice day focused on the need for a transition from arms-to-renewables.



SATURDAY

Activists from Hong Kong joined us for a Festival of Resistance against the arms trade.



SUNDAY

We were joined by pro-migrant and anti-borders activists for a day of protest that focused on the humanitarian impact of the arms trade.

EXPELLIARMUS



was greeted by cunningly placed blockades including activists abseiling and blocking stairways. A banner with the magic words “ExpelliArmus” greeted arms dealers trying to get in and (combined with the direct action) seemed to have the desired effect.

Heading to Palmerston North in 2018, representatives from arms companies like Babcock, Thales and General Dynamics found their buses blockaded and railway station protested, with the local community, including migrant groups, artists and faith groups coming together to say no, despite heavy handed policing.

It's clear in 2019, the arms industry has had enough: there won't be a Weapons Expo this year, and we hope, not in future years either.

Well done to Auckland Peace Action, Peace Action Wellington, Peace Action Manawatū, their friends and allies for their continuing resistance. Although the arms trade may be in hiding, it has not gone away. Kia kaha! Stay strong!

Acknowledgements: Thank you to Liz Remmerswaal of World Beyond War NZ for her help with this article.

Arms dealers out of New Zealand.

Every year for the past 19 years, the New Zealand Defence Industry Association has held an annual conference. Properly called a Weapons Expo, these have been sponsored by Lockheed Martin, one of the world's largest arms companies. These events bring arms companies and component manufacturers together with military and government contacts – with the goal of deepening arms trade involvement with the country and promoting arms exports.

This year there will be no Weapons Expo, and it is clear why:

sustained resistance on the part of activists.

In 2016 activists in Auckland chased the Weapons Expo out of the city, blockading the venue and denying access to 350 attendees,

This year there will be no Weapons Expo, and it is clear why: sustained resistance on the part of activists

and greeting its awards ceremony with a wall of noise.

Doubtless hoping for a quieter reception, the Weapons Expo returned to Wellington in 2017, which it had been chased out of in 2015. There, the stadium venue

ART THE ARMS FAIR

September 2019 didn't just mark the return of DSEI, it was also the return of Art the Arms Fair (ATAF), a major exhibition with art from across the world. ATAF saw artists exploring the arms industry and its deadly impact.

The first ATAF took place in 2017, this year it was even bigger and better. Some of the most provocative pieces have been reproduced here.

More than 70 artists contributed work, including Anish Kapoor, one of

the most esteemed and influential artists of his generation, and Shepard Fairey, who created the world-famous Obama Hope poster.

Over 1000 people joined us for a week of excellent events.



Credit Mayassah Alsader



Credit Shepard Fairey



Credit Saba Jallas

MILITARY EXPENDITURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The UK government spends about £46.6 billion a year on the military, according to figures provided by the UK to NATO, or 2.1% of GDP.

After several years of relative austerity, this military budget is now firmly on the rise, with a 10% real-terms increase since 2015, and more increases promised.

How much, in comparison, does the UK spend on preventing climate change? There are no official figures, but a recent report by an NGO coalition* estimated annual spending on “climate change and nature” to be £17 billion, which they called to increase to £42 billion.

“The first duty of government is the security of the nation and its people” – such clichés are frequently trotted out in Government military and security policy documents; but the “security” in question is almost always seen in terms of *state* security, centring on the military and other “hard” security tools (such as border control).

This militaristic outlook is not simply about defending the UK from military attack – a remote prospect as even the government admits – but about using armed force to attempt to solve a wide

range of problems, be it terrorism or regional tensions and conflicts.

This approach has led to a series of disastrous military interventions that have made the

After several years of relative austerity, the UK’s military budget is now firmly on the rise, with a 10% real-terms increase since 2015, and more increases promised

problems they sought to address far worse. It also reflects the idea that military power is the key to the UK’s status in the world, with ministers seeing a global military presence at the core of “Global Britain” post-Brexit.

But “security” does not have to be seen in these terms. A focus on sustainable, *human* security would reinterpret the “first duty” of government in terms of ensuring the security of people in the UK – and, inseparably, of people around the world – from the threats they actually face, which are overwhelmingly not susceptible to military “solutions”.

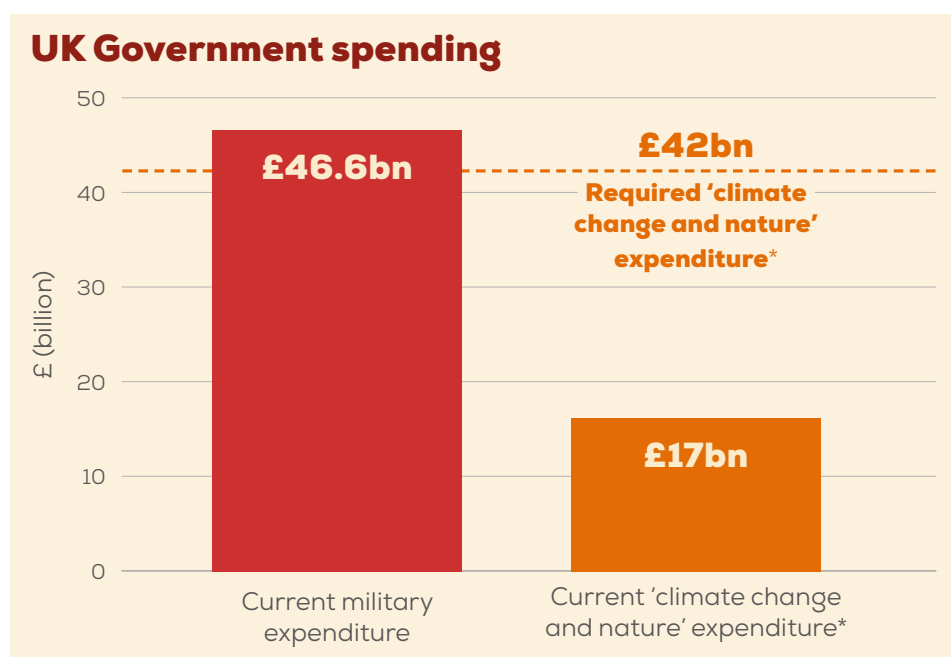
Most importantly, by far the biggest and most urgent threat to people’s security, including in the UK, is climate change, which is already causing catastrophic damage and loss of life worldwide. Yet, while the government has accepted a target of reducing the UK’s net carbon emissions to zero by 2050 (which many see as too slow), it has not backed this up with the policies and resources needed to achieve it. The government’s own Committee on Climate Change (CCC) warned this year that the UK is missing almost all its targets for carbon reduction.

By far the biggest and most urgent threat to people’s security, including in the UK, is climate change, which is already causing catastrophic damage and loss of life worldwide

The CCC estimates that achieving net zero by 2050 would require investment of between 1–2% of GDP per year. Yet this is seen as unrealistic by a government that sees 2% of GDP as the absolute minimum to be spent on the military, to meet NATO’s 2% target for its members – with ministers (backed by the arms industry and its supporters) calling for far higher spending.

This represents a distorted set of priorities, fuelled by a distorted, militaristic view of security, which urgently needs to change. Right now, the first duty of every government should be tackling the climate crisis.

* Government investment for a greener and fairer economy, Cafod, FoE, Green Alliance, Greenpeace, Islamic Relief, the WI, RSPB, and WWF, September 2019





LABOUR CONFERENCE

CAAT shared a stall with our friends from Rethinking Security at this year's Labour Conference in Brighton.

CAAT supporter Neil Devlin helped at the stall where he was photographed with Jeremy Corbyn. He writes: "Although one of Jeremy Corbyn's minders twice tried to pull him away, he stayed to chat for five minutes. I am a member of the Labour Party and live in Jeremy Corbyn's constituency, Islington North, so I raised an issue concerning the arms trade and Islington Council's

investments in Rolls Royce, which makes engines which go into warships and planes."

The Labour Conference's radical associate, The World Transformed, (TWT) took place in Brighton at the same time. CAAT was part of the organising group for two TWT sessions, one on the Middle East and another on the arms trade. Both were packed with people enthusiastic to know more

about the issues, as were the two foreign policy school sessions, which had a Gulf focus.

"I am a member of the Labour Party and live in Jeremy Corbyn's constituency, so I raised Islington Council's investments in Rolls Royce, which makes engines which go into warships and planes."

CAAT UNIVERSITIES

All across the country, students are taking action against arms companies on their campuses. Whether through sponsorship deals, research funding or attending career events, the arms dealers are desperately trying increase their footprints, and therefore their influence, in universities.

One university where students are taking action is the University of Glasgow. October 2019 saw students from different societies and groups coming together for the launch of the Glasgow University Arms Divestment Coalition.

The group was founded following an investigation by students that revealed

the extent of links between the university and the arms industry. The university has over £3.1 million invested in arms companies, including those, such as BAE Systems, that have armed and supported the devastating Saudi-led bombing of Yemen. Students are demanding an end to the investments and an end to arms companies being allowed to promote themselves on campus and at student events.

Universities should not be funding or supporting companies that are fuelling war, conflict and oppression. Whether in Glasgow or elsewhere, it's long past time to kick the arms dealers out of our education.



If you would like more information, or to get involved in campaigns to remove arms dealer from your campus, then please email us on universities@caat.org.uk.

NO ARMS TO TURKEY



In October 2019, Turkish forces invaded Northern Syria. This followed the decision of the US Government to remove its presence from the area.

There were reports of civilians being killed right from the start of operations. The US had been allied with Kurdish forces, who led the campaign against ISIL in the region, but Turkey classifies the Kurdish YPG as terrorists. Turkish forces invaded Afrin in 2018, in operations that saw them accused of “indiscriminately shelling civilians” by Amnesty International.

Despite its authoritarian domestic policy, and increasingly aggressive foreign policy, the Erdoğan regime in Turkey is among the world’s largest recipients of UK weapons. Since President Erdoğan came to power in August 2014, the UK has licensed £1.1 billion worth of arms to Turkey. Among other weapons, these include: £206 million worth of ML10 licences (aircraft, helicopters, drones); £84 million worth of ML6 licences (armoured vehicles, tanks) and £82 million worth of ML4 licences (grenades bombs, missiles, countermeasures).

Following widespread international pressure, the UK Government joined the French, Dutch and German Governments in curbing future sales to Turkey for use in Syria. However, this did not affect extant licences, and

therefore would not stop the transfer of arms covered by these existing licences, or those that were already with Turkish forces.

This is part of a bigger picture. In September the Turkish military was among those invited to the DSEI arms fair in London. It is also listed among those on the Department of International Trades list of “core markets” for arms exports. In 2017 Theresa May visited Turkey and left with a £100 million deal to help Turkey develop fighter jets. It will see UK arms companies working closely with the Turkish military.

Despite its authoritarian domestic policy, and increasingly aggressive foreign policy, the Erdoğan regime in Turkey is among the world’s largest recipients of UK weapons

This is why it must also mark a turning point in UK foreign policy towards Turkey. In 2018 Turkish forces bombed Afrin and it made no difference to arms sales. That cannot happen again. If this move is to be more than symbolic, there can be no return to business-as-usual. It’s time that the rights of Kurdish people were finally put ahead of arms company profits.

Extract from a statement by Solidarity with the People of Turkey (SPOT)

The price of the war will yet again be paid by the people living in the region, including Turks, Kurds, and Arabs.

As SPOT, we stand against Turkey’s invasion of northern Syria and call on all foreign forces to withdraw from the region.

We call on the UK to end selling weapons to Turkey, which are being used to kill and displace thousands of innocent people in the region, and may indeed be used in the latest invasion.

Finally, we call on our friends in the UK to oppose this invasion by foreign forces and ask you to stand with the people in northern Syria to call for peace.

You can find out more about Solidarity with the People of Turkey at: spotturkey.co.uk.

Extract from a statement by the Kurdistan Solidarity Network

Following the removal of Kurdish mayors from Turkey’s Kurdish regions, and expanded invasion of areas under the Kurdistan Regional in northern Iraq, the Turkish state is looking to expand its racist anti-Kurdish war deeper into northern Syria. This follows the invasion, occupation and ethnic cleansing of Afrin in north-western Syria in January 2018, and puts at risk not only the peace established by the administration’s democratic system, but also the territorial defeat of the ISIS “caliphate”.

The Turkish state cannot be trusted to properly guard or resolve this issue, and an occupation would put at risk not only Kurds but all the people of North-East Syria.

You can find out more about the Kurdistan Solidarity Network at: kurdishsolidaritynetwork.wordpress.com.

LOCAL GROUPS



Phil and Ian from London CAAT share a local group's perspective on the DSEI protests:

Living in London, we've watched the DSEI protests grow from a one or two day affair to an entire week of action. We're lucky that the Stop the Arms Fair planning sessions were just down the tube line for us, as they were a great way to link up with other groups and get organised about what we wanted to do prior to the fair.

It was great to see such disparate groups taking action the evils of the arms fair, although this also shows just widespread the impact of this fair is and how many lives it destroys

This year in the run up to DSEI we ran two "merchants of death" walking tours, visiting different arms trade "sites of interest" – including Buckingham Palace and the headquarters of G4S, Rolls Royce and BAE Systems. In 2017 we organised regular protests

outside the offices of different weapons companies in the months before the fair, as a way of raising awareness about the terrible event happening in our city.

The protests this year at DSEI were inspiring and it was great to see such disparate groups taking action against the evils of the arms fair, although this also shows just how widespread the impact of this fair is and how many lives it destroys.

Massive kudos to all these groups' actions, from the Quaker meeting of worship that blocked access to the fair for over seven hours to the protesters on the Stop Arming Israel day who jumped on military vehicles to delay their entrance to the ExCeL centre.

All in all, London CAAT were proud to part of such a fantastic range of actions against this awful fair. Here's hoping the disruption the fair experienced means it will be the last one!

KASHMIR

Kashmir is a region in the foothills of the Himalayas, between India and Pakistan. It has been partitioned since 1948, with Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir to the south and east, and Pakistan-controlled areas to the north and west.

Conflict has erupted along the line of control more than once, with India accusing Pakistan of encouraging militants in the region to cross into Indian-controlled territory. India maintains a heavy security presence in Jammu and Kashmir, and over the years, these forces have been accused of multiple human rights abuses.

Until August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir had a degree of self rule, appointing its own officials and controlling the sale of land to people from outside the territory. In August, the Indian government announced the withdrawal of this "special status," shutting down landlines, the internet and mobile phone networks and moving troops into the territory, provoking unrest. The lack of information coming out of the state and reports of street demonstrations and mass arrests of campaigners by Indian forces have led to global concern.

It is high time the international community worked to resolve issues in the region, rather than simply seeing it as an opportunity to make more arms sales

India and Pakistan are nuclear powers. Each is a big buyer of weapons, with India the second largest purchaser of major weapons systems in the world, Pakistan the 11th largest (according to SIPRI, figures 2014–8). Major arms supplying countries to the region include Russia, China and Israel.

UK arms licenses to India spiked sharply in April–June 2019 (the most recent figures), with the UK licensing some £411 million worth of military equipment and services to India in the period – mostly for technology and components for military helicopters and warplanes.

Although the situation is apparently easing in Jammu and Kashmir, with the switching on of mobile calls in October, tensions remain high. It is high time the international community worked to resolve issues in the region, rather than simply seeing it as an opportunity to make more arms sales.

THEY SAID IT

“Outside the Excel Centre today, there are campaigners whose wish for a safe and peaceful world leads them to misunderstand how Defence works.”

The Minister for Defence Procurement, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, belittles anti-DSEI protests, speech at DSEI, 10 September 2019

“The whole Yemen situation is a disaster and a very complicated problem. But I go back to speaking for the show, and we can only play within the rules that the Government set us.”

DSEI spokesperson tries to justify Saudi Arabia's attendance at the arms fair. Morning Star, 13 September 2019.

“It's not our problem after we sell it. I didn't pull the trigger.”

BAE Systems staff member quoted in London Review of Books, 01 October 2019

“Guess the amount of bullet cores and win a £50 M&S voucher.”

Tasteless competition at DSEI, 13 September 2019



TAKING ACTION

As 2019 comes to an end, we are busy assessing the campaigns and successes of 2019, and doing our planning for 2020. We'll be sharing our plans in the next issue, but, in the meantime:

Shadow World

Want to book a Shadow World screening in your community? Email outreach@caat.org.uk

Stop Arming Saudi

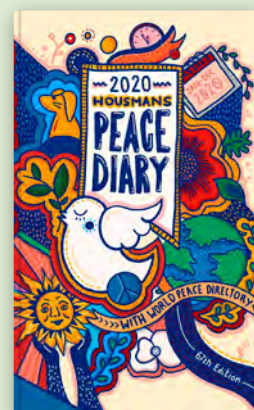
Want to hold a Stop Arming Saudi talk or workshop? Email outreach@caat.org.uk

We are organising court support for all arrestees, and are anticipating this starting from late November. Please check stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events to get updates and information on court solidarity.

To find out what's happening in your local area, visit caat.org.uk/events or email outreach@caat.org.uk.

Support CAAT by purchasing cards, books and other gifts from our online shop.

The CAAT online shop has been re-stocked with new greetings card designs, DVDs and the 2020 Housmans Peace Diary – just visit caat.org.uk/shop to see the full range and place your order.





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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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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