

CAAT NEWS

The quarterly magazine for Campaign Against Arms Trade

Issue 261
Summer 2021



STOP ARMING ISRAEL

PLUS

Arms sales to the US **P6-7**

Shut down arms fairs **P11**

The secretive arms trade **P13**



**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
ARMS
TRADE**

Unfortunately, global events mean that there is a lot in this issue, with stories about arms sales to Saudi Arabia, Israel, Oman and the US. Wherever there is repression and conflict there will always be arms dealers trying to profit from it.

The arms companies may not change, but CAAT News is about to. This issue is the last I will be editing. After seven and a half years at CAAT I am moving on. I have really enjoyed working with so many of you and leading on CAAT's media. I hope that you show just as much support for my successor once they are appointed.

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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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Photo: it is elisa | Source: Flickr



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Photo: Rainbow Collective | Source: Flickr



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Photo: Lorie Shaul | Source: Flickr



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STOP ARMING SAUDI



After six years of war, Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Over 130,000 people have been directly killed in the fighting, including 13,000 civilians in targeted attacks, and many more as a result of hunger and disease in what is the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe. Over 24 million Yemenis are in need of humanitarian aid, and hundreds of thousands face starvation as a direct result of the war and the Coalition's air and naval blockade of Yemen.

The UK is one of Saudi Arabia's leading arms suppliers, along with the US. CAAT estimates that the UK has provided over £20 billion worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia since the start of the conflict. Despite a large body of evidence showing violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by the Coalition, UK and European arms companies continue to supply Saudi Arabia and its Coalition allies.

The European states in question are parties to the ICC. It is typically citizens of the UK and other European countries, in government and industry who take the decisions to supply arms, and the decisions are taken on the soil of these countries.

In December 2019, a coalition

of European and Yemeni groups, led by the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) and including CAAT, Mwatana, Amnesty International, and other European groups, submitted a communication to the International Criminal Court

CAAT estimates that the UK has provided at least £18.9 billion worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia since the start of the conflict

(ICC) in The Hague, asking them to investigate European government and arms company officials for potentially aiding and abetting war crimes in Yemen. British barrister, Karim Khan, took over as the International Criminal Court's prosecutor on 16th June 2021, the third person to hold the role.

A decision on whether to take the investigation forward may be seen some time this year. If the case is taken forward, it will represent a major new step in accountability for the abuses committed using arms acquired through the international arms market. This case breaks new ground in putting arms companies, rather than just government policies, in the

spotlight, and challenging their insistence that everything they do is perfectly legal as it is authorised by governments.

In the meantime, to help understand and visualise this record of Coalition violations and European complicity, a new time map, launched on 22 June, has been developed by ECCHR and Forensic Architecture together with Yemeni Archive and Bellingcat (yemen.forensic-architecture.org).

This interactive map exposes the patterns of indiscriminate attacks by the Coalition against civilians and civilian infrastructure in Yemen. Applying graphic and modelling techniques to information obtained from extensive field research, open-source investigation, and legal analysis, it provides information that aims to support both international and domestic prosecution authorities in investigating the criminal responsibilities of corporate and government European actors fueling the crimes in Yemen.

We hope that Karim Khan and the Office of the Prosecutor will follow this evidence and pursue this investigation, as a major step towards accountability for this terrible war.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

US arms

Photo: jlhervás | Source: Flickr



Democrats in Congress are introducing legislation to transfer \$1bn worth of funding from a controversial new ballistic missile programme to the development of a universal Covid vaccine. The “ground-based strategic deterrent” missile system is expected to cost \$264 billion.

The Guardian, 25/03/2021

The US State Department has approved the sale of F-16 fighter jets and missiles to the Philippines. The deal is thought to be worth over \$2.5 billion.

Reuters, 24/06/2021

A Microsoft deal to build customised HoloLens goggles for the U.S. Army is to go ahead. Last year the Senate considered freezing the sale. The deal is thought to be worth around \$22 billion over 10 years.

Bloomberg, 31/03/2021

The Biden administration is to proceed with a \$23 billion arms deal with the United Arab Emirates. The deal, which was agreed under President Trump, includes F-35 fighter jets, drones and other military equipment.

Al Jazeera, 14/04/2021

Right to protest

Photo: MorningStar



The UK Supreme Court has ruled that four campaigners who were arrested for protesting outside the Defence & Security Equipment International arms fair were not

acting unlawfully. This comes at a time when the government is trying to introduce new restrictions on the right to protest.

Hodge, Jones & Allen press release

Myanmar

According to the Russian defence minister, the Russian government is to strengthen its military relationship with the regime in Myanmar, which may include further arms sales.

Reuters, 23/06/2021

The United Nations has called for an international arms embargo against Myanmar. This follows a military coup in February 2021. The motion was supported by 119 countries, with only 1, Belarus, voting against.

BBC News, 19/06/2021

Switzerland

The Swiss government has announced plans to buy 36 F-35 fighter jets in a deal thought to be worth \$5.4 billion. It will also be purchasing a Patriot missile system.

Swissinfo, 30/06/2021

Lebanon

China has delivered 100 military vehicles to Lebanon. The vehicles which are to be used for transport and training were given in military aid.

Defense News, 14/06/2021

The Lebanese Navy is to receive seven naval vessels, including four with assistance from France and three as military aid from the US.

Defense News, 07/06/2021

Iran and UK

The UK and Iran have entered negotiations over a £400 million debt that the UK owes Iran. This relates to a 1970s tank sale that was not delivered. Although the talks are not officially linked, many analysts believe that this could help secure the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliff, a UK citizen who has been jailed in Iran since 2016.

BBC News, 03/05/2021

Corruption

A UK arms company, GPT, has pleaded guilty to corruption in relation to arms sales to Saudi Arabia between 2008-10. This follows charges brought by the Serious Fraud Office in July 2020. **SFO website, 28/04/2021**

Saudi Arabia

The Saudi government has said that it will invest more than \$20 billion in expanding its domestic arms industry. At present Saudi Arabia is one of the largest arms importers in the world. **Middle East Eye, 21/07/2021**

Italy

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is evicting Italian aircraft and personnel from a key military base. According to Italian politicians, the decision relates to an arms embargo against the UAE that was introduced by Italy in January. **Defense News, 27/06/2021**

UK arms to Israel

The UK Government's Export Control Joint Unit provides summary descriptions of the equipment it approves for export. Below are some descriptions of arms licensed for export to Israel from 2016-2020. Find out more about the impact of UK arms sales to Israel on P8-9.



ML4: Grenades, bombs, missiles, countermeasures

- ▶ launching/handling/control equipment for missiles
- ▶ launching/handling/control equipment for rockets
- ▶ decoying/countermeasure equipment
- ▶ aircraft missile protection systems
- ▶ components for surface-to-air missiles
- ▶ components for surface-to-surface missiles



ML10: Aircraft, helicopters, drones

- ▶ military aircraft head-up/down displays
- ▶ unmanned air vehicles
- ▶ command/control equipment for unmanned air vehicles
- ▶ launching/ground support equipment for unmanned air vehicles
- ▶ components for military aero-engines
- ▶ components for military training aircraft



ML22: Technology for:

- ▶ military radars
- ▶ multi-role-missiles
- ▶ unmanned air vehicles
- ▶ military electronic equipment
- ▶ military guidance/navigation equipment
- ▶ general military vehicle components
- ▶ software for modelling/simulating/evaluating weapon systems
- ▶ command communications control and intelligence software



ML11: Other electronic equipment

- ▶ military electronic equipment
- ▶ electronic warfare equipment
- ▶ military spacecraft
- ▶ military communications equipment
- ▶ military guidance/navigation equipment
- ▶ equipment for the use of targeting equipment



ML5: Target acquisition, weapon control and countermeasure systems

- ▶ components for military radars
- ▶ targeting equipment
- ▶ weapon control equipment
- ▶ attack alerting/warning equipment
- ▶ countermeasure equipment



ML9: Warships

- ▶ components for submarines
- ▶ components for combat naval vessels
- ▶ general naval vessel components
- ▶ components for naval electrical/electronic equipment

Notes: ML refers to the Military List rating of the equipment. This is followed by a broad overview of what the rating covers. For more detail about licences, visit caat.org.uk/data/exports-uk/



Photo: Derek Simeone | Source: Flickr

A YEAR AFTER GEORGE FLOYD WAS MURDERED, UK-FUELLED DOMESTIC MILITARISATION CONTINUES THE WORLD OVER

May 25th 2021 marked the first anniversary of the murder of African-American man, George Floyd.

For nine minutes and 29 seconds, former police officer, Derek Chauvin brutally knelt on Floyd's neck and back, unmoved as he called for his mother and struggled for his final breaths. The video of this disgusting abuse of power, along with other deaths, such as the killing of Breonna Taylor, then sent shockwaves across the world and sparked the second wave of Black Lives Matter protests.

One year later, Campaign Against Arms Trade continues to condemn the UK's role in arming repression around the world, including in the USA, and exporting violence and brutality. The violent crackdowns we witnessed during last year's Black Lives Matter protests and the use of anti-protest equipment such as rubber bullets and CS gas on peaceful protesters shone a light on the increased militarisation of the police – something happening around the world. Tear gas,

which can cause serious injuries, miscarriage, and even death, is a chemical weapon banned for use in war, yet it is widely used against civilians from Gaza to Minneapolis.

Campaign Against Arms Trade continues to condemn the UK's role in arming repression around the world, including in the USA

The USA is the second-biggest buyer of UK arms in the world. Since 2010 the UK has licensed £2.6 million worth of Security and para-military police goods to US police forces, and a further £29 million worth of ammunition sales to the US military and police, including crowd control ammunition, CS hand grenades, and tear gas. In fact, an investigation by CAAT and the Independent found that the UK re-started the sale of anti-protest

equipment to the US in October 2020, only months after the killing and the repression of protests.

UK licensing rules are meant to stop arms exports where there is a clear risk that they might be used in internal repression, yet the UK has licensed tear gas to Hong Kong, which was used against protesters in the violent crackdowns of 2014 and 2019 and to Egypt, where it was used against protesters in Egypt's Tahrir Square in 2011, aiding a bloody crackdown that killed over 800 people. In total, UK-made tear gas has been sold to over 50 countries in the last decade.

The UK doesn't just license the sale of weaponry. It actively promotes it – and with it, the militarisation of policing – through multi-million pound arms fairs like the Defence and Security Equipment International, which is due to take place in London this

September. In fact, just six months ago, representatives from the US attended the Security and Policing Arms Fair, a secretive event at which arms, border, policing and surveillance companies gather to exhibit equipment and technologies.

The division between the police and military is becoming ever more blurred from both directions

The militarisation of policing is nothing new and police forces in colonial and other oppressive regimes have long sought to control rather than protect – blurring the boundaries between what is considered to be internal and external security. Militarisation is a process that relies upon the widespread social acceptance of a narrative of insecurity, convincing the public that there is always a new emergency just around the corner.

The division between the police and military is becoming ever more blurred from both directions. Many countries have

what are effectively military units within the police, and others have the armed forces carrying out police roles. In the US, police receive weaponry directly from the US Department of Defense, and the National Guard has been deployed against protesters, most infamously during last year's summer of Black Lives Matter protests.

Policing principles often seem to be consistent and readily transferable between countries. The UK College of Policing has provided training to many police forces including those in Hong Kong and Bahrain. Last year, findings by CAAT confirmed that in 2019, the College of Policing – the professional body for police in England and Wales – worked with the Nigerian authorities to train officers from the now disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). The SARS unit was responsible for a list of violent acts against mainly young Nigerian citizens, which led to the #EndSars movement of 2020 – a continuation of the global Black Lives Matter movement.

Siana Bangura of Campaign Against Arms Trade writes:

One year on from the murder of George Floyd – a brutal and merciless killing that the world witnessed in broad daylight – we are still having to say Black Lives Matter. We are still having to raise our voices and call for justice for those being murdered by state-sanctioned racism.

The violence we saw against protesters last summer was appalling. And it seems that as soon as the violence was out of the headlines the arms sales resumed. We know that there is a very real risk of this equipment being used for repression, because it literally already has been. By arming and supporting police forces responsible for ongoing violence, Downing Street is empowering, enabling and legitimising their abuses.

Police violence and racism is not new, and nor is it exclusive to the US. The UK arms dozens of violent and repressive police forces around the world, and many of the issues raised will be familiar to people here and beyond – from Colombia to Palestine.

Last year, we were reminded that in no way shape or form is the UK innocent. And every day we see that the UK is not just complicit in acts of terror across the globe – it is an active player in this deadly process of domestic militarisation.

Photo: Lorie Shaul | Source: Flickr





Photo: United Nations Photos | Source: Flickr

STOP ARMING ISRAEL

In May, Israeli forces unleashed a brutal bombardment on Palestine, with UK arms companies cashing in every step of the way

On 08 May Israeli forces stormed the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Built in 705 CE, it is one of the holiest sites in Islam. It is believed that the Prophet Muhammad instructed Muslims to pray towards it before also directing them to turn to the Kaaba in Mecca. Over the course of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Palestinians were subject to severe restrictions and state violence. Hundreds of protesters and worshippers were shot at and assaulted by Israeli forces, many using tear gas and steel-coated rubber bullets. It was calculated brutality, with human rights monitors and reporters confirming cases of Palestinians who have lost eyes as a result of the attacks, and several with severe head injuries.

May 10th saw the start of an 11-day bombing campaign that killed 253 Palestinians, including 66 children, and destroyed 1,800 homes along with vital infrastructure. There will be little if any international consequences for these killings. The UN has characterised the broader situation as “a pervasive crisis of accountability,” arguing out that there is “no effective remedy

for the vast majority of alleged violations of international law, to ensure justice for the victims and to prevent future violations.”

An investigation by CAAT

Regardless of how many atrocities have been inflicted, Downing Street has continued to arm and support Israeli forces.

and the Independent found that UK-made arms played a key part in the bombing, with the Israeli Defence Force confirming the use of F-35 fighter jets sold to Israel by the US, but with substantial UK involvement, in particular by BAE Systems. According to Lockheed Martin, which manufactures the jets, “the fingerprints of British ingenuity can be found on dozens of the aircraft’s key components.” The UK Defence Journal estimates them to be 15 per cent British-made.

It is not the first time that UK-made weapons have been used against Palestinians. A review by the UK government at the time found that 12 licences for UK arms are likely to have been used in Operation Protective Edge in 2014,

a brutal month-long bombardment that killed 2000 Palestinians and, according to a UN report, sent “almost all of the population into destitution.” Likewise, in 2010, then-British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said that UK-made arms had “almost certainly” been used in the 2009 bombing campaign (Operation Cast Lead).

None of this has done anything to dent arms sales, with the UK having licensed the sale of over £400 million worth of military equipment in the last five years alone, including drones, small arms, ammunition and drone components. This does not include UK components for the F-35s, worth hundreds of millions of pounds, which are exported using the secretive open licence system (see p13).

This long-standing military support is underpinned by a deep well of uncritical political support. Unfortunately this support is only likely to deepen in the years ahead, with the UK and Israeli governments focused on establishing a post-Brexit free trade zone. There is no doubt that UK and Israeli arms companies will be among the beneficiaries

of this relationship, with the two governments having recently signed a military cooperation agreement to strengthen ties.

The biggest of these companies is Elbit Systems, which produces many of the drones used by Israeli forces, including the Hermes drone which, it says, provide the “backbone” of the IDF. Elbit may be an Israeli company, but it and its offshoots have offices around the world, including here in the UK. It also enjoys a strong presence as one of the main contractors for the UK Ministry of Defence’s Watchkeeper drone programme and in providing drones for UK “border security” in the Government’s campaign to demonise refugees crossing the Channel.

Regardless of how many atrocities have been inflicted, Downing Street has continued to arm and support Israeli forces. UK-made arms have been used against Palestinians before, and it is likely that they will be again. These arms sales do not just provide military support, they also send a clear sign of political support for the daily abuse and violence that is central to upholding the occupation. Yet, when challenged in Parliament, the UK government has completely refused to answer questions about the use of UK arms in the latest attack on Gaza.

Successive governments of all political colours have talked about the need for a so-called “peace process” while putting arms sales ahead of the rights and lives of Palestinians

But it’s not just violence and military strength that enables the occupation, it is also the silence and complicity of governments around the world, which have treated Palestinian rights and lives as expendable. Many governments have been implicated in this, and that is why it is crucial that we hold ours to account.

There must be justice if there is to be peace. And all governments have a role to play in that. Here in the UK, successive governments of all political colours have talked about the need for a so-called “peace process” while putting arms sales ahead of the rights and lives of Palestinians. That long and shameful policy must stop.





ONLINE OR IN-PERSON, OUR RESISTANCE TO ARMS FAIRS CONTINUES

Postponements & list of new dates

What was shaping up to be a summer of arms fairs may now be a busy autumn as events have been postponed, when they should have been cancelled. Here's what the calendar looks like now!

Sept
14-17

DSEI, London

The world's worst arms fair, Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) features warplanes, missiles, warships, artillery, bombs and bullets, sold by more than a 1000 arms companies to 30,000+ visitors, including representatives from the world's most repressive regimes. Resistance is expected. Contact Stop the Arms Fair via resistDSEI@protonmail.com.

October
5

DP RTE, Farnborough (postponed from July)

The Defence Procurement Research Technology Export arms fair has been chased out of Bristol, Cardiff and Birmingham. This year, campaigners want to chase it out of Farnborough! Find out more from greaterrushmooreactionforpeace@gmail.com.

Nov
11-13

AOC Liverpool (Electronic Warfare, postponed from last year)

The Electronic Warfare arms fair wants to come back to Liverpool's council-owned ACC. Stop Liverpool Arms Fair disagrees! Liverpoolagainstthearmsfair@mail.uk.

Disrupting (Online) Arms Fairs

Arms fairs are increasingly moving online. But how can one resist an electronic event? Campaigners from across the UK joined Kirsten Bayes, CAAT's Local Outreach Coordinator in June for our new "Disrupting (Online) Arms Fairs" workshop. Drawing on good practice from around the world, the workshop helps attendees make plans to stop arms fair organisers and attendees. We will be running it again later in the year; you might also like to keep an eye on CAAT's YouTube page for a bite-size taster version.

International Work

May was a busy month for community building locally and internationally. We caught up with comrades in Columbia, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, East Jerusalem, and Germany to reflect on the arms expo situation on the ground where we are. Conversations were illuminating and it was great to begin to work out how we can act in solidarity with each other across borders. Live on the call, our comrades in Australia were busy disrupting the Landforces weapons expo. Their resistance was successful and included a tank blockade action disrupting the bump in at Brisbane Convention Centre – a day before their planned Festival of Resistance's planned launch.



Photo: Rainbow Collective | Source: Flickr

DSEI Update and launching the STAFs Fund

Last autumn, we conducted a series of roundtable consultations to find out from our supporters and activists what role they'd like to see CAAT play in future resistance to arms fairs and within the Stop the Arms Fair Network. Taking on board feedback from those who engaged with the process, as well as internal reflections here at CAAT, it's clear the best way for us to continue supporting our campaigners is by focusing on capacity building.

In December 2020, we announced some major changes to the way we approach DSEI, as we move away from leading the organising of the well-known Week of Action. We'll move towards a more capacity-building focus and a more robust training programme for our campaigners, as well as providing small pots of funding through the Stop the Arms Fairs Fund (STAFs Fund) to support those who wish to take action against arms fairs.

Applications for STAFs funding will be open towards the end of July. More information will be on our website: caat.org.uk

Pots available will range from £150 to £500 depending on groups' needs.

Other DSEI Plans:

- We will hold a digital edition of our Conference at the Gates event focused on the relationship between Universities, Education and the arms trade – the event will take place on Saturday 11th September from 1pm. More details to come.
- Art the Arms Fair will be back this September in partnership with CAAT and Art Represent. We hope to hold an in-person exhibition (with digital offerings also). More details to come.

LOCAL GROUPS

No Show at the Showground

Melanie and Andrew Jameson of Malvern Individuals for Peace and 3C CAAT discuss the postponement of yet another arms trade event

At the last minute, the Three Counties "Defence and Security" Expo 2021 [3CDSE] at the famous Malvern Showground has been postponed – again.

Could it be because the event has failed to take off as expected? The Showground itself is buzzing with events: The Midsummer Festival, DogTastic, TruckFest, to name a few, so is clearly well-gearred up to deal with Covid regulations.

So what went wrong?

Observations from an attendee at 3CDSE 2018 concluded that the event was under-subscribed.

He found that lecture venues were half empty, with refreshments unclaimed. Participants were lured by the promise of meeting "2000 decision makers", so one would have expected at least that many attendees to take up this exciting opportunity.

However, those of us protesting at the exit in 2018 and 2019 can verify that the numbers of cars leaving the site (allowing for shared rides) were well below this figure.

The evidence we have witnessed and collected, suggests that those wishing to connect local businesses to the big players in defence and security have been over-optimistic in thinking that they could fill this iconic venue when they moved from Hereford city centre after 2017.

We cannot discount the effect of the new Three Counties Campaign Against Arms Trade (3CCAAT) group. We have certainly made our presence felt this year, by communicating with trustees, exhibitors and other users of the showground to ensure that no-one was left in any doubt of local disapproval.

Around 900 people have signed a petition to oppose the event, including bishops and representatives of charities.

3CCAAT has formed coalitions with national organisations including the Peace Pledge Union, Trident Ploughshare and XR, linking with local protesters from the Hereford Peace Council and Malvern Individuals for Peace.

In these times of climate emergency and huge social need, we shall continue to oppose these so-called "Defence and Security" events wherever they occur.

Editor's note: the 3CDSE, or Malvern Arms Fair, is scheduled to take place in November in Malvern, Worcestershire. If you would like to join the resistance to this arms fair, contact Kirsten at outreach@caat.org.uk

CAAT IN PARLIAMENT

With parliamentary recess approaching, it has been a busy time for CAAT in Westminster.

CAAT was delighted to host four esteemed speakers on a webinar “Made in the UK, bombed in Yemen: Holding Arms Suppliers Accountable”, which took place on 28th June. Speakers included Emily Thornberry MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, Ali Jameel, Researcher of Mwatana for Human Rights, Dr Sam Perlo-Freeman, Research Coordinator at Campaign Against Arms Trade, and Omar Ferwati, Researcher at Forensic Architecture. The event asked why six years into the world’s worst humanitarian disaster there has been no accountability for breaches of domestic and international law in Yemen, and arms exports to the Saudi-led Coalition continue unabated.

Speaking at the event, Emily Thornberry MP said “(Liz

Truss, the Secretary of State for International Trade) told me the conclusions of her department’s investigations and analysis were sufficiently robust to set aside the ruling of the Court of Appeal and yet, to this day she refuses to publish those investigations or the department’s analysis. She refuses to say which incidents it examined or which were deemed to be the isolated examples where international law was breached. She refuses even to say how many such incidents there were.”

Stop UK arms sales to Israel

Following the bombardment of the Gaza Strip in May, 59 MPs from across eight parties have signed an Early Day Motion (EDM 138) that calls for an investigation to determine whether UK-made arms and components have been used

in the recent violence and if they are implicated in war crimes. It calls for a suspension of UK arms sales to Israel until it can be demonstrated, subject to parliamentary scrutiny, that weapons and components imported from the UK are used solely in accordance with the consolidated criteria on arms exports.

59 MPs have signed an Early Day Motion that calls for an investigation to determine whether UK-made arms and components have been used in the recent bombardment of the Gaza Strip

We have worked with our allies in War on Want and Palestine Solidarity Campaign to push the EDM and to call for an investigation into the use of UK-made arms in the bombing campaign.

Photo: Maurice | Source: Flickr



NEW CAAT RESEARCH: THE UK'S HIDDEN ARMS SALES

The UK government claims it has one of the world's most "rigorous and robust" arms export control regimes. So you might think it would be possible to find out the total value of the UK arms trade, or to know the value of arms sold by the UK around the world each year. But you'd be wrong.

How does UK arms export licensing work?

The most common type of license in the UK, a Single Individual Export Licence (SIEL) permits a company to export a fixed quantity of equipment to one country for two years. However, we also have the secretive (and unironically named) "Open Licence" system: An Open Individual Export Licence (OIEL) allows the export of **unlimited** amounts of specified equipment to either one or multiple countries for five years; while an Open General Export Licence (OGEL) grants prior approval, for companies that register and fulfill certain conditions, to export an unlimited amount of wide categories of equipment, often to a long list

of countries. OGELs are valid **indefinitely**. To be clear – **Open Licenses contain no information on the quantity or financial value of equipment exported.**

New research by CAAT launched this month reveals that, in fact, the majority of arms exports licensed by the UK government are likely supplied via these secretive Open Licences. That means official figures on UK arms exports only tell part of the story, and attempts to scrutinise arms sales effectively are doomed to fail.

New research by CAAT reveals that the majority of arms exports licensed by the UK government are likely supplied via these secretive Open Licences

Since the bombing of Yemen began in March 2015, the UK has approved SIELs worth £6.8 billion for sales to the Saudi regime, including licenses for aircraft, bombs and missiles. However, company records show that BAE Systems alone sold more than £15 billion worth of arms and

services to Saudi Arabia during that time. CAAT estimates that total UK arms exports to Saudi Arabia over that period are well over £20 billion.

As long as the widespread use of Open Licences continues, the true nature and volume of the UK arms trade will remain hidden from scrutiny.

CAAT is calling for:

- A clear and transparent reporting of the true value of all arms exports across all types of licences, single and open.
- An end to the use of open licences for military equipment.
- As we work to end the open license system, these licenses should, as a minimum, not be issued for the export of military equipment to countries involved in armed conflict or with poor human rights records.
- In the event that conflict or human rights abuses arise, Open licenses should be suspended or revoked alongside single or new licenses.

CAAT's new report is available at caat.org.uk/hiddenarmssales

Tear gas to Oman

In June an investigation by CAAT and Declassified found that UK-made tear gas was being used against protesters in Oman. This followed weeks of peaceful protests across Oman that were calling for social and economic reform.

The UK has licensed over £16 million worth of tear gas to Oman since 2015 and has also provided police and military training to Omani forces. By analysing photos that were taken and shared by Omani activists, our team was

able to determine that UK-made tear gas canisters were among those used by Omani forces.

Oman is already one of the world's largest buyers of UK arms, with over £1.6 billion worth of arms licensed since 2015, including fighter jets, small arms and tank components.

Unfortunately it is a relationship that is likely to get even closer. In 2020 the UK announced that it was spending £23.8 million to triple the size of a major naval base in Oman.



UNIVERSITIES AND THE ARMS TRADE

Campuses may have been closed over the last year, but that didn't stop us organising against the arms trade.

In March, we had over 40 students attend a panel on demilitarising education with some fantastic leaders from the student movement, as part of the It Starts Here digital conference.

Over May, students came out in their thousands for Palestine, taking to the streets to protest for Sheikh Jarrah, and demanding their universities end their complicity with Israeli apartheid. The CAAT unis Network was a proud supporter of the student-led solidarity protest with Colombia and Palestine, and we were proud to support the Palestine Solidarity Campaign's Student Protest for Palestine, which took place in London on 9th July.

But the best is yet to come – with campuses opening up again and Freshers 2021 looming, I'm super excited to be relaunching the Universities Network to be the best and biggest it's ever been!

This September will see the Defence and Security Equipment International arms fair coming to London, and I'm pleased to confirm that our student-centred

Conference at the Gates event will be returning for 2021. It'll be on 11th September and will be completely online, so save the date!

With campuses opening up again and Freshers 2021 looming, I'm super excited to be relaunching the Universities Network to be the best and biggest it's ever been!

We'll be releasing more details soon, but make sure you're following the CAAT Universities Network on our socials to keep updated.

I'd love for as many of you as possible to be involved with Conference at the Gates and to meet you during Freshers, so if you're interested in organising with us, send me an email at malak@caat.org.uk



Photo: Alisdare Hickson | Source: Flickr

The Scottish Government and the arms trade



Photo: Julien Harnais | Source: Flickr

In June, an investigation by CAAT and the Sunday Mail found that the Scottish Government is still providing funding and support for arms companies, including many that have profited from the brutal bombardment of Yemen.

In the last financial year the Scottish Government's business promotion unit, Scottish Enterprise, gave £700,000 worth of funding to arms companies. The biggest beneficiary was Leonardo, which accounted for £500,000 worth of grants. It is one of the biggest arms companies in the world and a partner in the Eurofighter consortium which produces the Typhoon jets being used by Saudi forces in Yemen.

With a new minority SNP government taking office, we need to ensure that we keep up the pressure and call for Scotland to lead the way by ending support for war profiteers.



A LEGACY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

The arms trade continues to cause immense suffering across the world but in choosing to leave CAAT a legacy in your will, however big or small, you will be helping to ensure that our work doesn't stop and we can continue to strive to end the arms trade for good.

CAAT's campaigning and legal

In choosing to leave CAAT a legacy in your will, however big or small, you will be helping to ensure that our work doesn't stop and we can continue to strive to end the arms trade for good

cases have been pivotal in our work and are funded by generous supporters such as yourself. Because of you, we have been able to:

- halt the Government's sales of weapons to Saudi Arabia for us bombing Yemen
- force arms fairs from our cities
- hold the UK government accountable for it's support of the arms trade and the role it plays in perpetuating abuses of human rights

Leaving a gift in your will to the causes that you hold dear permits

peace of mind, knowing that your family aren't faced with having to consider who you would have chosen to support. Nor are they burdened with legal fees or Inheritance Tax.

You are able to ensure that YOU have final say – and not the government nor your friends and family – in how your money is spent, in honouring your life and the causes you believe in.

To find out more, visit caat.org.uk/donate/legacies-the-hope-for-a-better-world/ or contact legacies@caat.org.uk

THEY SAID IT

"Guns no roses for stock investors"

Headline in the Financial Times for an article about arms company investment. FT.com, 07/05/2021

"We hope for peace, we pray for peace, we work for peace"

General Dynamics CEO, Phebe Novakovic, when confronted by a protester at a shareholder meeting. Common Dreams, 06/05/2021

"There are some people who think you have to hate them in order to shoot them. I don't think you do. It's just business"

Former US Defence Secretary, James Matthis (pictured), quoted on Military.com



Photo: U.S. Embassy Kyiv Ukraine | Source: Flickr

DONATE TODAY!

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 updates about the campaign and urgent action opportunities by email: Yes No

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A direct debit is the most convenient and cost effective way to support CAAT.

A donation of £10 a month makes a real difference and helps us plan our future work.

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