

# CAAT NEWS

The quarterly magazine for Campaign Against Arms Trade

Issue 262

Winter 2022



## SEVEN YEARS OF WAR IN YEMEN SEVEN YEARS OF UK COMPLICITY

### PLUS

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New arms sales rules **P11**



**CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST  
ARMS  
TRADE**

We have had a bit of a gap since the last CAAT News. But with 2022 underway we are glad to be back. A few things are changing at CAAT, as we explain on page 3, and your support is very much appreciated. We are excited about our plans, and we hope that you will be too.

Unfortunately there has been no change in the arms industry. The last few months have seen the DSEI arms fair returning to London and an intensification of the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen. Thank you for everything you are doing to try and end it for good.

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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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# CAAT IN 2022

Dear friends,

Firstly, thank you! The past two years of living through a global pandemic have created challenges for all of us, including how we campaign, work, and share our lives with family and friends. Your consistent support through uncertain times is so greatly appreciated. CAAT would not exist without its supporters.

At a time when we are faced with great personal, national and global challenges, it is imperative that we are able to focus on the devastating impact of the arms trade and that we can continue to call for justice and accountability for those affected by it. We are truly grateful for the passion and integrity of CAAT supporters.

While we have continued passionately campaigning against the arms trade – including highlighting the UK's role in fueling the conflict in Yemen following our Nobel Peace Prize nomination, the ongoing court case against the Government, and working with grassroots activists and campaigners across the UK – CAAT has also been greatly affected by the pandemic.

The challenges that have arisen have exposed a real need to improve how we work, in terms of how we support staff and volunteers;

stay in touch with supporters and campaigners; and organise. As a result of these reflections, over the past couple of months, we have been carrying out a root and branch review of how CAAT operates. During this period we have reduced our activity to reflect our lower capacity. We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of transition.

Our strategic planning process has identified four ambitious organisational goals. These will guide our campaigning over the next couple of years (see right).

Of course, our campaigns to end arms sales to Saudi Arabia, Israel and other abusive regimes are an important part of this work.

We are focused on ensuring that CAAT is an impactful, empowering and sustainable campaigning organisation, and that we continue to grow and develop in line with our aims and values. We are looking forward to seeing the positive effect this period of reflection will have on our campaigning in 2022 and beyond!



**CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST  
ARMS  
TRADE**

## Goal 1:

### **Disable, divest, and erode arms subsidies**

This largely grassroots-focused goal seeks to erode institutional, business, and public support for arms companies.

## Goal 2:

### **Build for the future**

Bringing an end to the arms industry's influence on education systems across the UK.

## Goal 3:

### **End militarisation of police and borders**

CAAT will focus on tackling the structures that allow the militarisation of police and borders. This includes the outcomes, such as the refugee crisis and racism, which intersect with the arms trade.

## Goal 4:

### **Transform decision-making structures and policy outcomes**

Challenging the systems and policies relating to UK arms exports and the militaristic approach to UK foreign and security policy. In particular seeking to end arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

# ARMS TRADE SHORTS

## Russia

Photo: Paul Kagame | Source: Flickr



Russia's state arms export agency, Rosoboronexport, announced that it has signed \$1.5 billion worth of arms sales to African states in 2020.

These are the most recent figures available and follow increased arms sales over recent years. **National Interest, 28/12/2021**

## Germany

Photo: Bündnis 90/Die Grünen Nordrhein-Westfalen | Source: Flickr



Germany's new Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock of the Green Party, part of the new coalition government with the Social Democrats and the neoliberal Free Democrats, promised a new law on arms exports to tighten controls. **DW 26/12/2021**

However, just before the new government took office, the outgoing government of Chancellor Angela Merkel approved around €5 billion worth of arms sales, including the sale of three warships and 16 air defence systems to Egypt. 2021 saw German arms exports reaching a record high. **New Arab, 18/01/2022**

## US arms sales

Government figures show that the value of US arms exports fell by 21% in 2021 to \$138.2 billion. However, the US government is still by far the world largest arms dealer. **Reuters, 22/12/2021**

The US and Israel have agreed a military aircraft deal worth \$3 billion, with the Israeli military buying 12 Lockheed Martin-Sikorsky helicopters and two Boeing refuelling planes. **DW, 31/12/2021**

## Corruption

Transparency International has published its Government Defence Integrity Index, which measures corruption risks in the military sector across 86 countries. 62% of countries it focused on had a High to Critical risk. This included many top UK arms customers, including Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar which were rated as "Critical" risk, while UAE and Turkey were listed as "Very High." **Transparency International, Dec 2021**

## UAE



Photo: Thomas Arnoux | Source: Flickr

The United Arab Emirates has agreed a \$19 billion deal with France to buy 80 new Rafale fighter jets. The deal came as French President Emmanuel Macron began a two-day trip to the Gulf.

**Al Jazeera, 03/12/2021**

However, the UAE also suspended talks on a \$23 billion fighter jet deal with the US. The deal, which also included armed drone technology, is thought to have faltered due to US insistence on restrictions on how and where the F-35s could be used.

**Defense News, 14/12/2021**



## Belgium

A coalition of NGOs and campaigners has challenged the legality of arms sales to Turkey by the Flemish government. The campaigners alleged that the arms sales have violated international arms embargoes. A verdict is expected in the months ahead.

**The Brussels Times, 22/12/2021**

The EU's High Representative for External Affairs, Josep Borrell, has presented a new draft "Strategic Compass" to member states' Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs. The strategy includes measures that campaigners believe will further the militarisation of the EU, including the creation of a joint military intervention force.

**ENAAT Bulletin, 21/11/2021**

## Israel

3 activists were found not guilty of criminal damage after protests at an arms factory in the UK. The factory is owned by UAV Engines,

a subsidiary of Elbit Systems, which is one of Israel's biggest arms companies.

**Electronic Intifada, 08/12/2021**



## Arms industry thrives during pandemic

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) published its list of the Top 100 arms companies worldwide in 2020, by military sales, in December.

The figures showed that, despite the pandemic, the

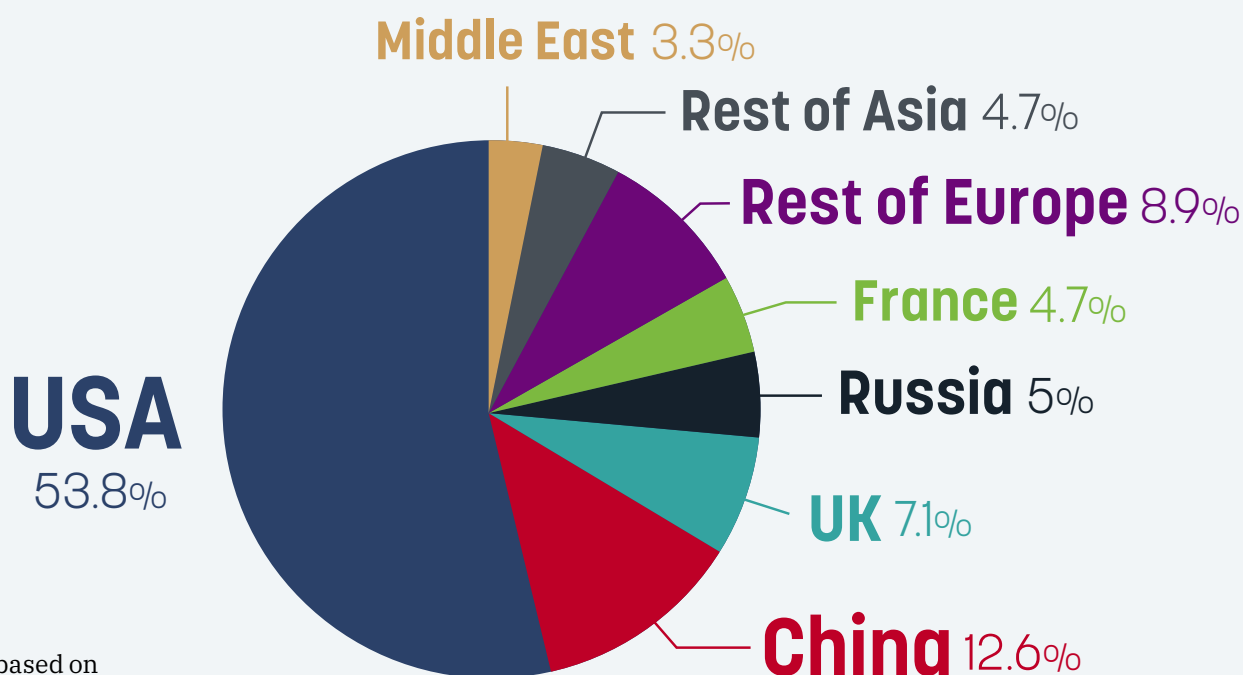
arms industry thrived in 2020, with total arms sales by the top 100 amounting to \$531 billion, an increase of 1.3% in real terms since 2019, and 15% since 2015.

US-based companies accounted for 54% of the top 100 arms sales, while Chinese companies,

included in the top 100 for the first time, accounted for 13%. UK-based companies made arms sales of \$37.5 billion, 7.1% of the total, and up by 6.2% in real terms over 2019.

The figures include both domestic sales and arms exports.

### Share of SIPRI Top 100 arms sales by country/region



[Figures based on company headquarters]





Photo: InsectWorld | Source: Shutterstock

# SEVEN YEARS OF UK COMPLICITY IN THE BOMBING OF YEMEN



Photo: Alisdare Hickson | Source: Flickr



Photo: Felton Davis | Source: Flickr

## This March will make it seven years since Saudi-led forces began a brutal bombing campaign in Yemen.

This has meant seven years of destruction and devastation for the people of Yemen. It has meant the bombing of schools, hospitals and homes. It has meant attacks on weddings and funerals, with even a school trip turning into a massacre when Saudi forces bombed a school bus in 2018. We must not let them be forgotten.

The UK government has been utterly complicit in this crisis. UK-made fighter jets, bombs and missiles have played a central role in attacks by the Saudi-led coalition, which have destroyed infrastructure across Yemen.

The attacks on Yemen have been made possible by weapons supplied by the UK and other arms dealing governments. They have been sustained by the deep well of military support from London and Washington.

The attacks are estimated to have killed thousands of civilians, with many more dying as a result of the brutal humanitarian crisis, which aid agencies say is the worst in the world. Last November the UN reported that 377,000 people had died as a result of the conflict. Every one of them was a real person with a real life and feelings. Every one of them had people they cared about and people who will be mourning them.

Unfortunately, the escalating death toll and overwhelming evidence of repeated breaches of international humanitarian law have done little to curb the arms dealers. To them it represents a business opportunity.

Since the bombing of Yemen began in March 2015, the value of UK arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition has amounted to more than £20 billion. A political solution is the only viable means of bringing this horrific conflict to an end, but arms sales only make that prospect even more remote.

In October 2021 the UN Human Rights Council failed to renew the

Mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen. This followed intense lobbying of Council Members by the Saudi regime. This was the only international, impartial and independent mechanism to examine human rights abuses and other atrocities being committed in Yemen, by all sides to the conflict.

It was a devastating development in the struggle for accountability for the crimes that have been committed throughout this terrible war.

The Yemen Data Project has reported a surge in air raids and civilian casualties since the Group of Experts was dissolved. At least 32 civilians were killed and 62 injured in December – the highest number of recorded civilian deaths and injuries in a single month since August 2019.

**The UN has reported that**  
**377,000**  
**people**  
**have died as a result of the conflict**

This trend has continued in 2022. At the time of writing, in January 2022, at least 80 people were killed by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes when a US-made missile was used to strike a detention centre in Sa'adah, north-western Yemen. The escalation followed a Houthi drone attack killed three people in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia's coalition partner.

CAAT supporters and many others have been campaigning for an end to UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia for many years.

Following CAAT's judicial review in 2019, the Court of Appeal found that the Government's decision to

continue licensing military equipment to Saudi Arabia was unlawful. However the Government resumed arms sales after arguing that the air strikes on civilian targets were supposedly "isolated incidents" rather than reflecting a pattern.

*The Government's decision to renew the sales is irrational and unconscionable, and we challenged it right away. We expect the case to be heard in the High Court in June 2022.*

The Government's decision to renew the sales is irrational and unconscionable, and we challenged it right away. We were pleased to have been granted permission to challenge the decision to resume sales, and we expect the case to be heard in the High Court in June 2022.

We couldn't have done it without you. CAAT's supporters are the backbone of our movement. Every action you take helps build the pressure and momentum towards accountability and justice for Yemen.

As we approach the seventh anniversary on 26th March, you may want to take part in our latest action on our website.

Two years ago a coalition of organisations called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague to investigate European governments and arms company officials for potentially aiding and abetting war crimes in Yemen.

**You can write to the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) – British lawyer Karim Khan – calling on him to do everything in his power to secure accountability for the people of Yemen. Visit [caat.org.uk](https://caat.org.uk) for more details.**





# THE UNWELCOME RETURN OF DSEI





## The DSEI arms fair returned to the Docklands in September.

East London, a place where many people fleeing conflict have made their homes, once again saw the arrival of military helicopters, warships, drones and high fences intended to protect the arms dealers.

DSEI is one of the world's largest arms fairs, but Covid fears had diminished the number of attendees. Nevertheless, the fair still saw over 1000 companies exhibiting and official delegations from nearly 50 countries, including countries on the UK government's own "human rights priority" list. This is a list compiled by the Foreign & Commonwealth office and includes a range of countries where the UK has a "particular concern" about the state of human rights and democracy. It includes Egypt, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, all of which were represented at DSEI.

Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, was pictured giving Saudi officials a guided tour of the fair, highlighting the deep involvement of the UK Government in arms sales to the regime, which has been leading a coalition fighting the war in Yemen for almost seven years.

Campaigners responded with a week of resistance in the run up to the fair. There were different themes for every day, with protests covering borders and migration, solidarity with Afghanistan and Palestine and demilitarising education, before culminating in the Stop the Arms Fair day of action on the fair's first day.

Activists blocked roads, marched, held vigils, hopped over the fence, climbed buildings to drop banners, made their voices heard, and reached out to passers-by. As in previous years the protest was supported by music from bands like the Inner Terrestrials and educational workshops intended to make connections and build resistance.

In addition to ground resistance, our student-focussed Conference



Photo: Alisdare Hickson | Source: Flickr

at the Gates also took place online. This featured student activists, scientists, healthcare workers, and keynote speakers Myriam Kane and Lowkey. We discussed and dissected the role of the arms trade in science and healthcare education, and how this intersects with migrant and disability rights. There were also workshops for activists, to develop their practical campaigning skills.

*Activists blocked roads, marched, held vigils, hopped over the fence, climbed buildings to drop banners, made their voices heard, and reached out to passers-by.*

On the first day of the fair, the queue for entry stretched past the main site of the protest. Delegates were treated to a "blood soaked" blockade of the entrance, while campaigners [including CND's Kate Hudson, designer Vivienne Westwood, and many others] patiently explained to them why the arms fair was not wanted in London or anywhere. This was a message even the Mayor of London supported, and the protest was shown as the lead item on the BBC London evening news.

Campaigners continued to take action during the week of the fair

itself, bringing attention to the role of the arms trade in perpetuating conflict, in Palestine, Yemen, Afghanistan and around the world.

Supported by CAAT, Art the Arms Fair staged a boutique art exhibition in central London, aimed at attracting the eyes of passers-by, as well as creating a beautiful video, "A Portrait of Resistance." This showed images of Yemen and portraits of those campaigning so hard for it, created by photographer Cindy Sasha, and set to the captivating words of poet Amina Atiq.

CAAT's kind donors helped to create a "Stop the Arms Fairs" fund, to support individuals and groups taking action against DSEI and other arms fairs. This covered the cost of things like travel, leaflets, welfare and toilet facilities, so as many people as possible could say no to DSEI. And for every person who was protesting, there were many others providing childcare, accommodation, food, first aid, police station support, transport.

Such a broad base of strong, organised resistance bodes well for future years: it is high time DSEI and the other arms fairs around the country were brought to an ignominious end. Stop the Arms Fair!



# NEIGHBOURS FROM HELL: ARMS FAIRS AROUND THE COUNTRY

The turning of the seasons should in theory bring joy, as the year moves from spring through autumn, to celebrations at the end of the year. Unfortunately, because of postponements, the closing months of 2021 saw the unwelcome creation of the worst season ever: arms fair season!

As well as DSEI [see P8–9], arms fairs in Liverpool, Malvern and Farnborough made a very unwelcome return. But local campaigners were there to meet the challenge.

In Liverpool, AOC 2021, which focuses on electronic warfare, was scheduled for the council-owned ACC conference centre, despite previous promises from the city's then mayor that this would not happen. "Electronic warfare" sounds innocuous, but it is how drones and missiles are targeted on the modern battlefield, and is a key part of how blockades are maintained, both in Palestine and Yemen.

A march and rally organised by Liverpool Against the Arms Fair took place one month before the fair, which was supported by thousands of local people. On the day of the fair itself there were further protests and determined direct action. There have been furious debates in the Liverpool Council chamber over the fair, and pressure is still on for arms fairs to be banned from the city in future.

The 3CDSE arms fair in Malvern was also greeted by a blockade and boisterous protests, the latter



*There have been furious debates in the Liverpool Council chamber over AOC 2021, and pressure is still on for arms fairs to be banned from the city in future*

organised by Three Counties CAAT and Malvern Individuals for Peace, who had coordinated a letter writing and leafleting campaign during the year. They were saying that Malvern Showground, which is normally used for agricultural displays, should be kept for that purpose, that they are "farmers not fighters". 3CDSE remains a continuing concern in the area which includes major companies

like Qinetiq and Moog.

DPRTE, the arms fair which was chased out of Bristol, then Cardiff, then Birmingham was held next door to BAE Systems HQ in Farnborough. Campaigners from Greater Rushmoor Against War supported by the PPU and CAAT greeted delegates at the rail station as they arrived, explaining why they should not attend the fair and instead should head home, as well as protesting noisily at the entrance and exits to the fair. This year's arms fair was attended by representatives from the Australian and US governments as well as the UK's submarine delivery agency. It is hard not to make the connection between the secretive sessions in Farnborough and the nuclear proliferating AUKUS submarine deal signed just before the fair.

Protesting arms fairs during the pandemic has been and remains a challenge, with the continuing worry of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts bill looming ever closer. But it is clear that campaigners will continue to find new and creative ways to say that arms fairs are not welcome in their areas, or anywhere else.







# CHANGING THE RULES FOR ARMS SALES

In December, the Government announced a revised set of criteria for export licensing.

These are the rules governing decisions on whether or not to allow an arms export. The criteria relate to issues such as arms embargoes, human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL), conflict, regional security, terrorism, risk of diversion, and economic development.

The Government claims that the UK has a “rigorous and robust” export control system, but in fact the rules are interpreted in a way that offers huge flexibility to the Government to export arms for use in conflict, and to highly repressive regimes.

The previous criteria were based on the EU Common Position on arms exports; post-Brexit, the Government has decided to diverge from these. The basic headings of the eight criteria are the same, but there are some potentially significant changes in wording, minor and major.

Some of the changes are actually positive – there is more mention of the risk of arms being used to commit gender-based violence for example, as a factor to be considered. Others are

negative, for example allowing the Government more room to weigh up different factors in assessing the risk of exported arms being used in conflict, potentially allowing them room to conclude that, on balance, the recipient’s role in a conflict is positive for peace and security.

*The Government claims that the UK has a “rigorous and robust” export control system, but the rules are interpreted in a way that offers huge flexibility to the Government to export arms for use in conflict, and to highly repressive regimes.*

There is one change of wording that occurs in several places that could be particularly worrying. An example is criterion 2c), on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), on which CAAT’s ongoing legal case against arms sales to Saudi Arabia is based.

The old version stated that the Government will “not grant a licence if there is a clear risk that the items might be used in the commission of a serious violation

of IHL.” The new version reads that the Government will “...not grant a licence *if it determines* there is a clear risk that the items might be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of IHL.” (emphasis added).

This may be an attempt to preclude future judicial reviews. Does this shift the basis for decisions from the objective existence of a clear risk, to the Government’s subjective “determination” of risk, making it harder, or impossible, to challenge? Or would courts still require that the Government be able to rationally defend its determinations? We are seeking advice on this.

What is certainly true is that the Government’s objective in issuing new rules is not to establish stronger controls over the arms trade; its priority has always been to support UK arms companies in exporting wherever possible. Even if some of the criteria seem to have been strengthened, we know they will always look for any way of interpreting the rules to the advantage of the arms trade.

# CAAT UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

After 18 months of the pandemic, the student movement has returned from its period of hibernation.

We started the new academic year resisting the DSEI arms fair, with our student focussed event, Conference at the Gates, taking place online for the first time.

Students across the UK, joined us with scientists and healthcare professionals to discuss the legacy of colonialism and militarism in STEM education. You can catch the discussion on our YouTube channel:

[youtube.com/CAATorgukwww](https://youtube.com/CAATorgukwww)

We have some exciting plans for the Universities Network over the coming year. As student groups revive campaigning on their campuses, we are hoping to establish regional CAATunis groups – this will make it much easier for students to get involved with campaigning, and help build community with other activists.

Nationally, we have been working closely with our partner organisations, like Demilitarise Education and the National Union of Students, to organise a formal Higher Education divestment

coalition against the arms trade. The student movement against the arms trade is getting more organised in 2022, so if you've been interested in organising with us but haven't reached out before, now's the time to join us!

Finally, CAAT Unis is getting a makeover! Along with a brand new logo and branding, we're planning to become a lot more vocal about

the great work our student activists do, as well as putting out more educational content on the arms trade and how to resist, on our social media. Make sure you're following us so you don't miss it.

You can follow the CAAT Universities Network at [facebook.com/caatuniversitiesnetwork](https://facebook.com/caatuniversitiesnetwork) and [Twitter.com/CAATunis](https://twitter.com/CAATunis)



## CAAT IN SCOTLAND

In November, all eyes were on Glasgow as leaders met for COP26. Unfortunately they took little of the action needed to halt the climate emergency, but civil society came together and left a lasting mark on the city.

Our activists played a key role in highlighting the UK government's role in fuelling the climate crisis. This causes instability around the world and governments then use it to justify more military spending, which, in turn, causes more emissions – a vicious cycle that must end now.

That was the message from the hundreds who came together for an anti-militarism rally in Glasgow. CAAT activists supported it with our friends from World Beyond War, speakers from frontline

communities and academics working on the environmental impact of militarism.

*In the North East of Scotland, the CAAT group held a demonstration in Aberdeen to call for real action on defence diversification and an increase in sustainable, socially useful jobs*

In the North East of Scotland, in Aberdeen, the CAAT group held a demonstration calling for real action on defence diversification

and an increase in sustainable, socially useful jobs from the Scottish government. There were speakers from across the political spectrum and civil society.

CAAT supporters from Scotland and across the UK joined the anti-militarism bloc at a 100,000 strong demonstration in Glasgow, with Code Pink, SCND and World Beyond War. Our links with the climate movement have strengthened and we will continue to call for real action to cut military spending and emissions.



# CAAT IN PARLIAMENT

Government departments responsible for decisions on arms export licenses include the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office; the Ministry of Defence; and the Department for International Trade.

The past couple of months have seen a shake up of ministerial positions in Government, and likewise in the Labour shadow cabinet.

Emily Thornberry MP was succeeded by Nick Thomas-Symonds as Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade. Thornberry's commitment and passion for uncovering the truth about violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen with UK arms exports, made her a formidable advocate in the quest for accountability and justice for Yemen. We wish her the best in her new role as Shadow Attorney General, and thank her for her valued support.

Other notable changes include Liz Truss taking up her new role as Foreign Secretary, leaving behind a legacy in the Department for International Trade that includes resuming arms sales to Saudi Arabia after the Court of



Photo: UK Government | Source: Flickr

Appeal found them “irrational and therefore unlawful”. She will be matched by David Lammy as Shadow Foreign Secretary for the opposition. Liz Truss was replaced by Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

The International Trade Committee currently has a number of consultations open

of interest to CAAT, examining trade and foreign policy and the trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council. CAAT will be addressing the devastating impact of arms sales in particular to repressive regimes, and outlining an alternative ethical foreign policy.

## Afghanistan

After nearly 20 years of war, the last US troops withdrew from Afghanistan on 30 August 2021. As the final withdrawal began in April, the Taliban began its sweep across the country, leading to the rapid crumbling of Afghan security forces. This culminated in the fall of Kabul on August 15.

The speed of the collapse of the Afghan military surprised almost everyone. One of the most important factors behind the collapse was rampant corruption on the part of the Afghan government and military, fuelled by the enormous sums of money

poured into the country by the US and its allies.

This included £83 billion of US military aid, including equipment, training and salaries, supplied with very little oversight, allowing

*The tragic denouement of the war in Afghanistan shows the folly of western military interventionism*

much of it to be syphoned into the pockets of Afghan politicians and warlords. The US was warned of this repeatedly by its own Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction (SIGAR), by NGOs, and by US officers on

the ground, but did nothing.

Now many of the arms they supplied are in the hands of the Taliban. The UK role in supplying the Afghan security forces was far smaller, but even so, the UK has approved £152 million in arms export licences to Afghanistan since 2008, continuing even as the final collapse unfolded.

The tragic denouement of the war in Afghanistan shows the folly both of western military interventionism, and of unrestrained arms supplies with little thought to how they will be used or who they may end up with.



## BORDERS AND POLICING

As the global pandemic continues to hold public attention, two significant pieces of draconian legislation are being pushed through parliament: the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and the Nationalities and Borders Bill.

Both Bills breach international human rights law and give the police and state much more power to target already oppressed minorities and vulnerable groups.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill (PCSC) gives police more power to crack down on protests considered too disruptive or noisy, and allows more severe prison sentences for protesters, despite the Government claiming to promote human rights and democracy around the world.

However, in January 2022, after widespread criticism of its direct attack on democracy, the House of Lords removed some key elements of the bill including proposals to expand stop and search and “protest banning orders”. Some of these may be reinserted by the House of Commons, though others are definitely gone.

Make no mistake, there are still significant parts of the PCSC Bill that restrict freedoms and the right to protest – showing that the Government is feeling the pressure from increased protests including the powerful BLM actions of 2020 and climate justice demonstrations last year, not to mention the anti-arms trade and anti-militarist

protests of which CAAT is a part.

CAAT supports Netpol’s call for a Charter for Freedom of Assembly Rights to govern the policing of protest, based on international human rights standards.

Meanwhile, the Nationalities and Borders Bill (NABB) poses an existential threat to the right of asylum and provides endless opportunities for companies to line their pockets with public funds to further militarise the UK’s borders.

*Companies have made millions from contracts that have led to allegations of mismanagement including human rights abuses that have taken place in UK detention centres*

Private contractors like Thales and Serco will profit from the proposed increase in surveillance and offshore detention or places similar to the Napier Barracks, where conditions are horrendous.

The NAB Bill works to cement narratives of the Hostile Environment including the Home Office’s aim to “bring an end” to Channel crossings by using aerial surveillance and physical pushbacks by the Border Force

on jet skis, something that the Government’s own lawyers have admitted puts lives at risk and breaches international law.

Companies like Serco and G4S have made millions from contracts that have led to allegations of mismanagement including human rights abuses that have taken place in UK detention centres. The inhumane forms of policing required to maintain so-called “control” of the UK’s borders will only increase with the measures in these bills.

This year, CAAT will be expanding our research and campaigning around the increasing militarisation of policing and borders, especially the UK government’s role in exporting equipment and training to reinforce a repressive status quo.

We know that arms companies such as Leonardo and Airbus are profiting twice from the militarisation of police forces and borders: first from selling weapons that fuel conflict and force people from their homes, and then again by building the fences and walls, and by producing the technologies and warships to police borders.





## TAKING ACTION

**Without our supporters there would be no CAAT. There are many ways you can challenge the arms trade. Our voices are louder when we act together.**

Writing to your MP or local councillors, signing a petition, or getting the word out on Facebook or Twitter are great places to start. Take it further by emailing your local paper or radio station.

### Join or Start a Local Group

It's fun and effective to take action with others!

- There may already be a local group near you, in which case, you can find their contact details and get in touch at [caat.org.uk/take-action/take-part-near-you/local-groups-and-contacts/](https://caat.org.uk/take-action/take-part-near-you/local-groups-and-contacts/)
- If not, there might well be people in your area who would want to join a group you organise. **If you would like to get something started, contact [outreach@caat.org.uk](mailto:outreach@caat.org.uk).**

## Work for CAAT

As part of the changes taking place at CAAT (see P3) we will be advertising for new staff positions in the months ahead. Please consider applying for the roles when they become available. Look out for emails in the weeks ahead, or keep an eye on [CAAT.org.uk](https://CAAT.org.uk) for details.



## THEY SAID IT

**"Ethical investors should embrace weapons makers to keep the world safe, says Babcock boss."**

Daily Telegraph headline for interview with Chief Executive of Babcock, a major arms company, 07/12/2021

**"It's an irritant for us, of course it is."**

DSEI spokesperson Major General Roddy Porter commenting on protests outside the arms fair. Middle East Eye, 15/09/2021



**"Let's have a debate. I'm not going to take a moral ground on this. I'm running a company and a business."**

Andy Gent of Revector, which sells spyware around the world. Declassified UK, 30/09/2021



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