

CAAT NEWS

The quarterly magazine for Campaign Against Arms Trade

Issue 263
Summer 2022

NO



WAR

PLUS

Security & Policing arms fair **P7**

Stop arming Saudi **P8-9**

Arms sales to India **P12**



**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
ARMS
TRADE**

Since the last edition of CAAT News we have seen a devastating Russian invasion of Ukraine. The humanitarian toll has been horrific. We have covered the war on P3 and stand in solidarity with people living under fire, and with the peace movements in Russia and Ukraine.

In this issue we have also included an update on the crisis that Saudi forces have inflicted on Yemen, in a war that has been armed and supported by the UK..

As we come out of the pandemic, what is clear is that CAAT's aims and messages are vital. Thank you for your support.

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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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Contents

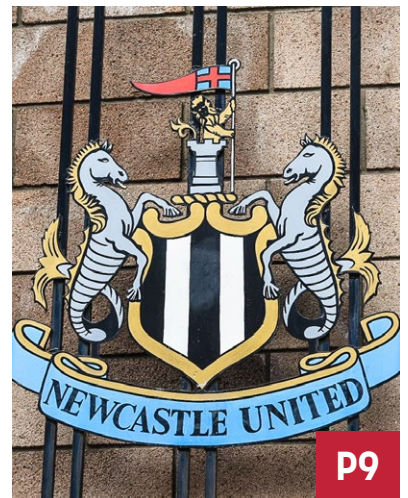
- 3 Ukraine
- 4-5 Arms Trade Shorts
- 6 Local groups | Arms fair browser
- 7 Security & Policing | Keep Scotland Beautiful
- 8-9 Stop arming Saudi | Sportswashing
- 10 Scotland's arms industry
- 11 Arms trade data
- 12 India
- 13 Queens Speech
- 14 Office move | CAAT history
- 15 They said it | Universities network | Taking action

Photo: Number 10 | Source: Flickr



P12

Photo: Cartridge Save A Day in the Life | Source: Flickr



P9

Photo: ukhouseoflords | Source: Flickr



P13

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UKRAINE

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has rapidly become one of the most devastating wars in the world today, killing tens of thousands and displacing millions.

Evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity by Russian forces in areas they have occupied has multiplied, and the blockade of Ukrainian grain exports threatens to worsen hunger and famine in vulnerable parts of the world – including Yemen, the site of another brutal and criminal war (p8).

CAAT unequivocally condemns the Russian war on Ukraine, and expresses solidarity with the Ukrainian people in their resistance. CAAT welcomes the strengthening of embargoes on arms and dual use equipment to Russia by western governments, and supports measures to staunch the flow of plundered oligarchic wealth through western financial centres and real estate.

In the UK, such measures could and should go much further, were it not for our government's addiction to similar corrupt financial flows from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and elsewhere. We call for the UK to fully open its borders to Ukrainian refugees – as the EU has done – and to refugees from war and oppression the world over. We decry the blatant

racism that treats white refugees as more worthy than those from the majority world.

The war in Ukraine creates dilemmas for peace campaigners and opponents of the arms trade, especially on the question of western arms supplies to Ukraine. CAAT most often campaigns on cases where UK arms are going to oppressors and aggressors such as Saudi Arabia. Ukraine is a very rare case where the arms are going to a country defending themselves against aggression.

For some, the fact that arms are designed and used to kill is enough to oppose them. Others may see this as an exceptional case where Ukraine's urgent need for self-defence means such supplies are justified.

There are no easy answers to this. As our statement makes clear, any arms supplies to a conflict can have negative consequences, as arms can remain in circulation long after the conflict ends, and can be diverted to unintended users and purposes. Such risks should be taken seriously by any countries supplying arms to Ukraine.

But on the final question of whether to supply arms or not, we recognise that CAAT supporters may in good faith come to different conclusions. What we are clear on is that we oppose the narrative that the war proves that the west must increase military spending.

The war in Ukraine creates dilemmas for peace campaigners and opponents of the arms trade, especially on the question of western arms supplies to Ukraine

We believe that the quest for military dominance as a source of security, by the US, the UK, Russia, China, and others, lies behind the horrific wars in Ukraine, Yemen, and elsewhere. NATO already outspends Russia on the military by over 13 to 1, and the current war has demonstrated that Russia's military power is not all it was cracked up to be. However this war ends, efforts must follow to build real peace and inclusive, human security.

CAAT's statement on the war in Ukraine is at caat.org.uk/news/statement-on-the-war-in-ukraine

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

Russia



The European Union has closed a loophole that allowed European countries to continue selling military equipment to Russia despite the 2014 embargo on arms sales. Previously, the legislation allowed for the sale of arms relating to “Contracts or agreements concluded before 1 August 2014.” **Investigate Europe, 29/04/2022**

A UN Special rapporteur, Tom Andrews, has criticised China and Russia for allegedly supplying weapons used by Myanmar’s military against civilians. He has also called for the UN Security Council to take action to curb arms sales to the regime. **ABC News, 22/02/2022**

Ukraine



The UK government has committed £1.6 billion worth of military support to Ukraine. This includes anti-battery

radar systems to target Russian artillery, GPS jamming equipment and night vision devices. **Sky News, 08/05/2022**

Iran

According to analysis by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Iran has increased military spending by 11% in the last year. This is the first time that Iran has increased military spending for 4 years and is the first time in 20 years that Iran has ranked among the top 15 military spenders. **Jerusalem Post, 25/04/2022**

Qatar

According to Qatari state figures, it has increased military spending by 434% since 2010. In 2021, Qatari military spending reached \$11.6 billion, making it the fifth largest military budget in the Middle East. **Middle East Monitor, 27/04/2022**

NATO

Finland and Sweden have both announced plans to join the NATO military alliance, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Both applications are likely to be opposed by Turkey, with the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan suggesting he was against the applications. **The Guardian, 13/05/2022**

Nigeria

The US has approved \$1 billion worth of arms to Nigeria, this comes despite the the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee trying to put a block on sales. **Al Jazeera, 15/04/2022**

Poland

The Polish Government has committed to increasing military spending to 3% of GDP, with the increase starting next year. This was announced during a meeting with the US Department of Defence and follows Poland committing to buying 250 M1A2 Abrams tanks from the US. **US Dept of Defence, 20/04/2022**

Military spending

According to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, global military spending reached record levels in 2021. This followed an 0.7% increase in 2021 to \$2.1 trillion.

AI-Monitor, 22/02/2022

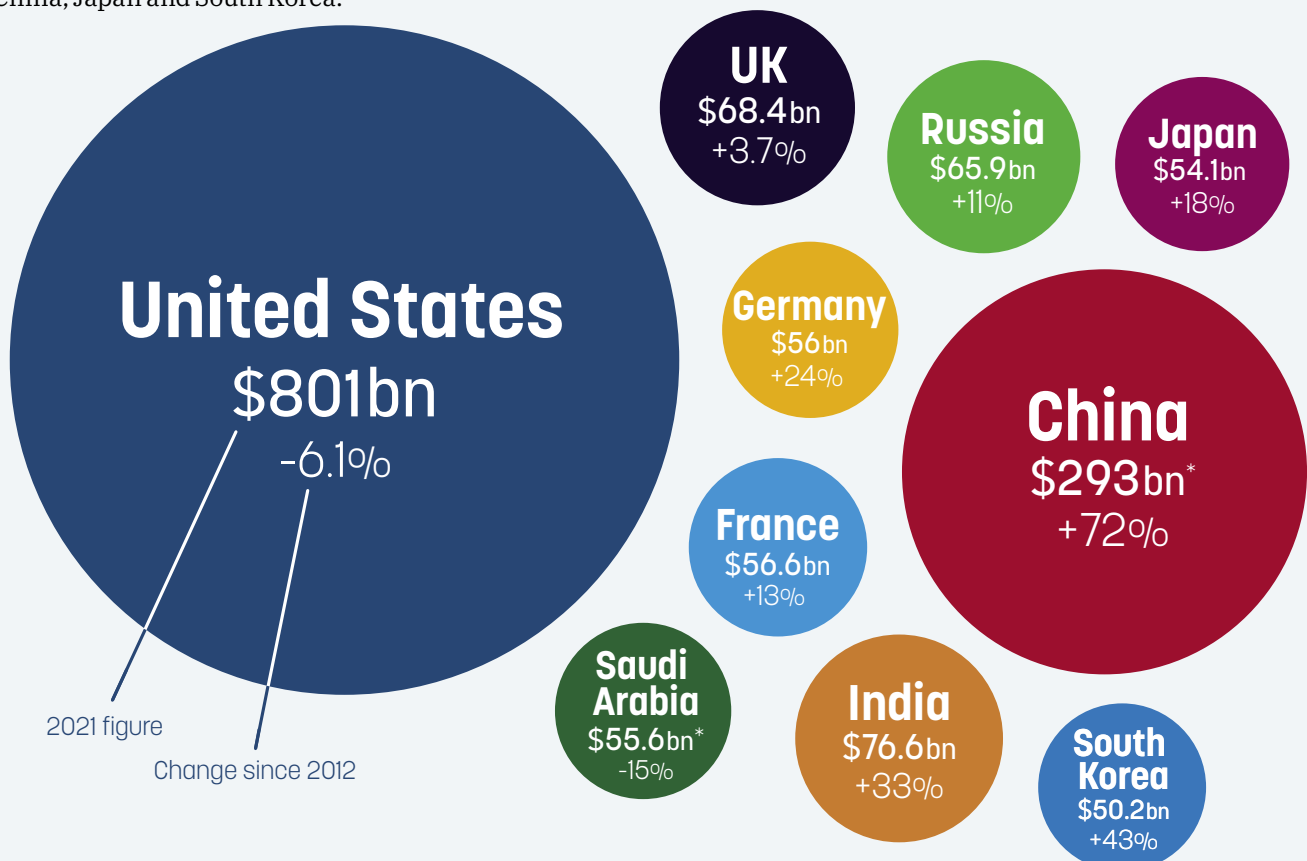
Saudi Arabia

Boris Johnson has visited the regime in Saudi Arabia to discuss its role in global oil supplies and further military cooperation between the UK and Saudi Arabia following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **The Independent, 15/03/2022**



10 countries with the highest military expenditure in 2021

The latest military spending figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute show that global military spending has increased to \$2.1 trillion, this is a 12% increase since 2012. The US continues to dominate military spending, accounting for 38% of total spending. 2021 also saw notable increases in military spending in China, Japan and South Korea.



* = SIPRI estimate. Sources: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, Apr. 2022; International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, Oct. 2021; and International Monetary Fund, International Financial Statistics Database, Sep. 2021.

LOCAL GROUPS

March 26th marked seven years since the Saudi-led coalition started their brutal assault on Yemen. In that time, thousands of Yemeni civilians have been killed by Saudi bombs. The UN estimates that 377,000 war-related deaths had occurred by the end of 2021, including 12,000 civilians in directly targeted attacks.

On March 26th, to mark the anniversary, London CAAT took the message to Downing Street with a vigil in solidarity with the

people of Yemen. Attendees heard from Andrew Feinstein, author of “The Shadow World”, who explained the role the arms trade plays in driving death, repression and corruption around the world, and Kirsten Bayes from CAAT.

They were also joined by the Raised Voices choir, and the event was hosted by Mizan the Poet, whose moving songs and words demonstrated that compassion and solidarity will never be defeated by the arms trade.

On March 26th, to mark the seventh anniversary of the Saudi-led assault on Yemen, London CAAT took the message to Downing Street with a vigil in solidarity with the people of Yemen

Finally, as candles were lit, the names of some who have died in the Yemen conflict were read by Adhiyan from London CAAT in remembrance.



Arms Fair Data Repository

Arms fairs are held all over the world and are where companies exhibit all types of military, security and policing weapons and equipment, from fighter jets to water cannon to assault rifles and ammunition. Whilst we might wish these fairs did not exist, they are a useful source of information on the arms industry. The fairs often publish lists of all the companies exhibiting and information on the weapons they sell.

Working with colleagues from Omega Foundation, we have collated this data on arms fairs and the companies that attend them into one place and made it

available for all to access. The data repository covers more than 60 different arms fairs and contains information on thousands of

different companies.

Find out more details via the CAAT Resources page, caat.org.uk/resources/



Julia from GRAFP sets up a large Stop the Arms Fair banner opposite the delegate entrance



SECURITY & POLICING

The Security & Policing Arms Fair made an unwelcome return to Farnborough on March 15th. Arms company exhibitors, including BAE Systems, Airbus Group (EADS) and Leonardo rubbed shoulders with delegations from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and Turkey, all of whom have appalling human rights records. The public and journalists cannot attend the fair, which is highly secretive.

It was greeted in Farnborough by a vigil from local group Greater Rushmoor Action for Peace

(GRAFP). Through deft negotiation with event security, GRAFP's large banners were clearly visible to the hundreds of delegates arriving and taking refreshments at the fair.

The Security & Policing Arms Fair has been running for 40 years, spreading repression around the world. It is high time it was brought to an end.

The evening saw a large candle-lit vigil and demonstration outside Parliament, co-hosted by the

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Palestine Solidarity Campaign and CAAT. Speakers made the link between the weapons, drones and IT systems sold at the fair with the repression in the West Bank and the hostile environment for refugees.

Protesters who had earlier been telling the Home Office to do more for refugees from Ukraine joined the vigil, as did MP Nadia Whittome.

Keep Scotland Beautiful – Kick Out BAE!

Earlier this year, CAAT began working with the United Yemeni Community in Scotland to shed light on the relationship between one of Scotland's most treasured environmental charities, Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB), and BAE Systems.

Since 2021, BAE Systems has sponsored one of KSB's primary campaigns, "Upstream Battle". This is an attempt to plaster its name on community cleaning projects across the Clyde in Glasgow while simultaneously exporting billions of pounds of weapons to the Saudi-led coalition for use in Yemen.

We cannot allow a primarily Scottish Government-funded

charity like KSB to be used to gloss over the human rights abuses BAE facilitates. This cannot be the legacy of COP26 in Glasgow last year.

It has been reported that the future of this partnership involves BAE Systems being involved in schools and education programmes with KSB.

We can stop this. On our website we have a live action where you

can contact KSB's CEO Barry Fisher and demand he brings a swift end to this sponsorship and that KSB exclude weapons manufacturers as part of their ethical sponsorship policies.

Partner organisations who work with KSB have joined us in calling for an end to this relationship. You can read the open letter on our website too. Find out more at caat.org.uk

THE WAR IN YEMEN – NEW SIGNS OF HOPE?

After over seven years of catastrophic war, Yemen saw its first serious sign of hope in years on 1st April, with the announcement of a two-month truce between the Saudi-led coalition, the official Yemeni government, and the Houthi rebels who control most of the north of the country including the capital Sana'a.

Saudi Arabia also agreed to ease the blockade of fuel going into the Houthi-controlled port of Hodeidah, and allow international flights out of Sana'a Airport for the first time since 2015, while the Houthis agreed to open road access to the city of Taiz, which they have besieged for years. Shortly after the truce announcement, Yemen's President Hadi resigned, handing over power to a Presidential Council composed of members of various factions of the uneasy anti-Houthi coalition. The aim appeared in part to be to create a credible negotiating partner.

The truce faces many obstacles. There are periodic reports of clashes in some areas, including Marib and Taiz. And the Houthis have so far insisted that they will only negotiate with the Saudis, not the Yemeni government which they do not recognise.

However, fighting has been at much lower intensity, fuel vessels have been allowed into Hodeidah, and most promising, the NGO Airwars reported in May that there had been an entire month without Saudi Coalition airstrikes

for the first time since the Saudi entry into the war in March 2015. Diplomatic efforts led by UN special envoy Hans Grundberg continue.

Despite the truce, Yemen's humanitarian situation remains dire. According to the UN, 7.3 million people will face "emergency" levels of hunger by the end of the year, an increase of 1.6 million. At present, 2.2 million children are acutely malnourished. A UN high-level pledging conference for Yemen in March only raised \$1.3 billion from donors, against a minimum target of \$4.3 billion. The war in Ukraine is making things worse, with the blockade of Ukrainian ports preventing wheat exports, sending world prices soaring.

Meanwhile, CAAT still awaits a court date for our second judicial review against arms sales to Saudi Arabia. A planned date in June has unfortunately been "bumped", and no new date has been set, though we expect it will be later in 2022. While, thankfully, the bombs are silent for now, the current truce is extremely fragile, and conflict could easily resume. Stopping

these lethal arms supplies to Saudi Arabia remains essential, as does establishing the principle that the government cannot simply wave aside gross violations of international humanitarian law as "isolated incidents" when considering export licences.

Acute food insecurity

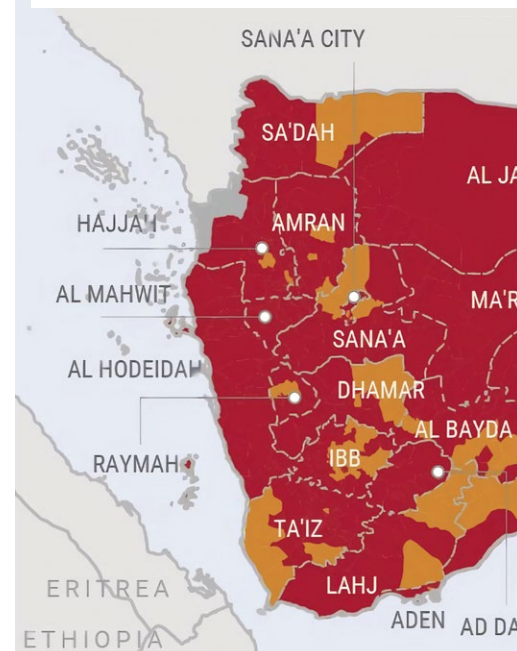
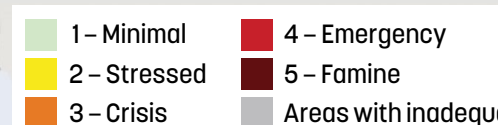




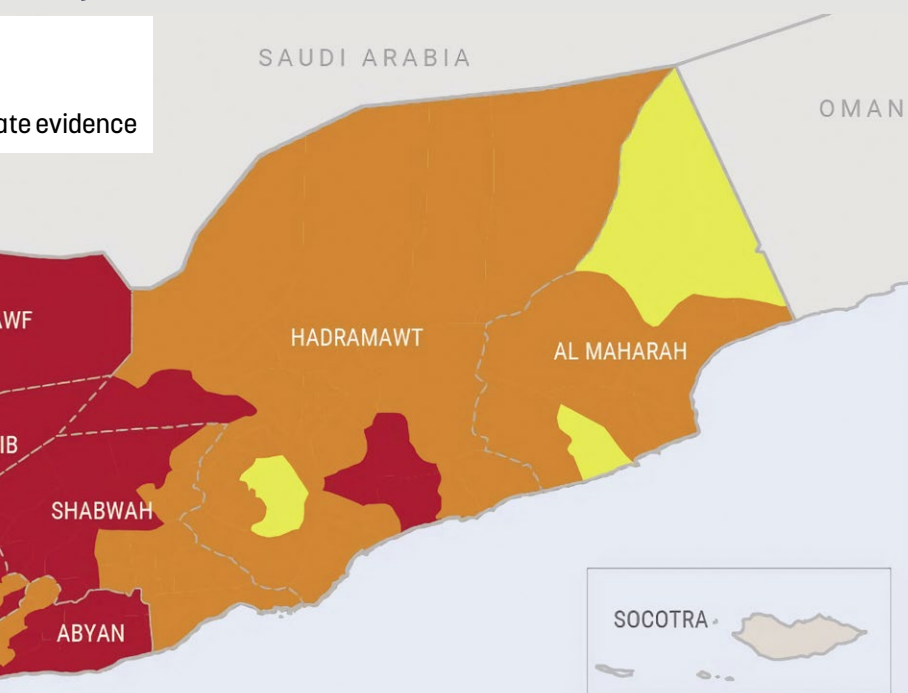
Photo: Number 10 | Source: Flickr

The UK arms industry continues to profit from the war. BAE Systems made £2.6 billion revenue from the Saudi MOD in 2021, mostly from its support and maintenance of the Saudi Air Force. In total, CAAT now estimates that UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia since the start of their war in Yemen amount to over £23 billion.

BAE systems

Revenue from Saudi Arabia 2015-21: **£20.0 billion**
 Less estimated revenue before March 26 2015: **£600 million**
 Plus licences for bombs and missiles, mostly not from BAE: **£4.0 billion**
Total: £23.4 billion

projection for June–Dec 2022



Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Stop Saudi sportswashing

Sportswashing is when unethical regimes and organisations use sporting events to improve their public image. When human rights abusing regimes buy football clubs or host major sporting events, they're not doing so out of any passion for sport, they are doing it to launder their reputations.

An example of this occurred last October when Newcastle United Football Club was bought by a consortium led and funded by the Saudi Royal Family. The club is now owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which is chaired by Mohammed Bin Salman (MBS), the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, who is next in line to head the Saudi regime.

There are widespread allegations that MBS was implicated in the brutal murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Unfortunately the sale could not be stopped on ethical grounds. FIFA, which governs world football does have a "fit and proper persons" test for club ownership, but there are no clauses in it that relate to human rights – a glaring omission.

Similarly, in March 2022, Saudi Arabia hosted the Grand Prix for the first time – yet another example of sportswashing.



Photo: Cartridge Save A Day in the Life | Source: Flickr

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE ARMS INDUSTRY: 2021 FIGURES

CAAT has consistently and extensively highlighted the concealed support for the arms industry that comes from the Scottish government through their grants agency, Scottish Enterprise.

The Scottish government has rightly opposed nuclear weapons in Scotland, and Scottish government ministers have rightly condemned the UK arms industry and sales to human rights abusing regimes like the one in Saudi Arabia. These criticisms are all very welcome, but it still has a lot of work to do.

In 2020, CAAT did a joint investigation with the Sunday Mail which found that, despite assurances that Scottish Enterprise only funds civilian projects, it had also funded the production of military equipment. The revelations were widely condemned by peace campaigners.

Unfortunately, despite campaigning from activists across the country, the latest 2021–2022 figures show that, once again, the financial pipeline from the public purse to arms companies is still flowing.

Over the last year, Scottish Enterprise has given nearly £6.3 million worth of grants to companies linked to the arms industry. This includes Raytheon, one of the world's biggest arms producers. It was handed £600,000 of public money over the same period that its missiles were being used by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

Other arms companies that have had public funding from Scottish Enterprise include Boeing, which received £2.1 million in grants, and French arms giant Thales, which has a base in Glasgow and received £1.1 million.

This is only the tip of the iceberg



Photo: Wendy | Source: Flickr

Over the last year, Scottish Enterprise has given nearly £6.3 million worth of grants to companies that are linked to the arms industry

when it comes to the institutional support being provided by the Scottish government and public bodies in Scotland. The latest research from CAAT highlights the role of Scottish Development International (SDI), a taxpayer-funded joint venture that is supposed to promote investment in Scotland.

SDI has aided the arms industry in multiple ways, including by attending arms fairs, producing promotional booklets that promote and glorify Scottish arms firms and praising weapons such as Raytheon's missiles and

Leonardo's Eurofighter radars.

SDI also helped to facilitate many of the meetings that have taken place between Scottish government ministers and arms-producing companies such as Lockheed Martin, Thales, BAE Systems, Babcock and Boeing, all of which have registered multiple lobbying meetings with Scottish parliamentarians.

Despite claiming to champion human rights around the world, the Scottish government has a long road ahead if it is to end its support for an industry that profits from war and destruction.

Visit caat.org.uk to read more about the dozens of arms companies operating in Scotland, many of which receive government support.

UK ARMS EXPORT LICENCES IN 2021

In April, the Government published information on arms export licences issued in the final quarter of 2021, completing the data for the year.

The data provides information on the types of equipment licenced to be sold to each recipient, the number of licences of different types, and the value of equipment licenced under one type of licence, “Single Individual Export Licences” (SIELs). All data on UK arms export licences can be viewed at caat.org.uk/data/exports-uk

The total value of arms exports approved using SIELs in 2021 was £4.1 billion, down from £4.6bn in 2020, a fall of 12% and the second consecutive fall since 2019. The value of SIELs fluctuates considerably from year to year (see graph). SIELs also probably only cover about half of the value of UK arms exports, with different types of “open” licences, which allow unlimited exports of the stated equipment to the approved destinations, accounting for the rest.

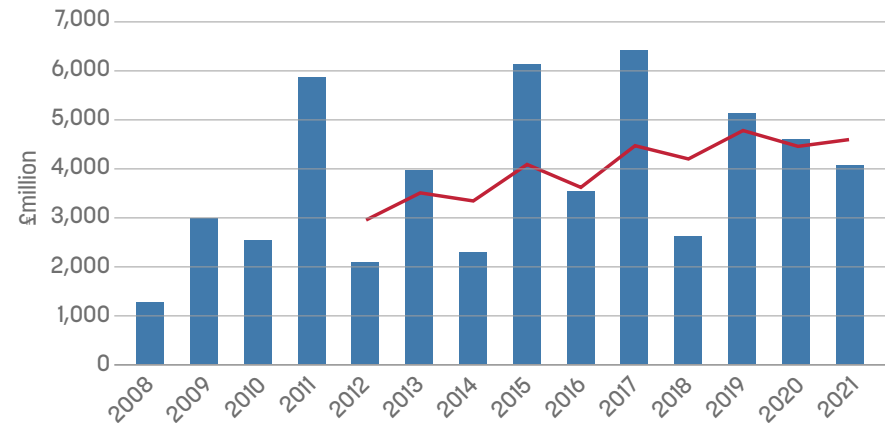
UK arms sales to Turkey are a major concern. Turkey is a highly authoritarian regime, pursuing a brutal military repression of its Kurdish population

In 2021, 1014 new “Open Individual Export Licences” (OIELs) were issued, an increase of 37% on 2020, although how much is actually exported on any given OIEL is unknown. The full value of UK arms exports is thus not revealed by the Government, although an annual survey of orders won by UK arms companies gives some indication of the likely total.

The largest recipient by value of SIELs in 2021 was the USA, at £500m, followed by Norway,

Value of SIEL arms export licences 2008–2021

With 5-year rolling average ■ SIEL value (£m) / 5-year average



Turkey, India, and Saudi Arabia (see box). This breaks a pattern in recent years where Saudi Arabia has been consistently the largest recipient. This doesn't mean that the arms trade with Saudi Arabia has significantly decreased, however, as BAE Systems' ongoing support for and maintenance of the Saudi Air Force, worth over £2 billion a year to the company, is probably mostly carried out using open licences.

UK arms sales to Turkey are a major concern. Turkey is a highly authoritarian regime, pursuing a brutal military repression of its Kurdish population in the south-east. It remains in illegal occupation of parts of northern Syria as part of its campaign against the Kurds. The UK government briefly suspended issue of new licences to Turkey in October 2019 in response to Turkey's invasion of Syria, but resumed some licencing a few months later. All licencing restrictions were removed – including for equipment that could be used in Syria – in December 2021.

The largest export licence to Turkey in 2021, worth £250 million, was in October, covering technology for tanks and armoured vehicles. This may relate to BAE Systems' joint venture with Turkish arms

company FNSS, which produces such vehicles for the Turkish armed forces and for export. It is not hard to see this type of equipment being used for repression of the Kurds and aggression against neighbouring countries.

CAAT will publish an annual report on UK arms exports in 2021 this summer.

Top 10 recipients of SIELs by value in 2021 (£m)

	USA	500
	Norway	309
	Turkey	306
	India	271
	Saudi Arabia	224
	Qatar	220
	UAE	212
	France	200
	Italy	166
	Spain	123

In April the UK government offered India an Open General Export Licence (OGEL), which will allow a considerable increase in the transfer of military exports to the country over the next decade.

The deal comes as the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, used a visit to India to announce £1 billion worth of new commercial deals with the country. Johnson says he wants to accelerate a free trade agreement with India, pushing for a deal by autumn. The Prime Minister is also urging India to move away from Russian suppliers for military and energy imports, in an effort to further isolate Moscow following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

OGELs are pre-approved licences issued by the Government, and valid indefinitely until they are withdrawn or revised. They are very secretive. These licences do not have any financial value or quantities attached, meaning that published values for UK arms exports give only a partial picture of the trade. OGELs are

not included in the Government's quarterly export control statistics, or the CAAT online database because there are no statistics available. All valid OGELs are listed on a separate Government website.

Open Licences obscure the true level of UK arms exports, in total and to different countries, creating a serious gap in transparency

Open Licences obscure the true level of UK arms exports, in total and to different countries, creating a serious gap in transparency. These hidden arms sales represent some of the most significant and controversial, such as licences covering Saudi contracts. They make arms exports considerably easier,

including to highly repressive regimes and countries in conflict.

India was already one of the largest buyers of UK arms, with at least £2 billion worth of UK-made arms licensed to India since 2008. This includes components for fighter jets and military vehicles, as well as small arms and ammunition. The UK has also provided military training to Indian forces.

There are serious concerns about human rights in India, with Amnesty accusing the Indian forces of arbitrary arrest and detention and excessive use of force. India has also engaged in brutal repression in Kashmir, where there has been a long-running independence conflict.

The UK also arms Pakistan, which has been in an ongoing conflict with India. Since 2008 the UK has licensed over £220 million worth of arms to Pakistani forces. While these arms sales have not been as lucrative, they do include small arms, weapons sights, ammunition and components for combat helicopters.

This exposes the hypocrisy at the heart of the arms industry. It is a policy that has meant ignoring the tensions and dangers and putting arms sales ahead of peace-building and human rights. These arms sales can only add to the volatility of the situation, when what is needed is diplomacy and dialogue.

There are also concerns that UK-made arms exports to India could end up being used in Russian weapons, as Russia's access to components with dual civilian and military use is restricted by economic sanctions. It's thought that this will make Moscow increasingly reliant on component-smuggling in order to ensure that its military equipment continues to function.



Photo: Number 10 | Source: Flickr

PARLIAMENT



Photo: ukhouseoflords | Source: Flickr

On 10th May the annual Queen's Speech took place. This is used to set out the programme of legislation that the Government intends to pursue in the forthcoming parliamentary session. It is a big event for parliament and full of pomp and pageantry. This year it was delivered by Prince Charles on behalf of the Queen.

Unfortunately, it included very little for people who are struggling and suffering as a result of the cost of living crisis that the Government has done so much to exacerbate, or the climate emergency that we are living through.

What it did include were plans for an anti-boycott bill, which is designed to prevent public bodies from taking a principled decision not to do business with companies that have been found to abuse human rights or the environment.

CAAT is proud to stand with Palestine Solidarity Campaign and over 50 other civil society organisations that are opposing this Bill. We are signatories to a statement that affirms the right of public bodies to divest and break ties from companies contributing to abuses of rights and violation of international law – in occupied Palestine, Yemen and anywhere else such acts occur.

Examples of sanctions campaigns include some of the most powerful acts of protest in history – from bus boycotts

against racial segregation to divestment from fossil fuels companies to arms embargoes against apartheid, and boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaigns.

The Speech included plans for an anti-boycott bill, designed to prevent public bodies from taking a principled decision not to do business with a company

These campaigns have been applied to put economic, cultural, or political pressure on a regime, institution, or company to force it to change abusive or illegal policies. If passed this bill could stifle a wide range of campaigns and pose a threat to freedom of expression, and our right to protest.

That is why we are working with others to call on the UK government to immediately halt this bill, and on opposition parties to oppose it. We will work with other campaign groups to mobilise

in support of the right to boycott in the cause of justice.

However, there are also new measures being introduced to curb the right to protest. The Public Order Bill, which was announced in the same speech, would criminalise protesters who “lock on” to equipment or come to a protest prepared to do so. It would also increase fines for blocking roads and expand stop and search powers.

These changes would be a threat to anti-arms fair protests and other forms of direct action. Many of the powers in the Bill were previously included in the Policing Bill, but were removed after being rejected by the House of Lords.

As with the anti-boycott bill, it is vital that campaign groups work together to oppose these changes. The right to protest is fundamental and must be protected and strengthened, not suppressed.

You can read the full statement about the anti-boycott bill at: righttoboycott.org.uk

STOP ARMING ISRAEL

April saw attacks against Palestinian protesters at the Al-Aqsa mosque, which is regarded as one of the holiest sites in Islam.

More than 200 Palestinians were injured, with the Israeli police using rubber bullets, tear gas and other weapons. The violence followed months of escalating tensions and repression.

On the 11th of May, Israeli forces shot and killed Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh, who was wearing a protective vest marked "PRESS" and standing with other journalists when the shooting happened. Only two days later her funeral turned into a scene of violence, as the Israeli police charged at mourners carrying her coffin.

Despite repeated atrocities, the UK has licensed around £450 million worth of arms to Israeli forces in the last five years alone

None of these are isolated events, the repression and abuse of Palestinians has been happening for decades. One reason it has been possible is because Israeli forces

are armed and supported by a range of powerful governments, including the UK's.

Despite repeated atrocities, the UK has licensed around £450 million worth of arms to Israeli forces in the last five years alone. These have helped to boost the Israeli military

and fuel the repression and abuse of Palestinians.

If the UK government is to play any kind of positive role in securing justice for Palestine then it must stop arming Israel and take a stand against the repression that is being inflicted.



Photo: Ray in Manila | Source: Flickr

CAAT is moving

On 13th May CAAT said goodbye to our office on Wells Terrace, London, which has been our home since 2012.

We have rehoused our library and archives and went out with a party for staff, steering committee and supporters in the area.

Before moving to Wells Terrace we had been based in nearby Goodwin Street, which was also in Finsbury Park. We had been there for 25 years. That office had played a big part in the peace movement and was owned by Peace News Trustees. Over the years it provided a home to dozens of organisations, including CAAT, Campaign

for Nuclear Disarmament, and support for organisations for Palestinians and Kurds.

Before we moved to the Finsbury Park area, CAAT had been based above the fantastic Housman's book shop on Caledonian Road. At that time we had a far smaller staff team and, with no internet for most of that time, our work was very different.

We are still based in London, with a new office space secured in Bethnal Green, East London. Excitingly, we are also renting

space in Birmingham from Friends of the Earth, as well as desk space in a shared working hub in Glasgow. This means that far from being a London-focused organisation we will have staff across the UK.

CAAT has changed a lot in that time and we are leaving a lot of memories, but we are also excited about what the future holds. For post, our new address is: CAAT, Unit 1.9, The Green House, 244-254 Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9DA.

THEY SAID IT

“The tensions in Eastern Europe, the tensions in the South China Sea, all of those things are putting pressure on some of the defence spending over there. So I fully expect we’re going to see some benefit from it”

Greg Hayes, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Raytheon, quoted in Open Democracy 17/03/2022

“For the defence industry, happy days are here again”

Arms industry consultant Loren Thompson referring to increased arms spending in the US. Quoted by Politico, 28/03/2022

“We say, ‘Oh, he’s a nuclear power.’ But we’re a greater nuclear power. We have the greatest submarines in the world, the most powerful machines ever built”

Donald Trump on Russia, quoted in Vanity Fair, 22/03/2022

CAAT Student Network

In some good news: the University of Nottingham Students’ Union has passed a policy to adopt the “Ban BAE” campaign as a formal SU position. This means that it will campaign for BAE Systems to be removed from the campus, whether in careers events or through sponsorship.

We are continuing to work on the Divest to Decolonise campaign with NUS, DED_ucation, and People and Planet. This has resulted in the creation of a new toolkit that informs students about the UK education system’s links with the country’s colonial past, and outlines how universities and colleges are still tied to colonialism and imperialism through their investments, career services, funding from local councils, and banks.

Taking Action

London CAAT have launched a petition to say no to BAE Systems advertising on London Underground. A particular focus is the despicable advertisement in Westminster station which seems to be aimed at influencing MPs and civil servants. The arms trade is not a normal business and its propaganda has no place on London Underground. If you agree, sign and share the petition! change.org/p/ban-bae-systems-from-advertising-on-london-underground

“Peace News has compiled an exemplary record.”

Noam Chomsky

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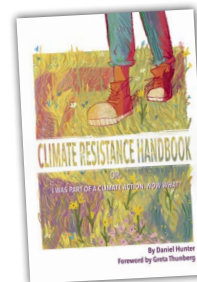
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Donations direct to CAAT are the most useful for the campaign, but if you send a Charities Aid Foundation cheque please make it payable to TREAT (Trust for Research and Education on Arms Trade) making clear that you wish for your donation to support CAAT's research programme. Unlike CAAT, TREAT is a registered charity (No.328694).

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