

# CAAT NEWS

The quarterly magazine for Campaign Against Arms Trade

Issue 264

Autumn 2022

## Stop militarised policing



Photo: Crown Copyright | Source: defenceimages.mod.uk

### PLUS

Update on Saudi legal action **P3**

Arms fairs around the UK **P6**

Stop arming Israel **P10**



**CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST  
ARMS  
TRADE**

The last few months have seen a huge change in the UK, with a new Prime Minister in Downing Street and a new King.

Unfortunately Liz Truss is likely to continue with the same arms export policy as her predecessors. In this issue we will explore her role in arms sales and in fueling the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen.

It may be a busy political agenda, but we have been really busy too, with new reports and actions across the UK that you can read about here.

---

**Front page** Brian Dorsey

**Editor** Andrew Smith

**Design** Chris Woodward

**Proofreader** John Moseley

**Legal Consultant** Glen Reynolds

**Printed by** e-Mediacy on 100% recycled paper using only post-consumer waste.

The content and views expressed in articles, advertisements and promotional material included within CAAT NEWS by other organisations are not necessarily endorsed or supported by CAAT. Any related enquiries or concerns should be addressed to the relevant organisation.

---

**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.

**Campaign Against Arms Trade,**

Unit 1.9, The Green House, 244-254

Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9DA

**Tel** 020 7281 0297

**Email** enquiries@caat.org.uk

**Web** caat.org.uk

**Twitter** @CAATuk

If you would like to stop being sent CAAT News, or change any of the ways that you hear from us, email [office@caat.org.uk](mailto:office@caat.org.uk)

## Contents

- 3 Yemen
- 4-5 Arms trade shorts
- 6 Arms fairs
- 7 DSEI one year
- 8-9 Policing report
- 10 Stop arming Israel
- 11 BAE expansion Glasgow | Open letter
- 12 Stop arming Saudi
- 13 Liz Truss
- 14 Stop arming Turkey
- 15 They said it | Welcome Amber | Bruce Kent | Recruitment



To receive this issue of CAAT NEWS in large print please call 020 7281 0297

# YEMEN

We have good news to share! The High Court has confirmed that our legal case challenging the Government on supplying UK weapons for the war in Yemen has been listed for hearing on January 31–February 2, 2023. We'll be sharing more information on the CAAT website over the coming months about how you can get involved in our campaign.

In 2019 the Court of Appeal in London ruled that the UK government had broken its own arms export laws when selling weapons to the Saudi-led forces that are bombing Yemen. As a result the Government had to suspend sales and review the legality of previous sales.

*Successive UK governments have continued to promote and protect weapons sales, despite the devastating human cost*

In October 2020 CAAT filed a new Judicial Review application into the Government's decision to renew arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition. On 20 April 2021 we were granted permission for our legal challenge to proceed to the High Court.

The UK has supplied billions of pounds worth of fighter jets, bombs and missiles to the Saudi-led coalition for use in Yemen. Thousands of civilians have been killed in attacks by the coalition, which has targeted homes and farms, schools and hospitals, weddings and funerals. Arms sales in these circumstances are prohibited by UK rules, which say they should not be allowed where there is a "clear risk" that a weapon "might" be used in a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law.

Yet, successive UK governments have continued to promote and protect weapons sales, despite the devastating human cost. In total, CAAT estimates that the UK has supplied arms worth over £23 billion to Saudi Arabia since the war in Yemen began.

We are determined to put a stop to such sales once and for all. Our new case argues that the Government's conclusions that there were only a "small number" of violations of IHL committed by coalition forces, and that these did not form a "pattern" are irrational, flying in the face of the weight of evidence to the contrary. We are further arguing that even "isolated incidents" of violations could still involve a clear risk of further violations.

Judges will now consider whether the Government's decision to resume arms sales is lawful.

This new ruling will be an

important step forward. We hope that a new ruling by the court will increase the pressure for the Government to finally end the arms sales fuelling the war in Yemen.

In September CAAT also joined a global call of civil society organisations from Yemen and around the world urging UN member states to work toward the establishment of an independent international criminally focused investigative mechanism on Yemen. Such a mechanism can play a critical role to deter violence, protect civilians and promote a genuine and lasting peace.



Photo: Jasfen | Source: defenceimages.mod.uk

# ARMS TRADE SHORTS

## Russia

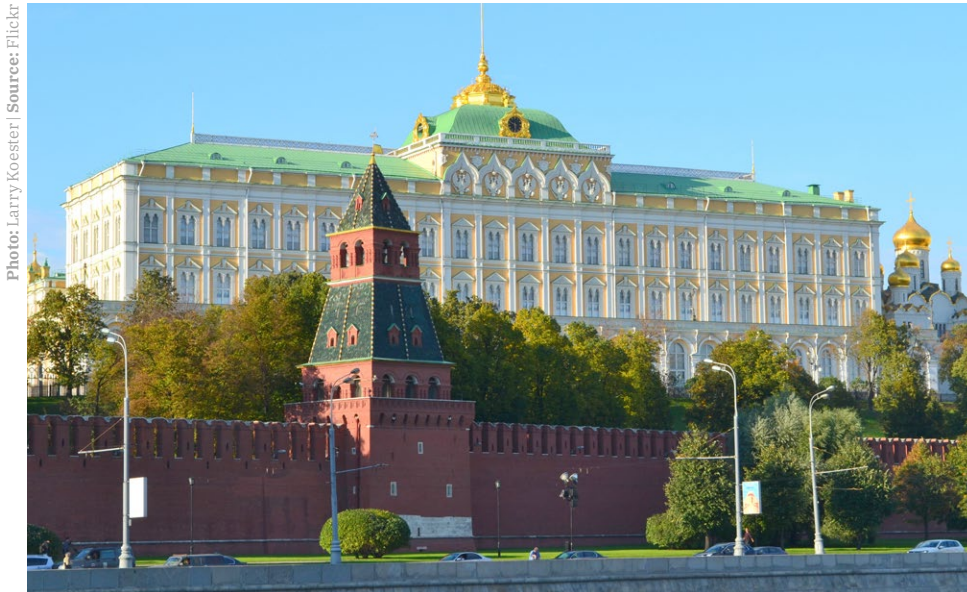


Photo: Larry Koester | Source: Flickr

The head of Russia's arms export agency has said that 2022 arms export revenues are likely to total \$10.8 billion.

This would be roughly 25% lower than reported totals for 2021. **Defense News 29/08/2022**

## BAE Systems

BAE Systems is in what it describes as the "final phase" of talks over a multi-billion-pound deal to provide five new submarine-hunting ships for the UK Ministry of Defence. The deal is expected to be finalised by Liz Truss in her role as the new Prime Minister. **This is Money, 28/08/2022**

BAE Systems has reported a fall in pre-tax profits for the first half of 2022. Revenue for the period was £9.74 billion compared with £9.34 billion the year before. However, profits have fallen due to increased operating costs. **Shropshire Star, 28/07/2022**



Photo: velodenz | Source: Flickr

## South Korea

South Korea is becoming a major arms exporter. Its military exports doubled in 2021 to \$7 billion, and are expected to top \$10 billion this year. That is nearly triple the figure from 2020, according to the Export-Import Bank of Korea. **CNN, 17/08/2022**

## Ukraine

The US has announced that it will provide a further \$600 million worth of "military aid" to Ukraine. The aid is expected to come mainly in the form of ammunition. This follows almost \$6 billion worth of weapons provided in the previous two months. **Defense News, 16/09/2022**

## Israel

Israel has signed \$3 billion worth of arms deals with countries in the region since the normalisation of relations through the Abraham Accords in 2020. According to the Israeli Defence Minister, Benny Gantz, his department has held 150 meetings with military reps from across the region in that time. **Anadolu Agency, 07/07/2022**

## Raytheon

Raytheon, one of the world's biggest arms companies, will be opening an "advanced laser integration centre" at its site in Livingston, Scotland. According to Raytheon the centre will serve as a "European hub for high-energy laser weaponry." **UK Defence Journal, 19/07/2022**

# Taiwan

Photo: Gage Skidmore | Source: Flickr



The Biden administration in the US is preparing to sell \$1.1 billion worth of military equipment to Taiwan, including missiles and radar equipment.

**Bloomberg, 30/08/2022**

China has threatened to “resolutely take legitimate and necessary counter-measures” against the US if the proposed sale takes place. The threat was made by Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, in a tweet following speculation around the proposed sale.

**Politico, 03/09/2022**

In September China announced sanctions against the CEOs of Raytheon and Boeing Defence for their roles in these sales.

In February, China announced sanctions on Raytheon and Lockheed Martin over a \$100 million maintenance deal for Taiwan’s missile defence systems.

**ABC News, 16/09/2022**

## Saudi Arabia

Reports indicate that senior military officials from Saudi Arabia and Israel have held secret meetings to discuss military cooperation against Iran.

Military representatives from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan and Egypt, met the Israel Defence Forces in June to discuss how they could work together.

**The Guardian, 27/06/2022**

Saudi Arabia’s military spending will reach \$56.7 billion in 2027 as a result of its Vision 2030 economic plan, according to GlobalData, a major data analytics company. This follows temporary falls in spending as a result of declining oil prices.

**Times Aerospace, 03/06/2022**

Photo: Greek Prime Minister's Office | Source: Flickr



## Total military aid delivered to Ukraine since February 2022

This list includes countries where the total is at least \$100m.

**USA** \$15.1 billion

**UK** £2.3 billion (\$2.9bn)

**European Union** €2.5 billion (\$2.6bn)

**Poland** \$1.7 billion

**Germany** €733 million (\$776m)

**Canada** C\$626 million (\$488m)

**Latvia** €300m (\$318m)

**Australia** AU\$388m (\$275m)

**Estonia** €240 million (\$254m)

**France** €230 million (\$244m) (pledged)

**Sweden** €230m (\$244m) (pledged)

**Netherlands** €210m (\$222m)

**Norway** €210m (\$222m) (pledged)

**Lithuania** €200m (\$212m)

**Italy** €162m (\$172m)

**Source:** House of Commons Research Briefing, 21 Sep 2022, <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9477/CBP-9477.pdf>

**Except**

**France, Sweden, Norway:** Kiel Institute for the World Economy, <https://www.ifw-kiel.de/topics/war-against-ukraine/ukraine-support-tracker/>

**Germany:** German government, <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/military-support-ukraine-2054992>

# DISARM FARNBOROUGH

July 2022 saw two of the hottest days ever seen in Britain. Instead of a new resolve to tackle climate change, we were instead greeted by images of the outgoing Prime Minister taking a joyride in a Eurofighter Typhoon warplane. This, as part of the promotion of weapons sales at Farnborough arms fair.

“Farnborough International Airshow” is a gigantic aviation-related arms fair that takes place every two years in the Hampshire town. While it does include civil aviation and satellites, much of the funding and exhibition space use comes from arms companies.

This year’s exhibitor list was a who’s who of the global arms industry. There were executives from Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Leonardo – all of which have been deeply involved in the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen – and Elbit Systems, which supplies products used against Palestinians. They were anxious to catch the eye of the UK government, as well as those of visiting military delegations. Many of these represent regimes with dubious human rights records. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Egypt all sent delegations to the fair.

Local people have had enough, and worked hard to organise the protests this year. Julia from Greater Rushmoor Action for Peace, who lives about a mile from the fair said, “This is not what we want for our area. That’s why we’re here telling these arms companies that they are not welcome here, or anywhere else.”

*We need real solutions to the problems of climate and poverty, not joyrides in fighter jets and traffic jams filled with arms dealers.*

Noting a climate resolution passed by the local council in 2019, Julia added: “And it is hard to see how holding an air show is compatible to the Council declaring a ‘climate emergency’.”

Local campaigners were joined by Quakers from the surrounding

area as well as members of the Peace Pledge Union, Palestine Solidarity Campaign and London CAAT, among others.

In baking temperatures, protesters greeted arriving delegates with leaflets and banners. Members of the Raised Voices choir ensured the protest could be heard inside the fair. Speakers connected the weapons on sale in the fair to war and oppression in Yemen and Palestine. It was especially moving to hear from Aya Alghazzawi, Gaza Strip coordinator for the BDS National Committee, via a recorded message of support.

It is high time all arms fairs were brought to an end. It is shameful that they keep happening. We need real solutions to the problems of climate and poverty, not joyrides in fighter jets and traffic jams filled with arms dealers.



# ONE YEAR TO DSEI

Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) is one of the world's largest arms fairs, taking place every two years on CAAT's doorstep in East London!

In 2021, DSEI brought together over 30,000 arms buyers and dealers to network and make deals. Governments and military delegations, including representatives of countries involved in military conflicts, and those on the UK Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office's own list of human rights abusers, browsed the wares of 1600+ arms companies.

This is where war starts, but it is also where we can stop it!

Every two years, Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) and Stop the Arms Fair (STAF), a collective of organisations and individuals, come together to take action against DSEI.

Historically, CAAT has taken the lead on DSEI. However, in order to allow us to support opposition against other arms fairs across the UK such as 3CDSE, Farnborough, and Security and Policing, STAF is now organising the DSEI protest whilst still receiving our support.

Our resistance to DSEI is also resistance to the intersecting struggles connected to the arms trade. In 2021, we saw these diverse campaigns platformed. They included Palestinian solidarity, anti-racism, borders and migration, demilitarising education, solidarity

with Afghanistan, the climate crisis and much more.

It's now one year until DSEI and people are busy organising, ready to make the resistance to DSEI 2023 bigger and better than ever!

*Each year people use talks, workshops, music, creative walkabouts, direct action, community organising and solidarity to say NO to DSEI here or anywhere!*

Each year people use talks, workshops, music, creative walkabouts, direct action,

community organising and solidarity to say NO to DSEI here or anywhere!

We have seen arms fairs chased out of multiple cities across the UK, and with enough people we can make sure the same happens to DSEI. If you'd like to get involved you can contact STAF on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter: [@stopthearmsfair](https://twitter.com/stopthearmsfair) to find out about attending their meetings. If you'd like to take action against other arms fairs in the UK, please send us an email and we can point you in the right direction!



Photo: Bob Bob | Source: Flickr

## The Malvern Arms Fair is planning to return 2/3 Nov

The Three Counties Defence and Security Expo (3CDSE) involves arms companies like BAE Systems, Elbit Systems and Qinetiq. It focuses on "cyber" and electronic warfare, which may sound harmless but isn't! This is how modern wars are fought. It's how drones, bombs and missiles find their target.

A cyber attack can disrupt food supplies, rescue services, schools and hospitals.

3CDSE is due to take place at the Three Counties Showground, which usually hosts agricultural shows and winter entertainment.

Campaigners from Three Counties CAAT, as well as local group, Malvern Individuals

for Peace, have been telling the Showground Trustees that they are "farmers, not fighters" and that they should be hosting events for "blooms not bombs."

To find out what's next and to join the campaign, contact Three Counties CAAT at [ThreeCountiesCAAT@gmail.com](mailto:ThreeCountiesCAAT@gmail.com)



# POLICING REPORT: A VERY BRITISH PROBLEM

The close relationship between military and policing powers was always instrumental in inflicting the repression that was so central to the British Empire. However, it never stopped being a major issue and, most recently, with the erosion of the right to protest and its impact on powerful movements like Black Lives Matter, it is time we took a closer look at the role of the UK in militarised policing globally.

In August 2022, CAAT launched “A Very British Problem: The Evolution of Britain’s Militarised Policing Industrial Complex,” which places the war mentality deeply embedded in policing at all levels under the magnifying glass and challenges the idea that the military and the police are fundamentally different powers.

“A Very British Problem” is an evergreen resource, written in partnership with our friends at Netpol. It details the historical and current application of several areas of concern, including the paramilitary policing of protests, border control and counterterrorism, and the role of the private tech sector.

While we may use technology to access our phones or enter our workplaces every day with ease, policing bodies, from Police Scotland to the Metropolitan Police have been equipped with powerful surveillance technologies

in a move towards so-called “preemptive policing.” These invasive programmes, such as live facial recognition technology and phone extraction tools, are being bought from private companies and used on the general public, amplifying already racist, classist and sexist police practices.

*The report places the war mentality deeply embedded in policing at all levels under the magnifying glass*

Therefore, it is no surprise that the billions poured into the surveillance tech sector has attracted the likes of BAE Systems, which was awarded a contract from the National Communications Data Service in July this year to develop technology that would allow agencies to access data on people’s internet connection records.

CAAT continues to highlight the UK’s role as one of the biggest

global arms exporters, but we must also now look at its role as the fourth largest exporter of security technology and other police equipment. This includes anti-protest gear, such as tear gas, and telecommunications interception technology.

To accompany and bolster Britain’s influence on the global policing stage, police forces across the UK also train international forces from Bahrain to China and from Sri Lanka to the US. This is despite some of those countries being listed as “human rights priority countries” by the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office.

This foundational report thoroughly analyses the true impact of militarised policing with its deep roots in the UK’s past. As a core area of CAAT’s work with its inherent links to the arms trade and the continuous extension of police powers that impact our



everyday life, we must continue to take action and challenge these issues at every opportunity.

## Report launch

A Very British Problem was launched on August 4 with an online panel discussion, moderated by author, filmmaker, activist, and former CAAT Training and Events Coordinator Siana Bangura. Nearly 200 people attended the webinar.

Dr. Keren Weitzberg, the report's author, focused on the proliferation of surveillance technologies acquired in recent years by police forces in the UK, which together shift the balance of power towards the police and against ordinary citizens, especially those engaged in protest or from racialized minorities. These include mobile fingerprint scanners, which allow police to acquire the fingerprints of people stopped and searched, even those not suspected of a crime, surveillance drones, often of military grade, and facial recognition technology, which represents a new level of state intrusion, but which is also frequently inaccurate, systematically misidentifying people of colour.

All these surveillance methods generate vast quantities of data that are stored in interlinked databases, giving the police even greater ability to delve into our lives.

Annie Olaloku-Teriba, a writer and independent researcher based in London, spoke about the colonial roots of policing, pointing out that the first police force in Lagos, Nigeria, was established 10 years before the Metropolitan Police, with the goal of repressing resistance to colonisation. As formal police structures developed, the colonial authorities leveraged moral panic over rising crime, together with a scapegoating of minority ethnic groups in Lagos from other parts of Nigeria, to justify increasingly repressive policing and to preempt a coherent movement

against British rule.

Annie linked this use of policing to enforce colonialism with the parallel development of policing in the UK to repress the growing trade union and voting rights movements.

*These surveillance methods generate vast quantities of data that are stored in interlinked databases, giving the police even greater ability to delve into our lives.*

Political organiser Aadam Muuse emphasised the increasingly violent police repression of protests in recent years, as well as the use of repressive laws, most recently the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, but also including counter-terrorism laws that have particularly targeted Muslims. He also spoke about how some of these activist groups are pushing back against such repression.

Finally, Emily Apple from Netpol spoke about the pervasive surveillance of protesters by the police, using both “traditional” means, including undercover infiltrators and Forward Intelligence Teams who follow protestors everywhere they go,

and also the sorts of high-tech means discussed by Keren.

Activists who challenge the status quo, including Emily, have been targeted as “domestic extremists” or “aggravated activists” and subjected to severe and persistent surveillance and harassment by police, with sometimes damaging impacts on their mental health. But she emphasised that the state is not all-knowing, and that there are many things protesters can do to mitigate police surveillance.

The subsequent discussion was wide-ranging, touching on the issue of police and prison abolition – of how alternative means of public safety could be created that don't depend on violent state coercion and incarceration and on dismantling the myths of “policing by consent” and of an unarmed British police force that is a model of good practice.

The event gave participants a great deal to think about, and, together with the report itself, presents a challenge and an immensely valuable resource to campaigners to oppose the trend towards militarised policing. A recording of this event is available on our Youtube channel.



Photo: Bob Bob | Source: Flickr

# BARCLAYS: BANKING ON APARTHEID

The Arms sales that play a central role in oppressing Palestinian people are funded by some of the UK's biggest financial institutions. Barclays Bank, a familiar name on our high streets, is particularly linked to this dreadful trade.

Militarised violence against the Palestinians is a central feature of Israel's occupation. This includes the daily humiliation of Palestinians by settlers and Israeli security forces, the confiscation of land and demolition of Palestinian homes, intrusive and invasive surveillance and police violence, the violent arrests and ongoing detention of Palestinian activists and the outlawing of Palestinian civil society organisations.

These measures have created an apartheid system in Palestine, blighting the lives and opportunities of the Palestinians.

The role arms sales play in this violence was graphically highlighted by the brutal bombing of Gaza in August 2022. These attacks led to the death of 44 Palestinians, with some 300 people injured. Far from unique, these were simply the latest in a series of brutal armed assaults.

*The brutal bombing of Gaza in August 2022 wasn't unique, it was simply the latest in a series of brutal armed assaults*

The UK government has licensed the sale of at least £442 million worth of arms to Israel since 2015. It should be noted that still more arms will have been sold in the period under 47 "Open Licences," which allow the unlimited sale of arms and, despite their name, conceal the true amount and nature of the weapons being sold.

Financial institutions in the UK provide investment, loans, and other financial services to companies supplying Israel with weapons and military technology.

*Barclays Bank provides over £3bn in loans and underwriting to nine companies supplying weapons, components, and technology used in Israel's armed violence against Palestinians*

Without this financing, the arms shipments simply could not happen.

Researchers at Palestine Solidarity Campaign, working with CAAT and War on Want, have discovered that Barclays Bank holds over £1 billion in shares, and provides over £3 billion in loans and underwriting to nine companies supplying weapons, components, and military technology used in Israel's armed violence against Palestinians.

Most notably the companies funded include Elbit Systems, drones from which have been in widespread use monitoring and attacking Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. Elbit has factories at a number of sites in the UK, most notably at Shenstone near Birmingham, and has long been the focus of determined protests by campaigners.

Alongside PSC and War on Want, we're calling on Barclays Bank to #StopBankingOnApartheid.

Campaigners are making plans to visit Barclays branches at high streets across the country to express their concerns and bring an end to this dreadful trade.

Find out more about the issues at [caat.org.uk/data/countries/israel](https://caat.org.uk/data/countries/israel) and keep an eye out for a demonstration near you!



# BAE SYSTEMS AND SCOTLAND

Across the UK arms companies insert themselves into communities and take over the heart and soul with promises of mass employment and improved public services.

Glasgow is as clear an example of that as anywhere, with Europe's biggest arms company, BAE Systems, positioning itself along the River Clyde.

BAE's measures have included intense greenwashing and assurances that these areas will be "transformed" with support from key environmental charities like Keep Scotland Beautiful – with Scottish Government support – and by plastering their name across community clean-up hubs. BAE engineers have even been posing with litter pickers for social media content. Primary school children have been wowed by disarmed advanced drones being flown across football grounds and in assembly halls. And it's all in the name of public relations.

Now we are seeing the destruction of listed buildings that carry the industrial history of the West of Scotland in order to build a "state of the art" dry dock for BAE as part of the UK government's National Shipbuilding Strategy – which will attempt to make the Clyde the birthplace of warships

for at least another thirty years.

It's not just Downing Street that is responsible, it is also the Scottish government. The Scottish trade minister, Ivan McKee, even boasted of the millions invested from the public purse into BAE Systems and Babcock at a recent evidence session in Westminster. This clearly overlooks the billions of pounds worth of profits that BAE makes every year from arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other

repressive regimes – sales that are surely at odds with the Scottish government's own commitments to environmental and social justice.

Activists in Glasgow have been working across the city to highlight the truth about the billions that BAE shareholders pocket from selling weapons and equipment that fuel conflict and repression. We cannot allow this infiltration of the city to become Glasgow's legacy.



Photo: Ian Dick | Source: Flickr

## Yemen Open Letter

On September 6, Liz Truss took office as the UK's new Prime Minister. Campaign Against Arms Trade joined activists from across London to hand in an open letter to Downing Street, signed by over seven thousand people all over the UK – from local CAAT groups to designer Vivienne Westwood – to call on the new Prime Minister to stop arming the Saudi-led coalition for its bombardment of Yemen.

The war on Yemen has been made possible by weapons supplied by the UK and sustained

by their ongoing military support. Since the bombing began in March 2015, the UK has sold at least £23 billion worth of fighter jets, bombs and missiles to Saudi-led forces.

We weren't the only ones who took to Downing Street that day to protest the arrival of Liz Truss, but we were still able to make our voices heard, with an infectious chant of "Stop Arming Saudi".

We were joined by Andrew Feinstein, the author of "The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms

Trade," who said, "Anyone who feels empathy for the suffering in Ukraine must oppose the UK's arms sales to Saudi Arabia, which are causing even greater harm and devastation in Yemen."

Excessive police presence disrupted the physical hand-in of the letter detailing the thousands who demand an end to the UK's role in this conflict. However, it will be delivered by post in the coming weeks as we continue our opposition to the sale of UK weapons to Saudi Arabia.

# YEMENI HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER VISITS LONDON

In June, Rasheed Al-Faqih, Executive Director of Mwatana for Human Rights in Yemen, visited London at CAAT's invitation, as part of a European tour.



Mwatana documents and reports on violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law by all parties to the Yemen war, and presses for accountability and justice.

Mwatana was jointly nominated with CAAT for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, and is supporting us in our legal case against the Government over arms sales to Saudi Arabia, which is due to be heard in January-February next year. Mwatana, with hundreds of operatives around the country, pursues its investigations in the face of frequent harassment by the various authorities and armed groups in different areas. Rasheed himself has faced arrest and threats to life.

Rasheed participated in three events while in London. The first was a civil society round-table where he presented to around 20 people from various organisations working on Yemen and the current situation. A fragile truce has reduced the level of violence, but has not ended it, and has done little to ease the humanitarian crisis.

Rasheed emphasised the need to press for accountability for abuses by all parties: the Saudi coalition, the Houthis, the southern separatist forces, the forces of the official government of Yemen, and

others. He also urged civil society worldwide to be vociferous in criticising both the Saudi coalition and the Houthi rebels controlling Sana'a, who also commit widespread gross violations of human rights, and who are also a major obstacle to peace.

Next, Rasheed took part in a public panel event at the Frontline Club in London, also livestreamed to an online audience, alongside Sam Perlo-Freeman from CAAT, Dr. Valentina Azarova of Manchester International Law Center, and Sarah Al-areqi of Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, with Katie Fallon of CAAT moderating.

*Rasheed urged civil society worldwide to be vociferous in criticizing both the Saudi coalition and the Houthi rebels*

Rasheed spoke powerfully about the horrific destruction and suffering that has been caused by the war, and the failure of both warring parties and the international community to hold to account those who have committed atrocities and human rights violations.

As well as the need to end arms sales to Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners, a key message was the need for a strong civil society effort to push for the UN to institute a new international accountability mechanism for Yemen. The previous one, the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen, charged with investigating abuses by all parties, was shut down a year ago by the UN Human Rights Council, following heavy lobbying by Saudi Arabia.

Finally, along with Katie from CAAT, Rasheed met with MPs and peers from the All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) on Yemen and on Human Rights, at Westminster, briefing lawmakers on the situation in Yemen and the Yemeni people's demands for peace, human rights, and justice. Following this, all members of the APPG on Human Rights signed a letter to the Foreign Secretary calling for efforts towards accountability in Yemen.

Rasheed's visit and powerful testimonies did much to bring home the reality of the Yemen war to the public, civil society, and MPs in the UK.



Photo: UK Prime Minister | Source: Flickr

# LIZ TRUSS

The arms companies could barely have dreamt of a better friend and ally in Downing Street than Liz Truss, who is likely to double down on the same failed and hypocritical approach to arms sales as her predecessors.

In her previous role as an International Trade Minister, Liz Truss was a champion and cheerleader for the arms industry and specifically for arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

During this period CAAT took the Government to court over UK arms exports to the Saudi-led Coalition that was waging a brutal bombardment on Yemen. Following the historic case, which CAAT won, the UK government was ordered to halt all arms sales to Saudi forces while it re-evaluated the legality of previously agreed sales.

During the review process, Truss had to apologise on two

separate occasions when it was revealed that her department had approved the sale of military equipment to Saudi Arabia that was in violation of the Court of Appeal ban.

*When speaking to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in June 2022, in her role as Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss refused to condemn the appalling human rights record of the Saudi regime*

In July 2020, Truss issued a written statement saying the Government had completed the review ordered by the Court of

Appeal, and had determined that any violations of international law were “isolated incidents.”

This conclusion was issued despite there being evidence of hundreds of cases where the Saudi-led coalition had targeted schools, funerals and homes. In the time since Truss made this statement, the Government has approved licences worth £2.2 billion as well as 46 open licences, of unlimited value to the Coalition.

This decision, which Truss oversaw, is the basis of the ongoing legal challenge that CAAT has been granted permission to have heard in early 2023.

When speaking to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in June 2022, in her role as Foreign Secretary, Truss refused to condemn the Saudi regime’s appalling human rights record.

“We are not dealing with a perfect world,” she told MPs, also saying, “Is every country that we work with exactly in line with United Kingdom policy on everything? No, they are not. But they are important allies of the United Kingdom.”

But it’s not just arms exports she is keen on. She is a strong supporter of nuclear weapons and, during her leadership campaign, she ran on a policy of increasing UK military spending to 3% of GDP by 2030. The Royal United Services Institute, a military policy think tank, estimates this would cost an extra £157 billion.

None of this bodes well for anti-arms trade activists and human rights defenders. That is why we will continue to mount the biggest possible opposition against UK arms sales and the damage they are inflicting in Yemen and beyond as Truss’s premiership proceeds.



Photo: UK Government | Source: Flickr

# TURKEY WARNINGS OF THIRD INVASION OF SYRIA AS UK ARMS FLOW UNHINDERED

Since May 2022, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been threatening a new invasion of north-east Syria, part of the autonomous Rojava region, held by the Kurdish-led (and US-backed) Self-Defence Forces (SDF).

While the US and others have warned against such an invasion, this has not deterred Turkey in the past. There have been two major invasions in recent years: Operation Olive Branch in January 2018 in the Afrin area, which killed at least 1,600 people including over 300 civilians, and Operation Peace Spring in October 2019, capturing large swathes of territory east of the Euphrates, killing over 100 civilians and displacing hundreds of thousands. Since then, Turkey has maintained an occupation of these regions of Syria, supported by allied Syrian militias, which has seen persistent human rights abuses and killings.

Turkey has long repressed its Kurdish minority population, denying them language and cultural rights. In response to an armed rebellion by the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) that started in 1984, the Turkish

*Turkey has long repressed its Kurdish minority population, denying them language and cultural rights*

armed forces engaged in a brutal repression of the Kurdish-majority regions of south-east Anatolia, razing hundreds of villages and killing tens of thousands.

Turkey is a major recipient of

UK arms exports. In the most recent 5 years of data to March 2022, the UK issued single arms export licences worth £1.4 billion to the country, which excludes a potentially large quantity of arms sold under non-transparent open licences. Typically, UK arms exports to Turkey involve components and electronic systems, rather than complete weapons systems.



Photo: UK Prime Minister | Source: flicker

## Building the Turkish arms industry

Over recent years, the largest arms licences to be approved to Turkey were in October 2021 and March 2022, each worth £250 million. They covered technology for tanks, military combat vehicles, and military support vehicles.

These are likely to be for armoured vehicle producer FNSS, which is a joint venture between BAE and Turkish arms company Nurol Holdings. This huge technology transfer will allow these vehicles to be produced in Turkey, where

they will potentially be used in the country's wars and for export around the world.

BAE also has a £100 million contract with Turkey to support the development of the country's first indigenously-designed fighter aircraft, the T-FX project. Exports under this project are covered by an Open General Export Licence, and not included in the figures for single licences.

Turkish arms exports have soared in recent years, and are expected to reach \$4bn this year.

One of their best-sellers has been the Bayraktar TB-2 armed drone, which has been used to lethal effect in recent wars by Azerbaijan against Armenia, and by Ethiopia against the rebellious Tigray province.

Bayraktar is now finding numerous customers in Africa, Asia, and Europe. The TB-2 was developed with the critical help of Brighton-based arms company EDO-MBM, which supplied bomb racks and related technology.

# Introducing Amber Rose-Dewey

CAAT has hired a new Campaigns and Communications Coordinator! Amber has been involved in organising resistance to the DSEI arms fair for several years with Stop the Arms Fair as well as CAAT. Over the last ten years, she has campaigned on a range of issues, including migrants rights, climate action, the right to protest and anti-militarism.

Amber has a background in migrant solidarity work in Calais, Athens and London, and is excited to apply this experience to our work on policing and borders at CAAT. You can contact her at [amber@caat.org.uk](mailto:amber@caat.org.uk)

## Recruitment

Over the months ahead CAAT will be advertising for a range of roles, including staff roles and steering committee positions. Keep an eye on [CAAT.org.uk](http://CAAT.org.uk) for all of our latest recruitment news.

## Bruce Kent

CAAT and many others across the peace movement were saddened by the loss of Bruce Kent in June. A former priest, Bruce served in a number of roles across the peace movement, including General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, President of the International Peace Bureau, Vice President of Pax Christi and as a Patron of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Bruce was a well known face and presence on protests and actions right up until his passing. He was a long-term friend of CAAT and we wish to extend our condolences to all of his friends and family and the many people he inspired over decades of activism.



Photo: Russell Pollart | Source: Flickr

## THEY SAID IT

**“War or not, this sector is poised to create wealth like never before.”**

Conclusion to EquityMaster.com overview of the arms industry, 05/08/2022

**“[we are moving] from a peace industry to a war industry.”**

Belgian Admiral Michel Hofman, Chief of Defence of the Belgian Armed Forces, Brussels Times, 05/08/2022

**“I would be happy to lose this job and find another. And, if it was in a renewable resource, research or job, that would be fantastic. I would feel better about my life if I did that. I feel that it’s important that I do my job properly in order to keep people safe. Would I prefer to do something that was more relevant for the world? Absolutely!”**

Anonymous arms industry worker quoted by Engineer Live, 18/07/2022

# DONATE TODAY!

You can donate to CAAT by either visiting our website at [caat.org.uk](http://caat.org.uk), or completing the form below (in block capitals) and returning it to: Freepost RUEA-ERLT-XLZC, CAAT, 7 Wellesley Rd, Tharston, Norwich NR15 2PD

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

## Personal details

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:  Email:

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

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

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

## Regular donation



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.

### Instruction to your Bank/Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society:

Banks/building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some kind of accounts.

Address of Bank/Building Society:

Postcode:

Name(s) of account holder(s):

Bank/building society a/c no.

Sort code:

I wish to donate £  every

month  quarter  annually

Reference (CAAT use only)

Please pay Campaign Against Arms Trade Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Campaign Against Arms Trade and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s):

Date:

## Single donation

I wish to donate £  to CAAT and enclose a cheque or have completed my credit/debit card details.

### CARD details

Credit/debit card type (please tick appropriate box):  Mastercard  Visa  Visa Delta

Cardholder's name:

Credit/debit card number:

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