

# CAAT NEWS

The quarterly magazine for Campaign Against Arms Trade

Issue 267  
Autumn 2023



## SHUT DOWN THE ARMS FAIR

### PLUS

Stop the Saudi state visit **P3**

DSEI arms fair **P8-10**

UK arms to Ukraine **P11**



**CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST  
ARMS  
TRADE**

It's been a very busy few months for the arms trade, with the Defence & Security Equipment International arms fair (DSEI) taking place in London. We couldn't let it go unopposed, which is why activists from across London and beyond took action against it.

The months ahead are unlikely to be any quieter, with a Saudi state visit expected in October – possibly as this edition goes to press – which will mean even more arms sales. We have coverage of both of these and far more in this issue of CAAT News.

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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 Stop arming Saudi
- 4–5 Arms trade shorts
- 6 London CAAT arms industry tour
- 7 Stop the Saudi state visit | Telford says no to the arms trade
- 8–10 DSEI
  - 11 Arms to Ukraine
  - 12 The Labour Party and the arms trade
  - 13 The arms trade and refugees
  - 14 Scotland
  - 15 They said it | Fundraising



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P8



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P4



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P12

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## STOP ARMING SAUDI

**The news that Rishi Sunak has invited Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman to visit the UK in Autumn has put the UK and Saudi relationship under the microscope.**

The last time the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), visited London was in March 2018. It was only five months before Jamal Khashoggi was brutally murdered at the Saudi consulate in Turkey.

We are now five years on from that shameful killing, which was condemned around the world, and the UK is once again rolling out the red carpet for MBS.

The reality is that MBS's brutality was known long before Khashoggi was murdered. He was an architect of the 2015 Saudi invasion of Yemen, which inflicted atrocity after atrocity on one of the poorest countries in the world.

It was a bombing campaign that has been armed and supported by a number of Western states including the UK.

Based on our research, CAAT estimates that the UK has sold at least £25 billion worth of arms to the Saudi-led Coalition since the war began. These weapons have played an instrumental role in

enabling and prolonging the war.

The UK's largest arms company, BAE Systems, has 6,300 employees based in Saudi Arabia to support the Saudi Air Force. The roles they are playing would not be possible without Downing Street's support.

*Based on our research, CAAT estimates that the UK has sold at least £25 billion worth of arms to the Saudi-led Coalition since the war began*

The people of Yemen have received no justice for the crimes committed against them, nor have the millions of Saudi people who suffer the vicious repression of one of the most authoritarian regimes in the world.

The UK claims that it puts human rights at the centre of discussions, but there is no evidence of this. Last year, on 12 March 2022, 81 people were killed in the largest mass execution in modern Saudi history. Only four days later the then UK Prime

Minister Boris Johnson met with MBS in Riyadh.

Salma al-Shehab, a Saudi student at Leeds University who had returned home to Saudi for a holiday was sentenced to 34 years in prison for having a twitter account and for following and retweeting dissidents and activists. She was 34 years old at the time. She is still imprisoned.

The UK government has not just remained impervious to human rights abuses or failed to tackle them, it has actively supported these crimes by continually welcoming MBS and his regime to the UK, offering impunity for the human rights abuses.

The idea that these visits do anything to benefit human rights defenders is ludicrous. They do the opposite by giving legitimacy and support to MBS. The only people who benefit are the arms dealers, making a killing. Our government is selling our integrity for their profits.

# ARMS TRADE SHORTS

## North Korea

Reports indicate that North Korea is exporting arms to Russia. According to the Korea Institute for National Unification think tank, there is evidence of an arms flow between the two countries. In July, the North Korean regime hosted Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu. In August the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, visited Russia. **Korea Times, 07/08/2023**

Photo: Kremlin.ru | Source: Wikimedia



## China

The Chinese government has said it will impose sanctions on US arms companies Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin for supplying weapons to Taiwan. It is unclear what impact sanctions will have as neither company supplies arms to China **Reuters, 15/09/2023**

Reporting by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute suggests that the value of Chinese arms exports fell by 7.8% between 2016 and 2020 when compared to the preceding five-year period, with its global market share falling from 5.6% to 5.2%. **Economic Times, 13/09/2023**

## BAE Systems

UK arms company BAE Systems is establishing a local entity in Ukraine to service sales to Ukrainian forces. BAE is currently working with other companies to produce 105mm light artillery guns in Ukraine. **The Guardian, 01/09/2023**

As the company reports record sales, BAE has upgraded its earnings forecast for 2023 to predict growth of 10–12%. Part of this comes from direct sales to Ukraine, but a lot of it is driven by wider demands and international instability. **Reuters, 02/08/2023**

Photo: Steve Lyness | Source: Flickr



## Bulgaria

The value of Bulgarian arms exports has increased by 200% since Russian forces invaded Ukraine. In 2022 the value of Bulgarian arms exports was a record €1.7 billion, with the majority of sales coming from ammunition exports to Ukraine. **Euractiv, 18/07/2023**

## Germany

The German government has loosened some of its restrictions on arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The change will not impact the export of Eurofighter jets, but it will allow arms exports “in specific individual cases” under the condition that those arms are not used in Yemen or for human rights abuses. **Middle East Eye, 12/07/2023**

## Serbia

The Serbian government recently suspended all arms exports for 30 days. The country’s Defence Minister Miloš Vučević has said that the ban was necessary so that Serbia could ‘fulfil the needs of its own military.’

The announcement came days after the US imposed sanctions on Serbia following allegations that the head of its intelligence agency, Aleksandar Vulin, had been implicated in illegal arms sales. **Associated Press, 14/07/2023**

## Raytheon

Raytheon UK is set to receive its first high-energy laser weapon system in October. The system will be tested and integrated onto Wolfhound armoured vehicles on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. **Raytheon UK, 13/09/2023**

# France

2022 saw France securing record arms sales. With exports totalling €27 billion, this was up from €11.7 billion in 2021. The value has been hugely boosted by the sale of Rafale combat aircraft, with a €16 billion deal with the United Arab Emirates. There were also major sales to Greece and Poland among others. **Barron's, 26/07/2023**

# USA

The US government has approved the sale of \$500 million worth of spare parts to the Saudi military. The deal is believed to include components for tanks, small arms and armoured vehicles. **Al-Monitor, 21/09/2023**

The US has approved the sale of £500 million worth of arms to Taiwan, despite strong opposition from China. The deal includes infrared search tracking systems, computer software and equipment for F-16 fighter jets. **PBS, 23/08/2023**



Photo: Angelan | Source: Flickr

# Israel

Shipping records suggest that Israel continued to export advanced weapon systems to Myanmar until at least 2022. That would mean that sales continued after the repressive military Junta took power. If reports are accurate it would mean that Israel had breached an international arms embargo. **Haaretz, 05/09/2023**

Israel has signed a deal to export at least \$55 million worth of Unmanned Aerial Systems, along with logistical, training and support services to the Netherlands. The deal comes only two months after the two countries signed a \$305 million deal for an Israeli rocket system, which was believed to be one of the biggest arms deals in recent years between Israel and any European country. **Middle East Monitor, 22/08/2023**

Israel has agreed to sell an advanced missile defence system to Germany in what is thought to be the largest arms deal in its history. The \$3.5 billion deal required approval by the US State Department as the system was jointly developed by the two countries. **Associated Press, 17/08/2023**

# Arms exports from 2022

With £8.5 billion worth of arms export licences, 2022 was a bumper year for the UK arms industry. These figures do not include what is known as “open licences” which allow for unlimited arms sales.

	<b>Qatar</b>	<b>£2.7bn</b>
	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>£1.1bn</b>
	<b>USA</b>	<b>£860m</b>
	<b>Turkey</b>	<b>£424m</b>
	<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>£401m</b>
	<b>Canada</b>	<b>£398m</b>
	<b>France</b>	<b>£365m</b>
	<b>Italy</b>	<b>£279m</b>
	<b>India</b>	<b>£256m</b>
	<b>Taiwan</b>	<b>£246m</b>
	<b>UAE</b>	<b>£149m</b>
	<b>Spain</b>	<b>£116m</b>
	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>£115m</b>
	<b>Germany</b>	<b>£114m</b>
	<b>South Korea</b>	<b>£110m</b>
	<b>Brazil</b>	<b>£64m</b>
	<b>Australia</b>	<b>£61m</b>
	<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>£57m</b>
	<b>Chile</b>	<b>£51m</b>
	<b>Bahrain</b>	<b>£51m</b>

# LONDON CAAT

**Around 30 campaigners braved the rainy weather to join London CAAT's Merchants of Death Tour this August.**

Most tours try to take their participants to the best and most well known places in London. Instead, this tour was a visit to some of the worst: the offices of the major arms companies! All of them profit from death and destruction and each would be exhibiting at the DSEI arms fair in September.

First on the list was Boeing, one of the largest arms companies in the world. Maker of the F/A 18 warplane, B52 bomber and the AH-64 Apache helicopter gunship, Boeing's aircraft have been used in military operations around the world including in Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. They played a key part in the bombing of Gaza in 2018.

It was then on to BAE Systems, the UK's largest arms company, and manufacturer of the Typhoon fighter, Warrior armoured vehicle, and large parts of the F35 stealth plane. Since the start of the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen, BAE Systems has sold an eye-watering £25 billion of weapons to the Saudi regime, fuelling a conflict that has seen the death of more than 377,000 civilians through direct attacks or through the impact of the war on healthcare and the food supply.

Next up was Leonardo, an Italian-owned helicopter manufacturer, and one of the companies making the Typhoon fighter jet, which is also being used to such devastating effect by Saudi forces in Yemen

L3 Harris was the last stop on the tour. Makers of avionics and optics systems for bombers and drones, their night vision equipment is standard issue for special operations forces launching devastating raids across the Middle East, and their bomb-release technology

has played a key part in the proliferation of armed drones.

The campaigners did not forget UK state complicity in the deadly trade, also visiting UK Defence & Security Exports – the civil

service body that promotes arms sales – and Buckingham Palace, which has forged links with royal families that smooth the path of each arms sale.

At each stop, campaigners left a blue plaque to honour the victims of the deadly weapons being produced and sold by these dreadful organisations. The message to the arms trade was clear: we know where you are, we know what you do, and you are not welcome.

*At each stop, campaigners left a blue plaque to honour those who are the victims of the deadly weapons being produced and sold by these dreadful organisations*



# STOP THE SAUDI CROWN PRINCE VISIT

The UK government's invitation to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman (MBS) to come to Downing Street in the Autumn has sparked widespread fury (see page 3).

The group No Red Carpet called a demonstration outside Downing Street at the end of September, calling on Rishi Sunak to cancel the visit.

They were joined by London CAAT, who helped co-organise the action, and were supported by Reprieve, Shadow World International, the Fawcett Society, and campaigners for justice from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Bahrain. It followed a demonstration earlier in the month by the Stop the War coalition.

Campaigners were highlighting the repression faced by Saudi citizens – women especially – and the deadly impact of the war in Yemen.

Nadia, a speaker for No Red Carpet said, "As the voice of countless anonymous Saudi women who fear retaliation for daring to speak out, our faces may remain hidden but our voices resound loudly."

She went on to say, "We refuse to be mere victims of an oppressive regime. We stand united to



*"The Government are not just ignorant of these abuses but have actively supported the Crown Prince in all that he's done, going back many years."*

demand change, justice and equality. Our fight is not just for Saudi women – it's for humanity."

CAAT's Katie Fallon, condemned Saudi war crimes and human rights violations, and highlighted the complicity of the UK government. She said, "They are

not just ignorant of these abuses but have actively supported the Crown Prince in all that he's done, going back many years."

Further resistance is expected, as pressure mounts to cancel the visit. But one thing is clear, the voices raised in opposition to the violence and repression of the Saudi government will not be silenced. It is high time the UK listened to them, and ended its support for this dreadful regime.

## Telford says no to the arms trade

Telford will be playing host to the Specialist Defence & Security Convention UK Arms Fair in November.

This arms fair has already been chased out of Malvern by strong local protests, with brilliant support from groups in Birmingham and Bristol among others. It focuses on equipment for special forces soldiers, and has in previous years involved arms companies such as BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin,

Leonardo, and Elbit Systems.

Stop the Telford Arms Fair, a coalition of groups from Quakers, CAAT, XR, STWC and others is planning resistance, particularly on the second day of the fair, November 2nd. Keep an eye out for updates and for news of other actions in the run up to the fair.

Join the resistance by contacting [outreach@caat.org.uk](mailto:outreach@caat.org.uk), and find out more via [caat.org.uk/events/stoptelfordarmsfair](https://caat.org.uk/events/stoptelfordarmsfair)

**SDSC** UK



# STOP THE ARMS FAIR

September saw Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI), one of the world's biggest arms fairs, taking place at the Excel Centre in East London.

It brought together all of the world's largest arms companies along with military and police buyers from all around the world. The sole purpose of events like DSEI is to sell as many different weapons to as many people as possible.

The event is only possible because of the support and participation of the UK government, with senior ministers speaking at the event and civil servants from the Department for Business and Trade on hand to greet and fawn over attendees, regardless of their human rights records.

Put simply, DSEI is where war begins. The companies in attendance directly supply deadly weapons and the means of oppression to human rights

abusing regimes and countries in conflict.

They use DSEI to showcase the latest military technology and weapons while implicitly supporting the regimes in attendance.

*Put simply, DSEI is where war begins. The companies in attendance directly supply deadly weapons and the means of oppression to human rights abusing regimes and countries in conflict*

This year, military representatives from eight countries on the UK's government's own list of human rights priority countries attended. This is a list of countries about which even the UK government has serious concerns, in other words.

This included military buyers from Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

They weren't the only ones with questionable records, with buyers from other human rights abusing regimes in attendance including Bahrain, Turkey, India, Iraq and Israel.

DSEI is a large event, hosting over 1600 exhibitors. It is a marketplace for death, destruction and conflict.

The companies that exhibited included major players in the arms industry, such as BAE Systems, Thales, Lockheed Martin and Boeing, all of whom have long and shameful records of fuelling and profiting from war and repression.

It also hosted many arms companies from human rights



abusing states. This means that DSEI was not only supplying these countries with weapons and support but was also promoting and increasing their own arms industries.

This year over 40 Israeli companies were in attendance, including Elbit Systems, which produces many of the weapons Israel uses in its war against the Palestinians as well as arming despots and dictatorships around the world.

Israeli arms companies use Palestine as a laboratory for their weapons and technologies of repression before exporting them to others. This has allegedly included the export of arms to Myanmar, despite a public promise not to do this. The UN described the situation in Myanmar as genocidal in 2017, after 700,000 Rohingya were forced to flee to Bangladesh.

*Israeli arms companies use Palestine as a laboratory for their weapons and technologies of repression before exporting them to others*

Turkey also had a large presence at DSEI this year and is often invited to UK arms fairs. The Turkish arms industry is growing rapidly, with 26 Turkish arms companies exhibiting at DSEI. This is a particular cause for concern due to the increasing repression under the near dictatorial rule of President Erdogan, as well as the longstanding and ongoing war against the Kurds.

DSEI is well-known for welcoming war criminals, human rights abusers and ecological thugs to London. It is this terrible injustice it fuels that drives so many campaigners to the ExCel Centre each time it takes place. As long as arms fairs like DSEI exist, people will take action, which you'll hear more about from Kirsten and Emma who were on the ground at DSEI this year.



Photo: AlisdareHickson | Source: Flickr



Photo: Mazur/dccw.org.uk | Source: Flickr





# DSEI PROTESTS ON THE GROUND

The one thing we didn't factor into our anti-DSEI preparations was the climate crisis. The fair was taking place in London, so we really weren't prepared to be spending days in searing mid 30s heat as we took action to oppose Europe's biggest arms fair.

But while the heat didn't stop us, it was a stark reminder of the impact of militarism on the climate. According to Scientists for Global Responsibility, the world's militaries are responsible for about 5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with the US military cited as "the single largest institutional source of greenhouse gas emissions in the world."

And what we know is just scratching the surface, given that most countries don't properly count the level of emissions as they don't have to include armed forces in their reporting or reduction targets.

Stop the Arms Fair did an amazing job of coordinating two weeks of protest that covered the many different issues that link the arms trade with other social justice struggles, including the climate crisis, policing and prisons, and migrant justice. And while the protests were not always huge in number – most of them were midweek and I'm sure the heat really didn't help our numbers –

they were certainly powerful and were definitely noticed.

Our friends at No Faith in War held one of the biggest and most colourful events of the fortnight, leading to 11 people being arrested for blocking the road to the fair. Other events included a Critical Mass protest on bikes that blocked the roundabout at the East gate of the Excel Centre for many hours.

*The war in Ukraine has seen arms companies share prices soar. And it's why the arms trade will never be interested in global peace*

Once the monstrous fair started, activists got up close and personal with arms dealers, letting them know in no uncertain terms that they had blood on their hands.

It was also clear that DSEI organisers had planned for protests and are adapting. During the set-up there wasn't actually that much for us to blockade. For hours at a time the road at the East gate was deserted, and we didn't see the

long queues and tailbacks of trucks carrying military equipment that we have seen in previous years. This is definitely something we need to think about when we start planning how to shut down DSEI 2025!

Unfortunately business was booming at the ExCeL Centre, with one DSEI exec admitting that war is good for business (see They Said it on page 15). He was right. War is good for their business, and the war in Ukraine has seen arms companies share prices soar. And it's why the arms trade will never be interested in global peace – because it's global war and instability that drives their profits and their entire business model.

All of this makes our work even more important – both in opposing arms fairs and industry events like DSEI and in providing alternatives to the world's ever-increasing militarisation.

Our congratulations and thanks go to everyone who helped organise events, and who took to the streets to ensure that DSEI was resisted.

# ARMS TO UKRAINE

The issue of arms supplies by western countries to Ukraine following the illegal and brutal Russian invasion has generated different views within the peace movement and broader global justice movements.

For some, any arms supplied to a conflict can only ever make things worse. Others see this as a legitimate if regrettable exception in a situation of urgent need for self-defence.

However, regardless of these differences, one concern that would be shared by all is that arms supplied to Ukraine should not end up being illegally resold or smuggled out of Ukraine, during or after the war, to fuel armed conflict and criminal violence elsewhere.

In the past, Ukraine has had a murky record of corruption in the military sector and of diversion of large quantities of arms to conflicts around the world following the end of the Cold War. While they have made improvements to their security sector governance, the risk of future diversion remains.

It is not just the peace movement or civil society in general that has raised this concern. The head of Interpol warned last June that arms for Ukraine could easily end up in the hands of criminals after the war.

Most experts and NGOs who have looked at the issue have found little

evidence of significant diversion of arms from Ukraine so far. This is most likely because the arms are being used so intensively in the war.

But the greater concern is what happens after the war, when there may be large stockpiles remaining of arms and ammunition.

Some of Ukraine's arms suppliers are paying attention to this risk. The US has published plans for monitoring and tracking of arms donated to Ukraine, and other measures to mitigate the diversion risk, although the Stimson Center, a progressive US think tank, has criticised these measures as insufficient in some respects, if welcome in general.

The EU has established a monitoring hub in Moldova, partly to counter firearms trafficking for Ukraine, though also "people smuggling" (i.e. stopping migrants) and other border issues.

The UK government, in contrast, has not published anything about making sure that the £2.3 billion worth of arms it has supplied to Ukraine, with another £2.3 billion promised, are not diverted or

smuggled out of Ukraine.

Indeed, when a member of the public sent in a Freedom Of Information request to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to ask what measures the Government had in place to counter diversion, the MOD refused even to confirm or deny if such measures existed.

*One concern that would be shared by all is that arms supplied to Ukraine should not end up being illegally resold or smuggled out of Ukraine*

This can only raise the suspicion that in fact the Government is doing nothing, but does not want to admit as much. The UK in general does not conduct any sort of regular end-use monitoring of arms exports.

The invasion of Ukraine has resulted in a horrific tragedy, whatever happens. The last thing anyone should want is for the arms supplied to seed yet further tragedies in conflicts and criminal violence around the world. The lack of clear action from the UK to prevent this is utterly irresponsible.



Photo: Number 10, UK Prime Minister | Source: Flickr



## THE LABOUR PARTY AND THE ARMS TRADE

This year's Labour Party Conference is taking place as we go to press, but, with an election on the horizon, it is more important than ever to consider the Party's role in the arms trade and what a Labour government would mean for our campaigning.

That is why CAAT and our activists are working with Labour members and MPs who want to ensure that Labour would not follow the same disastrous arms export policies that have done so much damage.

A lot of the issues we campaign on are institutional rather than party political. Traditionally, Labour governments have made very similar foreign policy choices to Tory ones, particularly when it comes to the arms trade.

That was perhaps most obvious in the case of Tony Blair, who was just as pro-arms industry as any of the Tory PMs who came before him, and helped to put long-term fighter jet deals in motion for BAE Systems and other arms companies.

During their time in opposition that has changed. Ed Miliband's Labour Party took a more critical approach to aspects of the arms trade while Jeremy Corbyn had a long-held opposition to the industry and UK complicity in the Saudi-led war on Yemen.

When Keir Starmer stood to be Labour leader he promised to end arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other repressive regimes. He also

promised "no more illegal wars" and to "put human rights at the heart of foreign policy."

There is only so much we can judge from his position in opposition, but, with the Labour Party changing policy on a range of issues at the moment, we need to do all we can to ensure these stances are not diluted and weakened.

*We need to see what influence the UK is trying to have on Europe, and tailor our campaigning accordingly*

In the last few months the Labour leader and his Shadow Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, have given more detailed indications on the direction they would take UK foreign policy.

One area they have focused on is Europe, with both saying that they want to improve relations between the UK and the EU. As part of this they have proposed a new UK/EU security pact.

This should ring alarm bells. EU security policy, defined in the EU Common Security and Defence

Policy (CSDP), is one aspect of the EU that we should always engage with critically.

The EU Common Position on arms exports is very similar to UK policy, and there are governments all over Europe that have taken an approach to foreign policy as destructive and hypocritical as the UK's.

The UK may not be in the EU anymore, but as activists and campaigners we still need to understand what is happening across Europe. With or without Brexit we are still operating in a European context.

We need to see what influence the UK is trying to have on Europe, and tailor our campaigning accordingly. In the event of a Labour government this is definitely something we'll be following closely.

When it comes to nuclear weapons, military spending and arms sales to human rights abusing regimes, we need to continue the work we are doing and keep up the pressure regardless of who is in Downing Street.

# HOW ARMS SALES DISPLACE PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

Arms companies are fuelling and profiting from the displacement of people and families around the world.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has spent a huge amount of time talking about the “small boat crisis.” His remarks have focused on scapegoating and demonising human beings who are taking terrible risks, rather than on why people feel forced to make such dangerous and potentially deadly crossings in the first place.

There is no migration crisis. There are crises of war, poverty, oppression and inequality that are causing often very vulnerable people to uproot their lives and flee for safety and security.

The UN estimates that there are almost 110 million forcibly displaced people around the world, including over 35 million refugees. 43 million children have been displaced, with 1.9 million having been born as refugees.

War and repression are the leading cause of displacement, with a majority of displaced people originating from just three countries: Syria, Ukraine and Afghanistan, all of which are conflict zones.

The UK system is brutal, with refugees often having to wait years to have their status granted and having to endure huge legal barriers to employment and services. Many are “processed” in prison-like conditions.

These already appalling conditions for refugees are likely to get a lot worse in the years ahead, with the Tories in the process of introducing new and repressive laws that will make it even harder for people.

*There is not a migration crisis. There are crises of war, poverty, oppression and inequality that are causing often very vulnerable people to uproot their lives and flee for safety and security*

The Illegal Migration Bill – also known as the Refugee Ban Bill – has been described by Liberty as “an assault on human rights that will put people’s lives at risk and allow the Government to abuse rights with impunity.”

This is being implemented by a Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, who has said it is her “dream” and “obsession” to deport UK-based migrants to Rwanda. There have been attempts to do this in the past, which were stopped for being illegal.

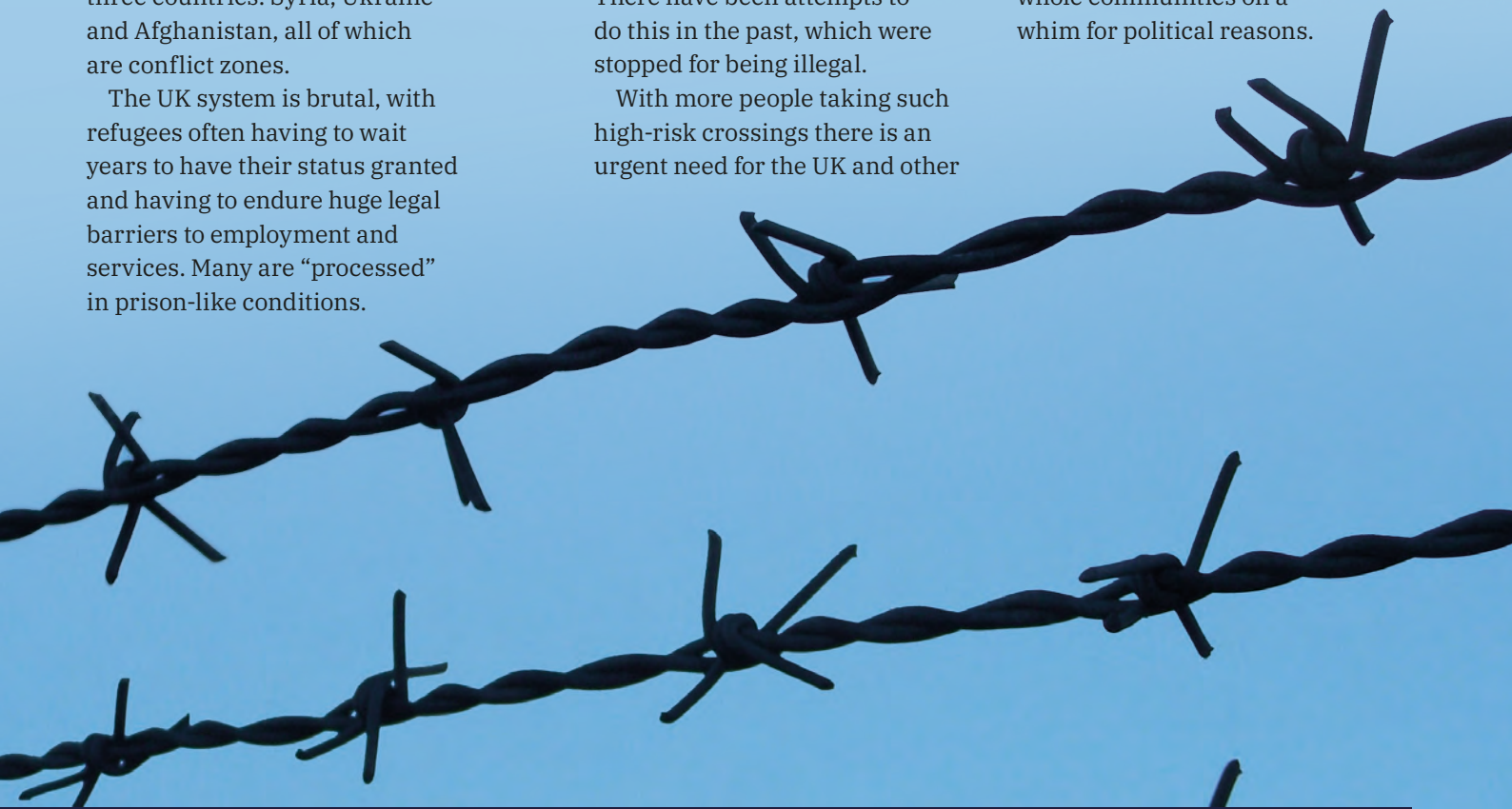
With more people taking such high-risk crossings there is an urgent need for the UK and other

governments to allow safe routes to allow people and families to travel without the risk of drowning.

But beyond that there is also an urgent need to follow a foreign policy based on the promotion of genuine human rights rather than arms exports and support for repressive regimes, which are causing the humanitarian crises from which people are fleeing.

The arms companies themselves are not only profiting from the wars that displace people. Many of them are profiting twice by creating the apparatus of repression that is being used to monitor and target refugees, such as militarised “border security.”

CAAT will always stand in support and solidarity with refugees and other communities who are on the receiving end of a hostile environment here in the UK and in other countries. Human rights must be universal and cannot be removed from whole communities on a whim for political reasons.



# CAAT IN SCOTLAND

The DSEI arms fair may have taken place in London, but it was attended by arms dealers and companies with offices all over the UK, including those who are supported by our devolved governments.

The Scottish Government has generally taken a more progressive view on foreign policy, policing and migration than Westminster, but it has also funded the arms trade to the tune of millions of pounds.

*Despite the tick-box exercise in human-rights checks that the Scottish government is meant to carry out before it gives grants, it is clear that these companies only care about maximising arms sales and perpetuating conflict*

An important investigation by journalists at the Ferret found that since 2019 the Scottish government's business funding body, Scottish Enterprise, has given funding totalling £8.2 million to 13 arms companies that were exhibiting at the event.

That included giving large sums to arms giants like Leonardo, Chemring, Raytheon Systems, and Thales UK. They are among the

biggest arms dealers in the world. The last thing they need is even more public money.

Leonardo and Raytheon in particular have played a key role in arming the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen, which has created one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

Leonardo is one of the companies responsible for producing the Eurofighter jets that Saudi forces are using while Raytheon produces the Paveway bombs that have done so much damage.

This isn't the first time that the Scottish Government has been called out for its complicity and hypocrisy on the arms trade.

Despite the tick-box exercise in human-rights checks that the Scottish Government is meant to carry out before it gives grants, it is clear that these companies only care about maximising arms sales and perpetuating conflict.

Halting events like DSEI is crucial, but so is opposing the

arms trade on our doorstep and challenging the role played by all levels of government in perpetuating it. The arms industry is at work every day in communities all over the UK and beyond. We need to shut down arms fairs and challenge it on our own doorsteps.



Photo: Gnomonic | Source: Flickr

## Brian Larkin

CAAT and many others across the peace movement were saddened by the loss of peace activist Brian Larkin in August this year. Brian was the coordinator of the Peace and Justice Centre in Edinburgh and a strong supporter of the anti-arms trade and anti-nuclear movements. The legacy of his work to infuse the arts into campaigns across Scotland will be long-lasting.

Brian was a passionate and dedicated campaigner who spent time at the Faslane Peace Camp

where he became a committed activist with our friends at Trident Ploughshares. He was a well-known presence on protests and actions and was a long-term friend of CAAT. Brian played a pivotal role in building the peace movement and establishing research on the arms trade in Scotland, as well as in supporting activists and building many campaigns with the Edinburgh CAAT group over a number of years.

Brian will be missed and our thoughts and condolences go to all of his family.

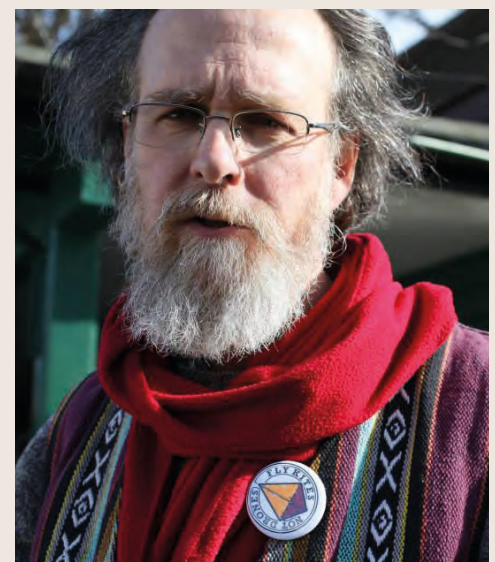


Photo: Peace & Justice | Source: X

## THEY SAID IT

**“War is good for business”**

Unnamed arms company executive at DSEI arms fair, Reuters, 15/09/2023

**“It seems war is back in a big way. People are looking to stock up”**

Unnamed bomb salesman at DSEI arms fair, The Guardian, 20/09/2023

**“Britain has been at the core of Western security and global security for the last 200 years, and I think it’s natural that they host the world’s largest expo... I would hope a British citizen would be proud of that”**

Matthew Bragoni of Ensign-Bickford Aerospace and Defense at DSEI, Declassified, 19/09/2023

**D S E I**

12-15 September 2023

**The World Leading  
Defence & Security Event**

ExCeL, London [www.DSEI.co.uk](http://www.DSEI.co.uk)

## Thank you

Many thanks to all who were able to contribute to our special appeal in **CAAT News 266**, focussing on our work campaigning against the dreaded DSEI.

As you will have read in this issue, CAAT supporters joined activists from many other organisations, as part of the Stop The Arms Fair network – all doing our best to make it a less comfortable place for the exhibitors and visitors, and exposing the horrors of the arms trade.

We used the money you were able to give in very practical ways:

We contributed to the cost of facilities such as mobile toilets. These were sited near(ish) to the peace camp and could be used by those staying at the camp or visiting for the day. In fact, anybody was welcome to use them and we made sure that facilities were available for those with special needs. The police wouldn’t let the toilets through on the first day, but were persuaded (shamed?) into allowing them in the next.

Bearing in mind that an activist still gets hungry, thirsty and tired, we were able to help with the costs of the camp kitchen, including the equipment (transport as well), food and, of course, plenty of coffee, tea and biscuits!

It was a real pleasure to be able to give financial support to those who, without it, wouldn’t have been able to get to London to join us. This year, we were able to help with money towards train tickets, bus fares, and appropriate special access needs.

## Take part near you

**CAAT’s campaigns are effective because of people like you.**

Have you thought about joining or forming a local CAAT group? It’s a fun and effective way to take action with others.

There may already be an existing local group. In which case, find their contact details and get in touch. A list of local groups is available at [caat.org.uk/take-action/take-part-near-you](http://caat.org.uk/take-action/take-part-near-you)

If not, there are probably people in your area who would like to join a group you organise. If you would like to get something started, contact [outreach@caat.org.uk](mailto:outreach@caat.org.uk).

# 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)