

Why protest?

DSEI is a key part of the global arms industry where deals are made that fuel conflict around the world. Many countries that attend, not least the Western powers who outwardly champion the rule of international law, are perpetrators of human right abuses and state repression. **DSEI is where they acquire the tools to do so with ruthless efficiency.** Those who attend get privileged access to UK ministers and civil servants, meaning the state and the industry work hand in hand to promote increased firepower as the only possible answer to a variety of so-called “security threats”.

DSEI takes place in East London where there are many refugees who have suffered the effects of war first hand. It is not wanted by the London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, or the Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz, who have specifically spoken out against it in past years.

**It should not be happening here.
It should not be happening anywhere.**



Campaigners blocking the road

For further information see Stop The Arms Fair
website: stopthearmsfair.org.uk
email: resistDSEI@protonmail.com

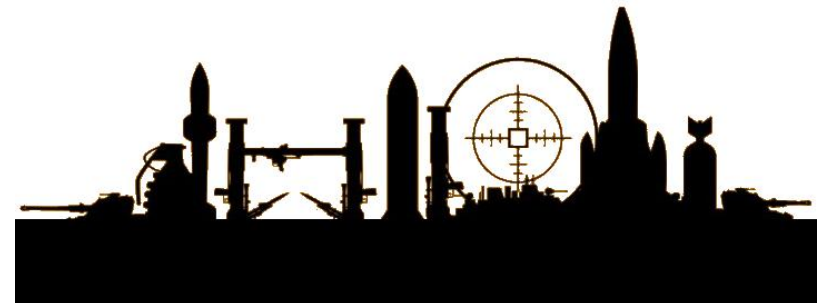


What is DSEI?

Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) UK is **one of the world's largest international arms fairs**. It's held every two years at the Excel Centre in London. In 2023 there were over 1,500 exhibitors from over 50 countries, and more than 41,000 people attended from over 90 countries. **Attendees included some of the countries on the Human Rights Concerns watch list.** The 2025 event will be on the same scale.

DSEI's own website makes it clear that this is a business event, boasting that attendees will "connect with global leaders, industry experts, and decision-makers, forging valuable connections that will significantly advance your business."

**DSEI is all about profit,
not about improving people's security.**



DSEI is run by Clarion Events but has the **full backing of the UK government Defence and Security Exports department (UKDSE)**. The UKDSE exists to promote arms exports and foreign investments in the UK arms industry, and they invite countries to attend DSEI.

What's on sale?

The fair is split into eight zones; Aerospace, Manufacturing, Land, Naval, Medical, Space, Tech, and International Pavilions.

All kinds of **Military equipment and systems** are on display ranging from aircraft, tanks and warships (Royal Victoria Dock is part of the exhibition space), to smaller items such as drones, ammunition, hand weapons, missiles, cyber security solutions, robots, AI applications, etc. It includes items used to enforce borders and police communities. Items banned by international agreements are not supposed to be on sale, however, exhibitors in the past have been shown to be promoting illegal items such as torture equipment and cluster munitions.



Equipment arriving flanked by protestors in 2021



Ben Wallis, former UK secretary of state for defence with the Saudi Ambassador and other Saudi officials at a previous DSEI.

Who attends?

DSEI exists in order to bring buyers and sellers together, and to forge links between companies and national decision makers. As well as **arms companies** and representatives of **the military**, you will also find **ministers, politicians and government officials** from a wide range of countries. These countries include some on the Human Rights Concerns watch list such as Qatar, UAE and Bahrain.

One of DSEI's 'selling points' is that it can provide access to governments. The DSEI website tells potential attendees that they can, "Gain unrivalled access to international governments, Ministries of Defence, military officials, and all UK front line commands to understand global defence priorities and procurement opportunities."

Large arms companies will be in attendance, such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, BAE systems and Elbit as well as a myriad of smaller companies from around the world.