

CAAT NEWS

The quarterly magazine for Campaign Against Arms Trade

Issue 274
Summer 2025

Stop Arming Genocide



PLUS

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**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
ARMS
TRADE**

Unfortunately as this issue of CAAT News goes to press we have had bad news from the Courts about arms sales to Israel. The article on P3 explains what this means and what we can do.

In this issue we are also looking at the decision to proscribe Palestine Action and UK complicity in spy flights for Israel. We also have features on the upcoming DSEI arms fair and actions that will be taken against it.

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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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STOP ARMING ISRAEL

In June the High Court dismissed GLAN/Al-Haq's application for judicial review on the exemption, or "carve-out," made by the Labour government to allow the UK to continue supplying F-35 combat aircraft components to Israel for use in Gaza.

It is a devastating ruling and one that the Government will use to try to justify arms exports to war zones and repressive regimes for years to come.

During the case, the Government appeared to accept that Israel is not committed to complying with international law, and that there is a clear risk that Israel is using F-35s to commit war crimes.

In its ruling, the court determined that it didn't have the jurisdiction to rule on international law and that only the Government is able to decide when it should or should not comply with international law. This is because, according to the judgment, the relevant international treaties are not incorporated into domestic law.

UK arms companies make 15% of every F-35, with the value of UK components in Israel's F-35s estimated by CAAT to be well over £500m. This is by far the most significant part of the UK arms trade with Israel.

At least 75 UK companies are involved in manufacturing components. For example, BAE Systems makes every rear fuselage for the F-35 and also makes its active interceptor system. Leonardo makes its targeting lasers and L3 Harris makes the weapons release cables.

We cannot rely on our institutions to uphold international law, we can only rely on ourselves and the power we have to create change

Successive UK governments have claimed that the UK has one of the most "robust" arms licensing regimes in the world. This judgment shows this is clearly not the case.

Indeed, the ability of the Government to make "carve-outs" from the export licensing criteria, makes following these rules, and complying with the Arms Trade Treaty, essentially optional.

Urgent reform to domestic law is needed to incorporate international legal principles into the UK's arms export laws.

When our Government and our courts fail us, it is down to us, ordinary citizens, to take action. It is more urgent than ever that we use every campaign avenue open to us. We cannot rely on our institutions to uphold international law, we can only rely on ourselves and the power we have to create change.

We cannot wait for the history books to vindicate us. We cannot wait for Israel to obliterate Gaza and the West Bank. We cannot wait and watch while Israel kills more Palestinian children with 2000lb bombs dropped by F-35s.

We can not and will not stand by and we will not stay silent while the Government prioritises its relationship with a genocidal state and arms dealers' profits over Palestinian lives.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

United States



Photo: Trump White House Archived | Source: Flickr

US air strikes on Iran have set back Iran's nuclear weapons programme by up to two years, according to the Pentagon's top spokesperson. There has been dispute about the impact of the strikes, which were made in June, with the US military attacking Iran's three main nuclear sites.

Defense News, 03 July 2025

The US government has claimed to have secured a military agreement with Saudi Arabia worth \$142 billion. The deal, agreed by President Donald Trump during a visit to Riyadh, is the largest ever weapons deal between the two countries.

Al Jazeera, 13 May 2025

Congress has passed Donald Trump's spending package, which includes \$150 billion for the Department of Defense. The package prioritises military shipbuilding, the Golden Dome project, which will intercept and launch missiles, and refilling America's stores of precision weapons.

The total includes \$113 billion in mandatory funding for the military, which the Pentagon has said pushes its budget close to \$1 trillion for the first time.

Defense News, 03 July 2025

Serbia

The Serbian government is halting all arms exports following warnings from Russia and Iran that any nations supplying weapons to their adversaries could face serious repercussions. Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service has accused Serbia of supplying artillery ammunition to Ukraine via third-party countries in Eastern Europe.

TVPWorld, 24 June 2025

Germany

Germany and the Philippines have agreed to boost their military ties and expand joint activities as Manila is trying to strengthen its position in a longstanding dispute with China in the contested South China Sea. The agreement includes greater cooperation over cyber security, military armaments and logistics and United Nations peacekeeping

Reuters, 15 May 2025

China

According to an investigation by Amnesty International, sophisticated Chinese weaponry, re-exported by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has been used in Khartoum and Darfur in a blatant breach of the existing UN arms embargo.

By analysing pictures and videos showing the aftermath of attacks, Amnesty identified Chinese GB50A guided bombs and 155mm AH-4 howitzers. This is the first time GB50A bombs have been documented in active use in any conflict worldwide.

Amnesty International, 08 May 2025

A British man has been indicted in the US for allegedly trying to smuggle "sensitive American military technology" to China, including missiles, air defence radar and drones. If he is found guilty, the man could face up to 20 years in prison for violation of the Arms Export Control Act, and 10 years for smuggling.

BBC News Online, 01 June 2025

The Chinese government has urged the US to halt arms sales to Taiwan, which it claims are escalating tensions. The call comes amid unconfirmed Chinese media reports that the US "plans to ramp up weapons sales to Taiwan island to a level exceeding the approximately \$18.3 billion sold" during President Donald Trump's first term.

AA.com, 30 May 2025

Photo: Office of the President, Republic of China (Taiwan)
Source: Flickr



Poland

It has been announced that the government-backed Polish Capital Investment Fund will provide over 2.4 billion zloty (\$662.9 million) to four companies from the Polish Armaments Group to expand the production of 155 mm ammunition. The shells have been in huge demand since the start of the conflict in Ukraine. **Breaking Defense, 03 July 2025**

India

India's state-owned Export-Import Bank is to offer long-term, low-cost loans to potential military buyers, with a reported focus on arms sales. India is said to be particularly targeting governments that have long relied on Russia for arms as part of a long term strategy to expand its arms industry. **Reuters, 16 April 2025**



One of Russia's most lucrative arms export deals – the \$5.4 billion sale of S-400 air defense systems to India – has been significantly delayed due to the war in Ukraine. The contract, which was signed in 2018, stipulated delivery of five S-400 regimental units by 2024, but Indian forces are still awaiting the final shipments with reports suggesting the invasion of Ukraine is responsible for the delay. **New York Times, 27 June 2025**

Ukraine

Ukraine is to receive \$2.26 billion from the UK for arms purchases. The new funding will be used to buy Rapid Ranger air defense systems and Martlet lightweight multirole missiles. **Kiev Independent, 11 June 2025**

Spain

Research from Centre Delas, a Barcelona-based think tank specialising in military policy, has revealed that Spain has awarded 46 contracts worth more than €1 billion euros to Israeli arms firms since the outbreak of the assault on Gaza, breaking the government's pledge not to trade arms with Israel. According to reports, of the 46 contracts, which include deals for rocket launchers and missiles, 10 have not been formalised. **New Arab, 26 April 2025**



CC-BY-4.0: © European Union 2023 – Source: EP

Military spending soars

New statistics from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute show that 2024 saw the steepest increase in military spending since 1988, reaching an eye-watering \$2,718 billion. Military spending increased in all world regions, with rapid growth in both Europe and the Middle East. The top five military spenders – the United States, China, Russia, Germany and India – accounted for 60 per cent of the global total.

* = estimated figure		Spending 2024	Change in spending 2023–24 (%)
1	 United States	\$997b	↑ 5.7
2	 China	\$314b*	↑ 7.0
3	 Russia	\$149b*	↑ 38
4	 Germany	\$88.5b	↑ 28
5	 India	\$86.1b	↑ 1.6
6	 United Kingdom	\$81.8b	↑ 2.8
7	 Saudi Arabia	\$80.3b*	↑ 1.5
8	 Ukraine	\$64.7b	↑ 2.9
9	 France	\$64.7b	↑ 6.1
10	 Japan	\$55.3b	↑ 21

Photo: Presidential Press and Information Office | Source: Flickr

DON'T BANK ON GENOCIDE

Barclays came under intensified pressure in June to end its continued funding of arms companies linked to the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza.

Campaigners from Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), War on Want and CAAT were outside the Wimbledon Championships in the bright heat of the event's first day. Barclays sponsors the championships, effectively "sports washing" the results of its deadly dealings.

Tennis fans sporting Panama hats, blazers and sun dresses heard how the bank's share dealings and loans prop up companies like BAE Systems, Boeing and Raytheon. These companies have profited immensely from the bombing.

Artists constructed a car with over three hundred "bullet holes" highlighting the case of Hind Rajab, 6 years old. She was killed in February 2024 by Israeli soldiers after making a desperate phone call for help, alongside the paramedics who tried to save her, and her relatives: the car she was in was found riddled by gunfire.

The bank also acts as a sales agent for Israeli government bonds, selling millions of pounds worth of the country's debt, used to fund oppression, war crimes and genocide, and has helped investors buy shares in Elbit, Israel's largest arms company.

London CAAT was also marching in solidarity with Islington PSC through the streets



of the borough on the previous Saturday. Several hundred campaigners from around a dozen different groups joined the march in bright sunshine calling on Islington Council to end its relationship with Barclays.

It is high time that Barclays was held to account for the impact it has on people and the planet

Speakers at the "Barclays Funds Death" rally included local MP Jeremy Corbyn, Green Party and Independent councillors, CAAT, London Mining Network, Fossil Free London, Culture Workers Against Genocide, Islington Banks

Better, and KIN financial Co-op, among others.

They made the connection between war and conflict, mineral and fossil fuel extraction, and big money interests, encouraging listeners to use their financial power for good purposes. They also showed how incompatible Islington's continued relationship with the bank is with its declaration of a climate emergency.

It is high time that Barclays was held to account for the impact it has on people and the planet. Find out about these and similar protests by signing up to CAAT's mailing list via caat.org.uk, or by checking out our Events page on the website.

Target Leonardo

CAAT activists in Edinburgh joined with campaigners from the Edinburgh Gaza Emergency Committee and the Target Leonardo campaign in Edinburgh.

CAAT's research coordinator, Sam Perlo-Freeman, gave a presentation on the UK arms industry, how it works and what Leonardo's role in it is. The meeting was attended by a

former Leonardo worker who gave a fascinating insight into the inner workings of the company.

Leonardo's factory in Edinburgh has been repeatedly targeted by campaigners due to its production

of laser targeting equipment that has been used in conflict zones around the world.

There will be actions taking place over the months ahead, which CAAT will be supporting.

CAAT in Scotland

In June Edinburgh CAAT volunteers took to the Scottish Parliament to call for the Government to end its financial support for arms companies, including those profiting from the genocide in Gaza.

Seven years ago, the Scottish Greens persuaded the Scottish government to introduce a human rights due diligence process for grants awarded by Scottish Enterprise. This is the arm's length agency set up by the Scottish government to support the Scottish economy.

However, in that time not a single company has ever failed the test, suggesting it is not as robust as it could or should be.

The Scottish government says they don't fund arms. They say that they give money to the many arms manufacturers in Scotland, Leonardo, Raytheon, BAE, etc in a bid to help them to "diversify."

These are some of the biggest arms companies in the world and are making the fighter jets and bombs used by Israeli forces against Palestinians. The last thing we want is for the Government to be giving them millions of pounds to help them to become more efficient and profitable.

The Scottish government had recently committed to a new review of the process. Before our visit we wrote to all our MSP's saying we want the review to be transparent, have independent reviewers and to allow the public to

know what the criteria was; and we asked them to meet with us.

By good fortune we had got sponsored by a Green MSP to have a stall in the Scottish Parliament in an area only MSPs and their staff can go.

You can't oppose a genocide while pouring money into the companies that are profiting from it

We spoke directly to more than 22, Tory, Labour, SNP and Green MSPs. Plenty of them were sympathetic. Unfortunately there were a few who knew nothing about the issue and two who were against defunding arms manufacturers. One of them even turned up with a retired SAS soldier in tow.

We also hosted well attended vigils outside the Parliament, where we were joined by people from the Quakers, Catholic Worker, Scottish Episcopal Church, Secure Scotland, Glasgow Gaza Emergency Committee, Scottish Palestine Solidarity Committee and Scottish Greens, as well as some individuals who had seen our social media posts.

Three MSPs came out to speak and support us. As a small group it proved well worth working with

other groups and it helped us to be seen and heard in Parliament.

Unfortunately, only days after our vigil the review was completed and the Scottish government concluded that there were no problems with the practice and that the subsidies to arms dealers would keep flowing.

You can't oppose a genocide while pouring money into the companies that are profiting from it. With a Scottish election next May, we will step up campaigning and ensure that we build on the contacts we made and the noise that we raised.



DSEI arms fair 2025



The biennial Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair is returning to London this year, and activists are preparing to take action against it.

What is DSEI?

DSEI – Defence and Security Equipment International – is an international arms fair held every two years at the Excel Centre in London. It's been held there since 2001, and is one of the world's largest arms fairs.

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 military representatives from some countries on the UK government's own Human Rights Concerns watch list. The 2025 event will be on the same scale.

DSEI's own website is 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 about profit, it's not about countries protecting their people.

It is run by Clarion Events, a private company, but has the full backing of the UK government Defence and Security Exports

Exhibitors in the past have been shown to be promoting illegal items such as torture equipment and cluster munitions

department (UKDSE). The UKDSE exists to promote arms exports and foreign investments in the UK arms industry and it's the UKDSE who sends out the invitation to countries to attend DSEI. DSEI is a Government-backed arms fair.

What is on sale?

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

Items on display range from aircraft, tanks and warships (Royal Victoria Dock is part of the

exhibition space), to smaller items such as drones and ammunition, plus just about everything in between – missiles, hand weapons, cyber security solutions, robots, AI applications – in fact any other military equipment or system you can think of.

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.

Attendees will have the chance to attend talks, demonstrations and conferences as well as having hands-on experiences with many of the weapons on display.

Who attends?

DSEI exists in order to bring buyers and sellers together, and to forge links between arms companies and national decision makers, so 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 include some on the Human Rights Concerns watch list such as Qatar, UAE and Bahrain.

One of DSEIs “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.”

Attendees in 2023 included military representatives from some countries on the UK government’s own Human Rights Concerns watch list

All of the largest 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 numerous countries. We expect both Turkey and Israel to have pavilions for their arms companies, though the latter has yet to be confirmed.

Where is DSEI?

DSEI takes place at the Excel Centre in East London and includes Royal Victoria Dock. Access to the arms fair itself is strictly controlled so protesting usually has to take place around the area.

Attendees may arrive via London City Airport, often staying in local hotels. Most travel to the Excel centre using the DLR (Docklands Light Railway) or by car or coach. The three DLR stations used are Royal Victoria, Custom House and Prince Regent with Custom House usually being the busiest. Attendees coming by car are often dropped off at Custom House or at the Western Gateway.

The main protesters’ camp has often been at the Connaught Roundabout/Prince Regent end of the area but in the past protests have happened over a fairly wide area and this could be the case again. For example, there have been banners hung on the other side of the dock, protests around Connaught

Bridge, and actions at all three DLR stations and at the Western Gateway end. In the past there have also been protests near the offices of UKDSE, which are at Admiralty Arch in Whitehall, London.

During the setup of DSEI, equipment arriving tends to be brought in via Royal Albert Way, but if that’s blocked they may use Festoon Way or even go round to the Western Gateway. From Custom House there is a fairly good view of equipment and haulage companies arriving at the centre.

Sometimes the police will hold back lorries and keep them parked up until access to the centre is clear. This could be in any nearby area and we’d only know about this if someone spotted it happening

When is DSEI?

DSEI takes place from Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th September 2025 but there will be plenty of activity before that.

Monday 18 August – Sunday 7 Sept

DSEI set up. The last public event in the Excel centre is on the 17th so, although we don’t know the exact plans, the set up for DSEI will be after that.

Monday 1 Sept

Campaigners are expected to begin arriving

Friday 5 Sept – Sunday 7 Sept

Warships arrive at Royal Victoria Dock

Monday 8 Sept

DSEI press day, VIP visits and mini conferences.

Tuesday 9 Sept – Friday 12 Sept

The arms fair itself, although last day is usually fairly quiet after lunch.

For details of protests, visit stopthearmsfair.org.uk/join-in



UK ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL SURGE

Data on export licences for the fourth quarter of 2024, October–December, and for the full year 2024, were published by the Government in May.

The data fell entirely after the Government’s decision to suspend 29 arms export licences for equipment for use by the Israeli military in Gaza.

Despite this, the period saw a big surge in the value of single export licences for military equipment to Israel, to a total value of £127 million – greater than the total value of arms export licences to Israel for the four years from 2020–2023.

In total, £142 million worth of military export licences to Israel were approved in 2024.

Of the £127 million, £60 million worth were for “standard” licences, where the final end user(s) of the equipment must be in the same country as the initial destination (i.e. Israel).

£67 million worth of licences were for “incorporation” licences, where the exported equipment is to be incorporated into larger systems which may then be exported to third countries.

For both types of licences, the vast majority of the value was in

the category ML5, which covers targeting and fire control systems. This includes radars and other sensors for detecting targets and guiding weapons. The licences for Israel are for “military radars” and their components, and for “targeting equipment,” but the precise nature of these items is not disclosed.

The Government has refused a Freedom of Information request by CAAT asking for a list of all of the suspended licences

Meanwhile, the published data did not reveal which 29 licences were suspended in September 2024 – as would normally be the case if licences were fully revoked. Moreover, the Government has refused a Freedom of Information request by CAAT asking for a list of all of the suspended licences, on the grounds that, when combined with previously released information, this would violate arms companies’ confidentiality and commercial interests.

This means that the Government is simply asking the public to take on trust that the licences they have allowed to continue – as well as the new ones issued – are not for equipment that Israel will use in its genocide in Gaza.

The single export licences discussed do not include components for the F-35 combat aircraft, which Israel has been using intensively to bomb Gaza, and which the Government – now unfortunately given permission by the High Court (see P3) – exempted from its suspension.

So far in 2025, the US has delivered six new F-35s to Israel, each of which is 15% produced in the UK. That’s about another \$72m or £55m worth of UK arms to Israel not revealed by the above statistics, not to mention the constant supply of spare parts to keep Israel’s 45 F-35s flying and killing.

CAAT now estimates the total value of F-35 components supplied by the UK to Israel since 2016 to be about £550 million.

MAKING BRITAIN SAFER?

In June the UK government published its Strategic Defence Review, the first to be published under Keir Starmer's Labour government, and it will have had arms dealers rubbing their hands together.

Proclaiming that the UK must be ready to “fight and win” a full-scale war, the review calls for the UK to boost its nuclear programme with an extra £15 billion for warheads and more F-35 aircraft to carry them, and up to 12 new conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines.

With calls for an increase in military personnel, it recommended new structures such as a “gap year” option that they hope will encourage more people, including women and young people, to consider joining.

Ominously it calls for cadet forces in schools and communities across the UK to be expanded by 30%, which will be supported by work with the Department

for Education “to develop understanding of the armed forces among young people.” The UK is one of few countries that allows 16 year olds to join the army and such an approach is likely to see those numbers increasing.

Keir Starmer and his Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, have made clear that funding will come from cutting social security for disabled people as well as cuts to international aid

This splurge in military spending is likely to be paid for by the people with the least. Despite challenges from within his own party, Keir Starmer and his Chancellor, Rachel Reeves,

have made clear that funding will come from cutting social security for disabled people as well as cuts to international aid.

There is also the promise of a greater focus on international arms sales, with the creation of a new Defence Exports Office in the Ministry of Defence to drive exports and an explicit commitment to sell even more arms.

With UK arms having been used in human rights abuses around the world, such as the Saudi-led bombardment of Yemen and the Israeli genocide against Gaza, this can only mean even more complicity in war crimes and atrocities.

One of the most telling things about the review is what is missing. There is almost nothing in it about the climate crisis, and nothing about the threats that people are facing from underfunded public services, which will only get worse as the arms industry continues to suck up resources.

Experts agree that military procurement is some of the most wasteful in government, with vast sums involved, yet Labour is proposing to hugely expand this bloated and destructive sector.

It doesn't have to be this way. The arms industry employs some of the best and most skilled engineers in the world. We want to see those workers and their skills being put to the best possible use by boosting support for green and renewable industries that can help us to build a cleaner, greener and safer world.

The UK already has one of the biggest military budgets in the world, the idea that we should be inflating it further while services we all rely on go without is one that CAAT will always oppose.

Photo: Defence Imagery | Source: Flickr



We want to see arms industry workers and their skills being put to the best possible use by boosting support for green and renewable industries

EUROPEAN REARMAMENT

Huge turnout for ENAAT event on Palestine and European rearmament

In June, as a prelude to the annual weekend of meetings for the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT), CAAT and Shadow World Investigations organised a public event, held at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, entitled: “Between Gaza and (re)armament: the arms trade, the rule of law, and Europe’s moral standing.”

The speakers were former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, Palestinian journalist Ahmed Al Naouq, Niamh Ni Bhriain from the Transnational Institute, and UN Special Rapporteur for the

Occupied Palestinian Territories Francesca Albanese, who joined remotely from a taxi in Tunisia! The event was moderated by Andrew Feinstein from Shadow World Investigations.

The speakers addressed a packed Brunei Gallery with over 200 guests. They spoke about the genocide in Gaza, Europe’s responsibility, and the dangers of an ever more militaristic policy and massive rearmament in Europe and beyond.

After the event, there were book sales and signings for Ahmed Al Naouq and Pam Bailey’s

“We are not numbers,” a powerful collection of testimonies from young people in Gaza; and “Monstrous Anger of the Guns,” a collection of essays on the arms trade by an amazing array of activists, journalists, and researchers, and edited by Andrew Feinstein and Rhona Michie of Shadow World Investigations, and Prof. Paul Rogers, and with a preface by Jeremy Corbyn.

The event was recorded, and can be viewed online at the SOAS Influencing the Corridors of Power YouTube channel.



Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Bart Maat | Source: Wikimedia

MAKING WAR ON THE PLANET

At the NATO summit in June, member states agreed to increase military spending to 3.5% of GDP by 2035. This would be a huge increase.

Based on SIPRI figures for NATO members’ current spending, it would mean an additional \$426 billion a year, including \$333b from European NATO members – a 73% increase.

Such huge increases will fuel arms races, will lead to more wars, and will likely mean more devastating cuts in public services. But they will also have a disastrous effect on the climate.

World militaries are estimated to be responsible for about 5.5% of global CO2 emissions. Operating military aircraft and arms production are

particularly major carbon guzzlers.

A recent report by Tipping Point North South and the Transnational Institute estimated that, were all NATO members to spend this much from 2025–2030, it would mean an additional 692 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in military emissions – enough to cancel out the planned reduction in the EU’s total emissions by 2030.

The increased military spending will also likely lead to cuts in desperately needed climate finance (already they are linked to major cuts in overseas aid). They will spur military spending

increases in response by Russia, China and others, leading to even more emissions. And if all the newly acquired arms tempt their owners into more wars, as is sadly highly likely, the destruction caused by war will generate even more carbon.

September 15–21 will see a Week of Action for Peace and Climate Justice, supported by a large number of organisations and co-convened by Scientists for Global Responsibility and Transnational Institute. This effort to link the issues of peace and climate has never been more needed.



INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Arms companies are cynically driving and profiteering from long-standing tensions between India and Pakistan.

April and May saw another explosion of long-running tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

Control of the Jammu and Kashmir region is divided between three countries: India (Jammu, and Kashmir; Siachen Glacier; Ladakh), Pakistan (Azad Kashmir; Gilgit Baltistan) and China (Shaksgam Valley; Aksai Chin)

Once again an entrenched conflict fuelled by large quantities of imported weapons, has pushed the two nuclear armed powers to the brink of absolute catastrophe.

The trigger for the latest round of escalations was the April 22nd attack by militants – reportedly linked to Pakistan – in the tourist town of Pahalgam, in Indian administered Kashmir. Twenty-six people were killed.

Indian air attacks beginning on May 7th saw Israeli-produced

drones and French-made Scalp (Storm Shadow) missiles launched at targets in Pakistan controlled Kashmir and Punjab. Reports vary on the number killed in these and the corresponding Pakistani counter strikes, but it was reported to be at least several dozen. Targets in Karachi and Lahore, both large cities in Pakistan also came under attack.

Pakistan reportedly downed several jets in the exchanges, including at least one French-made Rafael and a Mirage 2000, also French-made. Pakistan confirmed its Chinese-made J-10 jets were responsible. It is worth noting that neither the Pakistani nor Indian jets crossed into the other's airspace.

Indian drone and missile strikes on airbases in Pakistan on May 10th, most worryingly on the Nur Khan airbase in Islamabad – near what is said to be the home of Pakistan's nuclear weapons in Rawalpindi – led to Pakistan's retaliation with long range missiles

and Turkish made YIHA III drones.

All throughout, artillery and small arms fire along the line of control caused death and injury to civilian populations on either side.

A ceasefire came into effect late on May 10th.

Once again an entrenched conflict fuelled by large quantities of imported weapons – from France, China, Turkey, and Israel – has pushed the two nuclear armed powers to the brink of absolute catastrophe.

The UK has armed both India and Pakistan over recent years, with over £1.3bn worth of arms licensed to India between 2019–23, making it the 4th largest buyer of UK arms. In 2024 the UK licensed £221 million worth of arms to India and £12.5 million worth to Pakistan.

CAAT calls for immediate peace building in the region; the restoration of agreements for water rights and trade; and an end to the arms shipments exacerbating the conflict.

PALESTINE ACTION

A Labour government has become the first government to proscribe a protest movement.

Palestine Action may be banned, but there are other groups around the country taking action against genocide profiteers.

We still have the right to protest at arms companies. We still have the right to say we do not want companies complicit in Israel's horrific war crimes in our communities.

The government is hoping that

Banning and branding a direct action protest group as terrorists is a direct threat to democracy in this country.

the chilling effect of proscribing Palestine Action will scare people off taking action. It is hoping that it will deter groups who aren't Palestine Action. It is hoping it will protect arms dealers and allow

them to continue profiting from genocide.

We cannot allow this to happen.

We have to keep up the pressure.

We are not Palestine Action. But we are part of a long history of resistance to the arms trade, and it is down to all of us to ensure this continues.

UK SPY FLIGHTS OVER GAZA

Groundbreaking reports from Action on Armed Violence for Declassified have exposed the extent of UK "spy flights" over Gaza, finding that The Royal Air Force (RAF) has conducted at least 518 surveillance flights around Gaza since December 2023.

The frequency of flights remained high throughout 2024, with some months seeing as many as 49 sorties. The missions have typically lasted up to six hours, with the longest flight recorded at seven hours and four minutes.

The flights, which have been carried out by 14 Squadron's Shadow R1 aircraft from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, have been shrouded in secrecy, raising concerns about whether UK intelligence has played a role in Israeli military operations that have resulted in Israeli atrocities against Gaza.

Even basic questions have gone unanswered, with Ministers giving very little away.

With continued arms sales and such close military collaboration, it is clear that the UK is not just an observer in the ongoing killing, it is an active participant.

The UK government insists that the flights are purely for hostage recovery, but the lack of transparency has done little to allay suspicions that the intelligence gathered may be facilitating Israeli attacks.

At the same time, there have been revelations that UK armed forces are providing military training to Israeli forces despite the ongoing genocide, making clear how close the relationship between the two countries is.

With continued arms sales and such close military collaboration, it is clear that the UK is not just an observer in the ongoing killing, it is an active participant.



Photo: Jerry Gunner | Source: Wikimedia

KEEP CAAT CAMPAIGNING

Thank you all for your great financial support this year; there is so much to do and your support is truly encouraging for our small team.

Donations

Most of our donations come in either as one-off gifts or as regular payments by Direct Debit (or, though less common now, Standing Order) at all levels. We also have a few contributors who are able to support us with larger gifts. All these ways are most welcome, and we ask you to contribute in the way that best suits your own circumstances.

Legacies

As you might expect, from an organisation that has been campaigning for over 50 years, we receive a number of legacies – nearly always from long-term

supporters. Like most non-profit organisations, we include a provision for these in our annual budget and are underpinned by this essential stream of income.

Some legacies are left to TREAT (The Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade) for our charitable activities (research and education), and these have tax advantages if there is an inheritance tax liability. Others are left directly to CAAT and are used for our campaigning work (remember, campaigning for peace doesn't count as charitable). We wouldn't be the same CAAT if we didn't have a good balance between our two "lungs."

Would you leave us a legacy?

Please consider if you are able to leave us something in your Will to Keep CAAT Campaigning. It's simple, and details can be found on our website here: caat.org.uk/donate/legacies-the-hope-for-a-better-world

You might prefer to talk it over in person and, in which case, send an email to charles@caat.org.uk or leave a message for him on the office line, and he'll get in touch.

In choosing to leave CAAT a legacy, however big or small, you will be helping to ensure that our work doesn't stop and we can continue to throw light on the evils of the arms trade and strive to end it for good.

THEY SAID IT

"Now that defence is a hot topic again, suddenly you sense that the financial community has got over their ethics, as they see there's money flowing... That makes it almost worse in a way – I had no idea they were quite so shallow."

Nicholas Ames, CEO of SC Group on bank support for the arms industry. Daily Telegraph, 25 June 2025

"So the fact that the Defense Department is getting a GIFT, FREE OF CHARGE, of a 747 aircraft to replace the 40 year old Air Force One, temporarily, in a very public and transparent transaction, so bothers the Crooked Democrats that they insist we pay, TOP DOLLAR, for the plane. Anybody can do that! The Dems are World Class Losers!!!"

Donald Trump defends accepting aircraft gifted by the Qatari government. The Hill, 11 May 2025

"War, what is it good for? Maybe Sheffield?"

Headline in the Sheffield Tribune on the announcement of a new artillery factory in Tinsley, 17 June 2025

Not Only Blood

Thank you to CAAT supporter Richard Stewart for sending us his poem Not Only Blood for inclusion in this issue of CAAT News.

They have survived
The dull thud of bombs
On crumbling roofs,
The callous sniper
Picking off water carriers,
The busy market
Reduced to a rubble of blood.

But now, hidden
In this damp cellar,
They submit to
The ultimate agony,
Tearing page by page
The library of a lifetime
To feed the flames
Of a feeble fire.

And did they try
With number hands
To read the pages first,
Commit them to memory
Against a better time,
A time when words
Of beauty and truth
Would once again
Nourish their famished land?

DONATE TODAY!

You can donate to CAAT by either visiting our website at 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:

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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.

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I wish to donate £ every

☐ month ☐ quarter ☐ annually

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Date:

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☐ 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

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Credit/debit card number:

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