

CAAT NEWS

The quarterly magazine for Campaign Against Arms Trade

Issue 275

Winter 2025



PLUS

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CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
ARMS
TRADE

At the time of writing there is an extremely uneasy ceasefire in Gaza. We should all welcome any halt to the violence, but if there is to be lasting peace it must be grounded in human rights and justice for Palestinians.

In this issue we will also be covering Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) one of the world's biggest arms fairs, which brought some of the world's most abusive regimes to London for a carnival of violence. They were met by protesters from across the country.

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Printed on 100% recycled paper using only post-consumer waste.

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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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CAAT Advisory Council

CAAT is recruiting for volunteers to join our new Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will discuss questions of CAAT's organisational strategy and direction, contribute suggestions for new ideas for areas of work or ways of working, hold the staff and directors accountable to our Vision, Mission, and Values, extend our network and range of contacts and allies, and to make recommendations on these and other related matters.

For full details of the role, please contact: office@caat.org.uk

Deadline for applications: 9th January 2026



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Famine, genocide, and faint hopes for peace



At the time of writing, there is an uneasy ceasefire in Gaza, following US President Trump's deeply flawed 20-point peace plan.

There have been multiple reported breaches, with civilians still being killed on a daily basis, but most of the bombing has stopped.

Aid is still being held back and there are no plans to end the repression, with Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu stating his intention to maintain and Israeli occupation for in parts of the strip indefinitely

We have been here before, and Netanyahu has a repeated record of sabotaging negotiations and deals for his own political benefit. Despite these many caveats, we should welcome the ceasefire.

Over the weeks leading up to it there was no let-up in Israel's bombing and destruction of the territory, with dozens of people killed every day, while the death toll from starvation and malnutrition continues to increase, as Israel restricts the entry of aid into Gaza to well below the bare minimum needed for survival.

On August 22nd, the awkwardly named Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) panel, which assesses the severity of hunger crises around the world, for the first time declared a famine in Gaza City.

The bar for such a declaration is extremely high, and has been

slowed down by the difficulty of obtaining data. It means that, beyond the direct starvation deaths – with 455 confirmed to date – many more will have died from normally minor diseases due to their bodies being gravely weakened by starvation.

The UK continues to allow the supply of components for Israel's F-35 combat aircraft which it has used intensively to bomb Gaza

More recently, on 16th September, the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, established by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 to investigate all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the Territories, published a report finding that Israel had committed, and was continuing to commit genocide in the Gaza Strip.

Such a finding should require immediate action by all states to prevent and bring an end to the genocide, but the report has met with virtually no concrete response from most states. One exception is Spain, which in recent months has imposed a full two-way arms embargo on Israel,

cancelling some major planned arms purchases from Israel, and also banning the transit of military fuel to Israel through Spain.

The UK, while finally recognising a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly in September, has taken no other action to put pressure on Israel, and continues to allow the supply of components for Israel's F-35 combat aircraft, which it has used intensively to bomb Gaza, as well as other military equipment for the Israeli armed forces not considered likely to be used in Gaza, or for use by the Israeli arms industry for re-export and other purposes not directly linked to Israeli military actions in Gaza.

The refusal to stop components for the F-35, which the government admitted could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of International Humanitarian Law, faced renewed challenge in the courts in October, as Palestinian human rights organisation Al Haq brought an appeal against the High Court's ruling in June denying them leave to bring a Judicial Review into the government's decision.

The outcome of this appeal was not known on going to press, but even if it succeeds, it would then need to go to a full judicial review with uncertain outcome.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

Turkey

Turkey is increasingly paying off or forgiving the debts of countries to which it sells weapons, including covering their obligations to international institutions, according to research by Nordic Monitor.

The report cites the example of Kyrgyzstan, which acquired more than \$33 million worth of Turkish military equipment including drones and armored vehicles, while simultaneously benefiting from the full cancellation of nearly \$59 million in public debt owed to Ankara.

Nordic Monitor, 29/07/2025



Photo: BoevayaMashina | Source: Wikimedia Commons

Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić has accused the Turkish government of violating international laws and destabilizing the Western Balkans by supplying weapons to Kosovo. Turkish officials have previously defended their military cooperation with Kosovo as part of their efforts to strengthen regional defense capacities.

Politico, 08/10/ 2025

The UK and Turkey have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that could lead to a multi-billion pound Typhoon fighter jet export deal, the first UK Typhoon sale since 2017.

The agreement was signed by Defence Secretary John Healey and Turkish Defence Minister Yaşar Güler at the International Defence Industry Fair in Istanbul.

Forces News, 23/07/2025

Germany

The German parliament has approved €7 billion of military spending, with new combat jets topping the list of new equipment. In Germany, military purchases worth more than €25 million need approval from the parliamentary budget committee.

Defense News, 08/10/2025

Germany has not approved any new arms exports to Israel since Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced a partial halt this summer, bringing the number of permits down to zero and going further in practice than his pledge suggested.

Politico, 25/09/2025

United States

The US State Department approved a possible \$346 million weapons sale to Nigeria. The weapons requested by Nigeria include munitions, bombs and rockets. The sales follow increased attacks by militant group Boko Haram.

The Independent, 14/08/2025

According to US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, President Donald Trump is considering taking a stake in domestic arms contractors, including Lockheed Martin.

Al Jazeera, 26/08/2025

The United States has quietly placed restrictions on certain arms sales to Europe, citing shortages in key weapons systems.

The Pentagon has reportedly identified weapons deemed in short supply and is moving to block new requests from Europe. Few exemptions are expected, though it is unclear how many systems are affected or how long the restrictions may last.

Defence-Industry.EU, 20/09/2025

The US government has approved a potential sale of the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and related equipment to Bahrain for an estimated \$500 million.

Reuters, 14/08/2025

Spain

The Spanish parliament has approved a total arms embargo on Israel, permanently banning the sale of weapons, dual-use technology and military equipment to Israel. The ban also covers the transit of fuel or material with potential military use, prohibiting ships and aircraft carrying such cargoes from entering Spanish ports and airspace.

Al Jazeera, 08/10/2025

India

India has agreed to buy multi-role missiles manufactured by Thales in the UK in a deal worth £350 million. The deal to deliver the Lightweight Multirole Missile to the Indian Army was signed during UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's

two-day visit to Mumbai,

According to UK Defence Secretary John Healy the deal "paves the way for a deeper relationship between UK and Indian defense industries."

Defense News, 09/10/2025

Photo: Prime Minister's Office (India) | Source: Wikimedia Commons



BAE Systems

Thousands of BAE engineers who are members of the Unite union were to be balloted for strike action in a dispute over pay.

More than 5,000 workers based at BAE Systems in Warton and Samlesbury rejected the latest pay offer from the company. According to the union, workers were only offered a 3.6% increase, which is below the rate of inflation.

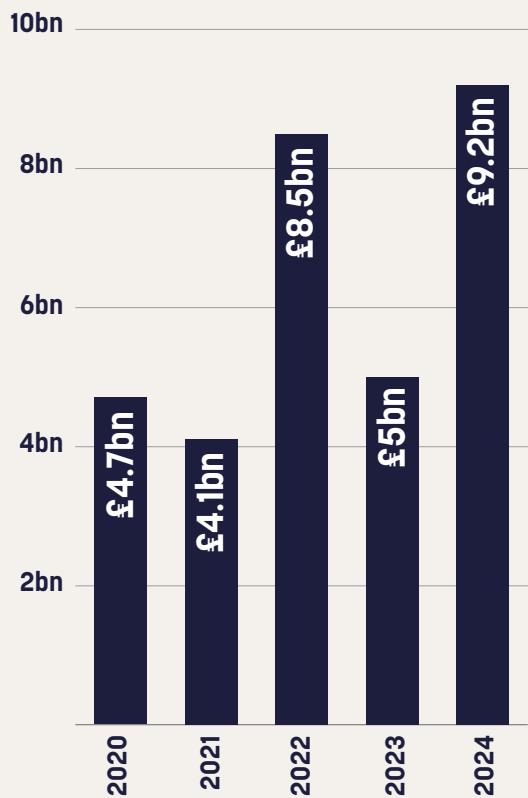
BBC News Online, 25/09/2025

Arms giants BAE Systems and Lockheed Martin have unveiled a new strategic partnership to develop a family of uncrewed autonomous air systems. The first iteration will focus on electronic warfare and attack missions.

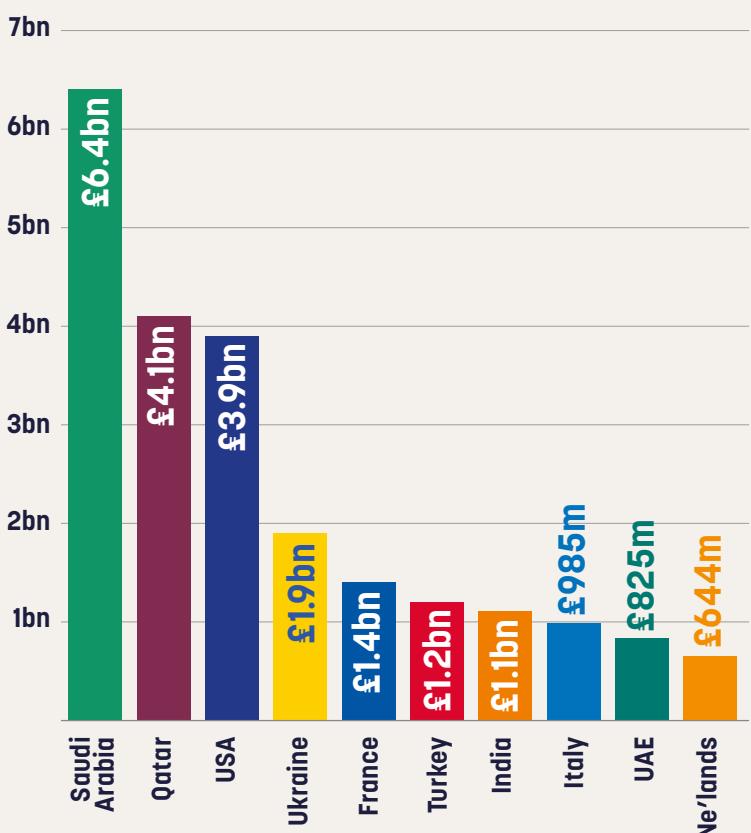
TheManufacturer.com, 12/09/2025

UK arms exports

The UK licensed £31 billion worth of Standard Issue Export Licences from 2020–2024.



The majority of licences went to regimes with poor human rights records.



New CAAT briefing on UK arms to Israel

One of the reasons that Israeli forces have been able to do so much damage to Gaza has been the vast array of high tech weaponry at their disposal. A lot of these weapons are produced in Israel itself, but they also buy arms and components from around the world, including from the UK.

At the beginning of September, CAAT published the latest expanded and updated version of our report on UK arms sales to Israel, titled “How the UK arms and supports Israel’s genocide in Gaza.”

Using a variety of sources, including published official export licence data and responses to Freedom of Information requests, our report estimates that, since the beginning of F-35 fighter jet sales to Israel in 2016, the UK has supplied around £572 million worth of components for Israel’s 45 F-35 aircraft, including both for the initial manufacture and the subsequent supply of spare parts.

These exports have mostly taken place using Open General Export Licences. This is a particularly secretive type of arms licence that allows unlimited delivery of components, with no obligation to report the value of those exports as

part of the government’s regular licensing statistics – making it impossible to get an accurate total.

CAAT estimates that Open Licences cover roughly half of all UK arms exports. This, combined with the fact it is impossible to know how much equipment is actually exported using these licenses, means there is a severe lack of transparency in the UK arms export system.

The government may have described Israel’s actions against Gaza as “intolerable” – but their actions have remained unchanged

The government may have described Israel’s actions against Gaza as “intolerable” and “egregious,” and as Israeli-enforced mass starvation in Gaza deepened in recent months, ministers’ language has become

stronger – but their actions have remained unchanged, continuing to make an exception to allow the supply of these components.

Meanwhile, the government has also allowed a large number of arms export licences to Israel to remain in force, and has also issued new licences. It claims these are not for use by the Israeli military in Gaza, but almost all of them nonetheless help support the Israeli war machine, and thus the genocide.

In September 2024 the UK government announced a partial suspension of arms exports to Israel. These covered 29 licences for military equipment, which were assessed to be for use by the Israeli military in Gaza.

The decision followed an assessment that Israeli forces were not complying with International Humanitarian Law – also known as the “laws of war”, and including





the Geneva Conventions – in their assault on Gaza. This particularly related to its blocking of humanitarian aid and its treatment of Palestinian prisoners.

The government refused, in response to a Freedom of Information request, to disclose which licences it suspended. However, in its announcement it stated that they included items such as components for combat aircraft, military aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, and targeting equipment. The 29 licences suspended were out of a total of 350 licences for military and dual use equipment.

In 2024, the UK issued £142 million worth of Single Individual Export Licences for export to Israel. This was the highest value of licences in many years, with the majority of licences occurring after the government's partial suspension.

The largest licences, worth a combined £126 million, were for military radars and related components. The licence went to Thales UK, which the government has stated was for a programme with a NATO member as final end user.

The report also lists the companies with the most

individual export licences to Israel (not counting the F-35 OGEL) in the period where they could have been used to supply arms after October 7 2023. The top companies were Teledyne, Gooch & Housego (including the subsequently acquired Phoenix Optical Technologies), Qioptiq, and Elbit UK subsidiary Instro Precision.

This report exposes the complicity of UK arms companies and Ministers in the devastation that has been inflicted on Gaza.

The report also covers other sources of data on US arms to Israel as analysed by other reports, including Israeli customs data analysed in a report by the Palestine Youth Movement, which raises unanswered questions as to how certain munitions exports revealed by the data were permitted under known export licences.

Also discussed is a report by Ploughshares Canada which examined subcontract data for the F-35, showing that UK-based companies had received \$7.8 billion worth of direct subcontracts (to prime contractor

Lockheed Martin) for production lots that include aircraft for Israel, of which \$6.6 billion were awarded to BAE Systems.

There are a lot of crucial areas that our report does not discuss, including other forms of UK military cooperation with Israel.

These include the training of Israeli Defence Force personnel in the UK; the surveillance flights being undertaken by the UK RAF over or near Gaza, from which intelligence has been shared with Israel; and the use of the UK military base at Akrotiri, on Cyprus, to support Israel's genocide in Gaza, including its possible use for US arms deliveries, as well as the above-mentioned surveillance flights.

While these themes are not discussed in detail in our report, CAAT is clear that all such military cooperation with Israel must also end.

This report provides an important overview of UK arms sales for researchers and activists and exposes the complicity of UK arms companies and Ministers in the devastation that has been inflicted on Gaza.

The report is available to download on CAAT's website.

Shut DSEI Down day of action

Campaigners victorious despite viciously violent policing



The 9th September saw a day of protest that even took the cops by surprise. "Where did they all come from?" the frazzled Bronze commander was overheard bemoaning, "The camp's over."

To be honest this also took me by surprise. Despite knowing it was organised securely, I was still sure there'd be a leak somewhere. Not necessarily deliberately, not necessarily like the bad old days when an undercover cop infiltrated our DSEI organising group. But just carelessness, one out of place conversation or the general all encompassing surveillance state that we live under.

There we were – a bloc of over 100 trusted people suddenly manifested itself outside the gates of DSEI – one of the world's largest arms fairs

But there we were. Despite the ridiculously early start, despite the tube strikes (which we fully support – solidarity with the workers), a bloc of over 100 trusted people suddenly manifested itself outside the gates of DSEI – one of the world's largest arms fairs.

Loud, militant, large banners, sound systems, chants and drums. A sudden explosion of beautiful resistance bathed in the early morning sun that shut down the main entrance into the ExCel Centre.

Over 45,000 delegates attended this year's DSEI, with 1700 arms dealers marketing their deadly wares. This included 51 Israeli arms companies, with its three biggest companies all represented – Elbit Systems, Rafael, and Israel Aerospace Industries who advertised its presence with a brochure of weapons used in the destruction of Gaza.

And while CAAT welcomed the government's decision not to invite

an official Israeli delegation, it was equally a cowardly and symbolic decision when record numbers of Israeli companies were still invited to exhibit.

In response, The Shut Down DSEI coalition united 130 groups from England, Scotland, Wales and Cornwall with four demands:

Shut down DSEI permanently.

The UK government is complicit in enabling global war, capitalism, imperialism and environmental destruction through holding this arms fair.

Impose a full arms and energy

embargo on Israel. We condemn the presence of 51 Israeli arms companies, together with UK and international suppliers to the Israeli military industry.

Cut public military spending.

Invest in real social and ecological transition. Make education, energy bills and homes affordable again.

Tear up the planned £2bn Labour

deal with Elbit systems (see page 11). We firmly oppose this planned deal to have the British Army trained by Israel's biggest arms company, that is deeply involved in genocide.

Cops tried to push the bloc at the edges, attempting to make enough space for arms dealers to sneak past. But people held the line, and used the bright blue barriers designed to funnel the death merchants into the ExCel centre to protect themselves. The cops and security, who were outnumbered and out manoeuvred, were forced to redirect people around the back.

Long queues of arms dealers started to form. And with numbers swelling as more people beat the tube strike and started arriving, the protest was split with large numbers of people targeting the back entrance and the queues of delegates. For a time we successfully prevented any

delegates entering, and even when the slow moving queue started moving again, arms dealers were forced to do a walk of shame, as protesters let them know exactly what they thought of them.

As more and more cops arrived, their heavy-handedness and violence escalated. Clearly embarrassed, they used excessive force.

As more and more cops arrived, their heavy-handedness and violence escalated. Clearly embarrassed, they used excessive force. A line of police officers charged into the protest, knocking people to the ground, sending an elderly Quaker flying, but luckily unharmed, breaking a legal observer's wrist, breaking the ankle of another protester, knocking another unconscious.

Others were pushed, grabbed, punched, shoved, thrown on the floor, others had their tops ripped, and were put in choke holds as the police sought to gain control of the UK's flagship military event. Four people were arrested.

However, despite the violence, those involved were victorious and energised by the protest. This was the first time campaigners had attempted a mass action to target the opening of DSEI since 2005, and the balance the coalition developed between public mass mobilisation messaging and taking security seriously worked.

Once people have had a chance to recover, we hope this new coalition will use the momentum it's achieved with DSEI to continue this resistance.

Our friends at the Network for Police Monitoring (Netpol) have put out a witness and footage appeal to anyone who witnessed the police violence and arrests. If you're able to help, please contact info@netpol.org



Photo: Kirk Richard

Taking action against DSEI

Either side of “The Big One”, DSEI 2025 saw two full weeks of protests.

In the week leading up to the first day of the fair, a Peace Camp was established by volunteers from Stop the Arms Fair, providing meals and a place to rest for campaigners.

It hosted a series of events with themes connecting the arms fair with struggles for workers rights, climate justice, opposing genocide, and rethinking security (beyond oppression and war towards meeting human needs). The Festival of Resistance on Saturday brought music, talks, and joy to the campaign against the fair.

During the week of the arms fair, Monday saw the arrival of a Peace Pilgrimage from Oxford. Quakers visited several key sites for the arms trade in London on their Walk of Witness (including the HQs of Northrop Grumman and L3 Harris) hearing talks linking the activities taking place there to the genocide in Gaza and war crimes around the world.

Alongside the Big One, faith groups organised a busy “No Faith in War” day, featuring prayer, meditation, creative crafts and witness of the harm caused by the arms trade.

No Pride in Genocide on Wednesday highlighted the power of queer joy and resistance. The final days of the protests saw protests in solidarity with migrants, and feminist action for women. Campaigners got into a dinghy to challenge the warships in Victoria dock. And, as has been

The Peace Camp hosted a series of events with themes connecting the arms fair with struggles for workers rights, climate justice, opposing genocide, and rethinking security

the case since DSEI moved to Excel in 2001, a wreath was laid in the dock in remembrance of all those killed by the arms trade.

Supporting campaigners remained an important part of the work, with teams of volunteers providing first aid, food, police station support, acting as legal observers, or taking calls on the Protest Support Line. Clapham Community FC provided crash space, hospitality and friendly faces to tired campaigners.

Huge thanks to all who helped and campaigned so hard vs. DSEI 2025.



LOCAL CAAT

August saw London CAAT running another of their Merchants of Death Walking Tours.

Over the course of the day, a group of campaigners came together to visit the headquarters of three arms companies in central London: Boeing, BAE Systems, and L3 Harris. These companies are all regular exhibitors at the DSEI arms fair, and were expected to be at the 2025 event.

The goal of the tour was to highlight their records and let people know that these companies with long and shameful histories of arming human rights abusers are stealthily operating from non-descript office blocks in our capital city.

Between them, these companies make everything from warplanes and bombs (Boeing, BAE Systems), to night vision optics and bomb release mechanisms (L3 Harris).

From the two decades of the “Global War on Terror” through to the ongoing attacks on Gaza and Yemen, these companies have been deeply complicit in the spread of conflict and mayhem around the world – raking in big profits as a result.

But these companies are not unique, they are among the many that are enabled by Downing Street. It’s a collaborative effort. In fact none of them could



Death joins and Benjamin Netanyahu outside the offices of L3 Harris

sell a single weapon from the UK without the support of the government.

That’s why the tour also made sure to visit the site of the UK’s government-run arms export organisation, UKDSE, which, among other dastardly deeds, hosts the DSEI arms fair and promotes arms export licenses.

Each of the sites that the tour visited was marked by a Blue Plaque in order to tell passers-by what was going on inside, and to commemorate and remember the many victims of the arms trade.

Part of this year’s Tour included a piece of street theatre. In the

skit, written and performed by members of London CAAT, Death encounters an arm dealer, who is talking to Benjamin Netanyahu and Keir Starmer. While initially enthusiastic, even Death is chilled by how ruthless they are.

Each of the sites that the tour visited was marked by a Blue Plaque in order to tell passers-by what was going on inside

The piece was performed several times on the tour, and by popular acclaim, outside DSEI itself. You can watch it on CAAT’s YouTube channel.

Everyone at CAAT was sorry to hear that Valerie Anthony, one of our organisers in the North East for many years, has died. She was a friend to many in our movement and played a key role in building our local groups.

Ricky, a friend and activist from the Shut Down Rafael campaign in Newcastle, told us about his relationship with Valerie and the role that she played locally

“It was Valerie whom I met at a local green festival many years back that got me involved, and

together with local Stop The War group we’d hold demonstrations down at the BAE Systems plant in Scotswood, Newcastle. We also ran workshops and talks together.”

He told us that Valerie was very pleased to hear about the very energetic Shut Down Rafael campaign (Rafael bought the factory that they had campaigned at together), although her illness meant that she was not able to join in. Our thoughts are with all of Valerie’s family and friends.



Valerie Anthony addresses a rally

ISRAELI ARMS COMPANY TO TRAIN UK ARMY?



Private Eye reported in August that Elbit Systems UK, the UK subsidiary of Israel's largest arms company, was one of the two final bidders for the British Army's 15-year £2 billion Army Collective Training Service contract.

The other bidder is Raytheon UK, which is part of US arms giant RTX which also supplies large quantities of arms to Israel. Both companies have already been awarded £2 million to develop their final bids.

Neither company is a friend of the human rights movement, but Elbit may be less known to CAAT News readers.

Elbit's drones have long been used in strikes that have killed Palestinian civilians

Elbit Systems Ltd is Israel's largest arms producer, and the 24th biggest arms producer in the world. Headquartered in Haifa, it has strong Israeli government links and a wide portfolio of weaponry that includes munitions, combat vehicles, drones, electronic warfare systems, cybersecurity technologies, and other weapons and surveillance systems.

Elbit describes its drones as "the backbone" of Israel's drone fleet and states that they are "in

service with numerous military and security users worldwide." Its arms have played a key role in the assault on Gaza, with its subsidiary sites having been targeted by protests in the UK and beyond.

Elbit has also been targeted by a wide range of institutional divestment campaigns, from banks to universities due to its high profile role in attacks.

Elbit's drones have long been used in strikes that have killed Palestinian civilians. In one widely publicised 2014 case, the Intercept, a US publication, reported that Hermes 450 drones had been used in the murder of four Palestinian children as they played on a beach in Gaza. These drones have also been implicated in attacks against humanitarian workers in Gaza in April 2024, and in southern Lebanon in March 2024.

Elbit's efforts to develop their UK business may have been boosted by their recruitment of two top "revolving door" cases to their board – Sir Simon Bollom, the former head of the

MOD's Defence Equipment and Support, responsible for MOD arms procurement; and Sir Mark Poffley, former Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff.

Senior officials who move from government to Industry are theoretically banned from using their inside knowledge, or lobbying their former MOD colleagues for two years, but in practice there is no means to enforce this, and the ban can be circumvented by indirect support for lobbying efforts. There is no suggestion that either Bollom or Poffley have acted improperly.

The enormous influence enjoyed by the arms industry on the UK government, of which the revolving door is but one aspect, is explored in a CAAT report from 2024, "From Revolving Door to Open-Plan Office," which is available on our website.

If Elbit is awarded the contract, it would make them a "strategic partner" for the Army – tying the UK military even more deeply to Israel's genocidal military industrial complex.

THE CLAMPDOWN ON OUR RIGHT TO PROTEST CONTINUES

CAAT's Emily Apple reflects on the government's crackdown against the right to protest.

Somewhat ironically, I'm writing this article in a police cell. My incarceration tonight is for a minor offence – allegedly breaching the conditions imposed by the Metropolitan Police on a flotilla solidarity protest organised by Healthcare and Allies for Palestine.

However my arrest is indicative of the clampdown on our right to protest that we're currently facing. After all, I wasn't arrested for actually protesting. I was arrested on suspicion that I might protest. I was stopped on the way to a protest and nicked because I demanded a simple answer from the cop that stopped me: why he believed I was going to a protest.

Now, I know the answer. He stopped me because I was wearing a keffiyah. But I wanted him to admit it – admit that he'd targeted me and stopped me walking down Whitehall because of the scarf I was wearing while many others passed through unimpeded.

But this is the dystopian, authoritarian country we now live in – one where you can end up sitting in a cell because the police believe you might protest.

This is just one minor case.

Police have now arrested over 2000 people, many elderly and/or disabled for alleged terrorism offences for sitting peacefully holding signs in support of Palestine Action. When I was booked into custody, the sergeant asked whether it was for public order or terrorism. This is the new reality for protesters.

This is the dystopian, authoritarian country we now live in – one where you can end up sitting in a cell because the police believe you might protest

Meanwhile, the judicial review into the proscription of Palestine Action will hopefully take place at the end of November. However, at the time of writing, we are waiting to see if a government appeal to challenge the case proceeding will succeed. If the government wins, legal action will be limited to the slow and secretive Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission.

It doesn't stop there. Despite three years of a continued assault on our civil liberties, and successive pieces of legislation that introduced a range of sweeping

draconian protest policing powers, our government is currently trying to bring in even more with the Crime and Policing Bill that is currently in the House of Lords. This includes giving the police powers to ban people wearing masks on protests, a ban on flares and a new offence of climbing on war memorials.

And if this wasn't enough, this government has said it will introduce new powers for the police to introduce conditions on repeated protests, and Keir Starmer has announced that he's looking at whether certain chants could be criminalised.

So it feels like a lot more of us are likely to spend increasingly more time banged up in cells – whether that's for opposing the arms industry, protesting against a genocide, raising the alarm on the climate crisis or opposing the rising fascism on our streets. I made peace with this some time ago. Not in a calm accepting way, but in an angry spirit of resistance.

Because we have to keep fighting. We have to keep taking to the streets. We cannot be intimidated and we will not back down.





September saw the Scottish Government making one potentially historic announcement and potentially one big backward step.

The First Minister, John Swinney announced that in response to the genocide in Gaza his SNP government would cease all government grants to companies that have armed Israeli forces or other countries committing genocide.

This is an important step that CAAT and others have campaigned for over many years, and it made Scotland the first part of the UK to do so.

Since 2019, the Scottish government has reportedly given at least £8 million of Scottish Enterprise grants to companies involved in arms dealing and manufacturing.

Companies receiving funds through Scottish Enterprise are subject to a human rights due diligence check, but no company has ever failed these checks. Amnesty International has condemned the process as “inadequate.”

The First Minister did not publish a list, but a reasonable expectation would be that this would include most major arms companies with a presence in Scotland: BAE Systems, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin and Leonardo have all been

implicated in arms sales to Israel as well as other human rights abusers.

On the same day, he also committed his government to supporting international demands for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel and the companies who have profited from the assault on Gaza and the ongoing occupation.

However, the Scottish government is also set to end its longstanding ban on using government grants to fund the production of munitions

Again, details of what this actually meant were limited and there has been little clarity about what this will mean for councils and government departments etc in practice.

It is a question that could soon be tested, with both Edinburgh City Council and Shetland Islands Council both voting to support boycott measures against Israeli companies and asking the Scottish government to help them in doing so.

At the time of writing it is not

clear what will happen to these commitments if the current ceasefire holds. Will the Scottish government maintain the stance it has taken or will it try to quietly reverse course?

However, even more concerning was that Swinney also made an announcement that has caused a lot of concern for anti-arms trade campaigners.

The Scottish government is set to end its longstanding ban on using government grants to fund the production of munitions, which could see more public money and support going to arms dealers.

If the current ceasefire holds, one thing CAAT and others will be working to ensure is that the same companies who have profited from genocide aren't back to receiving subsidies.

Many of the weapons that have been used against Gaza over the last two years were built years ago. If funding is restored to those companies it is likely to fuel future wars.

CAAT and other peace campaigners will be following what happens closely and will try to halt any backtracking.

Without our supporters, there would be no CAAT

CAAT is a campaigning organisation first and foremost, and always will be.

We rely on financial assistance from supporters like you. We aren't a charity, so we can't collect Gift Aid. Some donations come through grants for our research and

educational projects (which can be classed as charitable) but the vast majority come from individuals dedicated to helping with our direct work: campaigning.

Please do consider how best you can give your support

One-off gifts

These often come from our appeals in CAAT News or emails or as a result of our presence in the media. These gifts may be driven by something that has struck the giver on a particular day, who acts by giving spontaneously.

Often, making a small one-off donation is the first step taken by our supporters in a long and close journey with CAAT. One-off donors may turn into regular givers, perhaps taking out a monthly Direct Debit.

Regular monthly gifts

Regular givers choose to plan their giving, fitting it into their monthly budget. Many feel they can help CAAT by spreading their giving over time, perhaps over years.

Regular giving helps CAAT when planning ahead, as it gives us an idea of what we are likely to expect in any month or quarter.

We recommend Direct Debit payments, as these are effectively at no cost to either party and the donor is protected by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

Legacies

Every year, we receive funds left by long-term supporters who want to see our work continue and strengthen. There are two main ways to support CAAT in your Will.

Some donate to the Trust for Education and Research on the Arms Trade, a charitable trust that receives funds marked for CAAT's charitable work (education and research). This cannot be spent on campaigning.

If you are keen to support our campaigning, then leaving your gift directly to CAAT would be the best way. Or choose a combination of the two.

Special or major donations

From time to time, a CAAT supporter may be in a position to make a larger donation. While this doesn't happen regularly, a major gift can make a great difference to our work.

Knowing we are to receive a substantial sum might allow us to recruit an additional member of staff, organise training and events or reach out to new supporters.

For someone to make a gift at this level, it requires a firm degree of confidence in CAAT's work; often built up over years of support.

THEY SAID IT

“Right now, our situation is very far from easy. Even our remaining allies feel dragged down with us. Who wants to be friends with a pariah?”

Israeli defence official, CTech, 28/09/2025

“We’re in the handbag business, and this is London Fashion Week.”

Arms industry representative at DSEI arms fair, quoted in Spectator, 14/09/2025

“We became the woke department. But not anymore.”

US Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, 30/09/2025

