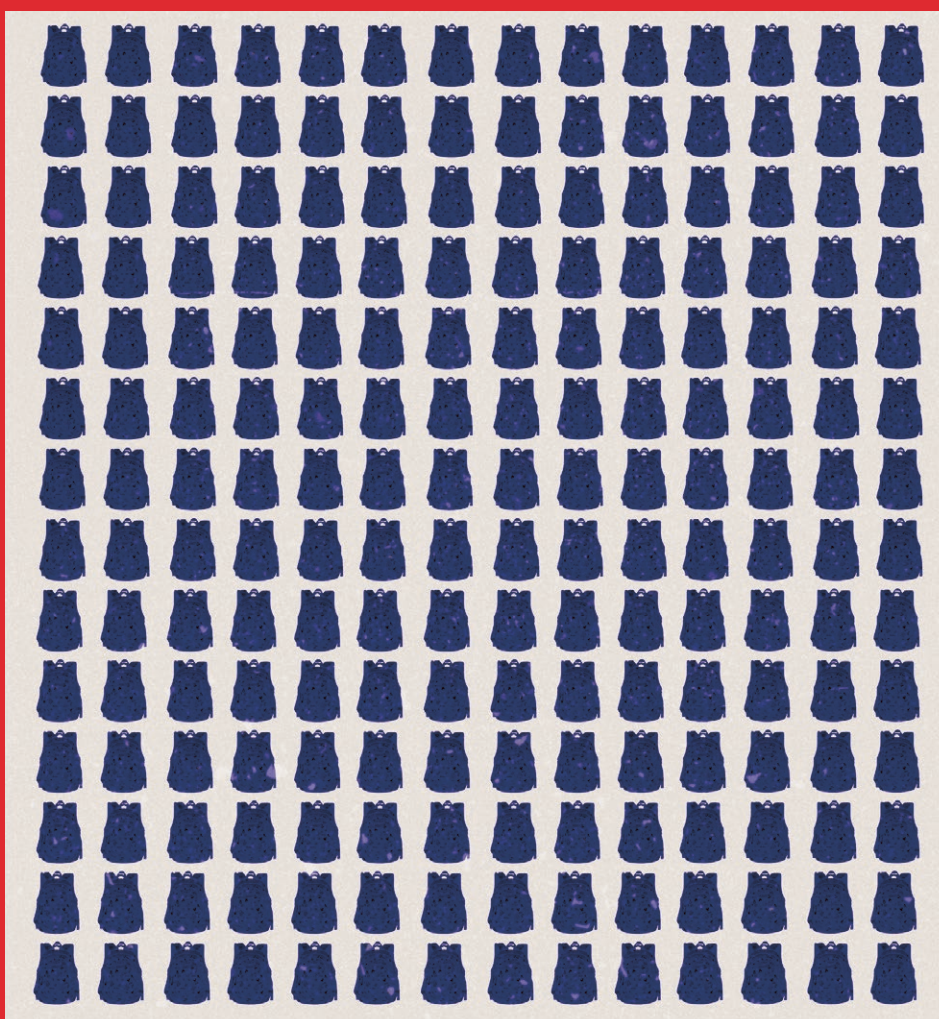


CAAT NEWS

The quarterly magazine for Campaign Against Arms Trade

Issue 277
Summer 2026

THE UNITED STATES KILLED 168 CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN A SCHOOL IN MINAB, IRAN



WE MUST END THE DEADLY ARMS TRADE

PLUS

Drones to Israel **P6**

Will Andy Burnham make a difference? **P10**

Universities and the arms trade **P12**



**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
ARMS
TRADE**

A lot has happened since the last CAAT News, with Donald Trump invading Iran; killing hundreds of people and creating further chaos on the world stage.

Here in the UK we have a new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, but will it lead to a change in foreign policy or will he continue to arm and support repressive regimes around the world?

In this issue we are focusing on these issues, but also on attacks on the right to protest. Unfortunately CAAT's work has never been so crucial.

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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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Palestine Action

In a development that will have an impact on campaign groups across the UK, the government has succeeded in keeping Palestine Action proscribed as a “terrorist organisation.”

In June, it won its appeal against the High Court’s ruling that the proscription of Palestine Action was unlawful. This is unprecedented in British history. Never before has the UK government used terror legislation to try to prevent its own citizens from taking action against a genocide.

The proscription of Palestine Action was deemed unlawful at the High Court in February, with the Court further ruling that the ban breached the Home Secretary’s own policy around the use of this draconian power. The government was quick to appeal. Soon after, the Metropolitan Police continued to arrest hundreds of activists who were holding signs opposing genocide and supporting Palestine Action.

Despite this, the past year has shown that you can ban an organisation – but you can’t ban principled commitment. The tactic is not a new one, as direct action targeting military bases and weapons factories has a long history in this country. These tactics have been used by sections of the peace movement for many decades, from Greenham Common to RAF Fairford.

These weapons factories, as long as they continue to profit from genocidal slaughter, should not exist in the first place. Direct action tactics, which can include property damage, are used when all other avenues for change are blocked or ignored.

Criminalisation and the weaponisation of terror legislation has not stopped people continuing to stand up for what is right and just. Neither will this Court of Appeal decision.

Since last July’s proscription the UK government has fought tooth and nail to crush Palestine Action and its direct action tactics, which target UK weapons exports to Israel at the point of production.

Solidarity must go further than words on a page. Solidarity must be about action. The grassroots movement across the country which has sacrificed so much in its struggle against Israel’s genocide of Gaza exemplifies this in the highest regard.

Millions marching in the streets, hundreds of thousands of emails and phone calls to MPs, and hundreds of grassroots campaigns for Palestine have sprung up across the country.

They seek to stop our government arming Israel but have been met with platitudes and reassurances that the UK’s partial export licence suspension to Israel is enough.

Our government’s obfuscation of its role in aiding and abetting the Gaza genocide is fooling no one. Fifteen percent of the value of every F-35 continues to be produced in the UK, and UK arms to Israel continue to flow.

The government clearly wants people to give up and lose hope in their fight against Israel’s genocide of Gaza. It has not succeeded. The past several years of action and solidarity, with the Filton 25 and all others imprisoned for taking action against genocide, has shown the strength and resolve of the movement for Palestine.

Criminalisation and the weaponisation of terror legislation has not stopped people continuing to stand up for what is right and just. Neither will this Court of Appeal decision.

As Israel continues to decimate entire families and generations of Palestinians, people across the UK will continue to take action to stop UK-made weapons contributing to this depraved slaughter. You can’t proscribe solidarity.

South Korea

South Korea has announced plans to launch its first nuclear-powered submarine by the mid-2030s. According to the South Korean government this would give the new submarines the ability to stay underwater far longer and ensure greater mobility than existing South Korean submarines.

Reuters, 26th May 2026

South Korean President, Lee Jae Myung, has expressed his hope that his country will expand cooperation with NATO allies in research and development, including the production of weapons systems.

Reuters, 7th July 2026



Türkiye

The White House has said that they will lift US sanctions on Türkiye that were imposed in 2020 over the Turkish government's decision to purchase Russian air defence systems. At the same time, President Trump expressed his willingness to sell Türkiye F-35 fighter jets.

Defense News, 7th July 2026

The Turkish government has tightened controls on the transit and re-export of military equipment and to third countries through Türkiye. Under the new rules, it is now mandatory to obtain a letter of conformity from the Ministry of Trade for the transit passage through Türkiye or the re-export via Türkiye of products included on Ankara's list of controlled items.

Middle East Eye, 18th March 2026

Australia

Pro-Palestine campaign groups have begun a legal action that they hope will force the Australian government to publish all relevant details of arms sales to Israel. The groups previously attempted to compel the release of documents relating to Israel-bound exports in November 2023, but discontinued the action.

The Guardian, 14th April 2026

India

India has approved the purchase of S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems, transport aircraft, and strike drones from Russia as part of a major military modernization program.

United 24 Media, 27th March 2026

China

The value of arms imports to China has fallen by 72% over the last five years, according to new statistics published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. This is largely due to the development of China's domestic arms industry, although it coincides with some of China's neighbors importing more due to concerns about Beijing.

Korea Times, 9th March 2026

Taiwan

According to the White House, US arms sales to Taiwan have been "paused" to ensure that the US military has enough munitions for its Iran operations. Reports suggest the US has significantly depleted its missile stockpiles since launching its war against Iran.

The Guardian, 22nd May 2026

US

The US has approved \$8.6bn worth of arms to its allies in the Middle East, including Israel, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The transfers include missiles, small arms and an advanced precision-kill weapon system.

Al Jazeera, 3rd May 2026

The Swiss government has blocked arms sales to the US in response to Trump's invasion of Iran. They also closed their airspace to US military flights directly linked to the Iran war.

20th March 2026



Russia



Russian arms exports have fallen sharply over the past five years, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Despite a fall of 64% it is still the world's

third largest arms dealer behind the United States and France, Russia's share of global arms sales fell from 21% in 2016–20 to 6.8% in 2021–25.

Moscow Times, 9th March 2026

South Africa

A South African human rights organisation has filed a legal case against the South African government in a bid to suspend arms exports to the US

Al Jazeera, 4th June 2026

South Africa generated roughly \$550 million in defence exports in 2025, with weapons, ammunition and military equipment sold to a range of buyers including France, Türkiye, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates.

Business Insider Africa, 8th April 2026

Germany

The German government approved \$8 million worth of arms sales to Israel during the first four weeks of the war with Iran. This comes shortly after restrictions on arms from Germany to Israel were lifted.

Times of Israel, 16th April 2026

France

France reportedly banned Israel from participating in Eurosatory, one of the world's largest arms shows, Israeli companies were also barred from the Paris Air Show in June last year.

Turkey Today 2nd June 2026

Japan

Japan has eased long-standing restrictions on exporting military equipment, allowing the country to expand weapons sales to more than a dozen nations.

BBC News Online, 21st April 2026

Pakistan

Pakistan is reported to have put a \$1.5 billion deal to supply weapons and jets to Sudan on hold after Saudi Arabia, who were funding the deal, asked for the agreement to be terminated.

Reuters, 20th April 2026

Military spending in 2025

Our friends from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute have published the top military spenders of 2025. World military expenditure rose by 2.9 per cent in real terms to reach \$2,887 billion, which was the 11th consecutive year of growth.

	Spending (\$bn.)	Share of world spending (%)
1 United States	954	33
2 China	336*	12*
3 Russia	190*	6.6*
4 Germany	114	3.9
5 India	92.1	3.2
6 UK	89.0	3.1
7 Ukraine	84.1*	2.9*
8 Saudi Arabia	83.2*	2.9*
9 France	68.0	2.4
10 Japan	62.2	2.2
11 Israel	48.3	1.7
12 Italy	48.1	1.7
13 South Korea	47.8	1.7
14 Poland	46.8	1.6
15 Spain	40.2	1.4
16 Canada	37.5	1.3
17 Australia	35.3	1.2
18 Türkiye	30.0	1.0
19 Netherlands	28.9	1.0
20 Algeria	25.4	0.9

* estimated figure

ARMS EXPORTS TO ISRAEL

The UK government's claim to be restricting arms exports to Israel continues to be littered with loopholes, omissions and contradictions.

Long-term CAAT News readers will be well versed in the range of excuses and exceptions the government has invoked to keep arming Israel. This began with the decision to partially suspend arms in September 2024, which included an exemption for the export of parts for use in F-35 fighter jets. In addition to the UK's ongoing participation in the supply chain, appallingly, UK bases have been used for onward export of the jets from the US to Israel.

The latest hole in the government's licensing policy emerged in the Spring over parts exported to Israel supposedly for re-export back out of the country.

CAAT's investigations found that two radar licences granted to Thales UK, valued at £120 million, were likely intended for the Watchkeeper X drone nominally being sold to Elbit for re-export from Israel to Romania. Despite repeated government assurances that the equipment was for re-export, the contract with Romania had not been delivered.

It was only after public and media pressure that Elbit announced it would indeed export the parts, though there has since been no public declaration anywhere that this has been fulfilled. On 15th July 2026, Trade Minister Bryant could only tell Parliament that "we believe they are still going to go to Romania."

At the time of writing, there has been no public declaration that the shipment was received in Romania. This ambiguity means that there is a clear risk that these parts for drones remained in Israel and may have been used in Gaza.

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Despite the outrage this case prompted, the Department for Business and Trade granted two new licenses for the export of trainer aircraft for combat pilots and "targeting equipment" to Israel during the same period. UK export

licensing statistics published at the end of April 2026 showed that new licenses totalling £20.5m were issued for exports to Israel, with some nominally for re-export.

Incredibly, the Department's position has been to rely on word of mouth reassurances that shipments have been re-exported which hold no legal force in Israel, and which the UK government does not check and cannot enforce.

In September 2025, Bryant was asked directly in Parliament "Why would you not ask for export proof from Israel?" but would only respond to say "our relationship is with the exporter" leaving arms importers effectively in the clear to behave with impunity. This case has prompted no changes.

All of this is further evidence of the government's refusal to prevent UK arms contributing to the unprecedented human suffering in Gaza and across the Middle East. Loopholes continue to open for the UK to militarily support Israel and to remain complicit in the crimes committed.



AI and Big Tech are becoming increasingly integrated with the global arms trade, and understanding this integration is really important for all of us in the movement against the UK war machine.

It is important to understand how closely intertwined US and UK weapons industries are, and then unpack what role Big Tech and the militarisation of AI is playing in this. Palantir, with its CIA-funding start and ever-increasing contracts with our government here in the UK, provides a timely case study.

Palantir is an American tech company that has a very close relationship with all six branches of the US military and the US Department of War and with the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD).

In December, Palantir signed a £240 million contract with the MoD. This contract is worth three times more than the previous MoD-Palantir deal signed in 2022, and was a direct award, which means there was no tender process in which other companies could compete.

Between 2014 and 2023, £244.5 million was spent incorporating Palantir into UK public institutions. Palantir is not only a technology company that works with militaries and departments of defence, as it has aimed to have a connection to every sector of government, both in the US and in the UK.

UK public institutions that have contracts with Palantir other than the MoD include the Met and almost 50 police forces across the country, and GCHQ. GCHQ is the UK's digital spy agency, which Palantir assisted with the mass surveillance programme XKEYSCORE, which many may remember Edward Snowden exposing through his whistle-blowing.

The Police, the MoD and GCHQ are institutions you might expect to be quick to work with Palantir, but Palantir also has a £330 million contract with the NHS, as well as contracts with



the Department of Health and Social Care, various local council authorities, the Department for Levelling Up, Highways England, The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, as well as the Crown Commercial Service, which regulates the procurement of government contracts.

Palantir is not only a technology company that works with militaries and departments of defence, as it has aimed to have a connection to every sector of government, both in the US and in the UK

Palantir and the militarisation of AI

Palantir is at the forefront of the militarisation of AI, in particular through Project Maven, which includes Palantir's Maven Smart System – a decision-support system involving AI targeting, which has been used in US military attacks on Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

Palantir also works closely

with Israel and has been accused of involvement in Lavender and Gospel, AI systems fuelling the Gaza genocide. The AI model Claude, developed by Anthropic and partnered with Palantir, was reportedly involved in the US military's illegal abduction of Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores.

Palantir also partners with Airbus, one of the largest aviation companies in the world and a partner on the Eurofighter Typhoon Combat Aircraft, alongside BAE and Leonardo. This aircraft has been used extensively in the US-Israeli war on Iran and Lebanon.

There is so much more that could be said about Palantir, from its close collaboration with ICE in the US to its ties to some of the most dangerous and wealthiest politicians in the world.

It ultimately comes down to the business of war and genocide, which have always been profitable for the rich and powerful. In this sense, Palantir is actually not an anomaly, but a continuation of this same system.



Trump's war on Iran

Since the last issue of CAAT News we have seen US and Israeli forces launching a brutal and immoral invasion of Iran. The situation is changing every day and may have radically changed again by the time you read this.

There was no evidence of an imminent attack by Iran on either the US, Israel, or any other state, that would support a claim that this is a 'preemptive' attack. It is an illegal war of aggression, pure and simple.

The UK government has tried to claim that it has played no part in the war, but US forces are using UK bases for refuelling en route, and UK-made weapons and components are certainly being used

Hostilities broke out after US-Israeli airstrikes killed several Iranian officials, including the "Supreme Leader" Ali Khamenei. These attacks were launched against a backdrop of US-Iran negotiations, which had begun in April 2025 with the stated

goal of reaching a nuclear peace agreement.

The decision to launch military action while diplomatic channels remained open has further undermined international confidence in the possibility of resolving conflicts through negotiation rather than force.

It is questionable how committed the Trump administration actually was to negotiations, considering they had previously assassinated Iranian negotiators. The administration's repeated threats of military action also cast serious doubt on whether diplomacy was ever intended to succeed, or whether it was simply used to provide political cover before the decision to go to war had already been made.

The war quickly expanded, with Iran launching attacks

against US military bases, across Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as on Israeli military facilities, but also on civilian infrastructure and residential areas.

The UK government has tried to claim it has played no part in the war, but US forces are using UK bases for refuelling en route, and UK-made weapons and components are certainly being used. Ministers continue to insist that Britain is not directly involved, yet the UK's military infrastructure and arms industry remain deeply integrated into US-led operations.

In particular, both US and Israeli forces have used F-35 fighter jets in their strikes on Iran, 15% of which are produced in the UK.

Indeed, the F-35 has played a crucial role in the war owing to its

stealth capabilities, making it the first line of attack in “contested” air space. The F-35 also played a crucial role in Israel’s previous attack on Iran in June 2025. The F-35 was also used by the US in its illegal attack on Venezuela in January.

Key components for F-35s are produced across England and Scotland, including:

- the rear fuselage produced by BAE Systems in Samlesbury, Lancashire
- the active interceptor system produced by BAE Systems in Rochester, Kent
- the targeting lasers produced by Leonardo in Edinburgh
- the bomb release cables produced by L3 Harris in Brighton.

All of this shows how closely the UK is tied to a reckless and dangerous US presidency and its disastrous foreign policy, and the importance of breaking away.

The impact of the war has been felt here with higher energy bills and costs for households across the UK. But this is far less than the cost to normal Iranians, who have endured months of bombardment

It also highlights the urgent need for greater democratic scrutiny of the UK’s military relationships and arms exports, particularly where they risk drawing the UK into unlawful wars and contributing to devastating humanitarian consequences.

The impact of the war has been felt here with higher energy bills and costs for households across the UK. But this far less than the cost to normal Iranians, who have endured months of bombardment.

Thousands have been displaced from their homes, essential infrastructure has been damaged, and civilians continue to bear the overwhelming burden of a conflict they neither chose nor have the power to end.



On 28th February, a Saturday in Ramadan had dawned bright and clear. By 9.30AM hundreds of children were already at Shejareh Tayyebah school in Minab, the girls were upstairs and the boys were downstairs.

Ten minutes later bombs fell unannounced in Tehran: this was the first day of the surprise US and Israeli air strikes on Iran.

According to the Associated Press (AP) report, administrators at the school took the decision to send pupils and staff home, and began calling parents on their landlines. Parents quickly arrived to begin picking up their children. But they ran out of time.

The Revolutionary Guard compound adjacent to the school was struck, and then the school itself was hit by one, possibly two missiles. The school buildings collapsed. According to a study by the NGO Airwars, between 157 and 168 people were killed, 123–125 of them children. Many families lost several children in the bombing.

Experts at the Open Source Munitions Portal have identified the munitions responsible as RGM/UGM-109 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles.

So far the US, whose forces are the only ones involved in the conflict who use Tomahawk

missiles, have not accepted responsibility, though anonymous US spokespeople have conceded it was “likely” US forces were responsible and have said they are “investigating.”

The school appears in aerial photos as having educational murals clearly visible on its outer walls; it also had an active website showing daily life in its classrooms. However, the strike came shortly after the US Defense Secretary had greatly reduced his department’s “Civilian Protection Center of Excellence”.

According to the AP, that stopped the office’s work on updating “no-strike lists,” which it was known were out of date. Despite knowing this, it appears the Americans targeted the area for a daytime raid and then bombed it anyway.

It is a brutal and tragic reminder of the catastrophic human cost of war and that the price is paid by civilians. These children should still be alive, but they had their lives taken from them by an airstrike.

It is also a reminder of the total disregard that is shown for civilian life. US forces should have known that it was a school they were striking. The fact that the Trump administration has refused to answer even the most basic questions is making justice even harder to get.

Labour Party

It was a tough ending for the now former Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

One of the moves that sealed his fate was the departure of his Defence Secretary, John Healey, in June. The resignation came in opposition to the government's Defence Investment Plan (DIP) which Healey described as "falling well short of what is required for defence and the country at this dangerous time."

His political sacrifice for the arms industry's future financial prospects didn't go unappreciated. Industry body ADS, the lobby group representing over 2,000 arms and aerospace businesses, mourned his resignation as "something to lament," stating that it shouldn't take the "resignation of an honourable man" for us to realise that we're not spending enough on the military. Can somebody pass the tissues?

The affectionate relationship between the Secretary of State and industry should surprise nobody. The MoD and the defence sector have been cosy for some years.

The affectionate relationship between the Secretary of State and industry should surprise nobody. The MoD and the defence sector have been cosy for some years.

Since 1990, five former secretaries of state and six junior ministers, in addition to swathes of senior officials, have moved from government to industry. CAAT research from 2024 revealed that arms companies averaged 1.64 meetings per day with ministers between 2009 and 2019. BAE

Systems alone managed an incredible 1,238 meetings during this period – more than any other private company. It is no surprise to see the department and industry act in lockstep as Healey has here.

What was in the Defence Investment Plan to cause Healey such distress? There was more than £63 billion over the next four years "to strengthen the UK's nuclear deterrent." There were more billions for munitions. And nearly £2 billion allocated to a new "Digital Targeting Web," designed to enable "faster decision-making and speed in destroying identified targets" raising the spectre of fully autonomous weapons systems.

The prevailing cross-party political consensus that these



expenditure increases are not nearly sufficient has hardened.

This is despite lessons that should have been learnt from 25 years of major UK military operations under successive governments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya and UK involvement in wars and atrocities in Yemen, Gaza and Syria. All told, this militaristic violence has killed over a million people, the vast majority civilians. And once again, the demand is to fund even more of the same.

Incredibly, Healey has now been appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer and will no doubt be a

friend of the arms industry.

The decision to arm and support Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza will be a major part of Starmer's legacy and one that activists will not forget. The fact that Andy Burnham felt the need to distance himself from the policy is a sign of the impact that the movement has had.

With a new Prime Minister taking office it is more important than ever that we build the peace movement and secure real and lasting change and an end to a foreign policy that has done so much damage.

£298 billion military budget over the next 4 years, includes:

£63bn for nuclear buildup, inc. submarines & warheads

£26bn to expand naval bases

£11bn on building more bombs and weapons factories

£8bn on a new stealth fighter jet

£5bn for new drones

£3bn for an AI targeting system and the integration of AI weapons

£790ml for radars and missile command centre

Andy Burnham

At the time of writing, an Andy Burnham-led Government has just entered office, with the accompanying musical chairs at the top of Government now underway.

Despite talking a lot about change and the importance of doing things differently, he is unlikely to challenge the prevailing logic that underpins the debate around military expenditure or arms sales.

His main focus so far has been on domestic issues so it may be too early to say, but there is little reason to think he will break with the path of his predecessors.

During his tenure as an MP, which included time as a Cabinet Minister, Burnham stuck to the party line when it came to arms sales and military policy, with no notable rebellions.

When he was last in government he backed nuclear weapons and supported the war in Afghanistan. Perhaps most notably, he voted for the disastrous invasion of Iraq, which is believed to have killed 300,000 people, while opposing investigations into the conduct of the war.

He has subsequently suggested that if he knew then what he knows now he would have voted

differently, but it took him over a decade to say this.

Even before taking office he's made clear where his military priorities will lie, writing a column for the Times in which he underlined his commitment to NATO, maintaining Trident missiles, additional military spending and boosting UK arms companies.

There have been some positive signs. As Mayor of Manchester he was far quicker to call for a ceasefire in Gaza than the UK government was. He has also condemned the illegal settlements in the West Bank, and the brutality of settlers.

Notably, before taking office he recorded a video in which he apologised for aspects of Labour's policy towards Gaza, stating that his party "didn't get it right" and promising to do better.

The fact that he made an apology in the first place is not insignificant. It is a sign that he recognised the political damage that was done to Keir Starmer through his complicity and the fact that for a lot of voters it is a priority issue.

That's not to say there weren't limitations to it. The statement, while welcome, was very cautious and low on detail about what if anything he intends to do differently going forward.

There was no pledge to end the sale of fighter jet components, or to investigate UK citizens who have fought for Israel or to end intelligence sharing and UK military involvement in the war. He also chose not to use the word genocide – something he has consistently refused to do when pressed on it.

With the pro-military wing of the Labour Party having played such a crucial role in ending Keir Starmer's tenure, there will unquestionably be pressure on Andy Burnham to follow their policies and to continue business as usual when it comes to arms exports.

That's why, at a time of change, our movement needs to be as strong as possible. CAAT will put all the pressure we can on him and the new government for a different direction and a more peaceful world.

UNIVERSITIES AND THE ARMS TRADE

Irene Ruiz Espejo is a PhD researcher in environmental justice and a community organiser with the Palestine Solidarity Network at the University of Southampton. She is the lead author of the report discussed in this article, “Aligning policy with practice: The University of Southampton’s tensions and risks in the context of Palestine and Israel”.

UK universities are deeply entangled with the military-industrial complex. Yet these relationships are rarely examined openly, and even more rarely challenged from within – due to vested interests, lack of knowledge, or self-censorship.

After two years of community organising, engagement across the university, and sustained investigation, we – the Palestine Solidarity Network at the University of Southampton – published a report to address this. We held our university’s stated commitments to sustainability, equality, diversity and inclusion, ethical research, and social responsibility up against its actual practices.

What we found were not isolated contradictions, but something far more structural.

The first area concerns the university’s relationships with the arms industry. Arms companies are not peripheral here but key strategic industry partners. They are embedded across research funding, doctoral training, studentships and consultancy, and directly influence course content, particularly in dual-use fields such

as AI, photonics, and autonomous systems.

They also operate as a visible presence in student life: at careers fairs, employability events, on-campus innovation challenges, and start-up spaces, positioning themselves as desirable employers and partners.

The second area involves ongoing academic collaborations with Israeli universities, including one in photonics with an institution embedded in the state’s military apparatus.

The third area is institutional language itself. We examined how official communications on Palestine and Israel, and governance frameworks on antisemitism, shape what can be said and what is obscured. What we found is a system in which contradictions are not accidental but managed: one where money and power repeatedly take precedence over stated values, even as policy documents accumulate ever more ambitious language about “changing the world for the better.”

These dynamics have real consequences for campus culture. Students and staff who

raise concerns about arms partnerships, or who engage in Palestine solidarity, face scrutiny, marginalisation, or silencing – a direct threat to freedom of speech. Institutional language becomes untethered from reality.

Words continue to appear in strategies, policies, and public statements, but they no longer describe what is happening. They are used to manage perception, to soften contradictions, and to make what is unacceptable appear reasonable, or even necessary.

Breaking the silence, resisting erasure

Naming these contradictions matters, because silence is one of the conditions that allows them to become entrenched.

Our report is an attempt to interrupt that silence. Resisting erasure – of lives, of knowledge, of our ability to name what is happening – requires more than critique. It requires cultivating the capacity to see clearly, even when language obscures; to think critically, even when institutions reward compliance; and to remain connected to our shared humanity, to people, to place and to the consequences of what is done with our knowledge, our research, and our labour.

So let’s break the silence and make visible what is designed to remain out of our critical view. Read the report, share it, and act on it. These issues are bigger than a single university; they reflect broader systems of power that Palestine makes visible. Change requires collective pressure across institutions to challenge what has been normalised for too long.



LOCAL CAAT

In April, London CAAT continued their series of protests outside of arms dealer HQs with a return visit to the UK headquarters of L3 Harris on the Strand in central London.

L3 Harris is one of the world's biggest arms companies and has a long history of exporting weapons to human rights abusers and repressive regimes.

Among other things it makes the bomb release mechanism for the F-35I Adir jet, which has been used by Israeli forces in the Gaza genocide, as well as other components for the F-35.

They have an extensive involvement in global conflict, including making Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance aircraft and the Ground Panoramic "Pano" Night Vision Goggles, which were used by the US and its allies in night raids in Afghanistan and Iraq.

There have been serious allegations of war crimes reported in relation to these operations, including the killing of unarmed civilians.

The London CAAT campaigners leafleted outside and spoke to passers-by to explain why they were there, and that the nondescript office block next to a bus stop on The Strand was in fact the UK HQ of a dreadful arms company.

The protesters were joined by our friends from the brilliant



Raised Voices choir, whose repertoire of peace-related songs are always greatly appreciated.

Campaigners also shared powerful poems written by Palestinian poets including Rafeef Ziadah and Mahmoud Darwish, which again went down well with passers-by, many of whom were heading to theatre shows. Resistance can take many forms!

There is no shortage of arms companies with offices in prominent and accessible locations across London, although most of them will keep a low profile and avoid having big logos or anything that will give away what is happening behind closed doors.

That's why protests like this are so important in letting people know that the arms trade isn't a far away and remote industry that we can't do anything about, and that there are companies on our doorsteps and in almost every city centre.

There's more to come. You can join London CAAT in August for their next Merchants of Death Tour, a walking tour that will visit the headquarters and offices of several other arms companies and locations linked to the deadly trade in weapons.

You can find more details about this and other protests and events on the CAAT Events page.

caat.org.uk/events

Campaigners from CAAT including Charles Wright, volunteering after his recent retirement from the staff, and Local Outreach Coordinator Kirsten Bayes, were at Warwick Peace Festival in May.

Charles and Kirsten hugely enjoyed meeting a diverse mix of attendees at the fair, many of whom left sporting very smart CAAT badges and carrying copies of CAAT News!

As well as a range of stalls and food and drink options, there was a great mix of speakers and music, including a set by Dan Sealey from the band Ocean Colour Scene.

If you are having an event, and would like CAAT to be there please contact outreach@caat.org.uk – we can't make every event but we would love to be there if we can.



SCOTTISH ELECTION

May saw the Scottish Parliament elections, with the SNP returned as the largest party. Although the result did not produce a dramatic shift in the political landscape, it has shaped the balance of power for the next parliamentary term.

It is likely that the SNP will continue as a minority government, making cooperation with other parties essential to pass legislation. That lack of a majority presents opportunities for anti-arms trade campaigners to press for stronger commitments and hold ministers to account on existing promises.

At a time of climate crisis, rising inequality, pressure on public services alongside global instability and genocide, public money and policy must be used to build a fair, sustainable and peaceful economy.

Yet millions of pounds of public money continue to be distributed to multi-billion pound arms companies through public agencies, while these same companies are profiting from global conflict, militarisation and arms exports to countries accused of serious human rights violations.

At the same time, arms companies are being given unrestricted access to classrooms, universities and public institutions, embedding the arms industry within Scotland's economy and education system. This is not an inevitable economic model, but a political choice and one that can be changed.

One of the big tests will be the implementation of policies for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel.

It is almost 12 months since the Scottish Parliament became the first in the world to vote for such a package of measures, but there are serious questions about what action has actually been taken.

No blacklist of companies has been produced and although the Scottish Government has said it will stop giving public money to companies arming Israel, they have not said if this is a permanent measure.

At the same time as they announced it they also announced that they would be lifting their ban on public funding for munitions, which is a big change. It is also important to note that every major arms company in Scotland has links to Israel, so in theory none of them should be eligible for public money.

At a time of climate crisis, rising inequality, pressure on public services alongside global instability and genocide, public money and policy must be used to build a fair, sustainable and peaceful economy

Meanwhile, councils in Edinburgh and Shetland have asked for guidance about how they can carry out boycotts but so far have been unable.

There will be a lot to do over the months and years ahead to ensure that the Scottish Parliament is leading by example and living up to its rhetoric.

CAAT's priorities in Scotland will include:

- 1 Ending funding for war and genocide by stopping all grants to arms companies and war profiteers.
- 2 Introducing real human rights due diligence to public grants as the current system is not fit for purpose.
- 3 Partnering with communities, not death merchants by building positive industries like renewable energy and other areas of engineering instead of the arms trade.
- 4 Halting the disturbing trend of arms companies providing lessons and programmes in schools.
- 5 Implementing the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel that the parliament voted for.



Many congratulations to Kate Nevens who was elected as a Green MSP for Edinburgh and Lothians East. Kate has played a crucial role in building Edinburgh CAAT and our movement in Scotland and is a former member of the CAAT Steering Committee.

THEY SAID IT

"I was very disappointed with Nato. We weren't treated well because we did something in Iran."

Donald Trump comments on NATO's response to his disastrous war in Iran, 7th July 2026

"War can be good for business."

Marketwatch summary of prospects for arms companies as a result of the Iran war, 2nd March 2026

"This is a golden opportunity right now based on who's in government, their experience, their willingness to change the demand that they have for what we do."

Lockheed Martin CEO, Jim Taiclet, welcomes Trump administration's aggressive foreign policy, Fortune, 25th April 2026

Join or Start a Local Group

Help us to build our movement in your community by joining your local CAAT group today and helping us reach new people.

There may already be an existing local group. In which case, find their contact details and get in touch. You can find out about local groups in your area by visiting caat.org.uk/take-action/take-part-near-you

If not, there are undoubtedly people in your area who might want to join a group you organise. If you would like to get something started, contact outreach@caat.org.uk

Whether it's hosting a speaker, showing a film, or running a workshop, organising an event can be a great way of sharing knowledge or making new allies. We can help you find a venue, book a speaker or film, or help with publicity (leaflets, posters, online).

Similarly, setting up a stall either in the street or at an event can be a brilliant way to meet new friends and other campaigners. We can help with leaflets, petitions, and event costs. Contact outreach@caat.org.uk for more details.

UK Arms exports report

CAAT has recently published "UK Arms Exports in 2024" our new report about the state of the UK arms industry.

It discusses some of the key issues and concerns relating to the UK arms trade in 2024, namely arms sales to Israel in the context of the genocidal war on Gaza; the government's push to sell Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye; and the sale of arms to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the context of the UAE's role in arming the genocidal Rapid Support Forces militia in Sudan.

You can download the full report from caat.org.uk/publications



Arms companies exposed

You may not know that the CAAT website is one of the most authoritative sources in the UK for information about arms companies across the UK. We have been updating and expanding profiles of lots of companies, including those who have armed Israel's genocide against Palestinians.

You can use our online browser to find out where companies are based, who they arm and what weapons they produce.

Visit caat.org.uk/data/companies for more information.

Meet Leo Verity

I'm very happy to have joined CAAT as Advocacy Manager, covering for the brilliant Katie Fallon, and to be part of the movement challenging the reactionary political consensus on arms and militarism.

In the last few years I have been campaigning on trade justice and on refugee and asylum policy, including the militarization of Europe's borders against those fleeing situations of war and persecution. I hope to bring some of what I've learned to CAAT.

The status quo on arms is not part of the world I want my daughter to grow up in. She's two – there is time yet for change!

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: CAAT, Unit 1.9, The Green House, 244–254 Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9DA

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.

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Name(s) of account holder(s):

Bank/building society a/c no.

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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.

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Single donation

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

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