

CAAT NEWS



JULY - SEPTEMBER 2017 • ISSUE 245

SHUT DOWN DSEI 2017



JOIN OUR WEEK OF ACTION

PLUS

After the
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CAAT NEWS

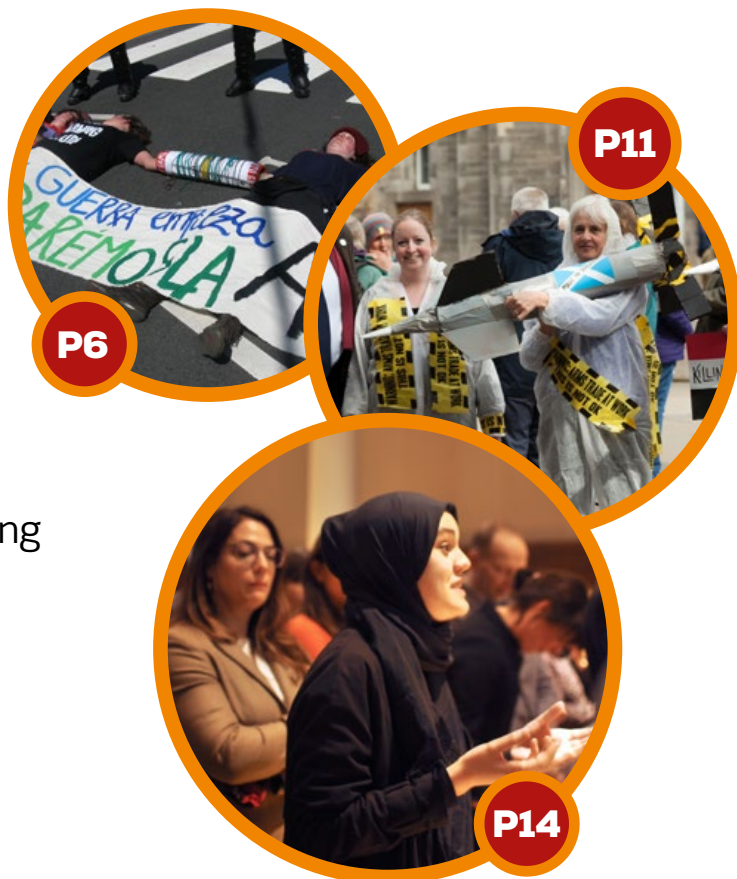
JULY – SEPT 2017

This issue features strong themes that reflect concerns being aired in the wider world: what happens after a General Election that resulted in quite considerable uncertainty? What are the implications of Brexit? These questions need addressing in the context of arms sales, as well as from all the other angles being highlighted in wider media.

There's also a strong focus on themes that deserve yet more attention from the wider media: the campaign to stop arming Saudi Arabia and also the DSEI arms fair, which features in our special pull-out section. We hope you find everything you need to get informed and get active but do check the CAAT website or email or phone (details below) if you need more.

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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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AFTER THE ELECTION

This is being written during the period of uncertainty after the General Election. The latest news is that the Conservatives intend to stay in Government, supported by, but not in coalition with, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). What does this mean for the arms trade?

Exports to repressive regimes

CAAT is still awaiting judgment in its Judicial Review on the legality of issuing export licences for equipment bound for Saudi Arabia where it clearly risks being used in serious violations of International Humanitarian Law. All the opposition parties included promises in their manifestos to stop arming Saudi Arabia while it bombs Yemen. However, as Theresa May pushes forward on Brexit, such deals are likely to continue (see page 6) with Government pressure for them to increase. This means the opposition parties will need to continue to speak out clearly against them. Sadly, some of the MPs supportive of CAAT's work in the last Parliament, particularly in the Scottish National Party and

Northern Ireland's SDLP, have lost their seats.

The DUP has no explicit policy on arms exports, although one of its MPs, Jim Shannon, has previously called for an end to sales to repressive regimes. He was also serving on the Commons Committees on Arms Export Controls (CAEC) scrutinising arms sales. After having great influence during the 2010-15 Parliament the CAEC was not really functioning after the 2015 election. It remains to be seen whether another effective CAEC will emerge.

The links made by Jeremy Corbyn between wars the UK has fought overseas and attacks in the UK is encouraging for those who want to open up a debate about a real security policy

Security and alternative jobs

The much strengthened Labour Party had a clear manifesto promise to "put conflict resolution and human rights at the heart of foreign policy." This, together with the links made by Jeremy Corbyn between wars the UK has fought

overseas and attacks in the UK, is encouraging for those who want to open up a debate about a real security policy, one that addresses the underlying causes of conflict rather than simply seeing a solution in more military hardware.

Alongside this, pressure for a new look at arms conversion is growing. In 2015 Jeremy Corbyn advocated the setting up of a Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) to help offset trade union concerns about his opposition to nuclear weapons. In May, the PCS union passed a policy motion calling for "the support and incentives which are currently given to the arms industry to be transferred to the renewable energy sector." This was followed in June by the local Trades Union Councils' annual meeting agreeing that a motion calling for the setting up of a Shadow DDA go to the annual Trades Union Congress in September.

The vested interests, not least those of the arms companies, will make it difficult to pursue these matters. However, with a resurgent Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn, the chances of doing so are better than for many years.

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

UNITED STATES

US president Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia brought huge deals for Boeing and Lockheed Martin as part of a \$110bn deal over the next decade. Much of the package was negotiated via the Obama administration, although at that stage elements of it were put on hold due to concerns over use in Yemen.

Just weeks later, the US Senate narrowly backed a sale of guided munitions after a bipartisan resolution of disapproval and an unexpectedly close 53–47 vote, which reflected mounting concern over Saudi actions in Yemen. A defeat would have been a

first in decades by a congressional body of a weapons sale to Saudi Arabia.

[Flight International, 30/5/17–5/6/17](#);
[New York Times, 13/6/17](#)

Qatar has signed a \$12bn deal to buy F-15 fighters jets from the US just days after US president Trump accused Qatar of funding terrorism “at a very high level”. Other Gulf countries recently cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of destabilising the region.

Qatar is home to the biggest US air base in the Middle East, which plays a key role in US-led operations against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

[BBC, 15/6/17](#)

SPENDING

The annual update of a database run by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) showed total world military expenditure rising to \$1.686tn in 2016, an increase of 0.4% in real terms from 2015. Spending continued to grow in Asia and Oceania, Central and Eastern Europe and North Africa. It fell in Central America and the Caribbean, the Middle East (where data is available), South America and sub-Saharan Africa.

[SIPRI.org, 24/4/17](#)

EUROPEAN UNION

Airbus is planning a new fighter jet as part of a drive for more military integration in the EU. Germany and Spain have already signed up and Airbus hopes for French involvement too. The project is to be called the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) and will replace the Eurofighter and Tornado fighter jet models in Germany, the F18 in Spain and, if France joined – and if the project went ahead – it might replace the French fighter jet, the Rafale. Another remaining option is to buy F-35 jets from the US.

[EU Observer, 12/6/17](#)

PROBE

French officials are probing allegations of bribery in relation to the 2008 sale of Scorpene attack submarines to Brazil.

[Defense News, 22/5/17](#)



© Ninian Reid/Flickr

SWEDEN

Swedish arms manufacturers are concerned about Swedish government proposals to restrict arms exports to non-democracies. Saab has warned it might move some research and

development out of the country although the definitions behind any new rules on arms sales are expected to be narrow.

[Defense News, 7/4/17](#)

GERMANY

© Glyn Lowe Photoworks/Flickr



Following on from the German Chancellor expressing concerns about strikes on Yemen, Saudi Arabia has said that it may stop buying German weapons if it means that cooperation with Berlin in other areas will be more likely.

[DW.com, 30/4/17](#)

German arms company Rheinmetall has been denied government clearance for some exports to Turkey after a row over campaign appearances by Turkish officials to drum up support for a referendum that boosted the Turkish president's powers.

[Reuters, 23/3/17](#)

FRANCE

France saw a 14% increase in arms exports last year compared to 2015. Exports totalled €8.3bn. 23% of exports went to the EU, 22% to Asia and 21% to Africa.

[Defense News, 18/5/17](#)

France's Rafale jet looks a likely choice in Malaysia's quest to replace its aging fleet of combat aircraft, despite BAE Systems' hopes for the Eurofighter Typhoon. However, the decision might not be made for at least another two years. The deal is likely to be worth more than \$2bn.

[Reuters, 22/3/17](#)

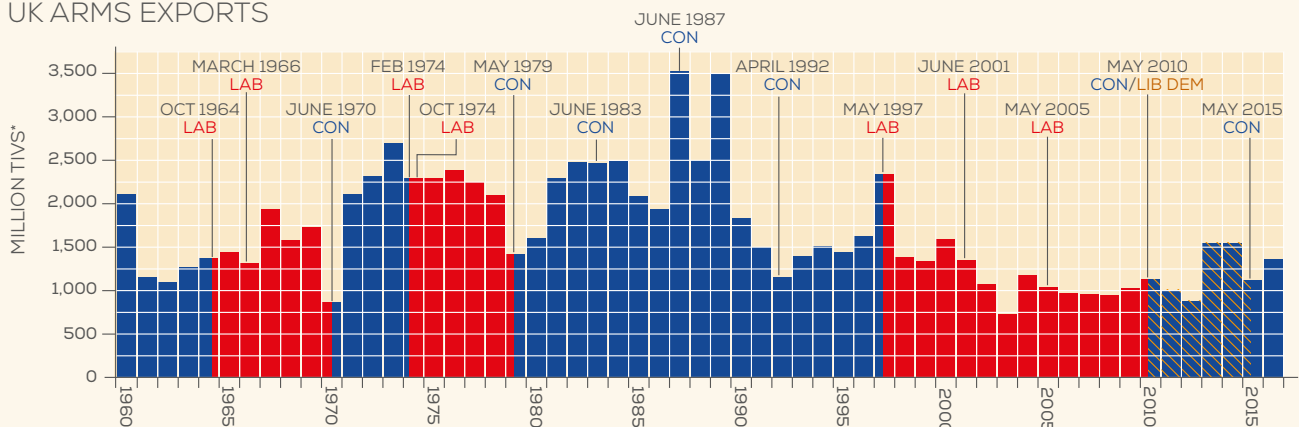
SYRIA

The US built a database with serial numbers of weapons given to Syrian Kurds as the transfer of arms began ahead of the fight for the Syrian city of Al-Raqqa. The US will share the database with Turkey and other allies after concerns about weapons transfers to groups such as the Kurdish Workers' Party, which may use them against Turkey.

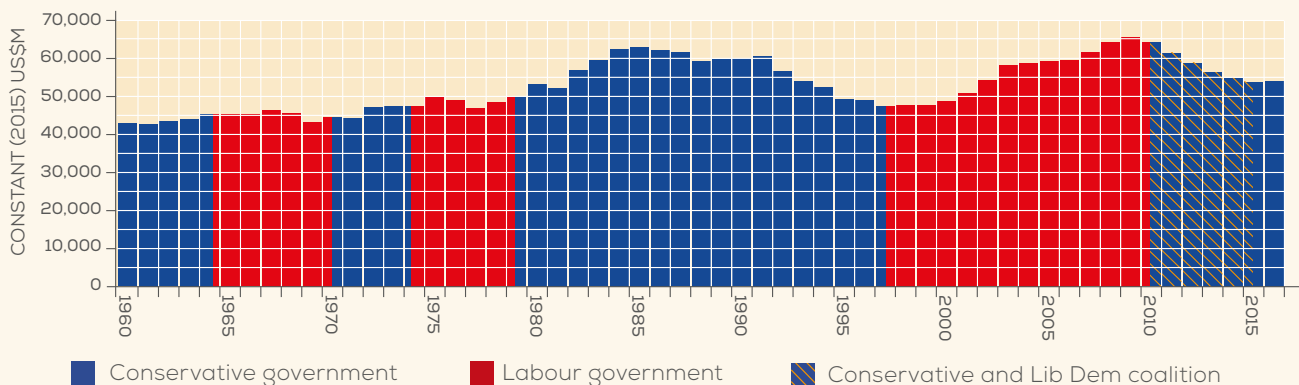
[Jane's Defence Weekly, 7/6/17](#)

UK ARMS EXPORTS AND MILITARY SPENDING, 1960-2016

UK ARMS EXPORTS



UK MILITARY EXPENDITURE



Arms export and military expenditure figures are taken from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), [sipri.org](#)

* "SIPRI statistical data on arms transfers relates to actual deliveries of major conventional weapons. To permit comparison between the data on such deliveries of different weapons and to identify general trends, SIPRI has developed a unique system to measure the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons using a common unit, the trend-indicator value (TIV)." [sipri.org](#)

HOW WILL BREXIT AFFECT THE ARMS TRADE?

The Government's search for post-Brexit trade deals has seen an unwelcome focus on arms sales to some of the world's most repressive regimes. We have seen Theresa May and her colleagues visiting a roll call of human rights abusers and dictatorships.

Priority markets

May has been to Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, while her colleagues have visited Oman, Bahrain, UAE and Kuwait. Every one of those countries appears on the UK government's list of "priority markets" for arms sales.

The Middle East is a small region, but it accounts for two thirds of UK arms exports.

We have seen Theresa May and her colleagues visiting a roll call of human rights abusers and dictatorships

The EU

It may not just be via the UK government that Brexit affects the arms trade. The European Union was founded as a peace project but in recent years has been rapidly militarising. In many

ways the UK has restricted this, with successive governments believing that military matters are the preserve of individual states. Brexit may present an opportunity for those governments, such as France and Germany, which are pressing for a greater EU military role.

CAAT's colleagues at the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT) are taking action to stop further militarisation of the EU. You can find out more about ENAAT at enaat.org.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

Brussels

Days after Trump announced a \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, he arrived in Brussels for a mini-summit to mark the inauguration of the new NATO headquarters. High on the agenda: a drive to push member states into spending at least 2% of GDP on 'defence' (with 20% to be spent on military hardware).

CAAT joined Belgian activists

to protest and disrupt access to the summit. Banners were dropped from road signs for the benefit of the arriving delegations, resulting in major roads being closed for up to an hour. Elsewhere, people blocked access roads to the new

CAAT joined Belgian activists to protest and disrupt access to the summit at the inauguration of the new NATO headquarters

headquarters and the start of the summit was delayed. Over 100 were arrested but released later that evening once Trump had made his way to the airport.

Tel Aviv

In a month that also saw actions against arms fairs around the world from Ottawa to Brno in the Czech Republic, CAAT joined the Coalition of Women for Peace to protest at the Israel Defence Exhibition (ISDEF) arms fair in Tel Aviv.

People entered the arms fair to stage a die-in and later protested outside as delegates left. Hamushim (meaning "armed"), a project of Coalition of Women for Peace, organised a shadow conference to expose the ways in which Israel profits from exporting occupation. The UK is complicit in this, benefitting from the purchase of drone technology that has been "battle-tested" on Palestinians. See Taking Action on page 15 for local actions to [#StopArmingIsrael](https://twitter.com/StopArmingIsrael).





STOP DSEI

What does DSEI, one of the world's largest arms fairs, look like?

It's closed to the public but an aircraft can be seen outside the entrance: a feat of engineering, pristine and glinting in the autumn sunshine. Battleships are moored in the dock and as the sun sets one of these will turn into the party boat, where some of the 30,000 arms dealers present will toast the week's business.

Beyond the security fences, if you could go inside, you could at first glance be at any other trade show – except this one is exhibiting drones, tanks, sniper rifles, helicopters, armoured vehicles, tear gas, bombs and missiles. Bullets are displayed in concentric circles, and for the discerning dictator, a pistol can be gold-plated. The dictators are there, escorted around the stands by UK officials, armed forces personnel or government

ministers. The armed forces are also available to demonstrate the equipment. Here the set piece might include a mock-up of a bombed-out urban street; over there you can try it yourself and men in suits clamber up an armoured vehicle or stand behind a machine gun. There's a low murmur of respectable chatter.

However, nothing about this is respectable. The equipment on the Israeli pavilion is marketed as "battle-tested" – tested on Palestinians. The battleship represents millions of pounds of

Nothing about this is respectable; the equipment on the Israeli pavilion is marketed as "battle-tested" – tested on Palestinians

public money spent on war. The warplane glinting at the entrance could also be found bombing schools and hospitals in Yemen. For a few days in September,

everything one needs to wage a war or repress a population is laid out across East London's Docklands. The weapons sold here fuel the death, destruction and injustice perpetrated by militaries, police forces and at borders around the world.

This is where war starts – and it's where we can act to stop it. In 2017, let's make sure that when we look at the arms fair, we see resistance.

In 2015, hundreds of people took part in the biggest-ever protests against DSEI. For six days people blocked entrances, disrupting the set-up of the fair. When the arms fair returns this September, the protests will be even bigger and – with your help – the fair could be shut down for good!

See the next three pages for info on what's happening and how to get involved or find out more at stopthearmsfair.org.uk.

Week of Action to Stop the Set-up: 4–11 September 2017 [#StopDSEI](https://twitter.com/StopDSEI) stopthearmsfair.org.uk



Stop Arming Israel No Nuclear

Israel and its arms companies will have a National Pavilion at DSEI to sell weapons systems that have been used to devastate and destroy Palestinian families and communities. Join us for a day of creative action to Stop Arming Israel on **Monday 4 September**.

A campaigner, Sami, said: "Israel uses DSEI to sell its 'battle-tested' weapons. Palestinian civil society has called for a two-way arms embargo, and that's what our #StopArmingIsrael day is pushing for. I am sickened that DSEI has been allowed to use our city to prop up Israel and so many other colonial regimes. But no more! This campaign is winnable!"

On **Wednesday 6 September**, Trident Ploughshares and CND will together highlight the links between the UK's nuclear weapons and the arms trade, saying "No to the Arms Fair, No Trident Replacement". Some of the world's biggest arms companies are directly involved in Trident and have a disproportionate ability to lobby the Government to secure lucrative export deals.

One of the event organisers said: "We will aim to prevent the military equipment from being moved into the ExCeL Centre and there will also be safe, fun and family-friendly activities, including a Mad Hatter's Tea Party."

AN ARMS FAIR CO



In September 2017 people from around the world disrupted the DSEI arms fair in London. CAAT asked different groups to...

No Faith In War

On **Tuesday 5 September** different faith groups are coming together to disrupt the set-up of DSEI with prayer, worship, meditation, music, talks and nonviolent action, saying "no faith in war!"

Participant Nora said: "I am taking action against DSEI because

I don't have faith in our political leaders who make arms deals with tyrants and warmongers and I don't have faith in a deeply unjust economic system that thrives on conflict and oppression. My faith is in God's love, which sustains solidarity and reconciliation."

"I am taking action against DSEI because I don't have faith in our political leaders who make arms deals with tyrants and warmongers"

Arms to Renewables

Shifting priorities from arms to renewables would help tackle climate change and could provide alternative employment for arms trade workers. Get involved

in the Arms to Renewables creative action on **Wednesday 6 September** to call for jobs that create a safer, rather than a more dangerous world.

Do you want to organise an action or get others involved? Contact us on **020 7281 0297** to chat about your...



Solidarity Without Borders

Weapons manufacturers and private security companies exhibiting at DSEI make a profit from fuelling conflict and repression and then profit again through deadly borders and the inhumane treatment of migrants. Militarised borders mean a booming private security industry that sees commercial opportunity in these racist border controls.

Join feminist, queer, migrant and anti-borders groups on **Thursday 7 September**. These groups are uniting to target the DSEI arms fair and stand in solidarity with all migrants. People who were once deemed illegal or denied rights are taking action to say that no human is illegal.

East London Against Arms Fairs (ELAAF)

ELAAF holds monthly musical demonstrations at the ExCeL centre: join them on the **15 July, 12 August, 9 September**. Musicians and singers (all styles) are welcome to join in. You can also join in if you are not musical!

On **Tuesday 12 September** from 2–3pm ELAAF invites you to float a wreath for victims of the arms trade on the Royal Victoria Dock. You may like to wear black or white or a black arm band as a sign of mourning. Meet outside South exit from Royal Victoria DLR station. See elaaf.org for more.



COMES TO LONDON

the world will come together to stop the different groups why they're taking action.

Conference at the Gates

On **Sat 9 September** Conference At the Gates will be a day of protest and learning run by academics, students and others at the entrance to DSEI.

Academic LucasDonna Hedlund said: "For me, it's incredibly important to put my academic critique into

action and work together with activist organisations to resist DSEI together. I am really excited about the day, which will see radical campaign organisers and academics co-leading workshops, performances, actions and banner/craft-making sessions."

War Stops Here: public education seminar

On **Sunday 10 September** join War Resisters' International and anti-militarist activists from across the world to hear about the consequences of the deals made at DSEI and international resistance to the arms trade.

World Without War, a South Korean antimilitarist organisation, hosted

international action against the Seoul arms fair (ADEX) two years ago.

Jungmin, from South Korea, said: "It was a very inspiring moment for people who joined the seminar and action and hopefully it was a really scary moment for those who were there selling and buying machines. So, this year, it will be London!"



involved? Contact Kat on outreach@caat.org.uk for ideas and book a workshop near you.

BIG DAY OF ACTION

The week of action around the DSEI arms fair is topped off with a Big Day of Action on 9 September – a noisy, colourful carnival of resistance and creativity. All are welcome to join in creating havoc for the arms fair organisers. It's time to get inventive!

Activist and performer Danusia said: "Expect music, dance, workshops, political speakers and much more. We want everyone there to take this last opportunity to stop the arms fair and help make this the biggest day of the week!"

Miriam Scharf, International Officer Newham Teachers' Association (NUT) said: "It is a continuing insult to people in Newham that we have this disgraceful event in our borough. Newham advertises itself as the place where people 'live, work and play,' not as the place where weapons, whose only purpose is destruction of human life, are bought and sold.



"We are a very multicultural community with a high proportion of Muslims. People in Newham are very aware these

Expect music, dance, workshops, political speakers and much more. We want everyone there to take this last opportunity to stop the arms fair and help make this the biggest day of the week!

arms are used against civilian populations of largely Muslim countries. Outside the DSEI in 2015 there were successful protests against arms to Israel. Hopefully this year we will show in even greater numbers our disgust at the contempt for democracy, human rights and peace shown by arms dealers throughout the world."

ART THE ARMS FAIR



Making a Killing, Inkjet Matt Print by Mark O'Neil

As part of the Big Day of Action, Art the Arms Fair will be making DSEI visible. At 10am on 9 September, artists will come armed with canvases, clay and their creativity to the site of the fair in order to Art the Arms Fair. All art and artists welcome from painting to performance, sculptors to satirists.

All work produced will be taken to a gallery to be shown alongside other donated art works for a public exhibition

Artists will come armed with canvases, clay and their creativity to the site of the fair in order to Art the Arms Fair

coinciding with the DSEI Arms Fair 2017 on 12–15 September. Work will be sold to support the work of Campaign Against Arms Trade.

You can donate art works now or come and get creative on the day. Follow [@ArtTheArmsFair](https://www.instagram.com/ArtTheArmsFair) or see artthearmsfair.org.

Artist Ash Francis said: "I was outraged to hear that so much funding is going into weapons sales, not the arts. I will be painting outside the ExCeL centre in September to bring alive an issue more artists should be talking about."

CAAT GROUPS' NEWS

Scottish activists are building a strong campaign to target the arms trade, and the Edinburgh CAAT group has some great plans for the summer. They've been demanding that the Scottish government stop investing their pension provision in the arms trade and now more action is planned to target Raytheon, whose factory in Glenrothes makes bombs used by the Saudi Royal Air Force. See facebook.com/CAATScotland or email caatedinburgh@live.com to join their mailing list.

Workshops are planned across the UK to share information and ideas and help people get skilled up

People are getting together across the UK to plan Stop DSEI actions for September. In the summer, workshops are planned across the UK to share information and ideas and help people get skilled up, so check stophthearmsfair.org.uk/events to see if there are any workshops near you. You can book one for your area by emailing outreach@caat.org.uk.



HELLO FROM LUCIE CAAT'S NEW TRAINING & EVENTS COORDINATOR

After cutting my political teeth at Climate Camp, I've organised with groups from Disabled People Against Cuts to the Bhopal Medical Appeal, from unions to intersectional feminist group Sisters Uncut. My work background is pretty diverse, from lifeguarding to being a teaching assistant to project managing large scale infrastructure changes in order to make London's roads safer.

I'm very excited to bring my skills and experience to plunge straight into organising against DSEI, which is bringing



together such a wide range of issues, from environmental groups to LGBTQ and migrant solidarity organisations, all to Stop the arms fair. See you on the streets!

I'm very excited to bring my skills and experience to plunge straight into organising against DSEI

DANCING TO DISARM!

On 22–23 July, you can join CAAT in London for a weekend of speakers, workshops and training, plus a Saturday night after-party! Book your tickets for Dance To Disarm: an evening of fun and inspiring performance to support CAAT's work and celebrate resistance to the arms trade. There will be politically conscious live hip-hop from Logic and Awate, spoken word from Mizan The Poet and eclectic DJ sets from Jon More & Matt Black (Ninja Tune) and the Resis'Dance collective. Find out more and book your tickets at caat.org.uk/d2d.

RIDE, RUN AND SWIM...FOR PEACE!

On 9 July, long-time CAAT supporters Rebecca and Luke Tully will take on the Norwich triathlon to raise funds for CAAT. See the enclosed form or visit bit.ly/rebs-triathlon to support the campaign by sponsoring them. Fancy doing a fundraising event yourself? Email fundraising@caat.org.uk.



SAUDI ARABIA CAMPAIGN UPDATES

The Saudi Arabian-led war on Yemen is more than two years old, and the destruction continues – as do UK arms sales and political support.

Just days before the General Election in June, BAE Systems delivered the final planes in its current order of Eurofighter Typhoons to Saudi Arabia. The deliveries have continued despite the planes' deployment in the bombing campaign, where there is overwhelming evidence of violations of international humanitarian law.

Every day that we wait the suffering continues and we suspect the Government will do all it can to resist change

Legal challenge

CAAT's legal challenge to the Government's decision to keep arming Saudi Arabia was heard in the High Court in February; at time of going to press we are still awaiting a verdict.

The result could be game-changing but every day that we wait the suffering continues and we suspect the Government will do all it can to resist change. That's why we need to keep up the pressure in every way we can.

General Election

Often domestic concerns can dominate election campaigns but after two years of the Government refusing to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia, public anger was palpable.

The last Government even ignored its own rules to keep the weapons flowing. UK complicity in the war on Yemen was woefully neglected, or wilfully ignored, by most of the media. But they couldn't ignore it during this election campaign.

The issue even made the BBC election debates, with a question raised by Green MP Caroline Lucas generating huge support from the audience and headlines the next day.

Hundreds of thousands of people watched a video where CAAT questioned Theresa May's claim that the naughtiest thing she had ever done was running through fields of wheat as a child. Continuing to defend arms sales to Saudi Arabia is clearly far more shameful.

And Theresa May's claim that arms sales to Saudi Arabia were part of a relationship that "has helped to keep people on the streets of Britain safe" was also called

into question. The Government was urged to publish a delayed report into foreign terrorist funding, rumoured to focus on the role of Saudi Arabia and to be too sensitive to publish. This illustrates new challenges to the belief that people are kept safe by militaristic solutions and opens potential for new visions of security that tackle inequality and environmental destruction instead of promoting arms sales and military intervention.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who showed they care about the role the UK plays in the world and helped make the UK's shameful arms sales an election issue. We've still got mountains to climb but support will be stronger in the new Parliament and there are new opportunities to demand a country that uses its influence to promote human rights and democracy, instead of one that prioritises arms sales at all costs. Find out more and contact your MP at caat.org.uk/saudi-lobby.



CAAT joined Peter Tatchell, Bianca Jagger and London Assembly member Jenny Jones to hand in a petition signed by 160,000 individuals asking Theresa May to stop arming Saudi and to free blogger Raif Badawi and other political prisoners.

AND ACTIONS

BAE AGM

Despite BAE's best efforts CAAT once again dominated questioning at its Annual General Meeting. The Chair was challenged on key issues, including the role of BAE staff in loading munitions on planes used in Yemen, whether their planes had been used to deploy cluster munitions and how their arms sales to dictators could be reconciled with their claims to support political reform

Human rights and repression

Whatever the courts decide over the legal challenge, the UK should never have been arming Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's appalling domestic repression has been propped up and supported by UK arms sales.

Raif Badawi

CAAT has joined English PEN and other organisations at vigils outside the Saudi Embassy to highlight the fifth anniversary of the arrest of Saudi blogger, Raif Badawi. We called for Raif's immediate release, and for an end to UK sales of arms to Saudi Arabia. While the British government continues to allow arms sales to Saudi Arabia, it is complicit in the Saudi regime's human rights abuses.

After starting a website called Free Saudi Liberals in order to encourage political debate, Raif was charged with "insulting Islam through electronic channels." He was arrested and imprisoned in 2012 and later sentenced to 10 years and 1000 lashes. In 2015 he was publicly flogged, and his

health has worsened since.

Raif's wife, author and activist Ensaf Haidar, joined a vigil in May. She explained to campaigners that her children wanted to know when their father would come back to them, saying that "part of us

Hundreds of thousands of people watched a video where CAAT questioned Theresa May's claim that the naughtiest thing she had ever done was running through fields of wheat as a child

also lies in prison." She said she was looking forward to the day when Raif can stand at a podium and show that "freedom cannot be incarcerated, flogged or executed."

YEMEN CATASTROPHE

In June, a cholera epidemic reached 100,000 cases. The disease is normally simple to treat and prevent but the World Health Organisation warned that conflict has nearly destroyed Yemen's health system. Medical

supplies are unable to enter the country, damage to infrastructure has devastated clean water and sanitation access, and health workers are unpaid.

Dr Meritxell Relano, UNICEF's Representative in Yemen said:

"Today, life for children in Yemen is a desperate struggle for survival, with cholera, malnutrition and the relentless violence constantly sounding a death knell at their doorsteps."

DEMILITARISE KING'S

AN INTERVIEW WITH A STUDENT CAMPAIGN GROUP

The group Demilitarise King's campaigns for King's College London to end ties with the arms trade. CAAT's Universities Network Coordinator Jess Poyner had a chat with group co-founder Ibtihal Hussain to hear how the group became a powerful presence on campus.

JP: What are your aims for the campaign?

IH: Our overall aim is to demilitarise our university, through investments, connections and spaces. We aim to:

- Ensure that King's divests from arms companies and companies that are complicit in human right abuses/have connections with rogue states or states that break international law
- Ensure that funding for projects and scholarships doesn't come from unethical sources (like those listed above)
- Ensure that the narrative on campus doesn't glorify war

JP: Demilitarise King's was launched by a range of student societies. Why was that important to you and in what ways did it strengthen your campaign?

IH: Yes, although inspired from the work of KCL Action Palestine in earlier years and the work of KCL Fossil Free, Demilitarise King's was set up by a number of different societies and individuals as part of the KCL Anti-Racism group. This was crucial because the militarisation of our university was a concern for all of the political campaigning groups within the Anti-Racism bloc.



© Lara Peters

Working as a collective meant we were much stronger, our message could reach much wider, more people were involved and our approach was creative, united and multifaceted

Working as a collective meant we were much stronger, our message could reach much wider, more people were involved and our approach was creative, united and multifaceted.

JP: What were your biggest successes?

IH: We've still got a long way to go, but I'd say our biggest successes so far have been:

- Raising awareness: bringing the issue to students and staff was essential because it stirred up passion and anger, not only about university investments or how academics were being paid or about investments of staff pension schemes but also about the lack of transparency and democracy at King's.

- Our direct action: at the King's "2029 vision" launch party students protested and questioned the Principal on the hypocrisy of a university vision that was supposedly about "making the world a better place" whilst at the same time the university is complicit in the destruction of lives.

JP: What's your top piece of advice for other groups starting new campaigns in September?

IH: Build your campaign as a collective; get everyone involved. Research the role of militarisation in investments, fundraising, scholarships, research and crucially, the narrative on campus. Set yourselves monthly and yearly goals. Get everyone on board and celebrate your successes, however small they may seem!



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TAKING ACTION

Stop Arming Israel – week of actions

Arms companies around the world are profiting from Israel's brutal occupation of Palestine. From 1–7 July take part in actions at Elbit factories around the UK and call on HSBC to stop financing Israel's militarised repression. See stoparmingisrael.org.uk.

Skill up to stop the arms fair

On 22 & 23 July there'll be a weekend of workshops in London (plus the Dance To Disarm event – see page 11). Book your place at it-starts-here.eventbrite.co.uk.

Book a speaker or workshop

Not in London? Join or organise a local workshop and help stop the arms fair! See stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events to see what's planned and email outreach@caat.org.uk to organise your own.

Stop the Arms Fair

Get DSEI in your diaries – see pages 7–10. The week of action to stop the set up runs from 4–11 September.



THEY SAID IT

“If I did not sincerely believe that we are doing the right thing for the right reasons then I would not be the Chairman of this company.”

Roger Carr, Chair of BAE Systems.
Ceasefire, 18/05/17

“We are especially proud of how our broad portfolio of advanced global security products and technologies will enhance national security in Saudi Arabia, strengthen the cause of peace in the region, and provide the foundation for job creation and economic prosperity in the US and in the Kingdom.”

Marilyn A Hewson, CEO of Lockheed Martin.
Lockheed Martin press release, 20/05/17

“One of the things we will discuss is the purchase of lots of beautiful military equipment because nobody makes it like the United States.”

Donald Trump, ahead of visit to Saudi Arabia, in which he signed a \$100bn arms deal. The Hill, 21/05/17

WHITEHALL ON TRIAL – THE SCOTT ENQUIRY

As Saudi Arabia continues to pound Yemen using planes and bombs supplied by UK companies, Concord Media is re-releasing the 1996 dramatisation of Lord Justice Scott's inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair. Parallels in the attitudes of Government ministers and

civil servants, doing everything possible to allow UK manufacturers to help Saddam Hussein's war

Concord Media is re-releasing the 1996 dramatisation of Lord Justice Scott's inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair

machine then and Saudi Arabia's now, are all too apparent.

The 50 minute programme can be rented on Concord Media Video on Demand system for £1.50 – see concordmedia.org.uk/products/whitehall-on-trial-the-scott-enquiry-3595.



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 RSYR-UCBS-GHEE, CAAT, Unit 4, 5-7 Wells Terrace, London, N4 3JU

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).

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A direct debit is the most convenient and cost effective way to support CAAT. Just £5 a month makes a real difference.

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Banks/building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some kind of accounts.

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Please send me CAAT's monthly email bulletin.

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