

CAAT NEWS



JANUARY – MARCH 2019 • ISSUE 251



#STOPARMINGSAUDI

PLUS

Arms Dealers' Dinner **P3**

Focus on UAE **P13**

The right to protest **P15**

CAAT NEWS

JAN – MAR 2019

Happy new year to all CAAT supporters! It will be a busy year for the arms industry, and even busier for those of us organising against it.

In April we will be in the Court of Appeal trying to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia for the war in Yemen. You can read more about the case on P6–7.

In September the Saudi military will be among those in London to buy weapons at the DSEI arms fair. Activists have begun organising already. See our centre pages to find out how you can get involved.

Whatever you can do this year, we need to work together to send the message loudly and clearly that the arms industry is not acceptable. Thank you for your support.

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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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ARMS DEALERS DINE WHILE YEMEN IS STARVED

On April 23rd 2019, Grosvenor House in Park Lane, London, played host to the annual Aerospace, Defence & Security Group (ADS) Dinner.

The black-tie dinner, which costs £225 for members and £450 for non-members, is one of the biggest social events in the arms industry calendar.

The event brings hundreds of arms company reps together with high-ranking military personnel and politicians from across the House of Commons. The decadence of the venue is complemented by luxurious food and drink and high profile speakers.

This year attendees were entertained by former Home Secretary Alan Johnson. Previous speakers have included BBC journalists' Andrew Neil and Jeremy Vine.

The arms companies pay for politicians to join them. In 2015, we obtained a copy of the guest list, which included over 40 politicians, including MPs from the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats. Nothing could be more symbolic of the cosy relationship between arms companies and parliament.

The guests are there to mingle, socialise, drink wine and work on

building business contacts. The ADS pulls out all stops to try to create a relaxing night for them, but the impact of their work can be devastating.

The guests are there to mingle, socialise, drink wine and work on building business contacts. The ADS pulls out all stops to try to create a relaxing night for them, but the impact of their work can be devastating.

Many of the companies in attendance are the same ones that have armed and supported the Saudi-led coalition in its terrible bombardment of Yemen. The war has created the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. More than 85,000 children under the age of five have died from malnutrition. The companies at the ADS Dinner have profited from it every step of the way.

The UK Government is directly involved in causing this suffering, with many of the politicians in attendance having supported the arms sales that have done

so much damage. The UK has licensed almost £5 billion of weaponry to the Saudi regime since the bombing began in 2015.

The diners were met with loud protests, as activists took to the streets outside and blockaded the entrances with banners calling for an end to UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia. We reminded the arms dealers that while they were feasting, the people of Yemen are being starved as part of an appalling war from which they have fueled and profited.

Campaigners read a message from Ahmad Alghobary, a Yemeni freelance journalist. "My country has been under bombardment by the Saudi-led coalition for four years. The UK has sold billions worth of arms to Saudi. This has been used to destroy infrastructure, kill thousands of civilians, and displace millions of Yemeni people. Thank you so much for standing with us... When you stand against the arms trade and against these companies, you are really helping us to bring peace over Yemen."

ARMS TRADE SHORTS

BAE SYSTEMS



The murder of Jamal Khashoggi saw a number of major companies pulling-out of Saudi Arabia's Future Investment conference. These included Google, HSBC, CNN and the Financial Times.

One company that refused to cancel its visit was BAE Systems, which is currently in negotiations to sell more fighter jets to the regime. **BBC News, 16 October 2018**

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The UK Defence Secretary announced a £400 million investment for nuclear-armed submarines. The announcement came as he unveiled a £25 million BAE Systems academy that will train employees to work on UK Navy submarines.

Ministry of Defence, 06 December 2018

JAPAN

The Japanese military has increased its orders of F-35A fighter jets from 42 to 105. It has also ordered 42 F-35B models, giving it a total of 147 F-35 fighters. This makes it the largest international buyer of the US produced jets.

Defense News, 18 December 2018

UK ARMS SALES

Brigadier John Deverell, former defence attache to Riyadh, has joined calls for the UK government to stop arming and supporting the Saudi regime. "We're deeply complicit in the war", he told the Today show in October 2018.

The Independent, 31 October 2018

EGYPT

A UK trade delegation including 20 arms companies headed to Egypt in December 2018 for IDEX. It was the first major arms fair to be held in Egypt and was organised by Clarion Events, a UK company.

UK Embassy, Cairo, 02 December 2018

ISRAEL

The UK and Israel will hold joint military exercises for the first time this September. The drills will take place in Lincolnshire.

Jerusalem Post, 18 January 2019

OMAN



Oman and the UK will open a joint military training base in March 2019. The announcement was made at the end of a large-scale joint military exercise involving tens of thousands of personnel practicing desert combat. The base, located in Oman, will give the UK a permanent military presence in the country for the first time since 1971.

Arab News, 05 November 2018

INDIA



Credit: Capt. Angela Chipman / Source: army.mil

In November 2018, the Indian army received the first 25 M777 Ultra Lightweight Howitzers artillery guns. These were as part of a 145-gun

foreign military sale between the U.S. and Indian governments. The weapons are made by BAE Systems. **UPI, 09 November 2018**

GERMANY DENMARK

The German Government reported a 25% fall in arms exports in 2018, this was linked to its decision to suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia following the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. **CNN, 17 January 2019**

The Danish Government announced that it has suspended arms exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The move comes in opposition to the UAE military's involvement in the war in Yemen. **Middle East Eye, 17 January 2019**

COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

An investigation from the Guardian found that local authorities across the UK have £500 million worth of staff pensions invested in arms companies that have profited from the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen.

The Guardian, 10 January 2019

HSBC

In December 2018 HSBC announced that it had removed its investments from Elbit Systems. Elbit is a major Israeli drone producer. Its weapons have been used against Palestinians and for surveillance of the US-Mexico border.

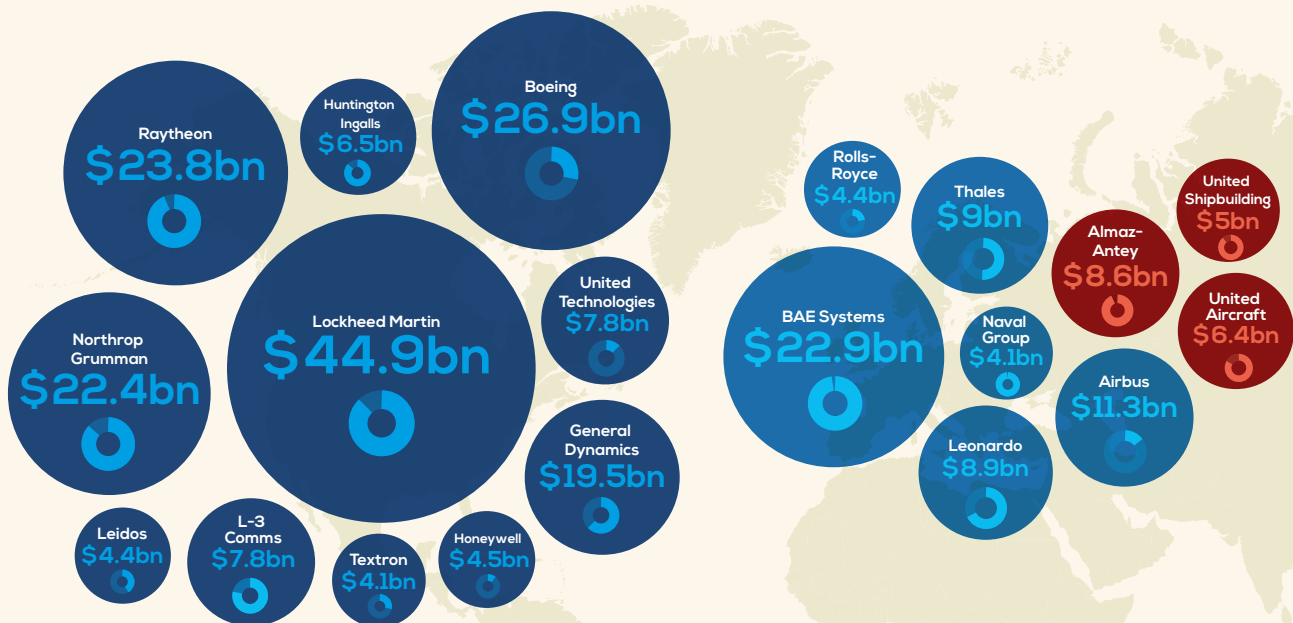
War on Want, 27 December 2018



Credit: Matthieu Sontag / Source: Wikimedia

THE WORLD'S LARGEST ARMS COMPANIES

As calculated by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, www.sipri.org



Figures relate to 2017 arms sales, in US\$

The light sections of the rings indicate arms sales as a proportion of total sales

Chinese arms companies are not included due to "a lack of comparable and sufficiently accurate data"



STOP ARMING

Since 2015, Saudi-led forces have waged a terrible bombardment against the people of Yemen. It is a war which has been armed and supported by successive UK governments.

It is almost four years since the Saudi-led bombardment of Yemen began. According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, over 60,000 people have been killed as a direct result of the war. The situation has intensified over the last year, with November 2018 being the deadliest month of the conflict to date.

Many more have been killed as a result of the humanitarian

Save the Children has estimated that up to 85,000 children under five may have died from extreme hunger or disease since the war began in 2015.

crisis, which the UN has warned is the worst in the world. Save the Children has estimated that up to 85,000 children under five may have died from extreme hunger or disease since the war began in 2015.

These deaths are not an accident. They have been a deliberate outcome of the bombing campaign, with the United Nations accusing Saudi-led forces of targeting Yemen's food production and distribution.

UK weapons are playing a central role in the destruction, with UK-manufactured fighter jets flying over Yemen and shooting UK-manufactured missiles and bombs. The war would not have been possible without the fundamental support and complicity of arms dealing governments like the UK's.

At the time of writing, despite skirmishes, a ceasefire is holding in the port town of Hodeidah. The situation is fragile, but the ceasefire is vital as the town has

acted as a lifeline for Yemeni people. Over 70% of all imports to Yemen come through the port, including aid. However, the Saudi-imposed blockade and violence has seen imports reduced by 50%.

The ceasefire has largely come as a result of political pressure following the murder of dissident Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. The killing has put the regime under an unprecedented scrutiny. The progress in Hodeidah could represent a big step forward, but it should never have taken the death of a journalist for international leaders to push for a political solution.

Repression in Saudi Arabia

In Riyadh, human rights defender Israa Al-Ghomgham is facing the death penalty for her role in pro-democracy protests. She has spent the last three years in arbitrary detention and if





SAUDI

convicted would be the first female human rights defender to be killed by Saudi authorities. She was arrested with four other activists, including her husband, who also faces execution.

Her appalling treatment exposes the scale of repression being inflicted by the dictatorship. It

contrasts with the picture that it has tried to paint of itself as a liberalising force. Executions have doubled in the Kingdom since Mohammed Bin-Salman was appointed Crown Prince in July 2017.

In Riyadh, human rights defender Israa Al-Ghomgham is facing the death penalty for her role in pro-democracy protests

TAKING ACTION

From April 09–11, CAAT will be in the Court of Appeal trying to overturn the verdict of our High Court case in 2017. The case regards the legality of UK arms exports to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen. We believe that these arms sales are not just immoral, they are also illegal. In 2017 the High Court found against us, but in 2018 we were granted permission to appeal.

If our case is successful it will set a major precedent. It will also put arms sales on trial and in the spotlight. However, it is vital that we maximise pressure on the Government from all angles. That is why activists took action against

the ADS Dinner in January 2019 (see page 3 for details), and why our local campaigners are organising actions against the arms trade all across the country.

This September the Saudi military will be among the delegations invited to attend the DSEI arms fair in the Excel Centre, London. Hundreds of us will be waiting for them (See pages 8–9 to find out how you can get involved.)

One thing we can all do is ask our MPs to sign EDM 1726, an Early Day Motion that is calling on the Government to end the arms sales. So far the motion has 86 signatures from across the House of Commons.

COMPANIES PROFITING FROM THE WAR

UK weapons have been central to the Saudi-led bombardment. This could not have happened without the support of complicit governments and arms companies.

BAE Systems: BAE is the UK's biggest arms company. It makes the Typhoon and Tornado jets that are being used in the bombing campaign. It is currently in negotiations with the UK and Saudi authorities to sell even more fighter jets.

Raytheon: Raytheon produces the Paveway bombs that are being used in the bombardment. The Paveway IV model is made in Glenrothes, Scotland. Human Rights Watch has linked UK-made Paveway bombs to attacks on civilian infrastructure.

MBDA: MBDA produces Brimstone and StormShadow missiles, which are being used in the war. The former are produced in Bolton, the latter in Stevenage.

KEY DATES

Anniversary of war: 26 March 2019 will mark four years since the Saudi-led bombardment began.

CAAT's court dates: Our case against arms sales to Saudi Arabia will take place at the Court of Appeal, London, from 09-11 April.

Join monthly vigils at Saudi embassy for imprisoned writers: You can find out dates and details of these regular protests at [CAAT.org.uk/events](https://www.caat.org.uk/events).

Book a local speaker: If you would like to book a speaker to tell your local group about arms exports to Saudi Arabia then please email events@caat.org.uk.

IT STARTS HERE

Every two years the Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair brings all of the biggest arms companies to East London. It will be returning this September, and more people than ever will be taking action to shut it down.

We are thrilled to announce that tickets are now available for It Starts Here! Join us on 9th and 10th March 2019 to build our movement to Stop DSEI.

Join migrant solidarity groups, anti-nuclear crews, LGBTQIA+ folk, Palestinians and Palestine solidarity activists and academics. Join anti-frackers,

Our vibrant weekend event will include panel discussions, introductions to key issues such as the war in Yemen, and workshops in skills from social media 101 to ad-hacking and creative resistance

women, green groups, anti-racism organisers, and those moved by their faith. People from the local community will join activists from all over the world.

Together we will skillshare and learn, link up and discuss. We will have workshops, panels and space to meet people and build our strength.

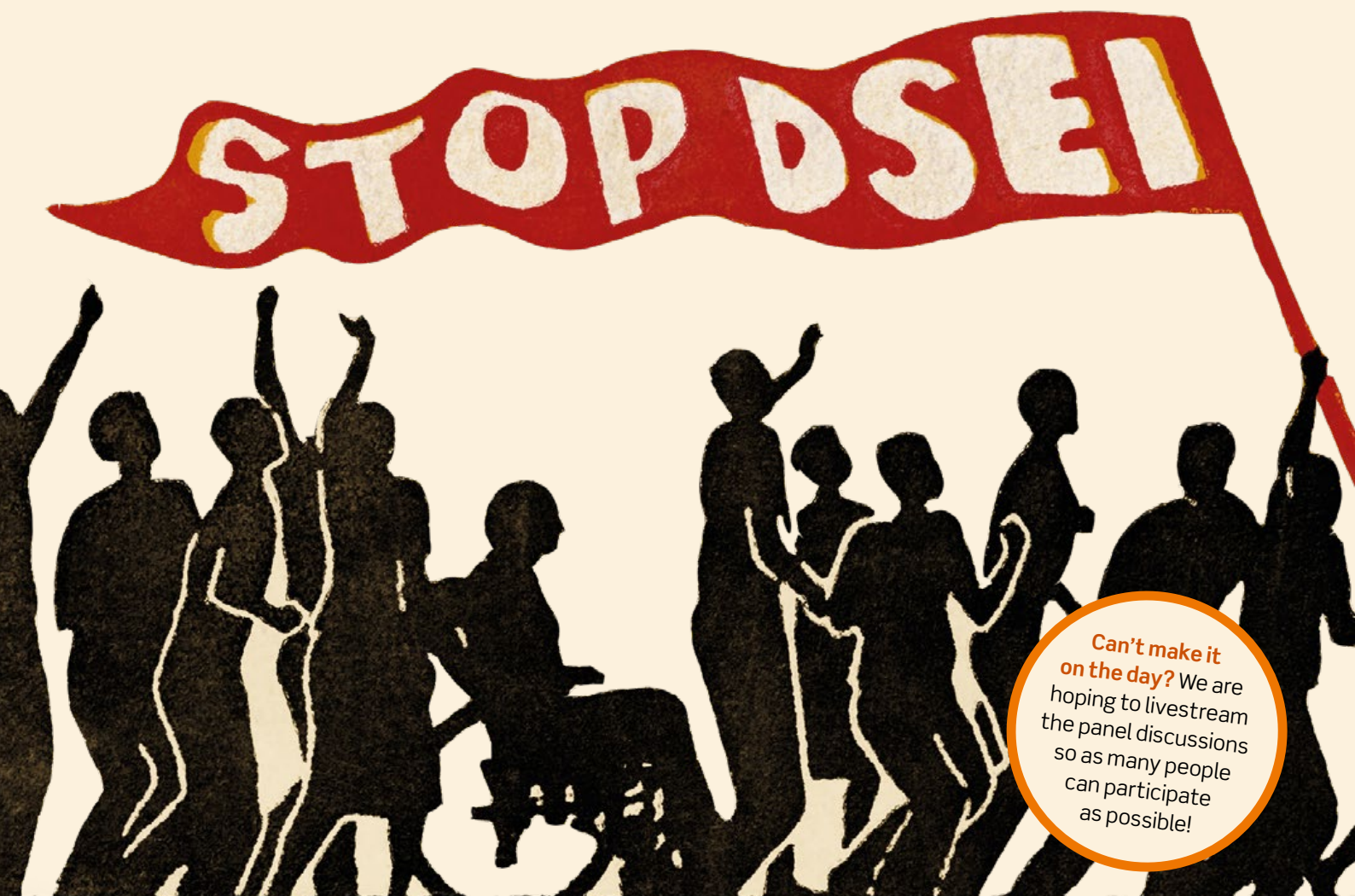
Our vibrant weekend event will include panel discussions, introductions to key issues such as the war in Yemen, and workshops in skills from social media 101 to ad-hacking and creative resistance.

In the evening we will move to a local community centre for food, chatting, linking up and some entertainment. Sunday will have longer skills sessions, then a big space to meet up and work out how we will work together.

Free lunch will be provided both days. The venue is wheelchair accessible and we will have palantypists for the panel discussions. Support with childcare, accommodation and travel can be provided – let us know when you book your tickets.

Get your tickets now!

tinyurl.com/ItStartsHere2019



Can't make it on the day? We are hoping to livestream the panel discussions so as many people can participate as possible!

STOP DPRTE

Last December, the organisers of the Defence Procurement, Research, Technology & Exportability arms fair (DPRTE) announced that they would be moving the annual event from Cardiff. They claimed it was for “logistical reasons”, but it followed a longstanding and vibrant local campaign.

However, the event will now be taking place at the NEC in Birmingham – and activists

across the Midlands and Wales are coming together to challenge it!

DPRTE is a more low key event than DSEI, but is still a key date for arms dealers. It brings together all parts of the arms industry, connecting small

companies with some of the world’s largest arms companies, such as BAE Systems, whose weapons have been used in the bombardment of Yemen, and to crush pro-democracy movements around the world.

The event couldn’t happen without the fundamental support of government, with high level attendees from the UK Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces.

DPRTE will now be taking place at the NEC in Birmingham – and activists across the Midlands and Wales are coming together to challenge it!



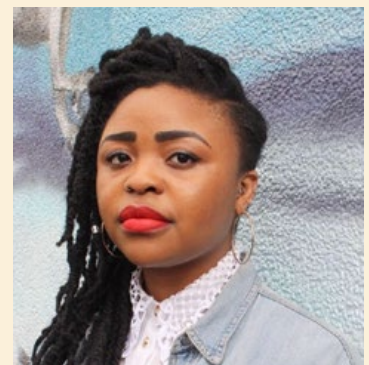
WELCOME SIANA

Siana Bangura is a writer, producer and community organiser originally from South East London but now working between London and the West Midlands. Her work primarily focuses on the intersection between race, class and gender, exploring issues such as deaths in custody in the UK, police brutality, and gentrification.

Siana is the founder and former editor of Black British Feminist platform, No

Fly on the WALL and most recently she was Campaigns & Communications Officer for an environmental charity in Birmingham, focusing on mobilising young people to take action in their local communities.

She is now an Events & Training coordinator at CAAT and will have a particular focus on organising against the DSEI arms fair. You can reach Siana on Siana@caat.org.uk.



UNIVERSITY UPDATES

SAUDI-BRITISH RELATIONS: SILENCED OPPRESSIONS & COMPLICITY EVENT

The horrific murder of Jamal Khashoggi put the UK-Saudi relationship under intense scrutiny. Unfortunately it has had much more than the scrutiny that has come with the death and destruction of the lives of millions in Yemen, and the ongoing human rights abuses against those living and working in Saudi Arabia and those affected by Saudi Arabia's international policies.

Last November, students and organisers co-hosted an event entitled "Saudi-British relations: silenced oppressions &

complicity". The event was hosted and supported by Demilitarise King's, KCL Intersectional Feminist Society, CAAT, CAAT Universities Network, MENA Solidarity, and SOAS UNISON.

We discussed how we as students, organisers and members of the public can work in addressing our complicity and ending a horrific relationship

With a focus on the Saudi military's effect on Yemenis and Bahrainis, as well as on women, migrants, political dissidents and human rights defenders, the event covered the role of Saudi forces in oppression and repression domestically and beyond its borders. Speakers highlighted how the Saudi-UK relationship is contributing to horrific consequences. We also discussed why different oppressions are empathised with, why others are ignored, and crucially how we as students, organisers and members of the public can work in addressing our complicity and ending a horrific relationship in our

attempts to show solidarity.

We were honoured to be joined by Radhya and Ameen:

Radhya Almutawakel (@RALmutawakel) is the Yemeni co-founder and chairperson of Mwatana Organisation For Human Rights, an independent organisation working to defending human rights in Yemen.

Ameen Nemer (@nimramen) is an Arabian activist who has written and worked on repression and resistance within Saudi Arabia.

In light of the recent reports on the 85,000 children under five who that have died of starvation in Yemen since the war started, the reports of torture and sexual harassment of detained activists in Saudi, the decision by the Saudi government to deport scores of Rohingya refugees against their will, and the role of Saudi in repression in Bahrain (particularly in light of recent 'elections' whilst opposition parties are imprisoned) to name a few issues, it is crucial for us to work and organise to **#StopArmingSaudi**.



Credit: Steve Lynes / Source Flickr

VICTORY! LEEDS UNIVERSITY DIVESTS!

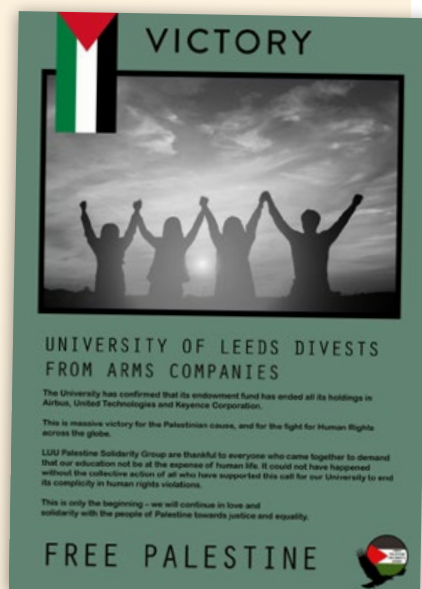
In December 2018, Leeds became the first UK university to divest from arms companies complicit with the Israeli military. A year of intense campaigning by the Leeds Palestine Solidarity Group (PSG) resulted in the University divesting from three arms companies that the group had been targeting: Airbus, United Technologies and Keyence Corporation.

Activity included Freedom of Information requests, an Israeli Apartheid Week of campaigns and actions, debates and speakers. Last May, a 100-strong protest demanded the university

divest from companies complicit in the occupation. An open letter to the Vice Chancellor was signed by nearly 500 students, 23 academic staff and 20 student societies ranging from politics and faith groups to sport societies.

You can read about the amazing work of Leeds PSG from students Yousef Abdul-Fattah & Evie Russell-Cohen on the CAAT Unis blog (caatunis.net).

An open letter to the Vice Chancellor was signed by nearly 500 students, 23 academic staff and 20 student societies ranging from politics and faith groups to sport societies



NO WAR, NO WARMING TAKEOVER AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM!

A blockbuster exhibition with stolen ancient Iraqi objects is on display – sponsored by the oil giant BP

On the anniversary of the 2003 anti-war protests, we are joining with activists who care about climate justice, peace, social justice, decolonisation and international solidarity. We are coming together to stage a mass creative takeover of the British Museum and protest the outrageous nature of this collaboration between the British Museum and BP.

Details of how to get involved can be found on the Facebook event page: bit.ly/bm-takeover

There will be an alternative exhibition at the P21 Gallery on the realities of BP in Iraq. For updates and more information, keep a look out on our social media platforms and website.



A MESSAGE FROM CAAT IN SCOTLAND

“There’s going to be lots to get involved in over the coming year as we ramp up our campaigning on the use and misuse of Scottish-manufactured arms by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey and others.

“There will be a push for Parliament, councils and universities across Scotland to stop investing in the arms trade; further development of our campaign on converting arms manufacturing jobs into jobs in renewable energy; run sessions in schools and at festivals about peace.

“We’ll also be putting on lots of fun skills-building sessions on communications, campaigning, non-violent direct action and more! To come and find out more check out the new Edinburgh CAAT website at edinburghcaat.org.uk.”

Edinburgh CAAT has worked with the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre to produce a report on the use of Scottish manufactured arms in the bombing of Yemen. The report will be available in the weeks ahead.

HOW WE WIN

Exploring Nonviolent Resistance

- Are you angry about climate change, nuclear weapons or the arms trade?
- Are you concerned about the rights of refugees or the rise of the far right?
- Do you want to end zero hours contracts or protect your local library from closure?

If so then *Peace News*’ How We Win workshop might be for you. Run by long-time campaigners, and drawing on decades of activist experience, this is an opportunity to explore how we can take effective action to bring about the changes we want to see in the world.

Peace News is offering this day-long workshop FREE to local campaigners who can cover transport (we will come to you) and venue costs.

To find out more call:
07980 748555 / 0207 278 3344
email: skillingup@peacenews.info

NAE PASARAN

Engineers in a UK factory are asked to repair vital components for aircraft belonging to a repressive regime which is using them to bomb civilians. The workers refuse to do the work, the parts rust and the aircraft don't fly. Unfortunately, this is not a story about BAE Systems, Saudi Arabia and Yemen today, but of trade unionists in a Glasgow Rolls Royce factory and how they kept much of Pinochet's Chilean airforce grounded in the 1970s.

Eight Hawker Hunter engines were sent to Rolls Royce's East Kilbride plant for a routine overhaul in 1973. In response to Pinochet's violent coup, the engineers, backed by their union the AEWU (now part of Unite), refused to work on them.

In 1974 the incoming Labour government said it would not issue new export licences for arms sales to Chile, but that the East Kilbride contract had to be honoured. The engines were overhauled, but the transport union refused to move them. Four were eventually spirited away under cover of darkness

while the others remained in East Kilbride.

Fast forward over the decades and film director Felipe Bustos Sierra, the son of anti-Pinochet Chilean parents, tracked down the surviving trade unionists and made his film Nae Pasaran. He also found one of the aircraft

engines that made it back to Chile in a scrap yard. It is now going on display back in Glasgow.

Nae Pasaran is being screened around the UK – see naepasaran.com/upcoming-screenings/ for details. It includes archive footage, interviews and scenes of recent Chilean government honouring the Scottish trade unionists for their solidarity with the Chilean people. Go and see Nae Pasaran for the motivation to keep opposing arms exports today.

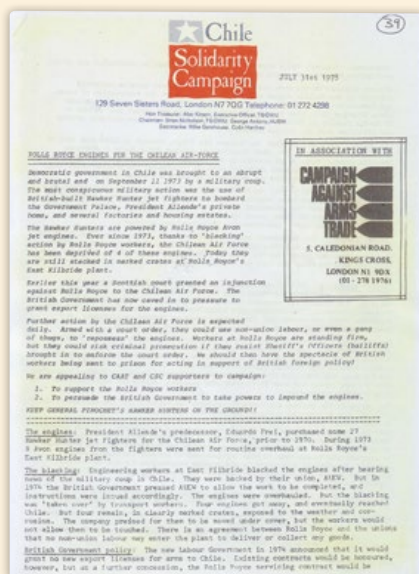


Credit Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile / Source Wikimedia

This is not a story about BAE Systems, Saudi Arabia and Yemen today, but of trade unionists in a Glasgow Rolls Royce factory and how they kept much of Pinochet's Chilean airforce grounded in the 1970s

HOW WE REPORTED IT

Following its creation in 1974, CAAT worked with our friends from the Chile Solidarity Campaign to support the Rolls Royce workers and urge the Government to impound the engines. One thing that allowed Pinochet to maintain his brutal rule was the complicity of arms dealing governments like the UK's. That is why CAAT strives to show support and solidarity with those on the receiving end of the repression that arms sales fuel and maintain.



TRADE UNIONS

It was as trade unionists that the stand against the Pinochet regime was taken so it is appropriate that Unite's General Secretary Len McCluskey has said: "I'm so proud of our members and the people behind Nae Parasan."

Unfortunately, Unite has failed to take a similar stance against the arms going to Saudi Arabia. However, in 2016 the Assistant General Secretary, Tony Burke, wrote to a CAAT supporter saying it "was disturbing for his members to hear that the end product of their labour" may have been used in the bombing of Yemen. In a positive move, Unite seconded the 2017 Trades Union Congress motion calling on the Labour Party to set up a shadow Defence Diversification Agency. **More information can be found at lucasplan.org.uk/arms-conversion/shadow-dda/**



SPOTLIGHT ON UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAE is one of the biggest UK arms markets. Our friends at the International Campaign for Freedom in UAE spoke to an Emirate exile in London who asked to remain anonymous. Their comments expose the scale of repression being inflicted daily.

What made you leave the UAE?

As somebody publicly speaking out for democratic reforms, I had to flee my country when the government started its crackdown on activists and people using social media to demand reform and political change. I had two options, either move abroad or almost certainly be detained and serve several years in prison. This has happened to many activists since I left, such as Ahmed Mansoor and Nasser bin Ghaith, who are serving 10-year jail sentences for comments on Twitter. Although it makes me sad not to be in my home country, I think I made the right decision to leave.

Have you got family members back home? Are you concerned for their safety?

Of course I have family back home. They have been and still are harassed by the state security because of me. And they have put pressure on my family to force me to go back home. I have deep concerns for their safety

and dignity. This is why I cannot give my my name in this interview, or any others. It puts them at risk.

Do you feel the UK government does enough to stand up for human rights defenders in the UAE?

I am not sure the UK does enough. I think that there is much more they could do for people who are standing bravely for these values in Abu Dhabi prisons. These prisoners are paying for this with their life and health. The UK government has the power to put pressure on the UAE to change for the better, but they choose not to upset their trading relationship. There is just too much money involved.

“The UK government has the power to put pressure on the UAE to change for the better, but they choose not to upset their trading relationship”

Do you think the situation will improve or get worse in 2019?

I am hopeful. After the case of Matthew Hedges, I think there is now more focus on repression

in the UAE. But the UAE is still detaining anybody who criticises the regime. This has not changed. Hopefully in 2019, the international community will put more pressure on the government. This is the only thing that has the power to make the regime change its ways.

ICFUAE

International Campaign for Freedom in UAE was launched in 2015 to support democratic reform in the UAE. The campaign supports political activists in the UAE and those in exile and works to promote positive calls for political action and democratic reform.



ICFUAE



STANSTED 15

Mel Strickland is one of 15 activists that blocked a government deportation flight chartered to transport people for repatriation to Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

The activists were charged and convicted under repressive “anti-terror” legislation, and could face years in prison. CAAT stands in solidarity with the activists as they appeal the appalling verdict. Mel has also taken action on environmental issues and against the DSEI arms fair.

I was part of a group that successfully stopped a charter flight at Stansted airport in March 2017 through peaceful means. We were deeply concerned about secret charter flights that take place in the middle of the night from Stansted airport. On these flights, people are deported en masse to countries where commercial flights don't often go.

In our case, the destination was Nigeria and Ghana. The charter airline used is Titan Airways. Titan markets its services to the military, but it also flies families to Lapland to see Santa at Christmas time, which makes a shocking contrast.

We knew the stories of some of the people meant to be on the plane through the blog Detained Voices. They included a man whose family had been killed in Nigeria, who pleaded that he would not be able to survive because of “fighting over the land” – a possible reference to the Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria. The stories all spoke of the horrific conditions inside detention centres.

Subsequently we found out by freedom of information request, that 11 of the 60 people meant to be deported that night remain in the UK. They include trafficking survivors, parents of dependent children and people who have claimed asylum.

In taking action, our goal was to assist people in danger by ensuring that flight didn't take off so that detained people would have more

time to lodge legal papers to challenge their deportation. We also wanted to expose brutal nature of the deportation process, especially charter flights.

We were successful, but that success came with a twist. Initially the Stansted 15 were charged with aggravated trespass, but some 4 months later the charge was ramped up to endangering safety at airports, a terror-related

“The Stansted 15 will not stop fighting until we have cleared our names and the government ends its brutal charter flights practice”

charge. The Crown Prosecution Service never explained why the charge was changed and the Attorney General similarly refused to give reasons. Following a 10 week trial and an overtly biased summing up by the judge, we were convicted of the terror charge. The

verdict fell on 10 December 2018, International Human Rights day.

The charge and conviction represent an authoritarian and cynical move by the state to intimidate people who protest its exploitative and life-threatening policies, whether that's in relation to fracking, deportations, or creeping militarisation.

We must insist on the right to protest by united, vocal and organised opposition to inappropriate charges and excessively punitive sentences. The Stansted 15 have already submitted an appeal and will not stop fighting until we have cleared our names and the Government ends its brutal charter flights practice.

You can follow the campaign on Twitter on @Enddeportations and find out more at Enddeportations.com.



THEY SAID IT

"They had a very bad original concept. It was carried out poorly, and the cover-up was one of the worst in the history of cover-ups. Very simple. Bad deal, should have never been thought of."

Donald Trump comments on the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, CBS News, 23/10/2018

"Amongst other news raging we must not forget the heart-breaking famine in Yemen. The UK has a special responsibility as Yemen pen-holder on the security council."

The Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, tweets without irony about the UK's responsibility for the crisis in Yemen, Twitter 16/10/2018

"The greatest risk to investment in defence contractors would be a lessening of global tensions and a move toward peaceful co-operation, the prospect of which is, unfortunately, quite dim."

Jonathan Baird, publisher of the Global Investment Letter, Globe and Mail 01/01/2019

WELCOME JON

Jon Nott started as CAAT's new Supporter Development Coordinator in December, having spent the last eight years as General Secretary at Woodcraft Folk. Prior to that Jon worked for the Green Party, CND and Conscience, so he has a strong peace movement pedigree, which started when he became a CAAT local contact while still at sixth form.

"CAAT brings together an amazing group of people," says Jon. "Every day I look forward to checking my email and social media to see how I can support our supporters, campaigners and activists to make the world a more just and peaceful place." You can contact Jon on Jon@caat.org.uk.



TAKING ACTION

We have an action- and trainings-packed 2019 schedule for you!

WikiMedia training

16th February – Want to challenge arms companies' control over information on the internet? Join WikiMedia in editing Wikipedia pages to set the record straight! tinyurl.com/CAATWikiMedia

#ItStartsHere

9th and 10th March – Book your tickets for our fantastic upcoming It Starts Here event (more info on p8) – tinyurl.com/ItStartsHere2019.

Stop the Arms Fair meeting

30th March – Want to get stuck into organising to Stop DSEI 2019? Come along to our organising meeting to get involved!

High Court Appeal

9th April – Come and show your support on the first day of our Appeal Hearing. For more information, email events@caat.org.uk.

BAE AGM

9th May – Every year, Europe's biggest arms company gets together to celebrate its profits. Every year we go to expose the suffering and devastation caused by BAE's "business as usual." If you are interested in coming along, email events@caat.org.uk.

Stop the Arms Fair meeting

8th June – Get stuck into organising to Stop DSEI.

#StopDSEI skillshare

22nd June – skill up in creative direct action, media skills, social media skills and Knowing Your Rights. This national skillshare day will be held in Manchester. venue TBC.

#StopDSEI weeks of action

2nd to 13th September – The DSEI arms fair will try to set up at the ExCel Centre from the 2nd September. We will be there to stop it. More details to come!



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).

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. Just £5 a month makes a real difference.

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.

Address of Bank/Building Society:

Postcode:

Name(s) of account holder(s):

Bank/building society a/c no. Sort code:

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.

Signature(s):

Date:

SINGLE DONATION

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

CARD DETAILS

Credit/debit card type (please tick appropriate box): Mastercard Visa Visa Delta

Cardholder's name:

Credit/debit card number:

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