

## **The Arms Trade Treaty: Will it control arms?**

Participants discussed the pros and cons of the Arms Trade Treaty. This is what we came up with:

### **Pros:**

- Building block for future progress – promotes international discussion of the issue – raises awareness
- Could stop arms to abusive regimes
- Provides a legal basis/backing
- What's the alternative at UN level?

### **Cons:**

- Would prevent transfer to sub-state actors. This could consolidate state power in places where there is no democracy.
- Competition between states
- It legitimises the trade and some sorts of arms; what counts as “legit”?
- UK already has laws!
- Difficult to enforce. What sanctions?
- Loopholes; Interpretation of the law; interpretation of 'self-defence'
- Defence Manufacturers Association supports it
- UN need for reform
- Vested interests
- Accepted by general public as resolved?
- Waste of time and energy of campaigners?
- Could it be used to promote exports and jobs in arms industry?

A summary of CAAT's view can be found here: <http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/att.php>