BRAZIL

FACT SHEET

STOP DSEI
UK ARMS SALES TO BRAZIL

Brazil has traditionally bought only a small proportion of its weapons from the UK. However, the UK government is trying hard to change this, despite the worsening political situation in Brazil.

UK arms sales to Brazil have increased substantially in recent years.

In 2018 it agreed a £106 million deal to upgrade the Brazilian Navy’s Lynx helicopters, and sold Brazil the Royal Navy helicopter carrier HMS Ocean for £84 million.

INTRODUCTION

Brazil was under direct military rule until 1985, when it started gradually moving towards a democratic government. In 2002 President ‘Lula’ da Silva of the left-wing Worker’s Party, once fiercely opposed by the military, was elected. In January 2018, far-right President Jair Bolsonaro was elected – a fascist who is openly sexist, homophobic and racist. He has talked about his hatred for Brazilians of African descent and indigenous Brazilians, and promised to “cleanse” Brazil of people with opposing, left-wing politics.

He speaks proudly of Brazil’s brutal military dictatorship of the past, which saw thousands tortured and murdered, saying they did not go far enough, and promising to further militarise the police. The police and army already inflict violence on Brazil’s poor communities and people of colour, especially in the barrios of Rio de Janeiro, killing hundreds of people every year.

Brazil’s indigenous people were already facing violence because of illegal logging and gold mining in the Amazon, as well as by Government security forces. Police violence and attacks on indigenous people have already become worse since Bolsonaro took office in January.

PROFILE: BRAZILIAN WOMEN AGAINST FASCISM UK

A group of immigrant Latina women from Brazil living in the UK, Brazilian Women Against Fascism UK was created to fight the rise of fascism in Brazil, after the election of new president Jair Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro supports the military dictatorship that devastated Brazil for two decades. Throughout his 28-year career he has supported dictatorship, torture, violence and murder at the hands of the state. He is led by hate speech, ignorance, intolerance and prejudice, and a complete disregard for democratic values.

Find out more:

facebook.com/pg/BrazilianWomenAgainstFascismUK
twitter.com/UkBwaf
Most other UK exports to Brazil have been for aircraft and components. There are also major UK components in the Saab Gripen fighter aircraft, 36 of which were ordered by Brazil from Sweden for $5.8 billion in 2015.

The UK government has also licensed the sale of nearly £4 million of small arms and accessories to both military and law enforcement end-users. It has reported delivering 872 submachine guns and 777 assault rifles to Brazil from 2013 to 2017. Such equipment is of particular relevance for repression and human rights abuses in the favelas and elsewhere.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- Sign the petition to Stop DSEI at [www.caat.org.uk/stop-dsei](http://www.caat.org.uk/stop-dsei)
- Join and share the Stop DSEI 2019 [Facebook event](https://www.facebook.com)
- Share our Stop DSEI 2019 video: find it on Youtube, Facebook and Twitter