EGYPT

FACT SHEET

STOP DSEI
INTRODUCTION

Since Egypt’s President al-Sisi took power in 2014, following the 2013 ‘Arab Uprising’ anti-government protests in Egypt and the Middle East, the country has seen some of the worst human rights abuses in its history.

At least 1,300 people were killed during protests in July-August 2013. Since then at least 1,500 people have disappeared, either killed or imprisoned by the police or army, and over 60,000 people have been put in prison.

Journalists, human rights defenders, protesters, government critics, opposition parties, and LGBT+ people have all been targeted by the government. Women consistently face sexual violence and discrimination, with no protections in the law.

Egypt is a part of a group of countries giving military support to Saudi Arabia in its war on Yemen, with warships, aircraft and troops.

PROFILE: THE EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE FOR PERSONAL RIGHTS

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights works to protect and improve Egyptian people’s basic rights through research, working with governments at home and abroad, and supporting legal cases. They fight for example, against increased use of the death penalty, the criminalisation of LGBTQ people, and shutting down of religious freedoms.

Find out more: eipr.org/en

UK ARMS TRADE WITH EGYPT

The UK supplies Egypt with a range of military equipment. After massacres that killed huge numbers of people during a military takeover of government in 2013, EU countries agreed to suspend and review licenses for “any equipment which might be used for internal repression”. The UK government paused 48 of its agreements to supply Egypt with arms.

However, UK government information shows the UK has sold Egypt all kinds of arms which could have been used in the suppression of its citizens, including machine guns, parts for military combat vehicles, military helicopters, and smaller arms.

The UK government has an arms sales department called the Defence & Security Organisation (DSO), which has identified Egypt as a “core market” to sell arms to, in spite of its terrible record on human rights. UK Prime Ministers and Trade ministers have made and hosted many meetings with the Egyptian government since 2013.
EGYPT AT DSEI

The UK government has invited Egypt to send staff to visit the ‘DSEI’ arms fair to shop for new equipment, and in 2017 they did attend. In 2015 they weren’t officially invited by government, but arms fair organisers hosted a private VIP group from Egypt, likely including the head of the Egyptian Army.

Lawyers for the Egyptian opposition ‘Freedom and Justice party’ contacted Scotland Yard alleging that the Head of the Army was implicated in the use of torture in Egypt and calling for his arrest, but the Foreign Office had given him temporary diplomatic immunity from investigation during his visit.

Several international arms manufacturers have sold arms to Egypt, including tear gas used on protestors in 2011, fighter aircraft, guns and tanks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

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