ISRAEL

FACT SHEET

STOP ARMING ISRAEL

STOP DSEI
ISRAEL: ARMING APARTHEID

Since its illegal occupation began in 1967, Israel has created two separate systems in the West Bank: one for residents of illegal Jewish settlements, who have full rights under Israeli law, and one for Palestinians, whose basic rights are denied and abused.

Israel has kept an area called the Gaza Strip under military blockade since 2007, imprisoning the Palestinian population living there, limiting their access to basic things like food, medicine, and building materials.

The occupied land is controlled through 500 military checkpoints that limit where Palestinians can go, cutting off their access to 80% of the water resources. Israel regularly bulldozes Palestinian houses, schools, and other buildings to make way for more illegal settlements, leaving thousands homeless.

In 2002, Israel began constructing a Wall in the Occupied West Bank, enclosing its major settlements and dividing Palestinian land, a move recognised as illegal by the International Court of Justice.

Israel cracks down on Palestinian protest with live ammunition, and has led several illegal military campaigns, killing large numbers of citizens. Air strikes have hit schools and hospitals, and family homes have been destroyed with inhabitants inside and whole civilian neighbourhoods have been demolished.

UK ARMS TRADE WITH ISRAEL

The UK has consistently sold arms to Israel, in spite of calls for a ban. After military action against Gaza in July 2014 killed over 2,000 Palestinians, then Prime Minister David Cameron agreed to review all licences for sales to Israel. In fact, UK arms sales to Israel grew from £81 million of licenses between January 2008 and June 2014 to £346 million between July 2014 and June 2018.

As well as military equipment the UK sells Israel technology and parts, e.g. for attack helicopter missile systems and fighter planes, both of which have repeatedly been used to bomb Lebanese and Palestinian towns and villages. On 21 April 2009, then Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary David Miliband admitted that Israeli equipment used in Gaza in the 2008-9 conflict “almost certainly” contained parts bought from the UK.

Israel has a large arms industry of its own, and is one of the world’s leading arms exporters. The UK spends millions of pounds each year on arms from Israeli companies, e.g. unmanned aerial vehicles or drones.
ISRAEL AT THE DSEI ARMS FAIR

Several major Israeli arms companies attend the DSEI arms fair marketing their “battle tested” weapons to buyers from around the world. These include Elbit, one of the world’s biggest drone makers, as well as Israel Aerospace Industries, Rafael, and Plasan, all among the ‘Top 100’ world arms companies.

Israel has not been invited by DIT DSO (the government’s arms trade department) to send official groups to DSEI, but we know from Freedom of Information requests that DSO representatives met with Israeli delegates at least in 2013. Israeli companies have a strong presence at DSEI, and it is possible that Israeli government or military attended as VIP guests of Clarion, the UK company that organises DSEI.

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