Welcome to the first issue of 2014. As well as exciting campaigns and actions, the new year brings new faces in the CAAT office. Kat Hobbs is taking up a new post of Local Outreach Co-ordinator (see page 6) and Andrew Smith takes over from Kaye Stearman as Media Co-ordinator (see page 15). While welcoming Kat and Andrew, a huge thank you also goes to Kaye, who did a fantastic job.

With the launch in the coming weeks of our report exploring alternatives to employment in the arms trade – such as employment in renewable energy industries – we look forward to further challenging the arms trade throughout 2014!

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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.

Campaign Against Arms Trade, Unit 4, 5–7 Wells Terrace, London, N4 3JU
Tel: 020 7281 0297 Email: enquiries@caat.org.uk Web: www.caat.org.uk

To receive this issue of CAAT NEWS in large print please call 020 7281 0297
CAAT’s Parliamentary Co-ordinator Ann Feltham describes the whitewash of a recent Parliamentary report.

CAAT’s fears were realised when the report of the House of Commons’ Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) into the UK’s relations with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain was published on 22 November. We had been right to be worried about the influence of former UK ambassadors to Saudi Arabia and BAE Systems on the FAC.

Legitimacy
The FAC did accept CAAT’s argument that arms sales, even where the equipment is not directly used for repression, give legitimacy to authoritarian regimes. However, it only did so in the case of Bahrain: “Both the government and the opposition in Bahrain view UK defence sales as a signal of British support for the government. The UK government should take this into account when considering high-profile sales, such as the Eurofighter Typhoon, to Bahrain.”

Eurofighter deal
However, after drawing attention to Saudi repression, in contrast to its approach on Bahrain, the FAC said: “The Government is correct to seek to strengthen its diplomatic relationship with Saudi Arabia, which is important to the UK’s defence, security and commercial interests.”

Explanations
The FAC did express concern that the UK government is failing to explain its approach on Saudi Arabia to a sceptical UK public. However, it is not the public perception that is wrong; it is the approach itself that is the problem. Both the FAC and the UK government put the interests of the arms dealers before human rights. David Cameron’s wooing of the Saudi Royals as a salesman for BAE is a betrayal of all those who seek human rights and democratic freedoms.

Regime change
One issue not tackled by the FAC is what happens when the Saudi regime is overthrown as, sooner or later, it almost inevitably will be. The UK believed the Shah was firmly in control in Iran in the 1970s when it plied him with weaponry. When will UK governments ever learn?

CAMERON CHARM OFFENSIVE FAILS

As the FAC gave its approval to the UK government’s policy of pandering to despicable regimes in its quest to drum up arms sales, so David Cameron dropped in on another authoritarian regime, the United Arab Emirates. He was lobbying, unsuccessfully, for a £6 billion deal for BAE Eurofighter Typhoons. The FAC’s comments notwithstanding, the UK government also continues to promote the jet to Bahrain. More details on page 12.
The US is loosening controls on arms exports, despite some former US officials and human rights advocates saying that the move could increase the flow of US-made military parts to conflicts around the globe and could make it harder to enforce arms sanctions.

Industry trade groups and large military companies have spent roughly $170m lobbying on a variety of issues over the last three years, including export control reform.

The changes include the Commerce Department exercising more “flexible” controls over many items that formerly went through the State department.

Propublica, 14/10/13

At £6.2bn, the estimated cost of two new aircraft carriers being built for the Royal Navy is almost twice the original figure. When the contract was approved in 2007 costs were put at £3.65bn. Assembly is taking place at Rosyth in Dunfermline.

BBC News, 4/11/13

In November BAE announced that it would cut 1775 shipyard jobs in Scotland and England and would end shipbuilding altogether at Portsmouth.

EADS has also announced plans to cut 5,800 military and space jobs, in Germany, France, UK and Spain, as it restructures its work in response to Europe’s long-term decline in military spending.

BBC News, 6/11/13; Reuters, 9/12/13

The Government has scrapped the proposed semi-privatisation of Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S), the agency that buys the UK’s military equipment. Last November the Independent reported that, of only two groups looking to run the organisation, one had abandoned its bid.

Independent, 20/11/13; Telegraph, 10/12/13
**UK ARM TO THE MIDDLE EAST**

The chart shows the value of arms export licences approved by the UK government during a five year period centred on the start of the Arab Spring. Licences are for equipment on the Military List, i.e. items designed exclusively for military use.

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**UK EXPORTS**

Despite David Cameron’s highlighting of human rights abuses in Sri Lanka, a parliamentary committee has described the Government’s approach on arms exports to the country as “questionable”. The Committees on Arms Export Controls (CAEC) noted that machine guns and assault rifles formed part of more than £8m of weapons exported to Sri Lanka in 2012. Separately, CAEC called for a review of the trade in spy systems to ensure that authoritarian regimes did not acquire technology that could be used for internal repression.

Guardian, 19/11/13 & 22/11/13
UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

SHEFFIELD

Video footage of Sheffield students being physically removed from their peaceful protest shocked many and grabbed social media attention. The university’s security team dragged a student out of the building by their limbs, prompting debate about the increasing intolerance of student protests around the country. Some engineering students admitted that the protests changed their minds about getting jobs in the industry, reminding them that these companies cause the death and injury of thousands.

STUDENT GATHERING

2013’s Student Gathering in Portsmouth was full of discussion, action and hummus – all the makings of a successful meeting! Best of all, our presence stopped BAE’s recruitment event. We teamed up with Forces Watch for a day of skill sharing and planning, and it was excellent work all around.

We’ve now decided to hold another student event in Leeds on 1 February. Search for “CAAT Student Gathering 2014” on Facebook for more details.

If you can’t wait any longer to see us (it’s a long time to go without a CAAT dose, we know) get in touch and we can send a speaker to your uni to run a workshop, give a talk, help you pull off an action, sit on a stall flogging cakes to raise funds for banner making kit, whatever! It’s free and is better than lectures. Also, remember to look out for our ‘zine this month.

2014: A BAD YEAR TO BE AN ARMS DEALER

In the autumn terms we debated, divested and disrupted those devilish death dealers! Spirits are high and new groups are forming so 2014 looks to be a bad year to be an arms dealer. There’s work to be done if we’re to boot BAE off campuses for good, so get on board!

PORTSMOUTH

BAE Systems was planning on holding a recruitment event at Portsmouth University – a chance to woo potential employees and pretend that the company’s money comes from making wheelchairs as opposed to putting people in them. Portsmouth students were having none of it though. The day came, but after hearing what the student group were up to, the key speaker withdrew and the event was cancelled. The best kind of success – one where students get to stay in with a cuppa because BAE did all the work for them!

RIGHT TO PROTEST THREATENED

In recent months, we’ve noted increasingly harsh repercussions from university authorities towards protesting students. Increasingly, police have also been brought onto campuses as a response to peaceful demonstrations and direct actions. It is perhaps because of the effectiveness of direct action that the response to student protest is escalating. Protest and direct action are crucial to CAAT’s work and it’s important that any attempts to repress our right to protest are stopped. CAAT stands in solidarity with those student campaigners who are defending our right to protest and wishes them the best.

Send us an email at universities@caat.org.uk or search for us on Facebook and we’ll get you started or point you in the direction of an active, local group. Holly-Rae Smith, Universities Network Co-ordinator
Hello, I'm Kat Hobbs and I’m CAAT’s new Local Outreach Coordinator! I'm really excited to be joining the CAAT staff team and supporting local action against the arms trade.

I’ve supported CAAT since first getting involved in anti-arms trade campaigning at university, and I’ve done several sponsored runs for CAAT, as well as joining the steering committee.

Volunteers Needed for WW1 Project

CAAT is looking to recruit volunteers from across the UK to work on its First World War project. With so much interest in the centenary of WW1, CAAT is planning to challenge pro-militarist voices with a project highlighting parallels between the arms trade then and now, with a particular focus on opposition to the arms trade during and after the war. Volunteers will use archival sources, including the recorded memories of munitions workers.

The project will be in collaboration with On the Record, a small, not-for-profit oral history cooperative which works to uncover untold stories.

We are asking CAAT supporters to volunteer for eight days over a two month period. Volunteers will receive a full induction in late February, including hands-on training in using archives, and the possibility of learning to use digital audio recording and editing equipment. Additional meetings will offer discussion opportunities with fellow volunteers and arms trade researchers. Travel expenses will be paid.

This is a great opportunity for individuals with an interest in history and the arms trade looking to expand their research skills. For more information please visit www.bit.ly/1jNTw17 or call 020 7281 0297. The application deadline is soon – Monday 3 February.

Take Action on Military Spending on 14 April

Global military spending is worth $245 per person every year. The UK’s is the 4th highest in the world. The Government gives huge subsidies to arms companies and is ploughing ahead to renew a nuclear weapons system that will cost £100 billion.

As public sector cuts continue to drive homelessness, hunger and inequality, it’s time to shift priorities. Take action on 14 April – for info see www.demilitarize.org.uk

Interested in Helping with the CAAT Christian Network?

The CAAT Christian Network is getting together for a meeting in February to plan how to do more as a network. Interested in taking part? Please contact Anne-Marie on outreach@caat.org.uk or call the office.

I’m looking forward to getting out and about for lots of action, plotting and practical campaigning so if you’d like to get involved in CAAT’s campaigns please get in contact.

Email me at outreach@caat.org.uk or call the office to get help planning some local action, getting a group off the ground, or if you’d like us to visit your group for a talk or workshop.
Across the UK, people are throwing a wrench in the machinery of the arms trade, its lobbying, networking and public relations machinery. For the arms trade, lavish events where influence can be exerted are a vital part of winning the next contract. The legitimacy that prestige venues and public institutions confer helps normalise a business whose costs can be counted in its death toll. That’s why, when arms dealers have met in recent months, campaigners have been there to greet them and disrupt their events.

**TOP: THE SAVILE CLUB**
In July last year campaigners blocked the entrance to the Savile Club in London, preventing an arms dealers’ breakfast briefing from taking place. When protesters returned in October for the arms dealers’ next booking, they discovered that the booking had been cancelled.

**LEFT: HMS BELFAST**
The jet fighter “community event of the year” invited military delegations from human rights abusers Colombia and Bahrain to mingle with arms companies. But protesters were there too – and shared their thoughts with arms dealers who were boarding a bus to the evening entertainment. Pirate protesters blocked the gangway of HMS Belfast, aboard which the arms dealers’ dinner was due to take place.

**RIGHT: BRISTOL**
Even the hardiest of commuters dread weekday morning traffic, so imagine the panic caused by tailbacks up the A4174 as 40 UWE students and Bristol anti-arms activists blocked the entrance to the arms fair DPRTE (Defence Procurement Research, Technology & Exportability 2013).

Protesters locked up the entrance gates (pictured), and when the delegates did get in they had to pass a colourful and loud group of protesters. We’ll be very surprised if the likes of Babcock International, BAE Systems and Chemring return any time soon.
In 2014, we want to step up the pressure on public and cultural institutions that still host the arms trade or accept its sponsorship. This means we need to find out what's going on across the UK. Please spend some time researching the institutions and arms trade events in your area and let us know what you find.

- Many museums and galleries list their sponsors on their websites and on their walls.
- Ask your local institutions if they have ethical policies for sponsorship or for venue hire. Have they, or would they, allow their venues to be used by the arms trade? Who are their sponsors?
- Get in touch for more research tips (and any events we've spotted near you!)

Please let us know what you find out, even if you find no links, as we can use this to show the others that it's just not acceptable. If you do find some, then it's time to campaign!

## Dates for the Diary

### The Big Bang Fair Birmingham, 13–16 March

Described by a visitor last year as “an arms fair for kids”, arms companies are heavily involved in this event, giving a child-friendly gloss to their business (see CAAT NEWS 230). We'll be there to question what science is really for. Check the CAAT website or call the office for more info.

### The Edinburgh International Science Festival, 5–20 April

Drones manufacturer Selex sponsors the festival and its primary school outreach programme in order to “inspire the potential future workforce”. Is this the future children would choose? Edinburgh CAAT is planning creative and fun interventions during the festival. If you can join them contact caatedinburgh@live.com. Or contact outreach@caat.org.uk to order campaign postcards to support their work to end arms company sponsorship of the festival.
Shipment Stopped! In November a leaked document showed that Bahrain had placed a huge order for 1.6 million tear gas canisters – more canisters than there are people in Bahrain.

Tear gas has been used there on an unprecedented scale since 2011, causing serious injuries and deaths. It’s not just used against protesters; it’s also fired into residential areas, including into people’s homes, as a form of collective punishment.

South Korea was asked to fulfil the order, but an international campaign, including action in the UK and South Korea, has stopped the shipment! This is an important victory setting a precedent for stopping Bahrain’s other suppliers, including the UK, too.

The arms trade is international – but so is the resistance to it.

Stop the Shipment

We are everywhere

From Stop DSEI to Stop ADEX

Last September the global arms trade came to London for the DSEi arms fair – but our protests ensured it faced daily resistance. We were delighted to get supportive messages from activists in South Korea – and even more delighted the next month when they took on their own arms fair, Seoul’s Aerospace and Defence Exhibition (ADEX).

Jungmin from the organisation World Without War (worldwithoutwar.com) said: “You inspired us a lot!! We chose the same English slogan deliberately.” Any arms dealers travelling onto ADEX after DSEi would know that: “We are everywhere!”
WHERE IS THE WRONG?

In the UK, 30 people who put their bodies in the way of the arms trade during DSEi were arrested. Some have already been cautioned or issued with fines. Others have pleaded not guilty – and plan to put the arms fair on trial!

Clare Cochrane, who pleaded guilty, told the court: “Yes, I suppose I am guilty. Guilty of slowing the setting up of an arms fair where millionaires, subsidised by public money at a time when the NHS is being cut to the bone and sold off, buy and sell tools of death for profit. Guilty of creating a space for peace and freedom and joy. Guilty of acting in solidarity with those struggling against oppression and facing brutal repression for doing so in Bahrain, Turkey and other countries.”

SOLIDARITY

Palestinian activists, living under blockade in Gaza, wrote of how the Israeli military technology on display at DSEi had been tested “on our bodies ... on the more than four million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank”. They said:

“We salute the courage of all those who organised and took part in the week of actions against the DSEi arms fair.”

Christian campaigners who blocked an entrance to the arms fair as it opened have received support from former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams who wrote:

“I am very grateful for those who have courageously drawn attention to the scandal of this situation, and to the wider question of the way governments support and subsidise the arms trade.”

Sarah Reader, one of the UK activists facing trial in February, responded by saying:

“Rather than feeling like a small group challenging enormous problems, we’re linked in with others and are building an effective movement to de-legitimise the arms trade wherever it manifests itself. I know I’m not alone in feeling energised by having heard about the actions that took place in Seoul. And rather than feeling like doing less now that DSEi is over, I feel spurred to carry on mobilising.”

If you’d like to send a message of support to those facing trial, CAAT can pass it on for you. Five court cases are scheduled for February. Trial dates and details of solidarity protests are at www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/on-trial/
MPs on the Committees on Arms Export Controls have pointed out the "inherent conflict between strongly promoting arms exports to authoritarian regimes whilst strongly criticising their lack of human rights at the same time." Unfortunately, the Government prioritises weapons’ sales.

UAE
A big prize for BAE would have been the sale of Eurofighter Typhoons to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) so in late November David Cameron dropped in. He was on his way back from Sri Lanka, where he rightly criticised his host’s appalling record on human rights. However, he kept quiet about human rights in the authoritarian UAE as to do otherwise might undermine BAE’s sales.

David Cameron’s visit came as the Dubai Air Show started. The RAF Red Arrows team, flying BAE Hawks, were there as part of their Middle East tour, covering Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Foreign Office Minister Hugh Robertson joined the sales charm offensive in December by attending the UAE National Day bash at its London embassy.

All this effort was in vain. Just before Christmas the UAE said it would not be buying the Eurofighter Typhoons.

The Bahrain Society held a dinner at Claridges, hosted by a Prince who is alleged to have personal involvement in torture

Bahrain
Meanwhile, a busy week in London last November saw the UK cementing an already close relationship with Bahrain’s abusive government. On 11 November, the Bahrain Society held a dinner at Claridges, hosted by a Prince who is a Royal Guard commander alleged to have personal involvement in torture. The dinner was attended by diplomats and representatives of the military, as well as UK politicians.

This was followed by a meeting of the UK-Bahrain Joint Working Group, including discussions between Hugh Robertson and Bahrain’s Foreign Minister. The next day a representative of the Bahraini Air Force spoke at the International Fighter Conference. The wooing continues in the hope of a Eurofighter Typhoon deal.

Parliamentary petition
There is an Early Day Motion (or parliamentary petition) calling for an end to arms sales to authoritarian regimes. The more MPs who sign EDM 503, the greater the indication that this is an issue of concern.

Please check www.act.caat.org.uk/lobby/76 to see if your MP has signed. If they haven’t, follow the instructions to ask her or him to do so. If you do not have access to the web, call the CAAT office.

A MILITARY EU?
Over the years, the European Commission (the EU’s civil service) has been pushing for greater assistance for military industry. It wants more money for military projects and fewer controls over transfers of equipment and technologies. There has been little public discussion about this, and the European Parliament’s role is minimal.

The latest proposals, A new deal for European defence: towards a more comprehensive and efficient defence and security sector, were published in July 2013. The policy called for greater co-operation between Member States on military spending, investment and research. It says that arms exports have become increasingly important and argued for greater convergence between civilian and military research.

These worrying proposals were discussed by EU Defence Ministers at the Council of Defence on 19 December. The struggle between the Commission wanting to push its free market agenda and some Member States, including the UK, wanting to preserve their sovereignty over military industrial matters continues.
Governments attending the annual meeting of the UN Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) last November agreed to start discussions on “lethal autonomous weapon systems”, also known as “fully autonomous weapons” or “killer robots”. From 13-16 May, parties to the CCW framework treaty will send experts to Geneva to begin a process that should result in new international law to govern autonomy and the use of weapons.

The announcement of the May meeting was welcomed by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots as an important first step towards an international treaty to prohibit fully autonomous weapons.

Although fully autonomous weapons are not yet in operation, a number of states are undertaking research, development and testing of these technologies. The UK began testing its autonomous unmanned intercontinental combat aircraft in Australia last autumn. The US is developing the X47 combat aircraft that has already successfully performed take off and landing on an aircraft carrier. China has been developing the Anjian aircraft for autonomous air-to-air combat. There are parallel developments with ground, sea and submarine systems. The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is calling for urgent action on this issue before these weapons systems are developed and deployed.

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Growing concerns
A number of developments reflect growing concern over this issue. For example, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots was launched in London in April 2013. CAAT supports the campaign, as weaponry without a human making the decision to fire is the ultimate expression of militarism.

The UK’s response
We have yet to see what role the UK will play in international discussions on killer robots. In Parliament, the Defence Minister has said that “the operation of weapons systems will always be under human control”. But the UK has yet to lay out how it defines human control, and explain what level of human control is adequate. The UK has also stated that no new international rules are needed to regulate these weapons. Yet with growing attention and concern over these weapon systems, the UK should revise this thinking and play a leading role in a future treaty process that prohibits killer robots.

© Campaign to Stop Killer Robots / Flickr
Dorothy Williams (née Adams) was among the founding members of Campaign Against Arms Trade forty years ago in 1974. Her support for the campaign has continued into 2014 as, following Dorothy’s death in 2011, CAAT has received a generous legacy.

Taking action
In September 1963, while teaching at Pauw Gedenk primary school in her home town of Wellington, South Africa, Dorothy Adams was arrested under the “90-day law”. Her former pupil Cudore Snell later wrote to her: “You were arrested like a criminal while we children watched you on the playground as you were put into the police van.”

Following her release in November 1963, Dorothy refused to testify against fellow members of the Cape Coloured Teachers League of South Africa and so was arrested and charged again. In August 1964 she was given a five-year banning order confining her to Wellington, which made it virtually impossible for her to earn a living. The Special Branch continued to track her movements after the ban expired, so she decided to leave South Africa.

In London
Quakers assisted Dorothy in her quest, securing her a work permit, and for most of the next 20 years Dorothy worked for the Quakers in London. She was granted British citizenship in 1976. In 1986 she married Frank Williams, a peace campaigner who worked at Friends House.

In 1989, based at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, Dorothy started work on a three-year project researching a new constitution for South Africa.

Returning home
Political change meant that she could return home in 1991 after 22 years in exile. In 1994, minority white rule ended. Working at the University of the Western Cape for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, she continued her contribution towards peace in the new country.

In 1999 Dorothy and Frank moved back to Wellington, the first mixed-race couple to live on the street that once marked the divide between white and non-white Wellingtonians. Frank died in 2006, and Dorothy moved into a nursing home the following year. Dorothy died in 2011 aged 83.

Adapted with permission of Dorothy Williams’ stepson, Clifford Williams, from an obituary published in the Guardian in 2011.

If you would like to leave a gift in your Will to CAAT please contact Henry McLaughlin, CAAT’s Fundraising Co-ordinator, henry@caat.org.uk

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THE HOME FRONT
MELANIE FRIEND, DEWI LEWIS PUBLISHING, 2013

The term “home front” came into common usage during the First World War, signifying a shift from the experience of war as opposing armies in far-flung battlefields to long-range weaponry targeting civilians in their homes and workplaces. The term expanded to include the militarisation of daily life, such as the production of munitions, and the inculcation of patriotism and support for the military.

Melanie Friend's project The Home Front aims to inspire reflection on the normalisation of war in our culture. For example, photos of air shows and military exhibitions/arms fairs illustrate how military training is presented as family friendly entertainment and fighter jet aerial displays as public relations opportunities.


I have recently been appointed as the new Media Coordinator for CAAT and joined the team at the start of January. I have worked with lots of press teams and worked on media strategies for all sorts of companies and charities, but never for a cause that I have cared for and believed in as much as CAAT.

I have always admired the work CAAT does and I believe that as a country we have a wealth of resources and knowledge, and we should be using it for constructive and sustainable purposes with a social value, rather than weapons and warfare.

I'm looking forward to working with you all and helping to make sure CAAT’s positive campaigns and messages reach as many people as possible.

Andrew Smith, press@caat.org.uk

THEY SAID IT...
AT THE DUBAI AIR SHOW

“I am incredibly proud to stand up and promote the aircraft [Eurofighter] around the world.”
David Cameron, AINOnline, 16/11/13

“Get out there and win.”
David Cameron, Reuters, 17/11/13

“I hope Bahrain will make a decision to join the Typhoon family soon.”

“It’s looking good for us. The question is whether it can be signed at Dubai or whether there will need to be a last-minute push there to get us over the line.”
Philip Hammond, Reuters, 18/11/13

AND IN LONDON

“Celebrating 42nd #UAE National Day under the bright lights. Thank you UAE Embassy UK for the invite. A real honour.”
Hugh Robertson, Minister for State, Foreign Office, twitter, 2/12/13
**SINGLE DONATION**

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