



Reloading Repression

The UK-Israel Arms Trade

The UK spends millions of pounds a year for 'combat-tested' arms from Israel.^[1] Likewise, Israel in 2017 has spent almost \$185 million for arms from the UK.^[2]

Israel is the 7th largest arms exporter in the world.^[3] Its arms industry exports 70-75% of its production,^[4] & has reached a value of \$6.5 billion in 2016.^[5] Israel has 100 different buyers including human rights abusing states such as Colombia, Sri Lanka & Indonesia.^[6]

UK Exports to Israel

The UK is the second biggest arms dealer in the world,^[7] with £7.9 billion worth of arms sold to states on the Foreign Office's list of 'Human Rights Priority Countries.'^[8]

Israel was included in the list for its 'violation of international human rights & humanitarian law in the context of Israel's occupation' in the 2014-15^[9] & 2016-17^[10] Human Rights & Democracy Report. More than 100 companies supplying military equipment to Israel have bases in the UK.^[11]

UK Companies Supplying Israel

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| - BAE Systems | - GE Aviation |
| - AgustaWestland | - Boeing |
| - Ametek | - Renk AG |

Supplied Components^[12]

- | |
|---------------------------|
| F-16 Fighter Aircrafts |
| Apache Attack Helicopters |
| Merkava Tanks |

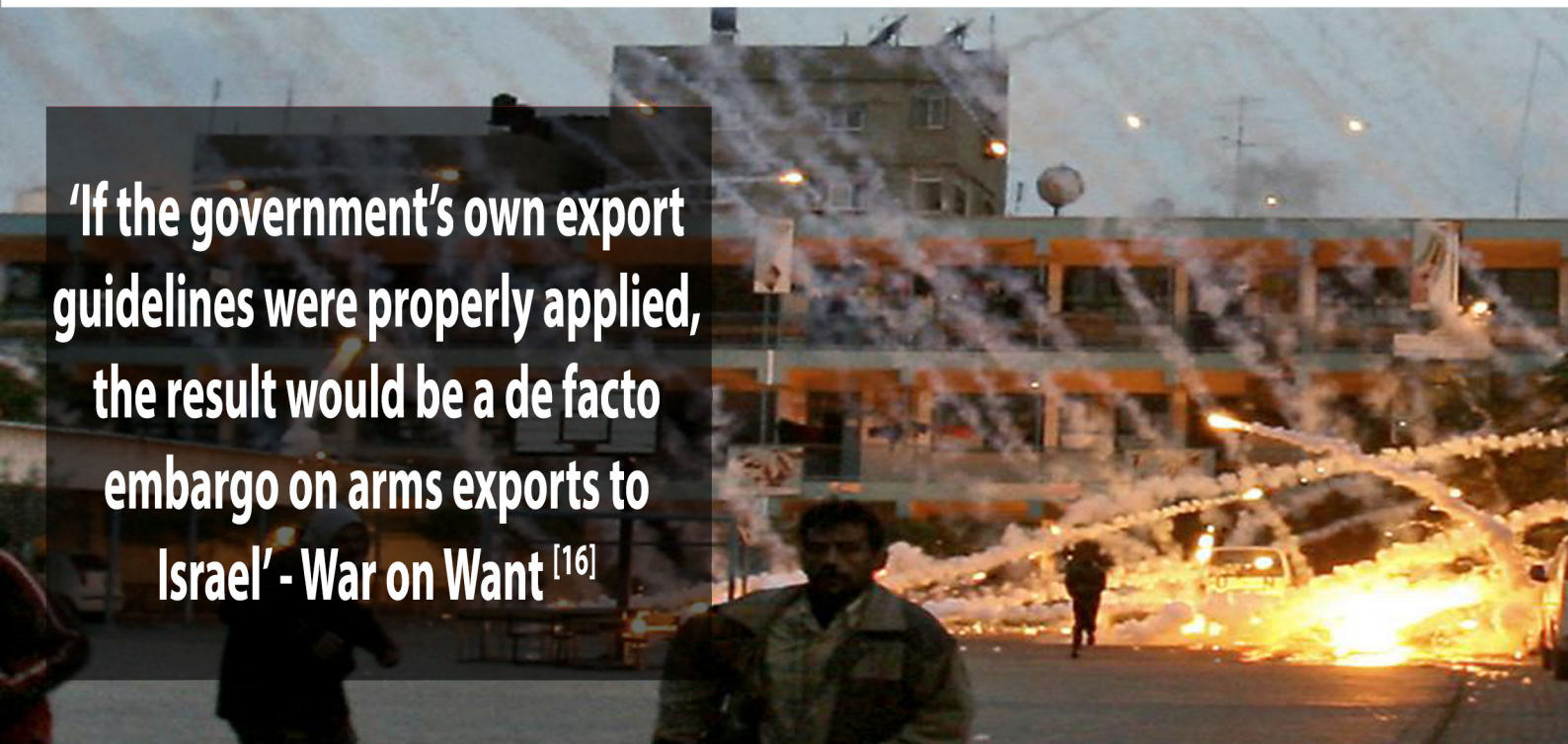
Companies seeking to export arms abroad apply to the Export Control Organisation, part of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. Licensing decisions are made on a case-by-case basis using Consolidated EU & National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.^{[13][14]}

The guidelines include, but are not limited to the following:-

Criterion 2: No granting of licences if there is a clear risk that the items might be used for **internal repression** or in the commission of a **serious violation of international humanitarian law**.

Criterion 3: The government will not grant a licence for items which would **provoke or prolong armed conflicts** or aggravate existing tensions

Criterion 4: The government will not grant a licence if there is a clear risk that the intended recipient would use the items aggressively against another country or to **assert by force a territorial claim**.^[15]



'If the government's own export guidelines were properly applied, the result would be a de facto embargo on arms exports to Israel' - War on Want^[16]

Given Israel's occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem & the Gaza Strip as well as its application of apartheid-like policies,^{[17][18]} there is an acute risk of UK arms exports to Israel being used for 'internal repression' or 'to assert by a force a territorial claim.' Moreover, supplying Israel with arms 'provokes or prolongs armed conflict' & makes the UK complicit in Israel's IHL violations.^[19]



UK Involvement in Operation Cast Lead (2008-2009)

1383 deaths including 333 children^[20]

Ed Miliband admitted to Parliament in April 2009 that Israeli combat aircraft, helicopters, naval vessels & armoured personnel carriers used in the operation 'almost certainly' contained components manufactured & sold by the UK to Israel.^[21]

UK Involvement in Operation Protective Edge (2014)

2202 deaths including 546 children^[22]

In the 6 months after the assault, the UK granted licences worth £6,968,865 for military-use exports.^[23] The items included combat aircraft & drone components.^[24] Afterwards, military goods with a value of £3.3 million were approved for export.^[25]



UK Imports from Israel

The Israeli firm Elbit Systems provided the UK with \$110 million worth of drone technology which was used in Iraq & Afghanistan.^[26]

Additionally, under a contract awarded by the MoD worth £1 billion, a joint venture between Thales UK & Elbit Systems produced Watchkeeper WK 450 an unmanned aerial vehicle for the British forces. The Watchkeeper is based on the Elbit 450 Hermes tactical UAV which is 'a proven system with 20,000 flying hours service.'^[27] **Many of those 'flying hours' consisted of assaults on Gaza.**^[28]





The 'Stop Arming Israel' Campaign was launched by War on Want, PSC & the CAAT, to get the UK to implement a two-way arms embargo against Israel. A proper application of the UK guidelines would stipulate that no exports should be made to a state that carries out internal repression, asserts by force a territorial claim, & violates IHL. By importing & exporting arms to Israel, the UK is complicit in Israel's crimes.^[25]

Email your MP to demand an immediate two-way arms embargo on Israel

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