

Transnational campaigning against war profiteering – making links with the arms trade movement



Why against arms trade?

- Responsibility of West (push market)
- More arms = more war
- More arms = more poverty
- More arms = more corruption
- More arms = more arms (local arms races)



The 10 major spender countries in 2008: military budgets

- 1 USA
 - 2 China
 - 3 France
 - 4 UK
 - 5 Russia
 - 6 Germany
 - 7 Japan
 - 8 Italy
 - 9 Saudi Arabia
 - 10 India
- USA on its own is responsible for about half of all defense expenditure. Rest is spend by the other 192 countries



The five largest suppliers of major conventional weapons, 2004–2008

- **USA 31 %**
- **Russia 25 %**
- **Germany 10 %**
- **France 8 %**
- **UK 4 %**

**Together they
provide 80% of all
weapons**



The five largest recipients of major conventional weapons, 2004–2008

Recipient	Share of global arms import	Main supplier
China	11	Russia (92%)
India	7	Russia (71%)
UAE	6	USA (54%)
South Korea	6	USA (73%)
Greece	4	Germany(31%)

NB In 2009 Israel has overcome Russia as India's main supplier

Value of the global arms trade

Estimated in US\$ m. at constant (2007) prices:
1998 = 45449 2007 = 50593



Why so much export?

- Profits for industry and government (in case of second hand exports)
- Foreign relations tool
- Economy of scale (more products sold = lower production costs)
- Arms industry as economic motor → defense sector is excluded from WTO and EU treaty, so can receive state subsidies



Why so much import?

- National defense & power projection (= control of raw material transport lines)
- Little democratic control
- Local arms races
- Corruption



Marketing tools for arms export promotion

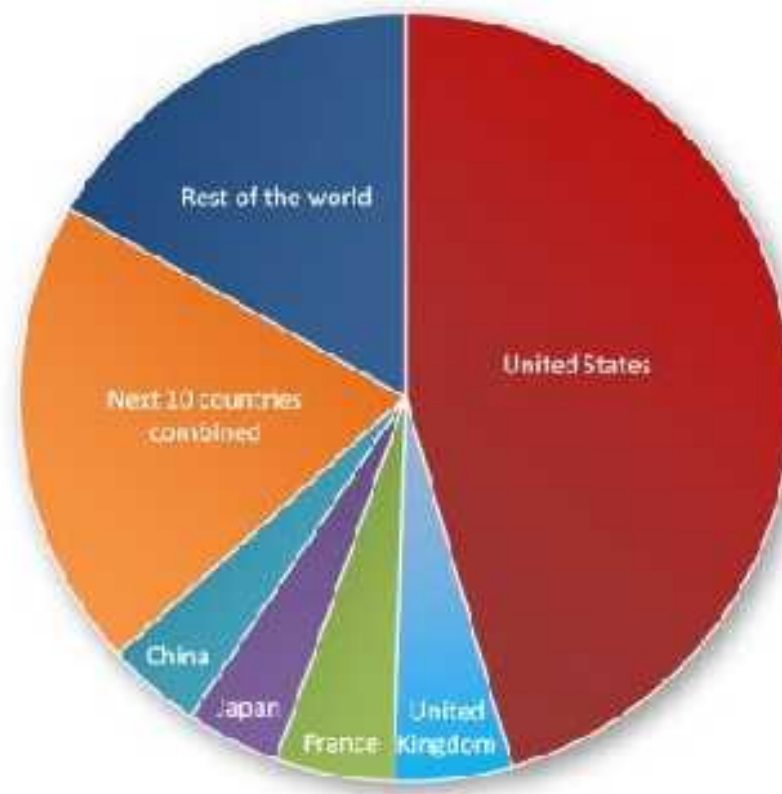
- Arms fairs
- Offsets
- License production
- Export credits and other financial arrangements
- Bribes



How to find data?

- SIPRI Arms Transfer database
www.sipri.org
- UN Register of Conventional Arms (very incomplete)
disarmament.un.org/UN_REGISTER.NSF
- EU Arms Trade Register
www.consilium.europa.eu
- Military magazines and websites
- Government in- and export figures

Global Distribution of Military Expenditure in 2006



Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Yearbook 2007

Control mechanisms

- Transparency (necessary but no control mechanism in itself)
- EU Position on Arms Exports (8 ethical criteria, sets a standard but often ignored)
- UN Arms Trade Treaty (in negotiation, comparable with EU criteria)
- Public exposure & political pressure
- Working on alternatives



Transnational campaigning

- Takes time, money and translation capacity
- Different countries have different political possibilities
- Should only be done with explicit aim
- Can be very inspiring and effective

