

CANSEC is organized by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries. Its 700 members make everything from ammunition, automatic weapons, armoured vehicles, warheads, rockets and missiles, to sophisticated electronic components embedded in U.S. warplanes, warships and main battle tanks. These major weapons systems—used in Iraq, Afghanistan, Gaza and other warzones have claimed the lives of countless innocent civilians.

## **Beware CANSEC 2009** Canada's Largest Arms Bazaar is Coming to Lansdowne Park!

Few realise that Canada is even involved in the international arms trade, let alone that this country is deeply complicit as a key player in this morally reprehensible business. Nevertheless, thousands of largely high-tech companies all across Canada produce military equipment that is now being used to wage wars around the world.

As Canada's largest arms bazaar, CANSEC is the most blatant manifestation of our largely-hidden participation in the global arms trade. As such, CANSEC is a potent symbol of Canada's peculiar brand of hypocrisy: *We preach peace while promoting and profiting from the lucrative business of war and repression.* 

Showcasing their wares at Ottawa's arms bazaar this spring will be over 200 of Canada's largest and most profitable military exporters. Many of Canada's top war industries are — not surprisingly — American-owned, and almost all rely heavily on sales to Canada's number one military and economic ally, the United States. Brows-

sales to Canada's number one military and economic ally, the United States. Browsing the glitzy CANSEC exhibits will be thousands of government buyers and military users not only from Canada and the U.S. but around the globe. Ottawa, being Canada's base for foreign embassies, is just the locale for this country's

number one arms bazaar. CANSEC is organised by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI). CADSI has received almost \$200,000 in grants from the

federal government between 2006 and 2008. These "contributions" are explicitly earmarked for its "international trade," "export marketing" and "international business development activities."

### Banning Ottawa's Arms Shows, for Good!

In 1989, during a high-profile campaign by the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT), Ottawa's City Council passed a near-unanimous Motion banning all future arms exhibitions from municipal property. As a result, no such shows have been held at any City of Ottawa facility in twenty years! Many veteran peace activists will remember when thousands of people—led by former Ottawa Mayor, Marion Dewar—took to the streets in May 1989 to peacefully protest against ARMX, the now-defunct arms bazaar that was then being held at Ottawa's Lansdowne Park exhibition grounds. Now, City Staff claim that due to a legal technicality, Ottawa's historic ban on arms shows no longer applies to one particular municipal facility, Lansdowne! As a result, the CANSEC arms bazaar—a closed, private event—will be hosted by the City of Ottawa at this publicly-funded facility.

- Urge Ottawa Council to honour its 1989 ban on hosting arms trade shows
- Spread the word and urge groups to endorse this campaign
- Keep informed and active by visiting the COAT website
- Volunteer by distributing flyers and/or collecting signatures on paper petitions.



**Stop Ottawa** 

Arms Bazaars!

Music, Speakers and

**Candlelight Vigil** 

with Paul Dewar, MP

Clive Doucet, Councillor

**Richard Sanders, COAT** 

Wed., May 27, 7 pm

**Southminster** 

**United Church** 

15 Aylmer Ave.

Email: overcoat@rogers.com Learn more and Sign Online: http://COAT.ncf.ca

# **Stop Ottawa's International Arms Bazaars!**

#### **Background:**

In 1989, the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade rallied thousands to Lansdowne Park to protest ARMX—Canada's largest arms bazaar. That year, Ottawa City Council passed a Motion declaring that "city facilities not be leased to ARMX or other such arms exhibitions." As a result, the City of Ottawa has not hosted any such manifestations of the international arms trade for almost 20 years. In 2008, Ottawa City Staff signed a lease allowing an arms show at Ottawa's Lansdowne Park facility called "Secure Canada 2008." It was cancelled, say its organizers, due to anti-war protests and the federal government's restrictions on participation in controversial events during the October election.

An even bigger arms expo, *CANSEC 2009*, is scheduled for Ottawa in late May 2009 and City Staff have been negotiating to host it at Lansdowne Park.

### Rally/Candlelight Vigil, May 27, 7 pm., Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer (at Bank St. just south of Canal)

**Petition Text:** We, the undersigned, call on the City of Ottawa to respect the commitment made by City Council in 1989 to ban war-related trade shows from municipal property by stopping "Secure Canada 2008," "CANSEC 2009" and all other such manifestations of the arms trade from taking place at Ottawa City facilities, including Lansdowne Park.

Name	Street address	City/Town	Postal Code	Signature	Email (for occasional updates)