

# Canadian Military Exports, War Crimes in Gaza and the CANSEC Arms Bazaar

By Richard Sanders, Coordinator, Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade.

Many concerned Canadians watched in horror as some of the world's deadliest military aircraft attacked the densely populated Palestinian neighbourhoods of Gaza. Shocked by media images, we looked on from half a world away, as multi-million dollar warplanes launched seemingly endless quantities of munitions against a besieged people.

Already devastated by the Israeli government's blockade that imposed a stranglehold on food, medicine and humanitarian supplies, more than 1,380 Gazans—including 431 children—were killed in the late-2008/early-2009 onslaught. More than 5,300 were injured—more than half being women and children—while 22,000 homes and civic buildings were totally or partially destroyed.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, five Israeli citizens were killed by small home-made, Hamas rockets fired from Gaza.

Reaction from top Canadian officials, including Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon, was swift and unequivocal. Hamas was condemned for causing the violence.<sup>2</sup> Then, on January 12, at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Canada voted against a resolution calling for “urgent international action” to halt Israel’s “massive violations” of human rights.<sup>3</sup> The sole dissenting vote came from Canada. This country’s official representative, Marius Grinius, said the UN statement “used unnecessary, unhelpful and inflammatory language” and “failed to clearly recognize that rocket fire on Israel had led to the current crisis.”<sup>4</sup>

To many Canadians who observed the bombing of Gaza from the safety of their peaceful homes, the destruction raining down on innocent victims seemed so distant, and so foreign, that it was incomprehensible. How could anyone accept complicity in such inhumane attacks against innocent civilians, including hundreds of children?

But this sense that peaceful Canada is a world apart, utterly separate from Gaza and other war zones, is an convenient illusion promoted by corporate media that consistently ignore this country’s very real role in such atrocities.

One of the ways that Canada is intimately linked to war crimes is through the global arms trade, and the war crimes against Gaza provide us with a jarring case in point.

Unbeknownst to most Canadians, thousands of homegrown military exporters are scattered across this country like so many razor blades hidden in a seemingly wholesome loaf of bread. While most of these companies are based in Ontario and Quebec—primarily in and around Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa—every province has its share of war manufacturers. Canada’s military industries provide an incredibly diverse range of products and services, largely for export. While some produce complete weapons systems—like small arms, air-to-ground missiles and armoured battle vehicles—most are in the business of making high-tech components. These essential parts are largely sold to the US



F-15

At least 50 Canadian war industries sold hundreds of parts to the US for these major weapons used by Israel in their attacks on Gaza’s densely-populated urban neighbourhoods.

Half these firms exhibited at the CANSEC 2009 arms bazaar in Ottawa.

Canada’s *direct* military exports to Israel were at least \$5.7 million between 2003 and 2006.



AH-64



F-16

and then assembled there into American weapons systems. Many Canadians proudly see this country as a bastion of high-tech research and development. What remains hidden is the key role played by this country’s high-tech sector in supplying the components used in many of the world’s most destructive weapons.

## COAT’s Online Report

In the wake of the massacre in Gaza, the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT) published a detailed online report with 10 data tables listing about 200 Canadian companies that equip Israel’s armed forces. This COAT report was the culmination of two months of research.



See COAT's detailed online report

**"Canadian Military Exports to Israel: War Crimes in Gaza (2008-2009)"**

<http://COAT.ncf.ca/ARMX/cansec/Tables.htm>

One set of tables in COAT's report focuses on fifty Canadian military exporters that provided hundreds of essential parts for US warplanes and attack helicopters used by Israel in the bombing of Gaza. The types of aircraft in question are the F-15 "Eagle," the F-16 "Fighting Falcon" and AH-64 "Apache." Two-thirds of the 50 Canadian companies that helped manufacture these US aircraft, are linked to the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI). Two dozen of these CADSI members—or their Canadian parent companies—showcased military products at CADSI's arms bazaar in Ottawa, i.e., CANSEC 2009. (See table below.)

COAT's report also reveals that for many years, the Canadian government has forced taxpayers to invest their retirement savings in some of the world's biggest war industries, like Boeing and Lockheed Martin. (See tables on p.39.) These US companies make warplanes and attack helicopters that are exported to Israel. Canada Pension Plan (CPP) investments in these two global weapons makers increased more than seven fold from \$14 million in 2005, to almost \$100 million in 2006. This upsurge in CPP investments occurred in the same year that Israel launched its massive bombing campaign against Lebanon. (See table on page 28.) That attack killed about 1,200 people, mostly innocent civilians.

And, what's more, thanks to generous support from

the Canadian government, this country's taxpayers have also had to hand over about \$4 billion to war manufacturers in publicly-funded "investments" over the past three decades.<sup>5</sup> So, not only are thousands of Canadian employees and shareholders contributing to the technology of war, so too are millions of unwitting taxpayers and CPP contributors.

A recent example of this government largesse was Canada's \$52.3 million "investment" in CMC, a highly profitable war industry that operates in Montreal and Ottawa. The announcement came on January 13, 2009, the day after Canada stood alone in voting against the aforementioned UN human rights resolution condemning Israel for bombing Gaza. On that same day, Israeli forces killed dozens of Gazans, including at least 11 children and three women.<sup>6</sup> (For more on government handouts to CMC, see pp.15-16.)

But CMC is only one among hundreds of Canadian military exporters that are deeply complicit in the production of major US weapons systems. Many of these so-called "defence" industries benefit when targets like Gaza erupt in flames and US-made weapons need to be replaced or refurbished.

COAT's report on Canadian military equipment used by the Israeli armed forces, also exposes that another 140 Canadian military firms have exported their wares *directly* to Israel. Fifty one of these exporters have held membership in the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI). These companies are listed in a table on p.27 which shows that 37% attended CADSI's CANSEC war industry bazaar in 2008 and/or 2009. COAT's online report provides many extra details about these firms, including their main military products and information about their participation on CADSI's Board of Directors and its various committees.

Other data tables in COAT's report contain information on an additional 85 Canadian military companies that have told Industry Canada that they are "actively pursuing" exports to Israel. More than one third of these have also had memberships in CADSI.

CADSI has a history of promoting Canadian military exports to Israel. In 2004, CADSI organised a "Canada/Israel Industry Partnering Mission" to "advance industrial partnerships between Canadian and Israeli companies." Speakers included Canada's Minister of National Defence, Israel's Ambassador to Canada, a representative of Israel's Ministry of Defense, and top bureaucrats from various Canadian government departments. CADSI members then held a series of 20-minute, face-to-face "Company One-on-Ones" with seven of Israel's top weapons manufacturers, namely, Elbit, Elisra, Israeli Aircraft Industries, Israeli Military Industries, Rafael, Simigon and Soltam.<sup>7</sup>

**Canadian Exporters at CANSEC 2009 helping manufacture US Weapons used to bomb Lebanon (2006) and Gaza (2008-2009)**

Canadian War Industry	AH-64	F-15	F-16	CANSEC 2009
ABB Analytical		✓		✓
Acron Capability Engineering			✓	✓
AlliedSignal Aerospace Canada		✓	✓	✓ *
Atlantis Systems International		✓		✓
BAE Systems Canada Inc.	✓			✓
Bombardier Aerospace		✓		✓
Bristol Aerospace Limited	✓			✓ *
CAE Inc.	✓			✓
CMC Electronics Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓
DRS Technologies Canada	✓	✓	✓	✓
ELCAN Optical Technologies		✓	✓	✓ *
eGENUITY Technologies	✓	✓	✓	✓ *
General Dynamics Canada	✓			✓
Haley Industries Ltd.		✓	✓	✓ *
Honeywell ASCa Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓
IMP Group Int'l, Aerospace Division			✓	✓
L-3 Communications - Electronic Sys.	✓	✓	✓	✓ *
L-3 Communications - Targa Systems		✓	✓	✓ *
Luxell Technologies Inc.			✓	✓
Magellan Aerospace	✓	✓	✓	✓
Presagis	✓	✓	✓	✓
SNC Technologies Inc.		✓	✓	✓
Virtual Prototypes			✓	✓ *

\* The parent companies of these eight war industries were exhibitors at CANSEC 2009.

**PROFITS**

**KILLINGS**



**References**

1. The Palestinian Ministry of Health estimate of 1,380 Gazans killed during Israel's attacks (including 431 children) is based on body counts from hospitals. Data does not include bodies buried in collapsed homes and shelters. About 4,100 housing units were completely destroyed and 17,000 partially damaged. 92 mosques and 29 schools/educational establishments were partially or completely destroyed. Of the 5,380 injuries, 800 were women and 1,872 children. Cited in "The Second Coming of King Herod," Ken Coates, *The Spokesmen*, #109, 2009.
2. On Jan. 4, Foreign Affairs Min. Cannon demanded a "ceasefire, starting with halting of all rocket attacks on Israel. Canada maintains that the rocket attacks are the cause of this crisis." Cited by Nidal al-Mughrabi, "Israelis storm into Gaza as tanks counter rockets," *Windsor Star*, Jan. 5, 2009. [www2.canada.com/windsorstar/news/story.html?id=9ad0d7bc-4e4d-4595-b611-2ef78b8771b4](http://www2.canada.com/windsorstar/news/story.html?id=9ad0d7bc-4e4d-4595-b611-2ef78b8771b4)  
Two days later, when 40 Gazan civilians at a UN school were killed by Israeli shells, former newsman Peter Kent, now Canada's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs for the Americas, said Hamas "bears the full responsibility for the deepening humanitarian tragedy." He

- blamed Hamas citing their "habit of using civilians and civilian infrastructure as shields." (Although the UN school had *not* been used by Hamas fighters.) See Campbell Clark, "Ottawa blames Hamas for civilian deaths at school," *Globe & Mail*, Jan. 6, 2009. [www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090106.wgaza-canadians07/BNStory/Front](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090106.wgaza-canadians07/BNStory/Front)
3. "UN rights council condemns Israeli offensive in Gaza," AFP, Jan. 12, 2009. [www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALEqM5g5WJYV-fltEjKhSX\\_M\\_EC2at92HeQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALEqM5g5WJYV-fltEjKhSX_M_EC2at92HeQ)
  4. "Human Rights Council decides to dispatch fact-finding mission to investigate violations against Palestinians in occupied territory," Jan. 12 2009. [www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/047667EA2AA07F253C125753C004DAFB2?opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/047667EA2AA07F253C125753C004DAFB2?opendocument)
  5. Richard Sanders, "A Brief Overview of Industry Canada's Corporate Hand-Outs," *Press for Conversion!* Oct. 2003.
  6. "19th day of continuous IOF attacks across Gaza Strip," Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Jan. 15, 2009. [www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MCOT-7NBKDS?OpenDocument](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MCOT-7NBKDS?OpenDocument)
  7. "Canada/Israel Industry Partnering Mission," NOWAR list serve. [www.nowar-paix.ca/nowar/nowar.archive/v01.n564](http://www.nowar-paix.ca/nowar/nowar.archive/v01.n564)

**CPP Investments in the US Makers of Major Israeli Weapons Systems**

Weapons System	War Industry	CPP Investments (in millions of Canadian dollars)						
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
AH-64	Boeing	\$8	\$10	\$9	\$71	\$62	\$64	\$16
F-15								
F-16	Lockheed Martin	\$5	\$3	\$5	\$27	\$37	\$35	\$35
Totals		\$13	\$13	\$14	\$98	\$99	\$99	\$51

**Canadian Military Firms linked to the Canadian Assoc. of Defence & Security Industries (CADSI) that report Direct Exports to Israel**

Canadian Military Exporters	CADSI Member		CANSEC Exhibitor	
	Former	Current	2008	2009
ACE Security Laminates	✓			
Allen-Vanguard *		✓	✓	✓
Alphacasting		✓	✓	✓
Alt Software	✓			
Amphenol Canada	✓			
Analytic Systems		✓		
Bell Helicopter Textron Cda.	✓			
Celestica		✓		✓
Clermark		✓	✓	✓
CMC Electronics		✓		✓
Consoltex		✓		
Current Corporation		✓	✓	✓
Dishon	✓			
DRS Technologies Canada		✓	✓	
DuPont Canada		✓		
eGENUITY Technologies		✓		
Frontline Robotics		✓		
General Kinetics Engineering			✓	
General Starlight		✓	✓	✓
Gowling Lafleur Henderson		✓		
iMPath Networks		✓		
ITS Electronics		✓	✓	✓
K&Y Diamond		✓		
Kontron Canada	✓			
LYRtech	✓			
MDA		✓	✓	✓
Mecachrome Technologies		✓		
Meta Vision Systems	✓			
Metcalfe & Associates		✓		
MPB Technologies		✓		
MSE of Canada	✓			
MXI Security		✓		
Nanowave Technologies		✓		✓
PCI Geomatics		✓		
PDI & Harvard UGS	✓			
Pleora Technologies	✓			
Presagis		✓	✓	✓
Proparms		✓		✓
Psion Teklogix	✓		✓	
PwM Consulting		✓		
Quanser	✓			
Securesearch *		✓		
Shellcast Foundries		✓	✓	
Sogenti	✓			
Spectrum Signal Processing		✓	✓	✓
TACO Communications		✓	✓	✓
Team Industrial Services	✓			
TeraXion		✓		
Tiger-Vac International	✓			
Vestshell		✓		
Weatherhaven		✓	✓	✓

**Sources:** Data on CADSI and CANSEC comes from CADSI's website. All these companies report in Industry Canada's online database ("Canadian Company Capabilities") that they have exported directly to Israel. \* Company website notes direct exports to Israel's Police Force.

# Banning AntiWar Art and UnBanning Arms Shows

By Richard Sanders, coordinator, Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade

It's a topsy-turvy world and Ottawa is certainly no exception. This year in the nation's capital, anti-war artwork was banned on two campuses for supposedly inciting hatred. Meanwhile, the City officially *unbanned* the hosting of international arms bazaars that pretend to promote global peace and security.

In February 2009, during the Israeli military's bombing of Gaza, administrative authorities at Carleton University banned an anti-war poster. The University of Ottawa soon followed suit. Students who dared post the offending graphic on campus to promote a series of lectures and public events during "Israeli Apartheid Week," were threatened with expulsion.

The banned art shows a military helicopter—labelled "Israel"—firing a missile at a child. The accurately-drawn aircraft is very clearly an AH-64 "Apache" attack gunship of the same type that was then being used by Israel's air force to strike civilian targets in the densely populated neighbourhoods of Gaza City.

Meanwhile, quite ironically, after a 20-year City-of-Ottawa ban on facilitating war industry trade shows, Canada's largest arms exhibition—CANSEC—was about to be held at a municipal facility. COAT research shows that CANSEC 2009 actually featured at least a dozen Canadian war industries that profited by exporting parts for the AH-64 attack helicopters. Also showcasing their wares at CANSEC this year were a dozen other Canadian war industries that had sold components for two US warplanes that were also used by Israel to strike Gaza. (See the table on page 26.)

It is beyond question that these three major US weapons systems were used by Israel to bomb Gaza. At the time, the massacre in Gaza was reported to have killed at least 1380 people, including more than 430 Gazan children.

Despite this blatant reality, Carleton's administration claimed it was Latoff's artwork—not Israel's attacks—that deserved condemnation. Carleton authorities said the graphic might "incite others to infringe [human] rights" and was "insensitive to the norms of civil discourse in a free and democratic society."

The president of Carleton University, Roseanne Runte, said the posters "were deemed ...to incite hatred." However, when 56 Carleton professors asked Runte to join them in condemning the human rights violations caused by Israel's bombing of a university in Gaza, she refused pointblank.



This year, during the bombing of Gaza—while the City of Ottawa *unbanned* war industry trade shows on municipal property—an anti-war graphic was banned by two Ottawa universities. The above artwork—banned at Carleton and the University of Ottawa—was created by Carlos Latoff, a Brazilian artist and human rights activist.



Another example of his excellent work can be seen on the cover of this issue of *Press for Conversion!*

View more of Carlos Latoff's creations at his website: [latuff2.deviantart.com](http://latuff2.deviantart.com)