

# Canada's Annual Report on Military Exports for 2000

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On February 8, 2002, Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) released its eleventh annual report, *Export of Military Goods from Canada*. This report provides data on Canada's military exports to 58 foreign governments during the year 2000.<sup>1</sup>

According to this report, Canada's military exports were up by 10% from \$433,972,516 in 1999, to \$477,611,246 in 2000. This, however, does not include any military exports to the U.S., which accounts for as much as two thirds of Canada's military exports.

Data released in this report reveals that during the year 2000, the Canadian government allowed military exports to numerous governments that:

- (a) were engaged in war,
- (b) were widely known for their systematic and violent repression of civil liberties (including the use of torture, ill treatment of prisoners, extrajudicial executions, and politically motivated prosecutions) and/or
- (c) have severely repressed, or in some cases completely outlawed, all trade union rights (including the right to form unions, to hold strikes and to bargain collectively).

Canada's military exports to the following governments in 2000 are of particular concern due to their human/labour rights violations:

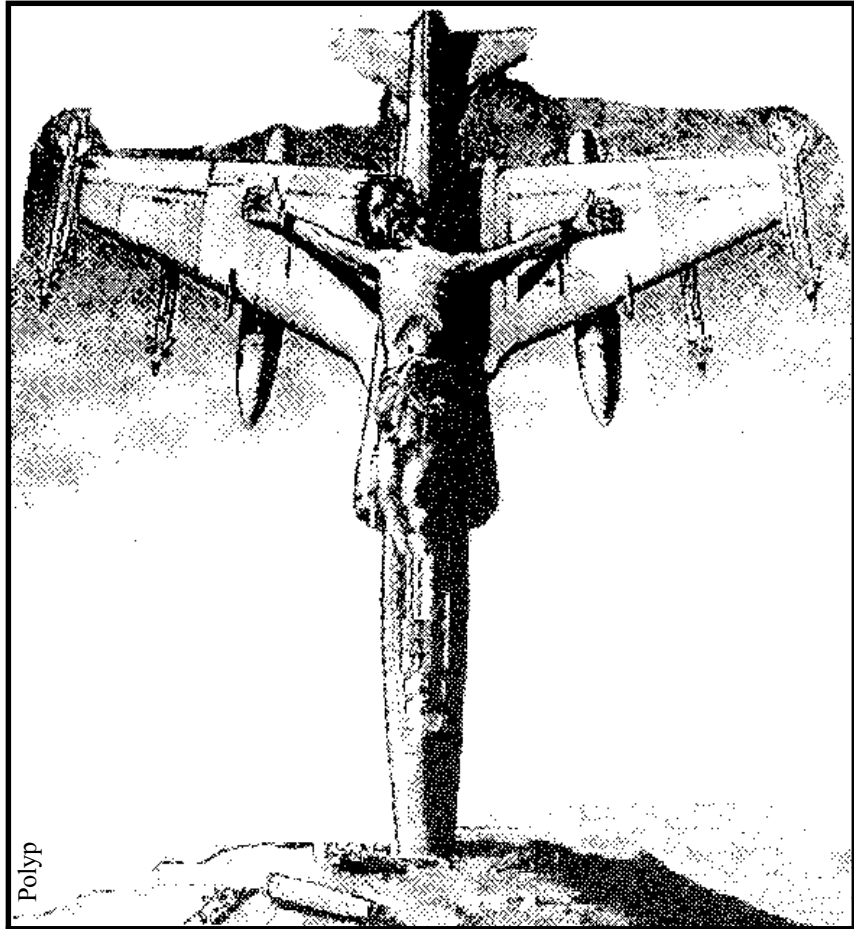
Argentina\*, Bahrain\*, Botswana, Brazil\*, Chile\*, Egypt\*, Greece\*, Guyana\*, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Korea (S.), Malaysia\*, Mexico, Morocco, Oman\*, Peru, Philippines\*, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania\*, Thailand\*, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zimbabwe\*

(Asterisks indicate governments that received Canadian firearms, large calibre weapons or ammunition in 2000.)

## Major Flaws in Government Reporting

There are several major flaws in this and previous DFAIT reports on Canada's military exports.

The actual amount of Canadian



"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children... This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is **humanity hanging from a cross of iron.**"

Former U.S. President,  
Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 16, 1953.

military exports is much more than that admitted in DFAIT's annual report. A Canadian Defence Industry Association report (*Canadian Defence Industry 1999*), revealed that military exports in 1998 (other than to the U.S.) were about \$851 million. However, DFAIT's report for that same year listed only \$421 million in Canadian military exports to countries other than the U.S.<sup>2</sup>

This glaring discrepancy be-

tween reports by the government and industry probably has much to do with where DFAIT draws the line between military and civilian exports. For instance, DFAIT has allowed the sale of Quebec-made Bell 212 "Twin-Huey" helicopters to the Colombian military for their counter-insurgency war against leftists, which has led to thousands of civilian deaths. DFAIT, however, conveniently considers these to be "commercial aircraft" with "civil-

ian certification” even though they were sold directly to the Colombian Air Force. (“Hueys” were made notorious during their use by the US military against civilians in Vietnam.) By classifying these military sales to Colombia as “civilian,” they were not subject to export controls or included in DFAIT’s annual report of military exports.<sup>3</sup>

Another major discrepancy between Canada’s actual military exports and the data cleverly tabulated by DFAIT, is that the prime recipient of Canadian military hardware is always conspicuously missing from the reports. Although the United States buys about 60% of Canada’s military exports, no data on any of these sales has ever been released in DFAIT’s annual reports. Neither does this data appear in other government publications.

DFAIT explains away this missing data by saying that: “Permits are required for the export of military goods and technology to all destinations except the United States.”<sup>4</sup>

## Major Flaws in Government Policy

This exposes a major flaw, not merely in the transparency of Canada’s military exports, but in the whole military export process itself. Peace and human rights activists have long argued that the Canadian government *should* require Canadian companies to obtain permits for military exports to *all* countries, including the U.S.

According to DFAIT’s annual reports: “under current export control policy guidelines, Canada closely controls the export of military goods and technology to countries:

- (a) that pose a threat to Canada and its allies;
- (b) that are involved in or under imminent threat of hostilities;
- (c) that are under UN Security Council sanctions; or
- (d) whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population.”<sup>5</sup>

This very deceptive statement gives the false impression that Canada

does not export those four categories of countries. However, the key phrase here is “closely controlled.” The fact that DFAIT controls military exports to such countries is, of course, very different from saying that military exports to such states are illegal, or even that they are severely limited or curtailed. In fact, even a cursory look at the data demonstrates that Canada consistently exports to many such governments every year.

Clearly, it cannot be denied that the U.S. is currently “involved in... hostilities” in Afghanistan. In fact, the US has repeatedly been engaged in such “hostilities” (i.e. wars, invasions, interventions, military operations) during the period covered by DFAIT’s annual reports (most notably against Iraq,

towards the military, it easily outspends the rest of the world’s military budgets combined. (The US will spend \$776 billion on their military over the next fiscal year, out of a total federal budget \$1,696 Billion.)<sup>6</sup>

When Canadian companies (many of them US-owned) sell military equipment to the Pentagon, the Canadian government not only waives the need for permits, it also places no restrictions on the “end use” of that Canadian equipment. Much of it ends up being used in US “hostilities.” To make matters even less accountable, after Canadian military components are assembled into U.S. weapons systems they may then be re-exported to the world’s most repressive regimes. DFAIT has never tried to place restric-

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Somalia, Yugoslavia and Afghanistan). In spite of these wars (and more likely *because* of them) Canada has not only continued to sell all manner of military equipment to the US, but our exports to that country have surpassed our military exports to the rest of the world combined.

Although the US has probably engineered more covert military coups, sponsored more wars, launched more invasions and military interventions than any other nation in history, the unfortunate reality is that Canada has *never* placed *any* restrictions whatsoever on military exports to the U.S. In fact, during these recent “hostilities,” Canada has consistently supplied not only equipment and troops, but also financial and diplomatic support. This flies in the face of Canada’s domestic and international reputation as a promoter of peace.

The US is now a rogue superpower. It is by far, the world’s largest military spender and exporter. It is openly discussing the possibility of launching military actions against dozens of countries. Because 46% of the US government’s total budget now goes

tions on where the US sells military weapons systems containing Canadian parts. Because the US is by far the world’s most prolific military exporter and because Canada does not monitor the re-export of Canadian military components by the US, it is impossible to know how many dozens of wars are made possible, in part, by Canadian military exports.

DFAIT’s annual report for 2000 makes it abundantly clear that our government is still actively encouraging Canadian industries to export as much military equipment as they possibly can, excluding -- of course -- one specific and now notorious weapon system, anti-personnel landmines. (The export of these small arms was actually stopped by the Mulroney government in about 1987.)

DFAIT reports “cover up” more than just the amount of Canada’s military exports. This is exposed by examining Industry Canada’s online database of military firms, called “Canadian Defence Company Capabilities.” It includes data on Canadian military corporations with “export experience” to many governments that have never

been listed in DFAIT's annual reports, including: Afghanistan, Burma, Colombia, Congo, Guatemala, El Salvador,

Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Rwanda, Sudan. Military firms are, of course, not the only ones profiting from unjust economic systems propped up by force of arms. Our government encourages commercial firms to exploit the cheap labour and natural resources made available by repressive, business-friendly regimes. For instance, our government helps link Canadian companies to export processing zones where trade unions, collective bargaining and strikes are strictly forbidden. Canadian firms then import inexpensive products from sweatshops where protests, strikes and non-violent movements for social change are violently suppressed by police and military forces that are, in part, armed by Canadian corporations.

(For more information, refer to: Industry Canada links to "Free Trade Zones" worldwide <[www.exportsource.gc.ca/heading\\_e.cfm?HDG\\_ID=139](http://www.exportsource.gc.ca/heading_e.cfm?HDG_ID=139)>

## Government Promotions

Various government departments, but especially DFAIT and Industry Canada, are actively pushing the export of a wide variety of Canadian military systems to governments that are widely known to be engaged in war and/or that are violently repressing domestic human/labour rights. The Canadian government's multifaceted programs to promote military exports, makes it deeply complicit in aiding and abetting crimes against peace, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The Canadian public has a right to know about the complicity of our government in promoting these crimes.

### "The Aerospace and Defence Conferences and Events Calendar"

This calendar, provided by Industry Canada, aids Canadian military exporters by listing military-related exhibitions, conferences and other events. <[strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ad03575e.html](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ad03575e.html)>

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### "Market Opportunities: Defence Industries"

The Canadian Commercial Corporation is a crown corporation that helps Canadian companies to fund major arms export deals. It also lists "target countries" which it suggests provide the best opportunities for Canadian military exports. These include:

#### East Asia:

China, Japan, India, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines.

#### Latin America:

Chile, Argentina, Mexico and Peru

#### Middle East:

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait

<[www.ccc.ca/english/isa\\_industry\\_AeroDef3.cfm](http://www.ccc.ca/english/isa_industry_AeroDef3.cfm)>

## Endnotes

1. *Export of Military Goods from Canada*. Published by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade <[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~eicb/export/Military00/Military%20Exports%202000.pdf](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~eicb/export/Military00/Military%20Exports%202000.pdf)>
2. See "Canadian Defence Industry 1999: A Statistical Overview of the Canadian Defence Industry" <[www.cdia.ca/fullreport.htm](http://www.cdia.ca/fullreport.htm)> and *Export of Military Goods from Canada, Annual Report 1999*. <[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~eicb/export/Military99/military99-e.htm](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~eicb/export/Military99/military99-e.htm)> (Table 2) <[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~eicb/export/Military99/TABLE2-e.pdf](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~eicb/export/Military99/TABLE2-e.pdf)>
3. "Canada's Export Control Loop-hole," *Ploughshares Monitor*, September 1996 <[www.ploughshares.ca/content/monitor/mons96d.html](http://www.ploughshares.ca/content/monitor/mons96d.html)>
4. "Export of Military Goods from Canada," p.5
5. *ibid.*, pp. 4-5.
6. "Where your income tax money really goes. The US federal budget for fiscal year 2003." <[www.warresisters.org/piechart.htm](http://www.warresisters.org/piechart.htm)>

# Farnborough International 2002

Great Britain's annual Farnborough International Air Show is one of the world's biggest arms bazaars. Military corporations from dozens of countries exhibit their hardware for the military buyers who flock there from all over the world.

Once again, Industry Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade are doing all they can to support Canadian military corporations in their use of Farnborough as an opportunity to push military exports. The following provincial governments are also actively involved: Quebec, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia and Ontario. The Canadian government also assists military companies to take advantage of many other major arms bazaars that are held elsewhere around the world.

More than 60 Canadian aerospace/military companies exhibited at the the Farnborough trade show this year (July 22-28).

"Trade Team Canada (TTC) - Aerospace and Defence" offers many services to Canadian corporations. They organized two special programs to help Canadian exporters to flog their hardware at Farnborough:

## SME Exhibitor Program

The SME Exhibitor Program provides small and medium sized Canadian aerospace companies an opportunity to exhibit at Farnborough for a fraction of the price of a full stand. See <[www.aiac.ca/about/calendar/FarnboroughSME.html](http://www.aiac.ca/about/calendar/FarnboroughSME.html)>

## The Canada Chalet

The Canada Chalet will allow Canadian companies to purchase a table to accommodate onsite hospitality needs. This unique shared chalet concept will allow Canadian companies to access a first-class chalet for business purposes without the prohibitive cost of purchasing their own chalet. See <[www.aiac.ca/about/calendar/FarnboroughChalet.html](http://www.aiac.ca/about/calendar/FarnboroughChalet.html)>