

VREDESACTIE

www.vredesactie.be

Arms Trade Belgium / 2008-2009

Israel-Palestine

During the attacks on GAZA, Vredesactie published information about transfers of US weapons through the airport of Liège (B) and protested against arms exports to and investments in Israel. This was well covered in the press and led to governmental promises that exports to Israel would be handled “with caution”.

Another ngo, named INTAL, started a nationwide campaign against Dexia bank, condemning their involvement in financing illegal settlements. Through demonstrations, petitions and lobbywork, they put pressure on the management and politicians to stop providing loans to these communities.

European arms exports

In response to the pending approval of the 'EU Defence Package', which works towards an internal EU market for arms, we produced a critical position paper and distributed this amongst national and European politicians. This highly controversial EU Defence Package got approved in december anyway, along with the upgrading of the EU Code of Conduct to an EU Common Position on arms transfers. This upgrade gives the EU Code of Conduct a more solid base, but still holds no legal guarantees for more 'ethical' arms export policies in Europe.

Belgian arms deals

We analysed the annual report by the Belgian government about arms exports, transfers and imports, and sent out a press release with all the critical points to politicians and media.

ITEC arms fair in Brussels

From May 12th to 14th, Brussels Expo hosted the ITEC exhibition (International Training and Education Conference), the annual top event for companies in the military training and simulation business.

On the first day of the event, Vredesactie activists went in undercover and revealed controversial products and companies.

Uncensored images of their intervention at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rj0_keejtDo

On May 13th, a delegation of politicians visited ITEC to make clear that an event like this is not welcome. (television report in dutch)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFkd8781nGU&feature=related>



Nuclear arms and NATO

Our main focus in 2008-2009 was the 60th anniversary of NATO. Vredesactie organized a mass action at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, and a peaceful blockade of the NATO summit in Straatsburg.

See <http://www.vredesactie.be/index.php?lang=en>

