
NO ARMS DEALERS IN NOTTINGHAM

A Demonstration against Heckler & Koch

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR THE MEDIA

How do you know that this unmarked industrial unit is Heckler & Koch's office?

It is the Registered Office of NSAF Ltd according to Companies House, with whom it is a legal requirement to keep up-to-date records. NSAF Ltd trades as Heckler & Koch Great Britain according to both the Defence Manufacturers Association and the British Defence Equipment Catalogue.

Why call the building a factory?

NSAF stands for Nottingham Small Arms Factory, so it's the company's name.

What about the jobs that Heckler & Koch provides?

We don't want jobs that cause hundreds of thousands of innocent deaths every year.

Aren't arms sales are good for our economy?

The UK arms export industry is subsidised by the taxpayer to the tune of £850m per year – that's £13000 per job. (See Mark Thomas's book *As Used On The Famous Nelson Mandela*.)

If we didn't sell weapons, someone else would.

That is morally indefensible. No-one would accept a drug dealer saying "If I didn't sell heroin to children then someone else would."

Heckler & Koch has been under new ownership since 2002 and can't be held responsible for deals made by its previous owners.

The company still has the same brand, services the same deals and sells the same products on the same market. No-one will believe it has cleaned up its act while it remains so secretive. If the company would like to defend itself, it should start by making all of its dealings public.

The police use Heckler & Koch weapons. Do you want the police to have no defence against armed criminals?

Companies like Heckler & Koch are the cause of gun crime, not the solution! 60% of small arms end up in the hands of criminal gangs and civilians, prompting a lethal arms race between criminals and police in which the only winners are arms dealers like Heckler & Koch. Arming the police leads to tragedies like the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes.

Which group are you members of?

We are not one group, but a variety of local people opposed to the arms trade. The demo was called by Disarm DSEi – a grassroots campaign against the UK's largest arms fair, at which Heckler & Koch will be touting for customers later this year.

Are any more demos planned?

There will be many people in Nottingham opposed to having a multinational arms corporation on their doorstep, so there may well be more protest against Heckler & Koch. There will definitely be a large demonstration against the DSEi arms fair in London this September.