

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 156

December 21, 2009

Plowshares Activists Nabbed at Trident's Nuclear Bomb Bunkers

In the early morning hours of November 2, 2009, All Souls Day, five people entered through a security fence into Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, west of Seattle, Washington. The group, including two mothers, a nun, and two Jesuit priests, sought to call attention to the illegality and immorality of the Trident nuclear weapons system of submarine-launched ballistic missiles, based at Kitsap-Bangor.

At best estimate, the Bangor base houses over 2,300 nuclear warheads, nearly a quarter of the U.S. arsenal, and more than the combined arsenals of China, France, Israel, India, North Korea and Pakistan.

The five – Susan Crane, 65, of Baltimore, Maryland; Lynne Greenwald, 60, of Bremerton, Washington; Anne Montgomery, RSCJ, 83, of New York City; Bill “Bix” Bichsel, S.J., 81, of Tacoma, Washington; and Steve Kelly, S.J., 60, of Oakland, California – acted in the tradition of the Plowshares movement of nonviolent direct action for disarmament, where hand tools are used to give form to the biblical prophecy of Isaiah, by beginning to beat swords into plowshares. The group was named by their message: Disarm Now! Plowshares.

Slowly, they made their way along a rarely used road to the Strategic Weapons Facility – Pacific (SWFPAC) where fellow Jesuit John Dear picks up the story (from his blog at the *National Catholic Reporter*, ncronline.org):

They stopped and prayed and then proceeded to an outer fence. Bix and Steve cut a hole in the chain links, while Lynne, Anne and Susan hung a banner and planted seeds. Through the hole the five of them squeezed and moved the 10 yards to the second fence, this one festooned with barbed wire sensors.

They cut through this one, too, as dawn was beginning to break. Through the second fence they went, carrying another banner, hammers, and bottles of blood. By now the Marines knew something was amiss, and presently, near the first hole, their humvees lurched to a stop and out they emerged toting automatic weapons.

Anne and Lynne unfurled the banner: “Disarm Now.” Susan and Steve hammered on the fence — their hammers engraved with “love your enemies” — and sprinkled the blood, a kind of casting of aspersions to name the base as an “Auschwitz place.”

Presently more humvees arrived and more marines armed to the teeth. As one, they lifted their weapons and trained them on the five. “We were a stone’s throw from the nuclear weapons bunkers,” Bix says.

The Marines moved in hard and snapped the handcuffs on tight. “Shut up,” barked the soldiers, as the five tried to speak of the lie of nuclear weapons. Then over each of the peacemakers’ heads was placed a Guantanamo hood.

The five were forced to lie on the ground for the next four hours. Still hooded, they were eventually carried back out the hole they had cut through the fence and driven off for questioning by navy investigators and the FBI. To their surprise, they were issued ban and bar letters, given preliminary citations for trespass and destruction of government property, and released without even a signature or promise to appear. They have since been summoned to appear on January 6 in federal court in Tacoma for arraignment on the misdemeanor charges.

One of the five, Lynne Greenwald, was in that court twice in December for a separate Bangor protest. Her line-crossing arrest at the base gate last August followed a previous ban and bar order, and two weeks after the Plowshares action, she received a summons to answer the charge of re-entry trespass. At her arraignment on December 2, she pled not guilty and made clear to the judge that while she planned to appear when summoned to court as she always has, she would not sign anything that could be interpreted as prohibiting her from upholding international law. The judge released Greenwald without further conditions until a detention hearing held the following week.



From left to right, Susan Crane, Lynne Greenwald, Sr. Anne Montgomery, Fr. Stephen Kelly and Fr. Bill Bichsel.

At that hearing on December 9, Greenwald’s November 2 arrest was brought up. While the words “nuclear weapons” never left the lips of the government’s witness, there was reference to her having “penetrated the base” and breached a “special area” with “a secret level of security” where security personnel have orders to “shoot on sight” because “there are assets ... that personnel are sworn to protect”. The judge found that Greenwald constituted a risk to the community for putting Marine guards in such a spot, but then ordered her release along with the warning that a warrant will be issued for her arrest if she enters the base again before her trial for the August charge, now set for March 3, 2010.

For more information, visit the blog at disarmnow-plowshares.wordpress.com, or contact them c/o the Tacoma Catholic Worker, 1417 South G St., Tacoma, WA 98405. Their action statement is printed on page 5.



The Disarm Now! Plowshares are collecting signatures from organizations and individuals on a letter supporting their nonviolent action and demanding “that the parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the May 2010 Review Conference set a firm date for the global abolition of nuclear weapons.” Visit the blog above to add your signature to the letter.

Afghan Policy Provokes Protest

Public protests were held in well over 100 cities and towns across the U.S. after Barack Obama addressed the cadets at West Point, New York on December 1 and presented his plan to escalate the war in Afghanistan.

With only a week’s notice, Hudson River Valley activists formed an ad hoc coalition of at least 15 local and national groups that called for a show of public opposition that evening, outside the U.S. Military Academy. At least 300 people turned up in Highland Falls, the riverside town next to the Academy. At Veteran’s Park, they listened to several speakers and then formed a single-file candlelight procession, walking half a mile to Thayer Gate.

Four people sat down in front of the line of military police, faced the crowd and began chanting “30,000 more - what the hell for?” Soon others joined them, until at least 30 people had locked arms in a spontaneous blockade. They sat for nearly an hour as the President spoke, giving voice to anger and outrage at his promise of more war.

No effort was made to move them, because auto traffic kept moving on the highway entrance that now bypasses the historic gatehouse. Six people then moved over and blocked the highway entrance. When they refused to leave, they were arrested for disorderly conduct and taken to night court, then released pending a December 15 court date.

The next night in Minneapolis, more than 100 anti-war demonstrators took to the streets for an unpermitted march. For nearly two hours they crisscrossed through downtown streets, flanked by dozens of police in cruisers, on horseback and riding bicycles. Eleven people were arrested for unlawful assembly after blocking an intersection. Nine posted \$50 bail that night; the other two were released after court in the morning. Trial is pending.

In Madison, Wisconsin, an anti-war rally on Monday preceded the President’s address. Midday Wednesday, the black-clad, white-masked March of the Dead through downtown stopped by the offices of Rep. Baldwin, who opposes the escalation, and Senator Kohl, who supports it. Later in the afternoon, ten people visited the office of Al-falight, one of over 300 Pentagon contractors in the county.

They brought a letter asking the company to end their relationship with the Department of Defense, as a positive step toward ending the wars.

The Alfalight official who met the group in the lobby declined, and instead called the police. When the police came, Marilyn Ross, Jennifer First and Joy First refused to leave the premises and were arrested, handcuffed and taken to the Dane County Jail where they were cited for trespassing and released.

After the arrest (her first), Ross stated, “I couldn’t leave because of LBJ. He could have been one of the great Presidents. Instead he became the war President and hated by most people. I don’t want that to happen to Obama. He could become one of the great ones. But I’m disappointed in him. I can’t stand by and watch the escalation of his war.”

Jailed for Disrupting Congress

In October, a Washington jury convicted Ellen Barfield, Pete Perry and Eve Tetaz of disrupting Congress last May when they spoke out for peace and scattered blood-stained currency in front of generals and politicians at a Senate Foreign Relations committee hearing on Afghanistan and Pakistan. Perry and Barfield were both sentenced on December 14; Tetaz’s sentencing was delayed due to medical issues until January 25.

Perry told the judge that his circumstances have recently changed and he does not intend to engage in further civil resistance. He was sentenced to 45 days in jail with 41 suspended, plus nine months probation and about \$550

in fees and fines. Perry served his time over the weekend.

Barfield was unrepentant and vowed to continue speaking truth to power. She was sentenced to 75 days in jail, 50 suspended, plus 18 months probation. Violation of probation in D.C. would result in her serving the suspended part of the sentence. Barfield was also fined, and was taken into custody from court to begin serving her sentence.

Also in Washington, D.C., all charges against 61 people arrested at the White House on October 5 while protesting the continuing war upon and occupation of

Afghanistan have been dismissed.



Notes of support should be sent to Ellen Barfield, CDCDC #325-704, D.C. Jail/Correctional Treatment Facility, 1901 E. Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. She is due to be released January 8.

Please Sign Dr. Dhafir Support Petition

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals has turned down a motion to rehear Dr. Rafil Dhafir’s appeal of his convictions, and returned the case to his trial judge for further consideration. Judge Mordue could decide that no more justice is due and affirm his original sentence of 264 months in prison.

February 26, 2010 will mark seven years since the Iraqi-born oncologist was arrested as he drove to work in Rome, New York. On that day, in a raid widely trumpeted by officials from the U.S. Attorney General on down as hitting “supporters of terrorism”, his home and office were searched and boxes of records seized while police and the FBI interrogated 150 people in central New York state, nearly all Muslim, who had donated funds to Help the Needy. Dr. Dhafir established this charity to aid the people of his native Iraq who suffered under the trade embargo and sanctions imposed on that nation between the 1991 and 2003 U.S. invasions. As a respected leader in the central New York Muslim community, he spoke out in opposition to the sanctions and impending war against Iraq. Dhafir was initially charged with violating those sanctions through the actions of Help the Needy. He was denied bail four times, unusual for someone accused of white-collar crimes. Later, the government amended his indictment with dozens of charges of Medicare fraud, wire fraud and tax evasion. They charged his wife with lying to a federal agent and threatened her with jail time, if she didn’t plead guilty.

Rafil Dhafir is serving time in the Communications Management Unit (CMU) of the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana. The CMU is a special prison within the prison where the men serving time are predominantly Muslim and where their association with each other and their mail and visitors are all closely monitored. The legality of the CMU is the subject of pending litigation by human rights organizations.

For more information, visit dhafirtrial.net.



The Dr. Dhafir Support Committee asks readers to please visit www.ipetitions.com/petition/freedrdhafir/ and sign the petition there which asks that his sentence be commuted to time served.

MILITARY REFUSERS

A British soldier faces court martial for desertion after going AWOL for two years, then turning himself in last summer while going public about why he is refusing re-deployment to Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Joe Glenton further defied orders when he addressed a London anti-war rally in October.

“I’m here today to make a stand beside you because I believe great wrongs have been perpetrated in Afghanistan,” he told over 5,000 demonstrators. “I cannot, in good conscience, be part of them. I’m bound by law and moral duty to try and stop them. I’m a soldier, and I belong to the profession of arms. I expected to go to war, but I also expected that the need to defend this country’s interests would be legal and justifiable. It’s now apparent that the conflict is neither of these, and that’s why I must make this stand.”

Military police arrested Glenton on November 11 on five counts of disobeying a lawful order. He was held in a military prison until early December when he was released back to his unit barracks to await court martial.

Two U.S. public military refusers have recently been released from custody. Tony Anderson, now 20, was court martialed in November 2008 for “desertion with intent to avoid hazardous duty” and “disobeying a lawful order.” He was sentenced to 14 months confinement and given a dishonorable discharge from the military. He was released two months early for good behavior in late October.

Conscientious objector Dustin Stevens received an other-than-honorable discharge in early November. The pretrial Echo unit at Fort Bragg where he was held since

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Where We’re At

Life is busy and full! As we enter into the last days of 2009, we look towards 2010 with anticipation and appreciation.

Our daughter Emma and son Cassidy, who some may remember as little ones at the Nevada Test Site, Rocky Flats and elsewhere, are now 23 and 27-years-old! Emma likes her job, teaching music at an inner city middle school in Phoenix, and Cassidy is enjoying a job internship program at a Tucson hospital.

Our friend John Heid moved out in September after living with us for 8 months. Happily he’s still in Tucson - he and Leslie Klusmire have started a new Catholic Worker community here, Rose of the Desert, “focused on works of mercy and nonviolent resistance: ‘to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable’”. To be in solidarity with the human rights struggle of immigrants. To resist the militarization of the borderlands.”

We are excited to be welcoming Allison McGillivray in January to stay with us for a couple of months, to help with the final organization of *the Nuclear Resister* archives and other projects. How lucky we are to have her help at the beginning of what promises to be an extremely busy year! We’ll all head over to Albuquerque in February, along with friend Jerry Zawada and others, for the 4th annual gathering of the Pacific Life Community, complete with nonviolent civil resistance at Los Alamos (see page 7).

In mid-November, at the Southwest Catholic Worker gathering in Tucson, Chelsea Collonge and Mariah Klusmire (Leslie’s daughter), from Albuquerque’s Trinity House Catholic Worker, gave a wonderful presentation about Think Outside the Bomb, a network of young adults engaged in education and action for nuclear disarmament, and their developing focus at Los Alamos over the next year. One result of the discussion that followed was to begin putting together a calendar of Direct Action for Nuclear Disarmament 2010 - A Year of Resistance (see page 7). Is your group planning direct action/civil resistance for nuclear disarmament that can be added? Please let us know, as we will be adding items throughout the year.

We will keep these and other future actions updated regularly on *the Nuclear Resister* blog. The work of putting the blog together is now in progress with the help of a volunteer, and it should go live soon! You can check our website occasionally to see - www.nuclearresister.org - there will be a link there to the new blog.

Planning continues with Nukewatch and the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance for next July’s Re-

Tell Attorney General Holder: Executive Review Now! for Leonard Peltier

The Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee (LPDOC), together with Friends of Peltier and the International Peltier Forum, is asking supporters to put their face on the campaign seeking an executive review by the Department of Justice and Attorney General Eric Holder of the American Indian activist’s case. As was done in the case of Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, where the criminal prosecution was essentially nullified in the face of misconduct by Department of Justice officials, Attorney General Eric Holder can conduct an Executive Review of the Peltier case and provide a remedy.

The LPDOC asks that supporters mail or email a photo of themselves as soon as possible holding a simple, legible campaign sign that reads “Executive Review NOW!”, and to get others to take this simple step as well. Please include your name, address and e-mail address, and send to ZOOM IN, c/o 2241 NW Hoyt Street, #214, Portland, OR 97210, or as an email attachment to zoom@whoisleonardpeltier.info. For more campaign details and instructions, visit www.whoisleonardpeltier.info.

The personal messages will be collected and delivered to the Attorney General’s office on or around February 6, 2010 – the 34th anniversary of Leonard Peltier’s arrest. Participants in the campaign are also asked to contribute \$1 to help with campaign expenses.

Supporters are also encouraged to call the White House (202-456-1111 or 202-456-1414) and demand a pardon for Leonard Peltier.

On the very day in 1975 when two FBI agents died in the crime Peltier is convicted of committing, the corrupt Pine Ridge tribal chairman was secretly signing away the tribe’s mineral rights, including those for uranium.

Dontations to support the newly invigorated campaign

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sistance for a Nuclear-Free Future gathering and action, to mark the 30th anniversaries in 2010 of Nukewatch, the Plowshares Eight action and *the Nuclear Resister*. Bonnie Urfer of Nukewatch is busy getting information and pre-registration forms online - it will be available early in the new year at Nukewatch.com.

For the gathering, we are putting together a slide show/powerpoint collage of images - of anti-nuclear civil disobedience/civil resistance actions, gatherings in front of courthouses, and the activists who are no longer with us who had been arrested and/or imprisoned for these actions.

We need your help! Please send photos you have to share of anti-nuclear nonviolent direct actions, and photos of people who were part of our movement and have since passed away. Please make sure to include with each photo where and when it was taken, and names of people pictured, if you have that information. In addition to a slide show/powerpoint presentation, our hope is that these photos will also form the foundation for a “wall of photos” that people can add to at the gathering.

You may email a scanned or digital file of the photo or send prints in the mail. If you send prints in the mail, please indicate if you would like your photo(s) returned to you, and we will do so after scanning it and making a color copy for the “wall of photos”. Please make sure to include your postal address.

Send photos to: The Nuclear Resister
P.O. Box 43383
Tucson, AZ 85733

Send .jpg or other digital file to: nukeresister@igc.org

We wish you peace, joy and love in the new year - and remain deeply grateful for all that you do to make the world a better place!

Felice + Jack

Thanks

Thanks to Pat, Betts, Bob, Jerry, John, Leslie, Papa Jim, Charlotte, Paige, Steve, Nancy, Sonia and Sally for helping to mail the last issue!

Thanks to all of you who responded to our autumn appeal. May we never cease to be humbled and amazed at such solid and generous support!

We have our fingers crossed as we wait to hear back about a couple of grants to help support the costs of the 30th anniversary gathering. What a challenging time for peace groups and so many other non-profit organizations to raise the money needed to meet even basic expenses. *The Nuclear Resister* is no different. Donations are always welcome and appreciated!

the Nuclear Resister

POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733
520-323-8697 nukeresister@igc.org ISSN #0883-9875

YOU CAN HELP!

Please send news, updates and donations! Mail us (or e-mail or phone) new action reports, updates, jail information, statements, graphics, photos & clippings about local actions. Thanks!

SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

One-year subscriptions are US\$25 in the United States, US\$30 to Canada, and US\$35 overseas. Payment can only be accepted in US currency or checks drawn on US institutions. All subscriptions are sent via First Class or Airmail.

Please inquire about multiple copies of the current issue for free distribution at conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Research Collection (1986 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by the UMI Division of ProQuest Company, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

Since 1980, the Nuclear Resister has provided comprehensive reporting on arrests for anti-nuclear civil resistance in the United States, with an emphasis on providing support for the women and men jailed for these actions. In 1990, the Nuclear Resister also began reporting on anti-war arrests in North America, plus overseas anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance with the same emphasis on prisoner support.

The Nuclear Resister is published about every two months and serves to network this nonviolent resistance movement while acting as a clearinghouse for information about contemporary nonviolent resistance to war and the nuclear threat. We believe that in any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are imprisoned. Behind bars, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Broader awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future.

Each issue provides the names and jail addresses of currently imprisoned anti-nuclear and anti-war activists. Readers are encouraged to provide active support by writing letters to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

Witness for Human Rights at Fort Benning and Fort Huachuca

More than 150 people rallied against U.S. torture practices on Sunday, November 15, in Sierra Vista, Arizona. After listening to speakers and music in a city park, the group carried protest signs and candles remembering the victims of torture in a one mile procession to the main gate of Fort Huachuca. Fort Huachuca is the home of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center, where military interrogators are trained. Along the way, the procession stopped at the office of CACI, a private military contractor implicated in the abuse of Iraqi detainees.

Soon after the procession arrived at the gate, five people, including two Roman Catholic priests, crossed the street and entered the base with a message for military personnel and civilian employees. They carried a statement opposing the cruel treatment and abuse of detainees from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and calling for the civilian oversight of all military interrogation practices. The statement also condemned the use of armed drones in warfare, because the Fort also trains troops to service and remotely pilot aircraft that the Army is planning to weaponize.

Fr. Bob Carney, Joshua Harris, John Heid, Mariah Klusmire, and Fr. Jerry Zawada were quickly stopped after they walked around the entrance barrier, and were arrested when they did not leave. Four were released within an hour. Joshua Harris initially refused to identify himself, instead saying only that he was there representing a victim of torture. He identified himself after learning he would be charged under Arizona law with trespass and refusing to provide a truthful name, and released early that evening. All five are also barred from entering the base for one year. For more information, visit tortureontrial.org

It was 20 years ago in November that the Jesuit Chancellor of the University of Central America in El Salvador and five other Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter were brutally murdered. It was suspected at the time and later documented that the killers were graduates of the U.S. Army School of the Americas. The “School of Assassins” was booted from Panama in 1984, to Fort Benning, Georgia, then re-branded in 2001 as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC).

For the 20th year, the grim anniversary was observed by thousands with a rally, vigil and civil resistance at the gates of Ft. Benning, demanding closure of the institution that trains Latin American military and police.

The annual event, organized by the School of the Americas Watch, took place on November 21 and 22. Saturday’s rally and Sunday’s procession were colorful and spirited, with numerous musicians and scores of large puppets rising above the banners, signs, and crosses inscribed with the names of the dead and disappeared across Latin America.

The mood of the gathering was buoyed by news that Fr. Roy Bourgeois and the SOA Watch organization that he founded had been nominated for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for their sustained, faithful, nonviolent witness against the disappearances, torture and murder of hundreds of thousands of civilians by foreign military personnel trained at the SOA/WHINSEC.



Photo courtesy tortureontrial.org

Line-crossers face arrest at Fort Huachuca, November 15. Foreground, from left to right: John Heid, Joshua Harris (supine), Mariah Klusmire, Fr. Jerry Zawada, Fr. Bob Carney.

Early Sunday, before the procession to the main gate, four people walked onto the base at another entrance. They were stopped by military police and arrested for trespass. It was the third time Franciscan Fr. Louie Vitale crossed that line, and the second time for Catholic Worker Michael Walli. They were joined by Nancy Gwin, a former high school teacher and longtime Latin America solidarity activist from Syracuse, and Austin, Texas activist and member of the SOA Watch grassroots council, Ken Hayes.

Three of them posted \$1,000 bond and were released pending trial in federal court in Columbus next January 25. Michael Walli refused to post bond, intending to stay in jail until trial. At his arraignment Monday morning before U.S. Magistrate Mallon Faircloth, Walli made his intention clear, but the judge ordered that Walli be released on his own recognizance and return to court with his codefendants in January. The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer reports that Walli asserted his noncooperation, telling the court, “I walk out and it’s goodbye.”

“If you choose not to come back, find a good hiding place from the (U.S.) Marshals, because they will be looking for you,” Faircloth said, noting that a bench warrant would then be issued for his arrest. Walli did not appear for trial in Galena, Illinois last September, where he’d been arrested on state trespass charges while protesting a mercenary training camp.

For more information, visit soaw.org.

CARL KABAT ON TRIAL

The trial of serial nuclear missile disarmer Fr. Carl Kabat, OMI was postponed until December 21. Kabat was charged with misdemeanor trespass and criminal mischief after he cut through the fence of nuclear missile silo N-8, near New Raymer, Colorado last August 6, hung banners and tried to break open the hatch leading into the silo. He has refused to post bond, even after it was reduced to \$2,500.

At a November 6 motions hearing, prosecutors unsealed evidence bags taken from the scene, displaying banners and bread and wine for the court to view and mark as evidence. Each banner was read into the record. Kabat’s public defenders and prosecutors questioned supporter Bill Sulzman for 90 minutes about “Catholic theology, transubstantiation, bible translations, Catholic teaching on nuclear weapons, international law, effects of nuclear weapons, the map of the Colorado missile silos, the range of nuclear weapons, the chain of command for firing weapons, etc.”

At a follow-up hearing on November 10, the judge ruled against a choice of evils defense, but asked for more briefs on defenses under international law and freedom of conscience. Prosecutors will not be permitted to tell the jury about Carl’s two previous actions at Colorado missile silos. Damages of \$300 were established.



Kabat reports that while he has received a lot of mail, dozens of pieces have been rejected, often because the writer did not put a return address on the envelope. News and magazine clippings are also not permitted. Because the outcome of his trial is not yet known as we go to press, letters of support should be sent c/o Bill Sulzman, POB 915, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

Peltier, continued

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to free Leonard Peltier are needed. Checks and money orders should be made payable to LPDOC, and mailed to Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee, P.O.B. 7488, Fargo, ND 58106. If you prefer, you may donate online at www.whoisleonardpeltier.info.



Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Inside & Out

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Ellen Barfield DCDC #325-704 (25 days, out 1/8/10)
DC Jail/Correctional Treatment Facility, 1901 E Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.
(Disrupted war-funding hearing in Congress, 6/09)

Elijah James Smith VP7551
HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd, Lewes, BN7 1EA, England.
(Jailed pending trial for decommissioning of EDO/ITT arms factory in Brighton, England, 1/17/09)

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22)
FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS

Igor V. Sutyagin (15 years)
163050, Arkhangelsk; Ul. Pirsovaya, d. 27; FGU IK-1, 5 otryad, Russia. (letters only)
(Imprisoned since 10/27/1999, now convicted of espionage for researching public nuclear weapons information - sentenced 4/07/04)

Key:

Name ID# (if needed) (sentence - in/out date if known)
prison or support address
(action & date)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Carl Kabat
Weld County Jail, 2110 O Street, Greeley, CO 80631.
(Awaiting trial 12/21/09 after entering nuclear missile silo site N-8 near New Raymer, CO, 8/6/09, with intent to disarm it)

Helen Woodson 03231-045 (106 months - out 9/9/11)
FMC Carswell, Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127.
(Parole violation with anti-war protest at the federal courthouse, Kansas City, Missouri, 3/11/04)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132 (life)
USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.
(Native American political prisoner)



PUBLIC MILITARY REFUSERS

David Travis Bishop (1 year - out 7/10)
Northwestern Regional Correctional Facility, Box 339536, Fort Lewis, WA 98433.
(Convicted of missing movement, disobeying a lawful order, and going AWOL, 8/14/09)

Cliff Cornell (1 year - out 4/10)
Bldg. 1041, PSC Box #20140, Camp Lejeune NC 28542.
(Pled guilty to desertion, 4/09)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Dustin Stevens, Anthony Michael Anderson

REFUSERS, CONT.

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his AWOL arrest nearly one year ago has been disbanded. News about the wretched conditions and legal limbo for many in Echo Platoon came out after Stevens contacted the military refuser support group Courage to Resist. Based on the reporting of staff organizer Sarah Lazare and journalist Dahr Jamail, Courage to Resist launched a successful petition drive to free Stevens and close the unit.

For more information about U.S. military refusers, visit CourageToResist.org, Citizen-Soldier.org and resisters.ca (War Resisters Support Campaign in Canada). For general information about getting out of the military, service members should contact the GI Rights Hotline toll-free at 877-447-4487.



Letters of support should be sent to jailed public military refusers David Travis Bishop, Northwestern Regional Correctional Facility, Box 339536, Fort Lewis, WA 98433; and Cliff Cornell, Bldg. 1041, PSC Box #20140, Camp Lejeune NC 28542.

War Tax Resister Facing Jail

by Patrick O’Neill

[from the December 2009/January 2010 issue of *More than a paycheck*, newsletter of the the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC)]

Long-time Maine war tax resister Frank Donnelly pled guilty in U.S. District Court on November 23 to under-reporting his income to the IRS. Donnelly, who sold lobsters for a living, is facing sentencing in federal court in Bangor, Maine some time in early 2010. An anti-war and social justice activist in his hometown of Lamoine, Donnelly is facing up to a year or more in federal prison.

The government’s investigation of Donnelly dates to August 2005. His case landed in federal court despite a relatively small sum of money being under-reported. A pre-sentencing investigation is underway, with Donnelly’s federal tax liability expected to be placed at \$50,000. A prison sentence of 12-16 months is anticipated.


Donnelly became an activist following a stint in the Army Reserve in 1966. He was court-martialed in 1971 for refusing to wear his uniform after becoming a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War. Donnelly told NWTRCC that he didn’t relish the thought of going to prison at age 64, but he was prepared for the consequences.

“You’ve got to stand up for your beliefs,” Donnelly said. “I’m standing up for my conscience.”

Contact NWTRCC at POB 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215, 1-800-269-7464, nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org for more information.



Letters in support of Frank Donnelly’s conscientious refusal to pay taxes for war may be addressed to Judge John Woodcock, but must be sent to Virginia Villa, Federal Defender, Key Plaza Bldg. 2nd Floor, 23 Water Street, Bangor ME 04401.



What If They Gave a WAR and Nobody Paid?

You have a choice.

Contact the
**National War Tax Resistance
Coordinating Committee**
PO Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215
1.800.269.7464 · www.nwtrcc.org

“openly declaring nonviolent war”

[Editors note: We were unaware of Norman Lowry’s six-month imprisonment until we read an essay he wrote just after his release from the Lancaster County Prison (Pennsylvania). Here’s his story in his own words, excerpted from longer essays published before and after his arrest at countercurrents.org and thepeoplesvoice.org.]

March 18, 2009

I am 56-years-old and this is the day I was created for. For the first 28 years of my life, I generally bought the lies of the selfish, ego-driven, racist, violent, murdering, eco-destroying, economy-sucking U.S. Empire (and associated friends). My life was full of its own lies, cheating, and theft; a lifestyle that destroyed all that was dear to me and eventually led me to deserved imprisonment, depression and eight years of homelessness (simply walking around, lost and dead inside). During those seemingly empty years, our Creator got me quiet enough to begin to hear His voice and assisted me by opening my blind eyes. I began to seek help to change my vile ways and to read and search the Holy Books and the public record for truth. What I have found has amazed me and has absolutely set me free...

Here is your invitation to freedom! In spite of the seemingly overbearing threat of worldwide destruction (which is guaranteed to come, if we don’t take charge), I am inviting you to join me in a simple acknowledgment that our leaders are blind and have taken us to the edge of destruction. I’m inviting you to join me in trusting that the vision of peace that we carry deep in our hearts can be realized...

What I am advocating is this: Say no to the lies, in practical ways. Refuse to take unfair advantage of anyone. Refuse to speak an evil of anyone. Refuse to buy or sell products that come from slave labor. Raise your hand in violence against no one; restrain but do no harm in return. Refuse military service. Honor and Love your Creator, by honoring and loving your neighbor (this includes the most evil of neighbors). Stand in the way of weapons of destruction and peacefully destroy them. Take a bullet or imprisonment (if necessary)...for Love. As John Dear says, “Only peacemakers can see the way forward toward a world of peace”...

November 17, 2009

For nearly six months (4/17/09 - 10/08/09), I was imprisoned in the Lancaster (Pennsylvania) County Prison, charged with three crimes: Possessing an Instrument of Crime, Disorderly Conduct and Criminal Mischief. The local media (newspapers, radio and television) “helped the public”, by portraying me as simply being “an angry man who chose vandalism as a sedative”. Omitted were the facts:

That I had given more than one month’s notice of leaving my employment;

That, with preplanning and a written state-

ment of intention and guilt, I purposefully walked onto property being used by the U.S. Military Recruiters, with the total intent of committing an act(s) of civil disobedience;

That I did willfully use a 20 oz. framing hammer to break out some of the windows in vehicles used by the U.S. Military Recruiters;

That my chosen actions were carried out as a Spiritual, Socio-Political Protest against the Extreme Violence, Racism and Poverty Production of the United States of America, to me, the world’s most evil-ever imperialist empire;

That I was openly declaring nonviolent war on all mechanisms of said Violence, Racism and Poverty-Production;

That I was officially and openly renouncing my U.S. Citizenship (a response to the mass apathy among U.S citizenry; especially those who claim Loving Allegiance to our Creator, who seem all too willing to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the gross injustices and crimes of the USA)...

After my arrest came interviews with the local police detective and F.B.I. agent-in-charge (two of my arresting officers were actually angry with their Detective, for calling the F.B.I.). The F.B.I. agent asked what I believed should be done with me. I encouraged that he recommend sending me to Guantanamo (or to any of our myriad other torture prisons, worldwide); or simply allow me to share a cell with Mr. Obama, Mr. Bush, or any other of our “Mass Murderer” leaders.

The F.B.I. chose not to recommend federal prosecution (the agent actually said that he personally had no problem with what I did or why I did it), though he did state that next time, I would face prosecution as a “domestic terrorist”. The local police detective handed me over for criminal arraignment, after which I was taken to prison. The arraignment justice stated that I would normally be considered for release “on personal recognizance”, pending trial but, since I chose to renounce my U.S. citizenship, I was a “flight risk” and he was setting my bail high enough to keep me locked up.

My time of imprisonment was most interesting. We were locked up 20+ hours per day (in two or three-man cells). Purposeful violence and racism were a given. I personally witnessed 25+ beatings (most were purposefully ignored by guards); met three inmates who had been brutally beaten by the guards (spoke with multiple witnesses, many who mentioned knowing of other inmate beatings); and talked with thirteen guards and one other employee who admitted to participating in, witnessing, or having knowledge of inmate beatings. I also personally witnessed a system, grossly over-weighted toward

minorities (including women) and “blue collar” criminals; was utterly grieved at the numbers of inmates who had been incarcerated for 2-4+ years (without being given their Constitutionally guaranteed rights to speedy trials); and sought to intervene on behalf of non-English speaking inmates (especially whose health concerns were being ignored). I discussed these issues with the prison warden (in writing, on multiple occasions, with no response), with the appropriate prison leadership (with mostly limited response, except for a caring nurse) and with the Pennsylvania Prison Society (who were eager to discuss a witnessed threat of abuse against a mental health patient [by a guard], though never came back to discuss my other concerns). I received threats of violence (from guards) for my willingness to “stand against the system” and for “protesting by hitting the U.S. Military”.

My “day in court” consisted of five separate appearances (from day one, I admitted my guilt in writing and asked for sentencing). At my first appearance (on the day of my arrest), the District Justice said that he was only there to let me know my charges and to set bail. At my second appearance (preliminary hearing), the district justice said that he was not authorized to sentence me. At this appearance, the police detective and prosecutor spent considerable time discussing how my charges might be raised to felony level.

My third appearance was an arraignment, at which I officially pled guilty to all charges. At my fourth appearance (pretrial hearing), the Judge stated that my arraignment pleas had not been accepted and rescheduled the court date, because he did not have complete information on the charges. At my fifth appearance, a new Judge accepted my pleas, gave me time served (on all charges) plus probation, and ordered my release.

I left the courtroom deeply grieved that day. If it had taken this grandiose process six months to process a man who (from day one) was willing to plead and be sentenced, how much longer would it take for the many who were still rotting away in the Prison (after spending 2-4+ years)? My mind returned to the “high-profile” cases that were more speedily processed and to the mass amount of “white collar” criminals and rich white men whose crimes are consistently ignored. On the way back to the prison (from which I would be released that day), I cried.

Nearly a month has passed, since that day when my outward freedom was returned to me. I still cry and grieve; my heart is utterly broken!...

Please accept my continuing gratitude, for those of you who continue to be a part of the solution to the world’s many dire issues.

Please forgive me, for my country’s injustices and crimes against humanity.

– Norman Lowry

NO PEACE, NO PRIZE

Once a week, Los Angeles Catholic Workers and friends hold a walking vigil around the Federal Building downtown. Each week, they stop at the front entrance and read aloud the names of the most recent military dead as announced by the war department.

On December 9, the day before the Nobel Peace Prize was to be publicly presented in Oslo, the latest names were read aloud. Then Jeff Dietrich, Catherine Morris, David Omondi, Mike Wisniewski and John Yvetich climbed the steps onto federal property and blocked the doorway while shouting "Obama! No Peace, No Prize!" Documentary filmmaker Ernest Savage was also arrested while attempting to record the event. Wisniewski had his arm violently twisted by a security guard, and was im-

New Mexico Drone Meeting Bars Protest

The University of New Mexico's Technical Analysis and Applications Center hosted the 11th annual Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS, or drones) conference December 8-10 at the Hyatt-Regency resort at Santa Ana Pueblo, north of Albuquerque. Drones are increasingly popular, and according to the conference website, "Unprecedented early registration [had] filled the conference to capacity."

Not on the guest list were four members of the Trinity Nuclear Abolitionists from Albuquerque and a couple of CodePink women fresh from a week of vigiling outside Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, from where remote pilots wage robot warfare from the skies over Afghanistan and Pakistan. Less than five minutes into their opening-day vigil against the use of drones as aerial assassins, the Trinity Nuclear Abolitionists were politely accosted at the resort by tribal police. At the request of the hotel, police gave the four written notice barring them from the property, and banished their vigil from tribal land, as well. A criminal complaint was filed but no charges brought.

The next day, they held their vigil just off tribal land where the resort entry road meets a highway. Inside the conference, Nancy Mancias of CodePink was the first to ask a question during the Q&A session. The Lt. General at the podium answered her question about drone violence and accountability, then the security personnel asked Mancias and her CodePink partner Liz Hourican to leave the property. Police gave them the same formal notices, barring them forever from the resort site. For more information, visit lovarchy.org/circle.

mediately transported to the hospital after being arrested. He was released several hours later with a pulled muscle, a sprained elbow and a torn ligament. The six were cited for disorderly conduct and released.



Los Angeles Catholic Workers block the entrance to the federal building in Los Angeles, California.

For more information, contact the Los Angeles Catholic Worker, 632 N. Britannia St., Los Angeles, CA 90033, 323-267-8789, or visit lacatholicworker.org.

Vandenberg Vigiler Injured During Arrest

Police again disrupted the monthly vigil at Vandenberg Air Force Base, this time injuring one of the handful who stand for peace at the main gate. The Air Force zealously holds claim to territory all along about ten miles of California Highway 1 as it passes through the nuclear missile testing and space warfare base on the California coast, begrudgingly yielding only limited "free speech" space at a school parking lot and grassy area across from the entrance. Even there, the boundaries get tested.

On November 4, military police demanded ID from the vigilers, suspecting some were attending in violation of previous ban and bar letters. World War II veteran Bud Boothe refused, and was handcuffed. Police mishandled the longtime vigiler as they moved to lift him up, grabbing the handcuffs and leaving Boothe with a ripped shirt and three gashes in his arm. Civilian paramedics were called and Boothe was bandaged up, processed and released with a trespass citation. Another man who refused to produce ID was also arrested, cited for trespass and released, as was Dennis Apel, who is barred from even the "free speech" zone due to earlier convictions for trespass at Vandenberg that oddly prevent him from joining others who are legally exercising their rights in the same place and manner. For more information, visit vandenbergwitness.org.

Die-in at Space War Bazaar

On Wednesday, November 4, the Omaha and Des Moines Catholic Worker communities and friends held their fourth annual protest and die-in at the Qwest Center in Omaha, site of a space weapons bazaar called the Strategic Space Symposium.

Thirty people gathered at the main entrance around a "Space Weapons = Death" banner. After a statement was read, a number of people laid down on the ground in front of the banner. After a few minutes, they arose to take the die-in inside the Qwest Center. They were stopped just inside the front doors by police and Qwest security workers. The protesters reenacted the die-in at their feet.

Qwest security people told the protesters to leave the building or face arrest. All but eight people left the building. The eight were placed under arrest, handcuffed and walked out of the building into a police van or police car.

Among those arrested was 91-year-old Peg Gallagher, who was ticketed for refusing to leave, and released on site. The other seven people were taken to the Douglas County Jail. Three from Omaha – Fr. Jack McCaslin, Mark Kenny, and Daniel McCarville – were cited and released from the jail. They and Gallagher were given a December 9 court date.

Out-of-town arrestees Steve Clemens, Frank Cordaro, Fr. Jim Murphy and Fr. Louis Vitale were held overnight and brought before a judge with other prisoners the next afternoon.

Clemens told the story of what happened in court in his blog, Mennonista.blogspot.com:

Prior to being ushered into the courtroom attached to the jail, one of the correctional officers warned the 60 or so of us in our orange jail uniforms: You are lucky today. You have drawn Judge Lowe as your judge... He is fair but somewhat eccentric. He might ask you all types of questions. Listen to what he says. If he suggests you might want to take a certain plea, listen to him because he will spell out the consequences to you. We were specifically warned not to talk or say anything in the courtroom until or unless the judge addressed us...

The court session began with the more serious felony cases and then progressed to the misdemeanors. We had no idea when we'd be called. Finally the courtroom was down to four older white male defendants. The clock was nearing 3:30 p.m. and the rapidity of the Judge's dealing with the previous four or five inmates made it clear that Judge Lowe was determined to get out of the courtroom on time.

The Prosecutor called out the next case, Louis Vitale, and added that these last four cases were all on the same charge: failure to leave the Qwest Center. The Judge right away told us that he often attends events there and quickly asked the inmate before him what was his plea, guilty or not guilty? When Louis responded with "No contest", the Judge immediately stated "Five days in jail. If you had said guilty, you would have gotten three days." Father Louis tried to speak up to say he was actually requesting a postponement of sentencing so he could travel to Georgia over the weekend to fulfill some speaking engagements he had scheduled. The Judge would hear none of it. "If you want to contest this sentence, bond is \$100,000 – to see if you can change my mind. Now get out of here. [To the corrections officers] Take him out of here!"

Next case: Jim Murphy is called to the bench. How do you plead? Jim swallowed and said "No contest – oh, I mean guilty".

"Good call", the judge responded. "3 days. Next".

"Case number ---" (I didn't hear the number but did hear my name) "Stephen D. Clemens." I walked to the podium in front of the Judge's bench debating in my mind whether to risk the Judge's anger with a "no contest" plea or to remain safe with the "guilty-as-charged" less-costly route. Just as I was prepared to jump off the cliff with my "no contest – BUT I need to tell the court that I am a regular blood donor – I donate platelets every two weeks in order to help save lives, and if you sentence me to more than three days, I can't donate again for a year due to federal regulations", wanting to force the Judge to choose between retributive punishment and saving lives, the Judge looked at me and instead of asking for my plea asked, "What were you doing?" He had obviously in his haste failed to read the documents before him about the nature of our "crime".

I responded, "We were protesting, your Honor, *continued on page 6*

DISARM NOW PLOWSHARES

"I will purify you from the taint of all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and make you conform to my statutes." Ezekial 36:25-27

We walk into the heart of darkness, the Naval Submarine Base Kitsap-Bangor, housing and deploying over 2,000 nuclear warheads for Trident submarines. By their very existence they are endangering the environment, threatening the indiscriminate destruction of life on earth, and depriving the hungry, homeless, and jobless of billions of dollars that could supply human needs throughout the world.

The manufacture and deployment of Trident II missiles, weapons of mass destruction, is immoral and criminal under international law and, therefore, under United States law. As U.S. citizens we are responsible under the Nuremberg Principles for this threat of first-strike terrorism hanging over the community of nations, rich and poor. Moreover, such planning, preparation, and deployment is a blasphemy against the Creator of life, imaged in each human being.

We are called by Isaiah to take seriously our own responsibility to act as citizens of the nation that subjected the civilians of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the hell of nuclear bombing and its deadly consequences. The United States continues to research and develop even more inhumane weapons of mass destruction.

We are called by Ezekiel to transform our own hearts and to invite all those whose hearts are hardened by blindness, fear, and mistrust of the "other" to allow theirs to be transformed into "hearts of flesh:" disarmed, compassionate, and generous.

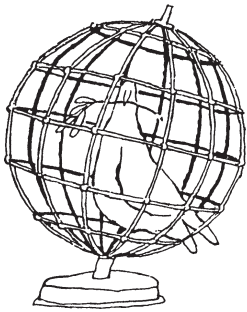
We bring carpenters' hammers to symbolically transform these weapons of death into material useful for homes and factories. On this day of remembrance, All Souls Day, we bring our own blood in solidarity with the victims of war, who are invisible to those who target them. We bring sunflower seeds to plant the hope of new life in this violated earth. We intend to beat swords into plowshares as one step up the holy mountain where all nations can unite in peace.

At the beginning of the International Decade of Disarmament, we join with the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 2020 Vision Campaign to abolish all nuclear weapons by that year at the latest. Nuclear weapons can never be guardians, defenders, or upholders of peace. They are sheathed in stainless steel and metal coverings that conceal the evil incarnate lying within. They are filled with death-dealing agents that tear apart humans and leave survivors scarred for life. They leave no place for human care for the thousands who suffer and die in agony. Nuclear weapons are a lie. Their "protection" is an illusion. They must be abolished.

"God will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." Isaiah 2:4

November 2, 2009 Washington State

Steve Kelly, S.J., Lynne Greenwald, Anne Montgomery, RSCJ, Susan Crane, Bill Bichsel, S.J.



INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Edinburgh

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly met in Edinburgh, Scotland in mid-November, stirring up nearly a week of protest. Small groups attempting to block streets or display banners too near the meeting place were simply pushed out of the way by aggressive policing. A No to NATO rally drew 5,000 people on November 14.

The following Tuesday morning, before the final session of the conference, six members of Trident Ploughshares tried to enter the conference center. Blocked from entering, they instead blocked the entrance, facing the arriving delegates with a “We Will Not Be Silent” banner and wearing tabards emblazoned with the images of wounded and traumatized Afghan children. Their statement read in part:

Today the NATO Parliamentary Assembly is having a one minute silence which it claims is a “mark of respect to all those who have been affected by the conflict in Afghanistan.” This hypocrisy must not go unchallenged. NATO is responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent men, women and children. Its war has forced five million people to flee to refugee camps. To claim to “respect” those affected while planning to send in yet more troops, which will inevitably lead to more civilian deaths, is an affront to the Afghan people and an insult to the families of those who have been killed. But we will not be silent. In the name of the innocent civilians who have died in this tragic and foolish war, we call for an immediate moratorium on drone and air strikes, an end to NATO’s war in Afghanistan, withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and investment in humanitarian aid, a halt to the expansion of and, finally, the dissolution of NATO...

We also call upon NATO to disarm its nuclear weapons. Trident - with around 160 warheads, each ten times as destructive as the Hiroshima bomb - is assigned to NATO, and the U.S. deploys hundreds of nuclear weapons at bases across Europe under the NATO alliance. This is in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, under which nuclear weapons states are obligated to bring to a conclusion negotiations for disarmament of nuclear weapons. NATO’s policy of deterrence threatens global peace and security. As long as NATO continues to rely on nuclear weapons for security other countries will want them, too. Moreover, the people of Scotland and our Scottish Parliament have rejected Trident...

Sylvia Boyes, Matt Bury, Brian Larkin, Jane Talents, Irene Willis and one other person were arrested and jailed overnight, then released the next morning without charges.

EDO/Brighton

The EDO Decommissioners – Elijah James Smith, Tom Woodhead, Robert Nichols, Ornella Saibene, Robert Alford and Harvey Tadman – face serious charges for trashing a Brighton war merchant’s business during the Israeli assault on Gaza one year ago. EDO-MBM is owned by the American multinational ITT, and makes parts for the widely used Paveway guided bombs and for bomb release racks on fighter planes used by Israel. The Decommissioners will be joined in the dock next May by three witnesses who police arrested outside the factory.

On October 17, police arrested three Decommissioners for breaching bail conditions. The defendants are forbidden from contact with each other (one remains jailed), but the three had separately joined an anti-war rally at Brimar, a Manchester-based maker of war hardware used by British and American armies in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Israeli forces in Palestine and Lebanon. Police plucked them from the crowd for allegedly associating with one another.

They were held in jail until court on October 19, where prosecutors produce no evidence the three had “associated”, “communicated” or even had “indirect communication” while in the crowd of 70 demonstrators. A last-minute claim that they were “likely to break bail conditions” was too preposterous to consider, and the three were again released on bail.

Decommissioner Elijah James Smith remains in prison without bail set, and faces the prospect of imprisonment even beyond the May, 2010 trial date for the EDO Decommissioners. Smith also stands accused of witness intimidation resulting from a minor comment made in court to EDO’s managing director. That trial is on the docket for August, 2010.

In late October, two of the decommissioning defendants were successful in their appeal of convictions for offenses related to the 2008 Carnival Against the Arms Trade in the EDO parking lot, which police had portrayed as a riot.

Nine people were in court in early November for charges arising last summer from a blockade of EDO in solidarity with migrants during the Calais No Borders camp. The blockade was to highlight the links between the arms trade, war and the creation of refugees. One defendant was found with no case to answer, two were acquitted and five were convicted of obstruction of the highway. They were given 12 month conditional discharges.

Also in November, a Brighton filmmaker, Paul Light, was told that conspiracy to commit criminal damage charges filed last summer would be dropped and most of his confiscated footage and equipment returned. Police, convinced he had filmed the EDO Decommissioners in the act, raided his home studio in June and added his name to their case. He had not even been present at the scene, and no evidence was found to implicate him in the action. Police still hold his computer, claiming it holds evidence for another upcoming EDO-related protest trial, and darkly hinting that images and material related to Al-Qaeda were found there.

For more information, visit smashedo.org.uk and decommissioners.co.uk.



Letters of support should be sent to Elijah James Smith, VP 7551, HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1EA, England.

Montreal

George W. Bush returned to Canada in October, drawing protest in every city he visited. In Montreal on the 22nd, police faced hundreds at a demonstration called by anti-war, labor and women’s groups outside the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, where Bush was speaking to the city’s chamber of commerce. The accused war criminal was burned in effigy, and many threw shoes towards the hotel. Five people were arrested for mischief and disturbing the peace.

Prince Charles was doubly damned by the Quebecois a few weeks later when His Highness came to present regimental colors to the Black Watch of Canada in Montreal. Police again clashed with hundreds of demonstrators, many waving Quebec’s flag while holding “Get Out of Afghanistan” placards and chanting “Majesty Go Home!” The regimental hall was pelted with eggs, activists sat down in the road and the event was delayed for nearly an hour while police cleared the road and arrested three people for blocking traffic.

RAF Mildenhall

Lindis Percy of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases in Britain was arrested October 30 as she walked about the American Air Force Base at Mildenhall. She’d shown her ID to a military policeman and to her surprise, was waved through. After she’d been exploring for nearly an hour and had even approached aircraft without question, a Royal Air Force liaison officer recognized the well-known bases watchdog and summoned British military police. Percy was arrested and taken to Bury St. Edmunds police station and charged with trespass under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act, a notorious post-9/11 law providing special penalty for acts against military bases and such. She was ordered not to enter any bases where the United States Air Force is stationed in the United Kingdom for any reason.

Percy notes that despite years of campaigning, it is still unclear as to “where the USAF is stationed in the UK”. For more information, visit www.caab.org.uk.

Die-in. continued

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against an Arms Bazaar that was at the Qwest Center. Corporations are trying to sell high-tech weapons to the Air Force and space weapons to STRATCOM and we were protesting that.”

The puzzlement on the Judge’s face was completely transparent as Frank Cordaro, the last defendant still in the back of the courtroom stood up and said in a loud voice, “Yes, your Honor, you just sentenced two Roman Catholic priests to jail!”

The Judge was even more dumbfounded. He quickly ordered Frank to come forward to confirm what he had said. He was horrified at what had just happened and immediately shouted to the correctional officers serving as court bailiffs, “Quick, bring those last two men back in here!” To the court reporters he said, “Give me back those files. I don’t want to send priests to jail.”

“What, are you all priests?” he asked and I said I’m not even Catholic. He asked more questions about what we had done, the nature of the trade show/symposium at the Qwest Center and quickly apologized to the two priests.

“I thought this was a case about four old inebriates, four drunks who refused to leave the Qwest Center. I’m sorry.” He continued to tell us how his parents were involved in the civil rights struggle and how much he respected civil disobedience.

“I remember their stories even though I was only 4 years old at the time.”

His entire demeanor had changed 180 degrees. He smiled and laughed and told us he appreciated what we did. Of course he was changing the sentence to “time served” and “I’ll try to get you released as soon as possible. You do realize that might still take a couple of hours, don’t you?”

He asked who were our friends in the visitor’s gallery and we introduced Jerry and Cassandra who were there to support us. Before we left the courtroom, Judge Lowe reached down from the

bench and shook each of our hands. He thanked us for acting on our convictions, telling us, “I hope you will return to Omaha next year again.”

In court December 9, the four local defendants pled guilty. Kenney, McCarville and McCaslin were each fined \$75. Peg Gallagher told the court that just as last year, when she was arrested in similar circumstances, she would refuse to pay a fine if ordered to do so, because she could not in good conscience pay for “doing the right thing.” Just as last year, Gallagher was assigned to pay off a \$150 fine with service in the court’s Offender Work Program.

For more information, contact the Omaha Catholic Worker, 1104 N. 24th St. Omaha, NE 68102, 402-502-5887, cwomaha@gmail.com

Update Files, cont.

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plus court costs. The others argued that while their action was taken to halt preparations for nuclear war crimes, it had not obstructed a highway because the access road to the Tadley Gate, where they were arrested, is on Ministry of Defence land, and that their blockade had not impeded traffic on the adjacent main road. The court did not rule on the lawfulness of nuclear weapons activities at Aldermaston, but on November 12 it found the four defendants not guilty. A similar argument was raised two weeks later by two Aldermaston Gate defendants from the June 15 all-gates blockades. They faced the same magistrate, sitting that day in Newbury Magistrate’s Court. Police testified that the defendants were much farther from the gate than original reports and surveillance video indicated and that the access road to the gate was in the process of being adopted into the jurisdiction of local authority. That was good enough for the judge this time, and the women were

convicted of obstruction, given a conditional discharge and fined. Finally, the five defendants who blocked the Boilerhouse Gate last June 15 were notified in early December that their charges had been dismissed for lack of evidence...

ALLIANT TECH SYSTEMS: Nine people who blocked the driveway of the Minnesota-based arms merchant’s ammunition factory in Anoka in July, 2008, later pled guilty to misdemeanor public nuisance charges. Their plea agreement stipulated that the conviction would be removed from their record after successfully completing one year of probation, which the defendants have done...

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE: Clark County, Nevada has dismissed nearly all charges pending against people arrested during September protests at the armed drone

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Direct Action for Nuclear Disarmament 2010 - A Year of Resistance

December 2009 - START 1 Treaty (U.S.-Russia) expires; new agreement will need Senate Ratification in 2010

January 16 – KITSAP-BANGOR NAVAL BASE, WASHINGTON

“We must find an alternative to war!” is the plea of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the theme for the traditional vigil and nonviolent direct action at the gates of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The base is the west coast home of the U.S. Navy’s Trident nuclear submarine fleet. For schedule details, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, info@gzcenter.org or visit gzcenter.org.

January 16 – LOCKHEED-MARTIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Make War No More! - annual vigil and nonviolent resistance at Lockheed-Martin in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Hear his words and honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in non-violent action for justice and peace. Call the Brandywine Peace Community at (610)544-1818 by January 4 if you are interested in participating in the civil disobedience. For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.

February 1 - President Obama’s Fiscal Year 2011 Budget submitted to Congress; Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) released

February 11-May 1 - Footprints for Peace, International Peace Walk, Y-12 National Security Complex, Oak Ridge, TN to United Nations

February 15 – ALDERMASTON BIG BLOCKADE, ENGLAND

Come to the Big Blockade of England’s Aldermaston nuclear weapons factory, coordinated by Trident Ploughshares and supported by other peace and justice groups including CND. For details, visit tridentploughshares.org/article1577.

February 17-21 – THINK OUTSIDE THE BOMB, LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO

Think Outside the Bomb will hold a youth Training for Trainers in New Mexico and non-violent direct action at the Los Alamos nuclear weapons lab. Visit thinkoutsidethebomb.org for registration information.

February 26-28 – PACIFIC LIFE COMMUNITY, LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO

The annual gathering of the Pacific Life Community will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, including civil resistance at the Los Alamos nuclear weapons lab. For more information, contact Trinity Nuclear Abolitionists at 530-933-0970 or visit pacificlifecomunity.wordpress.com.

March 5 - 40th anniversary of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) entering into force

March 30-April 5 – SACRED PEACE WALK, LAS VEGAS TO THE NEVADA TEST SITE

The 2010 Annual Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site is walking meditation and prayer- action against the development and testing of new weapons of mass destruction, and will include the opportunity for civil resistance at the Nevada Test Site and Creech Air Force Base. Sacred holy days of many traditions will be observed en route. For more information, contact the Nevada Desert Experience at 702-646-4814 or info@nevadadesertexperience.org, or visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

April 3 – FASLANE TRIDENT SUB BASE, SCOTLAND

Part of European anti-NATO day of actions. Details will be posted at tridentploughshares.org, or email info@tridentploughshares.org.

April 10 – Y-12 NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX, OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

The annual April Action for a Nuclear Weapons Free World at the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This April action will bring youth and others to the last, full-scale, operating nuclear weapons production plant in the United States. Nonviolence training is scheduled for Friday evening in Knoxville. For more information, visit www.stopthebombs.org or email orep@earthlink.net.

April 12-13 - President Obama hosts a Global Nuclear Security Summit (tentative)

April 30-May 1 - International Peace Conference in New York City

May 2 - International Day of Action Rally in New York City

May 1-2 - KITSAP-BANGOR NAVAL BASE, WASHINGTON

NPT Review Conference solidarity action at the Trident nuclear submarine base. For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, gzcenter.org 360 930-8697, jackiehudson123@yahoo.com or sablao1@yahoo.com.

May 3-28 - NPT Review Conference at the United Nations, NYC

July 3-5 – RESISTANCE FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE FUTURE, Y-12 NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX, OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

This national gathering, celebrating the 30th anniversaries of Nukewatch and the Nuclear Resister, will advance the role of nonviolent direct action for nuclear disarmament and a nuclear-free energy future. Networking, workshops, talks, nonviolence training, action planning, nonviolent protest and direct action at Y-12. For more information, contact nukeresister@igc.org or nukewatch1@lakeland.ws, or visit nukewatch.com.

July 16 - 65th Anniversary of “Trinity,” the first nuclear test (New Mexico)

August 6 - 65th Anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bombing

August 9 - 65th Anniversary of the Nagasaki atomic bombing

August 6-9 – THINK OUTSIDE THE BOMB, NEW MEXICO

Youth convergence and direct action camp at Los Alamos. Details will be posted closer to date at thinkoutsidethebomb.org.

August 5-9 – AUGUST DESERT WITNESS, NEVADA TEST SITE AND CREECH AIR FORCE BASE

Interfaith commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, and a Joanna Macy retreat - in and near Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact Nevada Desert Experience at at 702-646-4814 or info@nevadadesertexperience.org, or visit nevadadesertexperience.org

August 6-9 – KITSAP-BANGOR NAVAL BASE, WASHINGTON

Hiroshima-Nagasaki action days - vigil and civil resistance at the Trident nuclear submarine base. For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, gzcenter.org, 360-930-8697, jackiehudson123@yahoo.com or sablao1@yahoo.com.

2010 or 2011 - Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) re-considered by Senate for ratification

MORE FUTURE ACTIONS

witness against torture

Witness Against Torture will mark the eighth year of the Guantanamo torture camp with a 12 day Fast for Justice in Washington, D.C. Beginning on January 11, the anniversary of the first prisoners’ arrival, through January 22, the day by which the President said Guantanamo would be closed, the fasters and supporters will lobby Congress and hold daily vigils and rallies at related venues around the Capitol city. Direct action against torture and indefinite detention is planned for January 21. For more information, visit witnessagainsttorture.org or contact Frida Berrigan (frida.berrigan@gmail.com) or Matt Daloisio (daloisio@riseup.net).

peace news gathering & action

The Peace News Winter Gathering will take place at the Sumac Centre, Nottingham, England, January 15 - 17. The gathering of people from across the spectrum of the British peace movement will be followed by mass nonviolent direct action against a local arms trade company, organized by the participants, on Monday, January 18 (arrestable and non-arrestable roles available). For more information and registration, visit peaceactiongathering.info.

peaceable assembly campaign

From January 19 through February 2, the Peaceable Assembly Campaign of Voices for Creative Nonviolence will maintain a two week vigil at the White House and engage in regular acts of nonviolent direct action. After February 2, the Peaceable Assembly Campaign will focus its work upon Congress. Groups are urged to lobby in the home offices of representatives and senators who do not commit themselves publicly to oppose additional funding for the wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the occupation of the Palestinian territories. Sign up to participate locally or in Washington and download campaign resources at vcnv.org/pac, or call 773-878-3815.

peace of the action

Calling for “new, creative strategies and bolder action” to stop U.S. wars in the Middle East, Cindy Sheehan and others will establish an encampment on the grounds of the Washington Monument beginning March 13, to prepare for and support repeated civil resistance actions in Washington, D.C. aimed at “clogging up government business.” For more information and to sign a pledge to take action, visit peaceoftheaction.org.

Update Files, cont.

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piloting base northwest of Las Vegas. Edwina Vogan and Sr. Megan Rice still face minor charges. No arrests were reported during several days of vigiling in November and early December at the isolated desert base...

LOCKHEED-MARTIN, SUNNYVALE: Fr. Louis Vitale and newlyweds Marcus Page and Chelsea Collogne still may hear from the federal government after state trespass charges were dismissed in November. They were arrested while leafletting workers driving into the California nuclear missile maker on October 5, the day after their wedding...

BROOKLYN CENTER, MINNESOTA: Four people who locked themselves together to close the military recruiting center during coordinated counter-recruiting protests around the Twin Cities last April pled guilty to misdemeanor trespass in an agreement that gave them a sentence of five days community service and one year probation...

ST. LOUIS PARK, MINNESOTA: Three members of the Grandmothers’ Peace Brigade, who were arrested during the same series of Minnesota counter-recruiting actions last April when they insisted on enlisting in lieu of young people, were convicted of trespass in September and sentenced to two days in jail and a \$400 fine. They have appealed...

PENTAGON: Liz McAlister’s charge for disobeying a lawful order to move away from blocking an entrance last August 6 was dismissed December 4 when the arresting officer failed to appear for trial. Co-defendant George Veasey also failed to appear...

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK: Russell DeYoung and Glenn Fiscella, held for two hours on suspicion of trespass following a week-long Walk for Disarmament in June that ended at the base gate, were both released without being charged...

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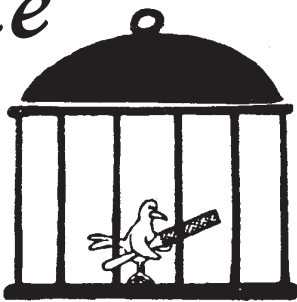
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Update Files



BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: After months of pre-trial hearings stemming from anti-military recruiting protests in 2008, a misdemeanor charge of obstructing police against World Can’t Wait organizer Stephanie Tang was reduced to a non-criminal infraction. Well-known to Berkeley police, Tang was treated for injuries at the hospital after being clubbed by an officer who charged a march to the recruiting station. But she was not charged until weeks later, when a summons arrived in the mail...

FT. McCoy, WISCONSIN: On November 5, the U.S. Attorney in Madison, Wisconsin filed a motion for resentencing of six peace activists who had not paid fines after being convicted for an alleged trespass in August of 2008 at the army training base from which soldiers are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. He asked the court to re-sentence Joshua Broliier, Renee Espeland, Eileen Hansen, Kathy Kelly, Jeff Leys and Brian Terrell to 30 days in jail. Leys and Terrell both filed opposition motions with the court that arrived before the filing deadline but were not picked up by the clerk until after the court had ruled in favor of the government motion and set a resentencing date of January 28. Terrell filed a motion for reconsideration, but the court has not responded. Meanwhile, nine people who returned to Ft. McCoy last August, and who were arrested for trespass, have not been charged to date. Terrell’s original motion in opposition argues, in part, that the penalty for nonpayment of a fine is different in federal law from that of the Monroe County ordinance under which they were convicted, pursuant to the Federal Assimilative Crimes Act, 8 U.S.C. § 13, which makes state law applicable to conduct occurring on lands reserved or acquired by the Federal government. The local law does not provide for a jail sentence for nonpayment...

ARMY EXPERIENCE CENTER: In court November 2 for the trial of seven people arrested outside the hi-tech recruiting arcade in a Philadelphia shopping mall last

May, prosecutors were unprepared. Their only witness was on vacation, so the judge dismissed the charges. Seven people arrested in September during regular protests at the mall are still in pre-trial proceedings...

WAIHOPAI PLOUGHSHARES: March 8, 2010 will be the opening day for the jury trial of Sam Land, Adrian Leason and Peter Murnane, the disarmament activists who deflated one of the domes at the Waihopai spybase on April 30, 2008. The domes protect the antennae for eavesdropping on international communications and are critical to U.S. global military dominance. The domes also obscure the orientation and possible target of the listening devices. Supporters are planning a range of activities and events in the run-up to, and during the trial of, the Waihopai Ploughshares in Wellington, which may last one week. A “Women Say No to Spy Bases” action early in the evening of March 8 will mark both the opening of the trial and International Women’s Day. Stations of the Cross around relevant Wellington institutions will take place early evening, March 9. In addition there will be vigils, including prayer vigils, at various times of the day during the trial. Send an email to <ploughshares08@gmail.com> to be added to the mailing list for occasional updates, or visit www.ploughshares.org.nz...

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON: Since the anti-war demonstrations at the city’s port in November 2007, a number of women have been defending themselves against misdemeanor charges in Thurston County District Court. The last eight defendants, known as the Patient Eight, celebrated victory on October 30 after the gross misdemeanor charge of obstructing an officer was dismissed, and the lesser charge of attempted disorderly conduct was scheduled for dismissal on March 1. Court fees of \$50 were also assessed. A full year after the port protests, 25 women and one man were singled out in late October, 2008 for prosecution by Thurston County prosecutors. Since then, defendants and their attorneys have appeared in court more than 13 times over eleven months. While scaling back prosecutions of misdemeanors across the board, the cash-strapped prosecutor’s office has doggedly continued to pursue these charges. Their pursuit faltered at a pre-trial hearing October 19. Although the presiding judge did not grant motions for dismissal based on recently-disclosed police spying on the protest organizers, Olympia Port Militarization Resistance, prosecutors offered a deal to dismiss criminal charges provided each defendant pays \$150 in fees and stays out of trouble for a specified time. Eighteen of the group took the deal that

day. At the hearing October 30 presiding judge Sam Myers commented, “Everyone’s anxious to get these matters over with.” The defendants, clad in black witches hats for the Halloween holiday, circled the prosecutor, Jim Powers, and successfully negotiated the court fees down to the unusually nominal amount of \$50, and reduced the deferment time on the lesser charge to four months. Leaving court, defendants Patti Imani and Kim Chaplin told the press, “We are proud that we stood for peace. We are proud that we said ‘No’ as the war machine cycled through our public ports. We are not criminals, but those who upheld the highest international laws and the highest laws of humanity. We stand for peace only.”...

ALDERMASTON, ENGLAND: Five people from England, Scotland and Switzerland were in Reading Magistrate’s Court October 21, facing charges of obstructing a highway during the October, 2008 “Big Blockade” of Britian’s nuclear weapons factory. One woman pled guilty and was given an 18-month conditional discharge

continued on page 6

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Confronting the Bomb by Lawrence Wittner,. (2009, Stanford University Press. \$21.95 paper, ISBN 978-0-8047-5631-0, 254 pages)

Just in time for schooling a new generation of nuclear abolitionists and for reminding veteran activists just how we got to where we are, historian Lawrence Wittner has distilled his 1,750 page trilogy, *The Struggle Against the Bomb** into a compact, 254–page primer. *Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement* is an fast-moving read and a hopeful review. He trumpets the traditional non-governmental and eclectic grassroots activism of millions of people “defying the national barriers and the murderous traditions of the past” to keep nuclear war at bay for almost 65 years. One of the main intentions for next summer’s Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future gathering (see page 7) is to better understand and consciously advance the role of nonviolent direct action in this historic struggle. *Confronting the Bomb* lays out the evolution of the social and political environment wherein nonviolent resistance must grow.

* *One World or None – Through 1953* (1993); *Resisting the Bomb - 1954 to 1970* (1997); and *Toward Nuclear Abolition – 1971 to the Present* (2003).

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