Unbowed, Vanunu Jailed Again

Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu again sits in an Israeli prison, this time for three months. He told Amnesty International after the sentence was imposed on May 11, “Whether I go to prison or not, it doesn’t matter to me. I feel like I’m in prison already, trapped like a beast.”

After serving an 18 year sentence for treason and espionage (12 in solitary confinement), Vanunu has in fact been trapped in Israel. Following his release from prison in April, 2004, Israel forbade him to emigrate and imposed a list of restrictions on Vanunu’s movement, speech, and association with foreigners and journalists. These restrictions have been revised several times. The Israeli government alleges Vanunu has more secrets to reveal once he is free. Due to threats on his life, Vanunu has chosen to live in Palestinian-dominated East Jerusalem.

He has been arrested several times since his release for violating one of the restrictions on his freedom or another, most recently in the company of a Norwegian woman last year. Vanunu was convicted in 2007 of violating the prohibition on speaking to foreign media. Following an appeal, he was given the option to perform community service in West Jerusalem in lieu of a jail sentence. Since the

Four In Prison for Fort Benning Protest

Three of the four people charged with trespass during the annual protest to close the School of the Americas/WINSEC at Fort Benning, Georgia last November were sentenced to the maximum six months in prison. Fr. Louis Vitale tried at the end of January. Fr. Louis Vitale was taken into custody and returned to Georgia. On May 5 he appeared in Superior Court to answer charges from a 2007 protest. Walli was ordered to appear before Judge Faircloth in March.

Meanwhile, on March 29 Walli appeared in D.C. Superior Court to answer charges from a 2007 protest. Walli kept the April 6 court date, when he was taken into federal custody and returned to Georgia. On May 5 he appeared in court in Georgia, where he remains in custody pending trial for trespass and now also for failure to appear. The activists returned the next day, surprising police. Two were able to enter the base, illustrating their demand that France be subject to the same nuclear transparency as demanded of Iran. For more information, visit soaw.org.

The fourth defendant, Michael Walli, was sentenced to six months in prison for the same charge Walli kept the pledge of no cooperation he made when the court released him on his own recognizance after arraignment in November. “I walk out and it’s goodbye,” he told U.S. Magistrate Tara MacFarland. Fr. Louis Vitale kept the gate closed and made no attempt to disrupt what young and old responded to the appeal Nu de Irán!, “A Chronicle of Hope” and their territory took action. In Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and Turkey, the United States has stockedpile nuclear weapons and enlisted these NATO partners to help deliver them on demand in the most unimaginable circumstances, the call was U.S. Nukes Out of NATO! Activists in Great Britain and France challenged their own atomic arsenals.

In Belgium, where NATO is headquartered, one thousand “bomspotters” marched on the Kleine Brogel Air Base Force on March 5, a damp and chilly spring day, dedicated to nonviolent war as a Spiritual, Socio-Political disobedience, Lowry calmly took a hammer to the wing-nuts of his personal identification papers. After trials at the end of January, Fr. Louis Vitale was sentenced to the maximum six months in prison, after trials at the end of January. Fr. Louis Vitale was taken into custody and returned to Georgia. On May 5 he appeared in Superior Court to answer charges from a 2007 protest. Walli was ordered to appear before Judge Faircloth in March.

Meanwhile, on March 29 Walli appeared in D.C. Superior Court to answer charges from a 2007 protest. Walli kept the April 6 court date, when he was taken into federal custody and returned to Georgia. On May 5 he appeared in court in Georgia, where he remains in custody pending trial for trespass and now also for failure to appear. He faces a possible one year sentence on that charge, in addition to the six month trespass sentence his codefendants are now serving. Trial is expected sometime in June.

For more information, visit soaw.org.

Letters of support should be sent to Michael Walli. F-5 #4444, Irwin County Detention Center, 132 Cotton Drive, Ocilla, GA 31775; Louis Vitale 25803-048, FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc, CA 93436; Nancy Gwin 94045-020, FCI Danbury, Rt. 37, Danbury, CT 06811; and Kenneth Hayes 94045-020, FCI Fort Worth, POB 15330, Ft. Worth, TX 76119.

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To understand the relationship with the Nuclear Resister archives, one must also understand I have never been arrested, I love stories and I am deeply saddened by the political correctness that has diluted our faith, morals, and intelligence is now demolishing the logic and creativity. It was amidst this heartbreak, armed with my enthusiasm for stories and lacking any experience in the realm of civil disobedience that I arrived in Tucson in January to fulfill the role as a Nuclear Resister archives intern. I knew it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience to help two deeply committed activists wade through their files of nostalgia and empowerment. A newbie to the peace movement and recent alumnus of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker, I was eager to get my grubby hands on Felice and Jack’s treasure trove of information and offer myself as an empty vessel to be filled with stories.

My first assignment was a bit of an escape from the pre-work routine. I was responsible for scanning through boxes of papers from the 1980s, which Felice and Jack had saved for potential articles about the activities of nuclear activists. The evidence of the work of the Nuclear Resister is done out of the Cohen-Joppa home, I sat at the dining room table (sometimes in my pajamas in the afternoon) and cut out the appropriate columns from the brittle newspaper. Along the way, I read about human blockades of trains carrying materials for nuclear weaponry, graffiti messages of peace on military billboards, massive demonstrations, and, of course, the action taken at the nuclear facilities. While I knew that political content is nothing new to this millennium, I was surprised to encounter stories from thedecades prior to my birth which resonated uniquely with my current frustrations. Upon seeing evidence of peace activists confronting the U.S. funding of foreign militias and the US-sponsored nuclear arms race, it was easy to forget I was reading about issues that had occurred at least 20 years ago. Slowly, I started to feel connected to something very human and a movement and tradition that existed before I was born, to ideas and tactics that existed before I was born, to ideas and tactics that existed before I was born, to ideas and tactics that existed before I was born, to ideas and tactics that existed before I was born, to ideas and tactics that existed before I was born.

When I met Felice and Jack a few years back, they had been at the newspaper every so often because they were afraid of the repercussions of the manmade machinery of war despite her efforts against it. As I entered the Nuclear Resister archives, I was overwhelmed by the sense of deja vu. I began with a single file in my lap. File by file, I opened the Nuclear Resister archives. I was supposed to do this as average people, not as heroes. The people I revere were able to communicate to me something larger than myself, to a movement and tradition that existed before I was born, to ideas and tactics that existed before I was born, to ideas and tactics that existed before I was born, to ideas and tactics that existed before I was born.

To prepare for cataloging, I would perfect my work environment with a cup of strong coffee at my side and some Democracy Now! or music in the background (a regular choice, Nestor, Young Young Young Da!). I began with a single file in my lap. File by file, I hunted for pertinent information, files, original photos, statements read in court and more, and carefully noted the dates next to each sentinel name. I was fascinated by the photos of banners and protest signs. In an effort to humanize those I had revered for weeks. I hoped they felt immense satisfaction of war despite her efforts against it recommitted herself when she left her sentence. For months, she sat in deep depression, wondering the worth of her action and the effectiveness of her convictions, as I look to them – in awe, with appreciation, acknowledging.

It was through this letter and through my contact with almost 1,000 files on direct action that I was able to realize civil disobedience does not require a hero or a sort of invincible character to be praised by mortals. Civil disobedience instead demands that we live out our values, and be willing to forego comfort so to light, and in an effort to humanize those I had revered for weeks. I hoped they felt immense satisfaction of war despite her efforts against it recommitted herself when she left her sentence. For months, she sat in deep depression, wondering the worth of her action and the effectiveness of her convictions, as I look to them – in awe, with appreciation, acknowledging.

It was through the gift of the Nuclear Resister archives that the people I revere were able to communicate to me that, yes, the war machine is inhumanly giant in comparison to our small bodies and the voices in support of it can seem so much louder than ours, and we are allowed to be afraid of the repercussions of the manmade machinery of death; but we are not allowed to sit idly by, either, waiting for a different world to be built for us by others. It is within each single action that we all take one step closer to the reality of peace. Most importantly, we are not alone; we are not alone; we are not alone; we are not alone; we are not alone; we are not alone.

In the afternoon, I had arrived at the Nuclear Resister archives, this is what I have learned we are called to do. We are beckoned not just as people of peace, but as members of the human race.
it left Vanunu with little choice: to work under threat of up to 200 nuclear weapons. Just before turning himself in to serve his latest sentence, Vanunu communicated his outrage to the press.

To the Israeli security agencies, Mossad and Shin Bet, Vanunu said, “What you didn’t receive in the 18 years that I sat in prison, you won’t get now in three months. You want to teach me a lesson? I cannot accept any violation of my freedom of expression…"

The stupid spies and Mossad spies are putting me back in prison after 24 years of speaking nothing but the truth. Shame on you democracy, the Knesset, synagogues and the world media. Shame on you all the Arabs that were allowing me to be put back in prison. Shame on you Senate, congress, and the chairman of the International Atomic Energy Agency for not protecting my freedom. Shame on you all the world’s religions, the stupid spies, the Jews, Christians and Muslims.

“Everyone knows that Israel has nuclear weapons, but no one is talking about it… The world doesn’t want nuclear weapons – not in Israel, not in the Middle East and not anywhere in the world,” he said.

Just as Vanunu returned to prison, newly released documents from South Africa revealed that in 1975, the Israeli military offered three nuclear-armed Jericho missiles to the apartheid regime.

Mordechai Vanunu wrote at his website, vanunu.com: “While I am in prison, I don’t want to get any letters or mail. I want to teach a lesson to the world.”

In contrast to Fr. Carl Kabat, who faced only state criminal charges for a similar missile silo action last summer in Colorado (see story, page 8), Sauder was soon in federal custody on a charge of criminal trespass, and held for trial in U.S. District Court in Minot. Trial is set to begin July 23.

In his Minot Manifesto, Sauder anticipates dramatic social and geologic change coming, and advocates “direct, creative nonviolence” in response.

...The silence over the horrors of nuclear weap- ons is a terrible tragedy. That is purchased with huge amounts of hush money by powerful military, industrial, and financial interests in the USA and elsewhere.

I cannot remain silent and passive in the face of such a profound threat to the human race. I am here today to openly defy those interests and I publicly invite millions of people to join me...

Donnelly has been an opponent of war since the Viet- nam War era, when, after joining the army as a youth, he stopped wearing his uniform in opposition to the war. He was jailed in a military stockade for four months in 1971 because of his opposition. He began to refuse his taxes at that point so that he would not pay for similar military tragedies. Donnelly has been active in Maine volunteer- ing for groups such as Habitat for Humanity, a local soup kitchen where he helped feed the homeless and peace organizations.

“I don’t see any difference between our children and the ones the U.S. goes around the world to kill,” sunded up Donnelly.

For more information, contact Larry Dansinger, 207-525-7776 or ros@pouth.net. News will also be posted at nwrre.org, the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee.

War Tax Resister To Be Sentenced

For 15 years, Igor V. Sutyagin (letters only, no parcel) has arrived and it is my strong recommendation blogging is drawing to a close. The time for action can do it for you. The time for editorializing and your freedom! No one will do it for you, no one else a voice, use it! Stand up on your feet and claim your support and cooperation from them. You have publicly invite millions of people to join me... here today to openly defy those interests and I of such a profound threat to the human race. I am

Donnelly, a War tax resister, is to be sentenced June 14 in federal court in Bangor, Maine. He pleaded guilty last fall to under reporting his income, and expects to be sentenced to a year in prison. He also faces a charge of perjury for a similar missile silo action last summer in Colorado (see story, page 8).

The diet here is deficient. Heavy on pasta, cake, cookies, white bread, hamburger rolls, corn bread, biscuits, potatoes, etc., and very short on veg- etables and fruit, which makes it a little hard on me as a vegetarian. And they pass out a lot of aspar- agus. Regrettably, you cannot send me avocados, mangos, and oranges. But people can write to the jail administrator and urge a better diet for me and the other men, with a lot less starch and a lot more fresh fruits and vegetables.

Write to: Elaine Little, Administrator, Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center, 110 Industrial Park Road, Rugby, North Dakota 58368.

Petition for Dr. Dhafir

The Dhafir Support Committee asks readers to please visit www.petitions.com/petition/freedhafir/ and sign the petition there asking that his sentence be commuted to time served. Paper copies are available from the Dr. Dhafir Support Committee, c/o MacGregor Eddy, Acting Chair, P.O. Box 5789, Salinas CA 93915.

Vanunu, a technician at Israel’s Dimona nuclear facil- ity, took photographs published by the London Sunday Times in 1986. They established as fact what was only

**War Protest at Missile Silo**

**Nuclear Resister Overseas**

Mordechai Vanunu (three months – in 3/5/10)

Vanunu has asked not to receive mail while serving this sentence.

(Violation of special post-release restriction on speaking with foreign media, imposed after completion of 18-year sentence for blowing the whistle on Israel’s nuclear arsenal)

Igor V. Sutyagin (15 years)

163050, Arkhangelsk; Ul. Pirovova, d. 27; FGK UK-1, 5 stryad, Russia. (letters only, no parcels)

(Imprisoned since 1999, now convicted of espionage for researching public nuclear weapons information - sentenced 4/7/04)

**School of the Americas**

Michael Walli F-5 #4444 (awaiting trial)

Irwin County Detention Center, 132 Cotton Dairy Road, Ocilla, GA 31774.

Louis Vitale 25-248 (six months – out 7/24/10)

FCCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc, CA 93439.

Nancy Gwin 94040-026 (six months – in 3/8/10)

FCCI Danbury, Rt. 37, Danbury, CT 06811.

Kenneth Hayes 94040-026 (six months – in 3/16/10)

FCCI Fort Worth, POB 15330, Ft. Worth, TX 76119.

(Trespass at the School of the Americas/ WHINSEC, Ft. Benning, Georgia, 11/22/09)

**Anti-War Related Actions**

Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 10-0237

c/o Lancaster County Prison 2-2 3086, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199.

(Trespass at military recruiting office 1/15/10; refused bail, awaiting trial)

Elijah James Smith A3168AM

HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd, Lewes, BN7 1EA, England.

(Jailed pending trial June 7, 2010, for de- commissioning of EOD/ITT arms factory in Brighton, England, 1/7/09)

Rafil Dhafi 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22)

FCCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.

(Convictions resulting from providing financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Martin Smedsbjæck (in 6/17/10 – 9/5/10)

Anstalten Skenäs, Fack 11, 610 31 Vikbolan-

(SOLO PROTEST AT MISSILE SILO)

July 23 for trespass)

Helen Woodson

(Parole violation with anti-war protest at the federal courthouse, Kansas City, Missouri, 3/11/04)

H-8, near Parshall, North Dakota. 4/15/10; (Disarmed fourteen bazookas made for export to Israel)

Leonard Petter 89637-132 (life)

USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

(Native American political prisoner framed for murder while defending traditional indigen- ous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands)

Page 3 THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

June 1, 2010

Letters of support should be sent to Richard Sauder, Inmate, Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center, 110 Industrial Park Road, Rugby, ND 58368.

In a letter to a supporter posted online, Sauder wrote regarding the prison diet:

The diet here is deficient. Heavy on pasta, cake, cookies, white bread, hamburger rolls, corn bread, biscuits, potatoes, etc., and very short on vegeta-

The diet here is deficient. Heavy on pasta, cake, cookies, white bread, hamburger rolls, corn bread, biscuits, potatoes, etc., and very short on vegetables and fruit, which makes it a little hard on me as a vegetarian. And they pass out a lot of asparagus. Regrettably, you cannot send me avocados, mangos, and oranges. But people can write to the jail administrator and urge a better diet for me and the other men, with a lot less starch and a lot more fresh fruits and vegetables.

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**Public Military Refusers**

Nicole Mitchell (30 days - in 5/20/10)


(AWOL conviction following classification as conscientious objector assigned to unarmed duty)

Leslie Corporate Joe Glenton (9 months - in 3/5/10)

Military Correctional Training Center, Bere- church Hall Camp, Colchester CO2 9NU, UK.

(Refused second deployment to Afghanistan, and pled guilty to going AWOL)

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Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837. The LP-DOC recently appealed for contributions to his prison account for stamps and stationery, art supplies, etc. As with all federal prisoners, such contributions can only be made via money order payable to Leonard Peltier. Mail the money order, and sent to Federal Bureau of Prisons, [name] [ID number], POB 474701, Des Moines, IA 50147. Include the sender’s name and address on the envelope to ensure that any funds can be returned to sender if they cannot be posted to the account.

Faith And Resistance Retreat – Let the Children Live!

Seventy people gathered December 27-30 in Washington, D.C. for the annual Holy Innocents Faith and Resistance Retreat sponsored by Jonah House and Dorothy Day Catholic Worker. The group carried out silent vigils, processions, and witnesses at the Pentagon on December 28, at the Air and Space Museum and Department of Energy on December 29, and at the White House on December 30.

At the Pentagon, twelve people who began leafleting and then knelt in prayer were arrested. Before their trial in Federal District Court on March 19, charges against three of the defendants were dismissed. Two people were granted a continuance, and another pled guilty. The judge dismissed the charge against one person who did not hear police warnings to stop leafletting. The others were convicted, and 30 were fined $105. Steve Baggary’s conviction violated probate from his arrest at a Virginia Beach air show in 2008, while holding an anti-Pentagon sign. The $105 fine was commuted by a Federal judge.

Peltier’s Parole Appeal Ignored, Then Denied

When Leonard Peltier’s attorney Eric Seitz hadn’t received a response from the Department of Justice of the U.S. House of Representatives, in late July, the United States Senate denied parole to Peltier last August. He called the Commission to check on its status. He was told it was never received. The time limit for filing had long since passed, so Seitz had to re-file the documents, along with proof that they had in fact been delivered on time to the Commission. The Commission confirmed receipt and admitted responsibility for losing the original filing.

Soon thereafter, in late February, the Commission de- nied the appeal while making only the single concession, to acknowledge Peltier’s “recent prison record of good conduct.”

A federal judge in Wisconsin has confirmed the denial of parole to Peltier.

The Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee (LP- DOC) also disagrees with the decision to deny parole. The four Riverside Plowshares activists who engaged in an action of civil disobedience against Trident submarines.

Under the current formula for parole, the inmate must have served at least 10 years of a sentence lasting from 25 to 40 years. Peltier, who was convicted in 1979, had served 29 years before his conviction was overturned. The new filing will be considered on August 31, 2010.

The United States Senate of Appeals have repeatedly acknowledged investigative and prosecutorial malfeasance in this case but, by their decisions, have refused to take correcive action. A model prisoner, Leonard Peltier also has been denied fair consideration for parole and Executive Clemency.

For more information and other actions to take in support of Peltier, contact the LP-DOC at POB 7448, Fargo, ND 58106, 701-235-2906, or visit their web site at www.whoisleonardpeltier.info.

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It is still not clear where the U.S. Constitution ends and the U.S. Air Force rules at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California begin. After a series of arrests in a disputed protest area by the main gate, the answer may come at the 15 trial of Dennis Apel and MacGregor Eddy in federal court in Santa Barbara, and the September 16 trial of Fr. Louis Vitale and Sr. Megan Rice.

At a May 20 hearing, the federal prosecutor dismissed all outstanding charges against Bud Boothe, Scott Finna, Tense Hernandez-Apel, Jorge Manly-Gil, Mary Becker and Fr. Steve Kelly. Apel and Eddy are charged with violation of national security laws by entering the main gate area where the base commander claims control over any demonstration.

That control was evident again January 31, when a demonstration was mounted at the main gate. The protesters were released with a match stick and a model interceptor missile test launch. The protest was dismantled before it could begin, as police first arrested Apel and Eddy for trespass in violation of their ban and bar. Six more were also arrested, including octogenarian Judy Eveder, who was pinned to the ground under one soldier’s knee. Her shoulder was injured, requiring a trip to the hospital in an ambulance. She was not charged, but the others were all cited. Jorge Manly-Gil refused to provide identification and was taken to jail, and later released.

A few days later during the monthly first Wednesday vigil, several people sat in at the main gate area, but Mitchell was. Her command rejected a request for a reduction in sentence and released from the brig at Fort Stewart in January. The judge was clear that the sentence was meant to “discourage” her from future protest. “How crazy,” Frankie Espeland told the judge.

Mitchell voluntarily returned to her unit, doing her best to be a good soldier. In many cases, combat veterans who go AWOL and return voluntarily are not prosecuted, but Mitchell was. Her command rejected a request for a Chapter 10 discharge in lieu of court-martial.

British soldier Joe Glenton, who refused to return to Afghanistan and went AWOL, was charged with desertion on a petition, and was found guilty in a federal court in an automatic weapon. He was sentenced March 5 to nine months in jail. Five counts of disobeying a lawful order were dropped and the original desertion charge was reduced to being AWOL.

The judge was clear that the sentence was meant to deter other members of the military from taking a stance of conscience. Mitchell’s sentence was not reduced to being AWOL.

The pair was taken to the Pima County Jail, where they were processed and released that evening. Both pled not guilty and await trial.

A war protestor with prior records did not have that option and pled not guilty and await trial.

For more information, visit vcnv.org/ncr. In addition to the Peaceable Assembly action at the White House, other anti-war direct actions in Washington, D.C. last fall and spring also resulted in arrests. See reports on page 7.

U.S. Army Specialist and conscientious objector Nicole Mitchell was sentenced May 20 to 30 days in jail for going AWOL, writes James Brannum, an Oklahoma attorney with G.LI rights practice. His pro-bono client Mitchell was a military police officer, or MP. She served well until her deployment to Iraq, where she began to have serious issues of conscience. After significant reflection and inner turmoil, she applied for CO (conscientious objector) status.

She faced significant harassment for her position. For an end to war without end. The shadow of death we raise our plea for peace. For skies free of weaponry. For an end to war without end.

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Mitchell voluntarily returned to her unit, doing her best to be a good soldier. In many cases, combat veterans who go AWOL and return voluntarily are not prosecuted, but Mitchell was. Her command rejected a request for a Chapter 10 discharge in lieu of court-martial.

British soldier Joe Glenton, who refused to return to Afghanistan and went AWOL, was charged with desertion on a petition, and was found guilty in a federal court in an automatic weapon. He was sentenced March 5 to nine months in jail. Five counts of disobeying a lawful order were dropped and the original desertion charge was reduced to being AWOL.

The judge was clear that the sentence was meant to deter other members of the military from taking a stance of conscience. Mitchell’s sentence was not reduced to being AWOL.
New Zealand Jury Agrees: Disarmament Not A Crime

A New Zealand jury in March acquitted three Christian peace activists on all charges related to their action on April 30, 2008, when they defaced a military spy base with common hand tools. The Waihopai Ploughshares had entered the base at Waihopai and used sickles to deface one of the tower antennas in domes covering satellite intercept dishes. Data gathered at the base is fed into the United States’ top-secret ECHELON system for intercepting electronic intelligence into war lighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The jury was ordered to be fully engaged in several days of compelling testimony from defendants Adrian Leat, Sanja Damjanovic and Samuel Dela. Each recounted their personal journey as men of Christian faith driven by conscience to take action in defense of the many innocent victims of the so-called “War on Terror.” They had read about the role of the U.S.-run spy base, and schooled themselves in the particulars of international law as applied to U.S. aggression. They recognized New Zealand’s complicity in American war crimes, and thus their own.

Each had learned about similar Plowshares disarmament actions around the world where defendants had laid claim to a right and responsibility under higher law for the destruction of military property. Some of these groups had even convinced skeptical judges and juries of the lawfulness of their actions.

Each man readily agreed to the facts of the case—that they had conspired together with full awareness of the risks involved and firm intention to cause just enough damage to knock the system off-line, stem flow of information, and thus help to save innocent lives.

Under New Zealand law, they claimed three defenses—necessity, self-defense, and claim of right. Judge Jarratt overturned the findings for all three, but permitted their claim of right to be considered by the jury. As defense against a criminal charge, the claim of right is that the accused acted on a genuine belief that their action was lawful, even if that belief was not correct.

In this case, the defendants, beginning with statements made to police upon their arrest through to their concluding depositions under oath, were fully convinced of the lawfulness of their carefully considered act of disarmament.

After two hours of deliberation, the jury accepted this genuine belief as the defendants’ claim of right and returned a guilty verdict on the charge of unlawful damage and entering property with the intent to commit a crime.

A chronicle of the trial and commentary by Australian activist Bryan Law can be found at www.scoop.co.nz

Europe Acts, cont.

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they called a “legal and peaceful protest.”

More than a dozen people revisited Faslane on April 6, election day in Britain. A spokesperson said, “We enjoyed taking part in Saturday’s symbolic blockade at the North Gate, but we recognize the need to send a more serious message, and have returned today to exert our civic responsibility under International Law, to do what we can to stop the work of preparing and maintaining these horrific weapons of mass destruction. At this time of year we reassert our message of Easter, that love is more powerful than hate, and life is more powerful than death.”

Janet Burton was arrested for cutting down the sign “Faslane Nuclear Depot” as a symbol of the day that the base will close. Morag Ballour was helping with that but was only arrested after spray-painting a message. Brian Larkin, Eirig Scardlett, Barbara Dowling and Jean Oliver were also arrested and led away. The four were later released pending trial.

In Turkey, where nuclear weapons have long been stashed at Incirlik Air Base, a small group of activists from Baris Hareketi tried to return symbolic (cardboard) cuts out of the heads of two of Turkey’s most powerful leaders in a protest outside the American base. The action came after a press conference April 8 outside the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, police prevented the group from going inside to drop off a petition.

The demonstration in Italy was the 14th annual pilgrimage to the “sacred of death,” and took place on March 21. Eight hundred people walked 16 km from Pordenone to the U.S. air base at Aviano, where it is estimated that 50 nuclear warheads are bunkered.

Disarming Swedes Off to Jail

Two members of Avrusta!, a Swedish disarmament action group, were sentenced May 17 to four months in prison. A second related conviction of Smedeback was also upheld, and he was ordered to pay damages for climbing the fence at another arms factory, Aimpoint. Swedish courts typically serve two-thirds of their sentence. Smedeback will serve his time from June 17 to September 5. Andersson expects to serve her sentence in the fall, the dates to be determined.

After June 17, letters of support should be sent to Martin Smedeback, Anstalten Skenäs, Fack 11, 610 31 Vikbolandet, Sweden.

EDO Smasheurs On Trial

The trial of the EDO Decommissioners is set to begin at Hove Crown Court in Brighton, England on June 7. The judge will permit a “prevention of crime” charge in response to charges of criminal damage and conspiracy to cause criminal damage resulting from events on January 17, 2009, during Israel’s assault on the trapped Palestinian population in Gaza. Since declaring this intention in videotaped statements, then barricaded themselves inside the EDOITT weapons factory and smashed computers and equipment, and shut down production around the clock. A three-judge, called to the scene by supporters to witness the arrest, were themselves arrested for conspiracy to commit offense.

Defendant Elijah Smith has been held on remand since the action. For trial news and more information, visit decommission.org.

Letters of support should be sent to Elijah James Smith A31868AM, HM Prison Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd., Lewes, BN7 1EA, England.

New Nuclear Buries Local Democracy

Opponents of what the British call the “nuclear new build” are creating a scene and getting arrested. During a Second Parliamentary debate on national nuclear policy January 27, two activists unfurled a banner that read “Local Democracy Dumped” (referring to a policy of “nuclear new build”) and “Don’t Nuke the Climate,” four campaigner had his arms locked inside concrete blocks, blocking the main gate for hours before they were arrested on charges of aggravated trespass.

On February 22, the “People Power not Nuclear Power” coalition put up a blockade at the Sizewell nuclear power station. In front of banners reading “Local Democracy Dumped” and “Don’t Nuke the Climate,” four campaigners had their arms locked together inside concrete blocks, blocking the main gate for hours before they were arrested on charges of aggravated trespass.

Stuart Holmes was arrested outside Parliament on April 20 where he stood with his “Nukiller Power NO” sign, apparently in view of BBC cameras. Police confronted the man, eventually arresting him for unauthorised protest in a designated zone. Holmes defended himself by citing the European Charter of Human Rights, Article 10: freedom of expression, and was held overnight when he refused to sign bail conditions prohibiting his return to the vicinity of Parliament. He was granted unconditional bail the next day. Two weeks later, Holmes interrupted then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown as he campaigned in a London church. Three days before the general election.

Aldermaston Big Blockade

Up to eight hundred anti-nuclear campaigners from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and a number of other countries joined the early morning Big Blockade of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWL) at Alder- maston on February 15. The demonstration aimed to stop construction of new, multi-billion-pound facilities to produce Britain’s next generation of nuclear warheads.

All seven gates were shut down in the course of the morning, with the demonstrations at each gate being the responsibility of a different group: women’s groups at one gate, anti-militarists and internationals at another, labor and religious organizations each at their own. Twenty-six people were arrested, five for gaining entry to a secure site (trespass) and the others for obstruction of the highway. The protesters blocking the removal of weapons without being arrested, even though many were in place for several hours.

The blockaders – including Nobel peace laureates Jody Williams and Mäiread Corrigan-Maguire, and three Anglican and a Roman Catholic Bishop – either sat or stood in front of the gates or lay down, linked together with arm tubes and locks, or with their hands superglued together. The police had to deploy specialist cutting teams to release many of the protesters.

Eleven people were released on bail to return to Newbury police station in May and the rest were given cautions.

On February 1, Dan Viesnik was sentenced to 14 days in jail because he refused to pay £50 in fines and £465 in court costs from a July, 2007 arrest at Aldermaston. With time off for good behavior, he served less than one week. For more information, visit blockawe.blogspot.com.

Australian Satellite Base Turned Off

Early in the morning of March 31, four Christian peace activists were swimming near the mouth of Port Phillip Bay in southern Victoria, making shore on Swan Island, a remote and secretive Australian military base. They spent several hours exploring the base, intending to disrupt Australia’s participation in the wars in Afghanis- tan and Iraq before being apprehended. They found and shut down a switchboard and elsewhere pressed a button marked “emergency,” and shut down one control panel near a large dish antenna. Rev. Simon Moyle, Jacob Bolton, Jessica Morrison, and Simon Reeves were arrested for trespass and later released pending court in early June.

Acting as the Bonhoeffer Peace Collective, they drew inspiration from German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, “They who are called to peace. And they must not only have peace but also make it. His disciples keep the peace by choosing to endure suf- fering themselves rather than inflict it on others. In so do- ing, they become peacemakers, and own the peace of God in the midst of a world of war and hate.”

“Both Swan Island and the war on Afghanistan are out of sight, out of mind,” the group said in a statement. “It’s time to end further suffering of the Afghan people and our soldiers by bringing our troops home. In the week before the first Easter, Jesus welded the template and turned the tables inside. Today we are imitating Jesus’ disruption. Sometimes you have to get in the way of injustice.”

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THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

June 1, 2010
President Obama’s nuclear weapons budget calls for the multi-billion dollar replacement of three factories, one for plutonium production at Los Alamos, New Mexico, the second for uranium components at Oak Ridge, Tennessee’s Y-12, and the third for non-nuclear components at the Kansas City Plant, Missouri.

Kansas City
A Juneteenth Celebration in Kansas City will commemorate the abolition of slavery and demand the abolition of nukes. Public events and speakers on June 16, 17 and 19 with a nonviolent direct action on June 18 at the proposed site for the new nuclear bomb component plant.

A “No Nukes, KC” conference being planned for August will also include nonviolence training and action opposing the Kansas City Plant. For more information about both events, visit kcnukeswatch.wordpress.com or call 913-271-7925 (Ann) or 913-206-4088 (June).

y-12
Nonviolent direct action at the Y-12 nuclear complex in Oak Ridge Tennessee on Monday, July 5 will declare independence from nuclear weapons and power. Part of the Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future national gathering. For more information, contact nukeresister@igc.org or nukewatch@lakeland.ws, or visit nukewatch.com.

Los Alamos
The youth disarmament group, Think Outside the Bomb, is hosting Downtown Summer, a series of actions and events across the country culminating with a permaculture encampment, July 30 – August 9 in Chicago, New Mexico, and nonviolent action focused on preventing the expansion of Los Alamos and the resumption of uranium mining. Registration and more information at thinkoutsidethebomb.org.

Arrests at:
US Intrepid
Pax Christi in New York City organized their 28th annual Good Friday Way of the Cross April 2, perambulating across Manhattan with invited religious communities offering a reflection at each ‘station of the cross’ – a particular business or organization’s home that provides a peace and justice perspective on the story of Jesus’ journey to Calvary. The walk concluded at the USS Intrepid, a retired aircraft carrier cum museum and recruiting tool docked on the Hudson River. Eleven people moved to the rooftop of the building, and six were arrested for disorderly conduct and released.

Lockheed Martin
Forty people joined the annual Good Friday Stations of Justice and Peace demonstration at Lockheed Martin war corporation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. At the conclusion of the litany, nine people carried a long banner into the driveway that read “Lockheed Martin – Weapons of War.” They were stopped from carrying the banner onto the site and arrested, cited for disorderly conduct and released.

Brandywine Peace Community has held the Good Friday demonstration at Lockheed Martin for at least 34 years, in addition to regular vigils and nonviolent resistance in August (Hiroshima/Nagasaki days) and in January, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. Last January’s demonstration featured excerpts of King’s sermons and speeches, and a period of silence for the victims of the Iraq war and of the war on terror. King stood across from the main entrance, wearing sandwich boards – on the front, a large picture of Dr. King with “Make War No More,” or “It’s About Justice,” or “It’s About Peace” printed underneath; on the back, what one F-35 fighter plane made by Lockheed Martin or one day of war in Afghanistan equals in unmet human needs. The seven were eventually arrested and taken to the Upper Merion police station, where they were cited for disorderly conduct and released.

Nebraska Test Site
The Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nebraska Test Site concluded on April 4 with a Western Shoshone sunrise ceremony, Easter Mass, and memorial for Dr. Martin Luther King (on the 42nd anniversary of his assassination). Thirteen women and nine men crossed the line, were cited and soon released.
WASHINGTON, D.C.: Retired teacher Eve Tetaz, 79, recently served a 25-day sentence in the D.C. Jail for disorderly conduct. It was the same sentence co-defendant Ellen Bartfield had earlier served for speaking out at a Senate hearing last fall, “No more blood money – Stop the war” as they tossed dollar bills stained with their own blood onto the floor...

FT. MCCOY, WISCONSIN: Joshua Brollier and Brian Terrell were sentenced January 28 to 14 days in jail for their refusal to pay a $75 fine imposed one year earlier for trespass. They were among a group arrested in August, 2008, trying to enter the base and speak with soldiers in training about their rights and obligations when called to serve a government engaged in wars of aggression. They served their sentence immediately, in the Dane County Jail in Madison...

PHILADELPHIA: On May 24, a city judge acquitted six people charged with conspiracy and failure to disperse during a September, 2009 protest outside the U.S. Army Experience Center, a recruiting center fronting as a high-tech reality arcade in the Franklin Mills Mall. Prosecutors served their sentence immediately, in the Dane County Jail in Madison...