

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 157

June 1, 2010

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 in Israel.”

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 forbid him to emigrate and imposed a list of restrictions on Vanunu’s movement, speech, and association with foreigners and journalists. These restrictions have been renewed annually because the government alleges Vanunu has more secrets to reveal once he is truly 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 late last December.

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 government recognizes no such service in East Jerusalem,

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Activist Behind Bars For Sit-In at Recruiters

Norman Lowry returned to the military recruiting station in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on January 15. On his last visit ten months earlier, in a conscious act of civil disobedience, Lowry calmly took a hammer to the windows of several vehicles used by the recruiters, “openly declaring nonviolent war ... 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.”

Now, less than three months out of jail for that action, Lowry simply implored the recruiters on duty and potential enlistees to leave behind any association with the military. He refused spoken and written orders to leave the premises and was arrested for trespass. As he did last year, Lowry refused bail and remains in prison, charged also with violating probation. Days earlier, in his last meeting with his probation officer, Lowry made clear his intent to disengage from the probation process, and in keeping with last year’s renunciation of his U.S. citizenship, had presented the officer and her supervisor with the shredded remains of his personal identification papers.

Lowry writes, “The court has given me the freedom to leave prison at any time that I will acquiesce to their mandate for compliance with the parole system (which includes making restitution for military property destroyed last year). Since this will not happen, I am choosing to max out my time (18 months, less 20 days), plus another 6-12 months for my most recent protest... The time seems little yet the tragedy of “lostness” among my fellow inmates seems monstrous!”

Lowry’s outgoing mail is limited because he boycotts the prison commissary. More of his writing can be found at normanlowry.blogspot.com.



Letters of support may be sent to Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 10-0237, Lancaster County Prison 2-2 3086, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199.

Europe Acts Against Nukes

A European Day of Action to ban nuclear weapons has become a spring tradition featuring nonviolent direct actions where the weapons are stored and at headquarters where the command to use them would be issued. This year, protest spread prior to the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, as peace movements in each of the European countries with nuclear weapons on their territory took action. In Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and Turkey, where the United States has stockpiled 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 Force Base on April 3, a damp and chilly spring day, to denounce the illegal nuclear-hosting policy of the Belgian government. Young and old responded to the appeal Nu of Nooit!, Now or Never!, and were not intimidated by the massive presence of police and military personnel, kilometers of barbed wire, several helicopters, police horses and guard dogs. Hundreds crossed over, under or through fences to enter the base. At the end of the day, 431 people were arrested, cited and released.

Two hundred people gathered the same day outside the military base in Volkel, the Netherlands. After a demonstration with several speakers and music, 35 people and six shopping carts went over, under and through the fence to get rid of the nuclear bombs. They were arrested before they could fill their carts, then released after a few hours.

On April 3 in France, sixty people initiated a weapons inspection at Air Force Base #118 in Mont de Marsan. Thirteen activists were able to enter the base. They were arrested and held for a couple of hours. Allied protests took place in Brest and Paris.

Later that month, the French network of nuclear abolitionists, Sortir du Nucleaire, sponsored a ten-day public fast for disarmament in Paris and series of actions coinciding with the NPT review conference in New York. Fifteen activists surprised security police at Élysée Palace, the President’s home, attempting to blockade the entrance



Photograph by Martin Leers

French police break up a nuclear disarmament demonstration and arrest blockaders at Élysée Palace, April 28.

on the morning of April 28. Police pulled and dragged the demonstrators from the scene, arresting ten.

Two days later, abolitionists locked down and sat-in at the headquarters of the state-owned nuclear company Areva, to protest the contribution of nuclear power to nuclear weapons proliferation. Outside the building, a long banner held in front of the entrance declared (in French) “A world free of nuclear weapons is possible.”

On May 5, a small group visited the military base at Taverny, command center for France’s nuclear air force, to condemn the new M51 nuclear missile and make a citizen’s inspection of the base. Police were expecting them, and only a symbolic blockade was possible. But 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 sortirdunucleaire.org.

In Scotland, about 100 people blockaded the north gate at Faslane, home port for Britain’s Trident nuclear submarine fleet, for about three hours on April 3. Police kept the gate closed and made no attempt to disrupt what

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FOUR IN PRISON FOR FORT BENNING PROTEST

Three of the four people charged with trespass during the annual protest and vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC at Fort Benning, Georgia last November were sentenced to the maximum six months in prison, after trials at the end of January. Fr. Louis Vitale was taken into custody immediately, spending time in a Georgia county jail and the U.S. penitentiary in Atlanta before being moved to the federal prison at Lompoc, California, nearer to his home. Nancy Gwin and Ken Hayes both opted to surrender at their designated prisons in March.

The fourth defendant, Michael Walli, kept the pledge of noncooperation 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 Mallon Faircloth. Faircloth signed a warrant for Walli’s arrest in January, and on March 2, federal marshals found Walli at Dorothy Day House, the Washington, D.C. Catholic Worker Community. He was jailed until a hearing in federal court three days later, when he was again released on his own recognizance until March 12. On that date, Walli was ordered to appear before Judge Faircloth in Georgia on April 2, and then to return April 6 to the federal court in D.C. to review his case.

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 94046-020, FCI Danbury, Rt. 37, Danbury, CT 06811; and Kenneth Hayes 94045-020, FCI Fort Worth, POB 15330, Ft. Worth, TX 76119.

Resistance Reflections

by Allison McGillivray

Thirty years. That's a good amount of time. Enough time to raise two children, to earn a permanent ban-and-bar letter from your local Air Force base, to survive consecutive disappointing presidencies, and to stockpile the necessary paperwork to keep an unknowing intern busy for two straight months with no end in sight.

I'm not complaining, being the unknowing intern. When I met Felice and Jack a few years back, they had mentioned their project of archiving the Nuclear Resister information and my ears perked...

To understand my 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 fervor of the conservative right which has diluted our faith, morals, and intelligence and is now demolishing 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 to 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 present world, which I readily welcomed. I was to scan through boxes of radical newspapers from the 1980s which Felice and Jack had saved for potential articles about nonviolent civil disobedience. As 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 newsprint. Along the way, I read about human blockades of trains carrying materials for nuclear weaponry, graffitied messages of peace on military billboards, mass actions at the Pentagon, and draft resistance. While I knew that political contention is nothing new to this millennium, I was surprised to encounter stories from the decade of my birth which resonated so deeply with my current frustrations. Upon seeing evidence of peace activists confronting the U.S. funding of foreign militias and the continued building of a nuclear arsenal, 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 larger than myself, to a movement and tradition that existed before I was born, to ideas and tactics which were crafted and discussed for hours. There I was, sitting in front of a wrinkled and acidic newspaper spread, wide-eyed and intoxicated by the typewriter text. And this was just the first week.

After four file boxes of newspapers and newsletters, I changed workspaces to Jack and Felice's living room couch. During this round, my days were spent cataloging the 19 boxes of "action folders," as the Cohen-Joppas and I call them when we're in archive-mode. Each cardboard box is filled with folders that hold information on every nonviolent direct action chronicled in the Nuclear Resister since its beginning in 1980. The files are labeled by names of military bases (e.g. Davis-Monthan, Vandenberg), nuclear facilities (e.g. Rocky Flats, Los Alamos), activists (e.g. Carl Kabat, Helen Woodson), politicians (e.g. Sen. Obama, Sen. McCain, Sen. Clinton), civil disobedience hotspots (e.g. Washington D.C., Greenham Common), movement (e.g. Nuclear Truck Watch, River City Campaign), and by the name of the action itself (e.g. AVCO Plowshares, Tubman-Connor Disarmament, Trident Plowshares 2000) – each folder containing the story of at least one arrest.

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 was Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young's Déjà Vu). I began with a single file in my lap. File by file, I hunted for prisoner correspondence, fliers, original photos, statements read in court and more, and carefully noted the contents of each manila sheath. I was always determined at the beginning of the day to go through the most material possible. That dream was smashed daily. I consistently found that every file I touched was fascinating. I could pick up a file with two papers in it, and would find something to hold lustfully and read in its entirety.

I stared at the pictures of limp-bodied non-cooperators being hauled away by pairs of police. My jaw dropped at the photos from Rocky Flats and White Train actions, showing rows of men and women sitting between the rails of the train tracks, refusing to give nuclear weaponry an inch. Tears welled up in my eyes when I read accounts of activists who decided that one life taken in war was too many, and brought their message of peace by risking harm to their own bodies through fasting, blockades, Plowshares actions and myriad other tactics. The activists'

passion flowed from the page and infiltrated my heart. Regular visits with the archives left me, consequently, in love with strangers.

These visits also made it difficult not to feel that my life was somehow mundane, especially after reading accounts of individuals taking jackhammers to missile silos, communities vying for the closure of a nuclear plant, and throngs trespassing en masse onto the Nevada Test Site. However, the thrill of these stories was not enough to shake my hesitancies of risking arrest. Yet still somehow, despite my lingering questions regarding my own role in the world of dissent, I felt at home amongst the letters from trespassers and hammer-wielding peacemakers, and the photos of banners and protest signs.

Meanwhile, the problem of conservative propaganda still permeated my life. I was in McCain country. Daily, I would read the letters to the editor and op-eds in the Tucson paper and would talk angrily back to the printed words. The newspaper became little more than snippets of proof of the demise of the ethic of equality, the rewriting of history by those who do not understand it, and the support of patriarchy as an acceptable order. I was dumbfounded by the overwhelming acceptance of lies and stupidity for a temporary ease of mind that "we" are right and "they" are wrong.

But I would return to the boxes of files about men and women putting their bodies on the line – repeatedly, even – for peace. The archives exposed the purpose of the peace movement to be more than fighting back and screaming a boisterous "NO!" Each file demonstrated the aim to bring justice to those made invisible by the acts of war and the profiteering from it. I was filled with hope to learn about men and women who felt no other choice than to say, "no more!" by asking questions, taking faith as a verb, love as a mandate, peace as a reality. As I imagined putting my own body in harm's way, being restrained in handcuffs, experiencing jail, I grew frightened again. When I'm brave enough to go into it all without fear, then I can get arrested, I thought.

One letter from a woman particularly moved me. She wrote upon her release from prison, having found the world to be in the same sad condition she left it when she began her sentence. For months, she sat in deep depression, wondering the worth of her action and the effectiveness of the peace movement. But steadily, she gathered her strength and recalled her desire for peace. The same woman who once felt defeated by the continued production of war despite her efforts against it recommitted herself to the peace movement.

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 some of our comforts so to illuminate and convert hearts to truth.

Since I had been reading these stories of men and women as fantastic tales of courage and faithfulness beyond my own capabilities, I reflected for some time in an effort to humanize those I had revered for weeks. I thought of the Plowshares 8, Katya Komisaruk, Susan Crane, Felton Davis, Susan B. Rodriguez, John LaForge, Bonnie Urfer, Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa, Helen Woodson, Louis Vitale, Jerry Zawada, Liz McAlister, the Gumps, the Holladay family. I hope they were all at some point in my place, feeling helpless and inadequate and lost for answers in a broken world. I hope they felt immense frustration with the world around them, and even yelled at the newspaper or television every so often because they didn't know what else they could do. I hope there were characters like Glenn Beck that haunted their quest for peace. I hope these men and women who have taken risks for peace and who are human like me looked to other activists as I look to them – in awe, with appreciation, admiration.

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 much louder than ours; and, yes, 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 someone to act for us or feeling sorry for ourselves. It is within each single action that we all take one step closer to the reality of peace. Most importantly, we are supposed to do this as average people, not as heroes. We are to raise the standards for our world and tap into the truth, love and justice whose presence we can just see far off on the horizon.

By the grace of 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.

Register NOW!

for the July 3-5
Resistance
for a Nuclear-Free Future
gathering in Tennessee!

Registration is needed by June 11 to ensure a dorm room and meals at Maryville College.

Registration info is at nukewatch.com/30th/registerpage.htm or contact us and we will send you a form in the mail. Call 520-323-8697 or email nukeresister@igc.org.

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A message from Helen Woodson about Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future -

30 years ago Jack and Felice began publishing the wonderful Nuclear Resister. 30 years ago, I met Jack and Felice, and I've been in prison almost all of the time ever since. This – or something even better – can be yours if you come out to support their fine work. Wish you were here, wish I was there. Please attend.

SIGN UP for monthly E-bulletins from the Nuclear Resister by going to the new Nuclear Resister blog at nukeresister.org, or by sending your name and email address to nukeresister@igc.org.

Thanks

Thanks to Cindy, Jerri, Lil, Kathleen and Paige for helping to mail the last issue, and also to David, Kathleen, Catherine, Jerri, John, Racheli and Allison for help with coloring the flyers for our local benefit. Thanks to Steve and Paige for plane tickets to Tennessee.

A special thank-you to Allison – she blended right into our family and work, and provided invaluable assistance with *the Nuclear Resister* archives and so much more.

the Nuclear Resister

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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!

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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

Vanunu, cont.

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it left Vanunu with little choice: to work under threat of personal violence, or return to prison.

Vanunu, a technician at Israel’s Dimona nuclear facility, took photographs published by the London Sunday Times in 1986. They established as fact what was only suspicion before: that Israel already possessed an arsenal 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 Shin Bet 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 are 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 any mail. From any one.”

Petition for Dr. Dhafir

The Dr. Dhafir Support Committee asks readers to please visit www.ipetitions.com/petition/freedrd-hafir/ 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.

SOLO PROTEST AT MISSILE SILO

James Richard Sauder, who served time in prison following a series of prayerful protests in the early 1980s at missile silos in Arkansas and Missouri and Navy bases in Virginia and Georgia, was arrested again April 15, inside the security fence at nuclear missile silo H-8 near Parshall, North Dakota.

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 weaponry is a terrible silence that is purchased with huge amounts of hush money by powerful military, industrial, political 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...

Don’t cooperate with corrupt leaders. Withdraw your support and cooperation from them. You have a voice, use it! Stand up on your feet and claim your freedom! No one will do it for you, no one else can do it for you. The time for editorializing and blogging is drawing to a close. The time for action has arrived and it is my strong recommendation that our actions be creatively nonviolent, in the

tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, so as not to further inflame an already very violent national and international arena...

Among other symbolic items, Sauder brought a bouquet of white roses into the silo compound, identifying his action as part of the White Rose Movement. Young Germans who first took action under that name were martyred for their nonviolent resistance to Nazi tyranny.



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 vegetables and fruit, which makes it a little hard on me as a vegetarian. And they pass out a lot of aspartame. Regrettably, you cannot send me avocados, mangoes, 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.

War Tax Resister To Be Sentenced

War tax resister Frank Donnelly is to be sentenced June 14 in federal court in Bangor, Maine. He pled guilty last fall to under reporting his income, and expects a prison sentence determined by the amount of unpaid taxes he is found liable for, and which he has now agreed to pay.

Donnelly has been an opponent of war since the Vietnam 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 volunteering for groups such as Habitat for Humanity, a local soup kitchen he helped found, and various peace organizations. “I don’t see any difference between our children and the ones the U.S. goes around the world to kill,” summed up Donnelly.

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

Inside & Out



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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Richard Sauder

Inmate, Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center, 110 Industrial Park Road, Rugby, ND 58368.
(Scaled fence to pray at nuclear missile silo H-8, near Parshall, North Dakota, 4/15/10; jailed pending federal trial 7/23 for trespass)

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 framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands)

Updates to this list are posted at nukeresister.org/inside-out

NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS

Mordechai Vanunu (three months - in 5/23/10)
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. Pirsovaya, d. 27; FGU IK-1, 5 otryad, Russia. (letters only, no parcels)
(Imprisoned since 1999, now convicted of espionage for researching public nuclear weapons information - sentenced 4/07/04)

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

Michael Walli F-5 #4444 (awaiting trial)
Irwin County Detention Center, 132 Cotton Drive, Ocilla, GA 31775.
Louis Vitale 25803-048 (six months - out 7/24/10)
FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc, CA 93436.
Nancy Gwin 94046-020 (six months - in 3/8/10)
FCI Danbury, Rt. 37, Danbury, CT 06811.
Kenneth Hayes 94045-020 (six months - in 3/16/10)
FCI 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 A3186AM
HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd, Lewes, BN7 1EA, England.
(Jailed pending trial June 7, 2010, 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)
Martin Smedjeback (in 6/17/10 - 9/5/10)
Anstalten Skenäs, Fack 11, 610 31 Vikbolandet, Sweden.
(Disarmed fourteen bazookas made for export at a conventional arms factory, 10/08)

PUBLIC MILITARY REFUSERS

Nicole Mitchell (30 days - in 5/20/10)
Naval Brig/CCU Puget Sound, 2020 Guardfish St., Silverdale, WA 98315-2020.
(AWOL conviction following classification as conscientious objector assigned to unarmed duty)
Lance Corporal Joe Glenton (9 months - in 3/5/10)
Military Corrective Training Centre, Berechurch Hall Camp, Colchester CO2 9NU, UK.
(Refused second deployment to Afghanistan, and pled guilty to going AWOL)

FEDS MULL FELONIES WHILE TRIDENT RESISTANCE CONTINUES

A few days before their scheduled January 6 arraignment, federal prosecutors informed the five Disarm Now! Plowshares activists that their initial misdemeanor charges had been dismissed, pending consideration of felony charges.

On November 2, Bill “Bix” Bichsel, SJ, Susan Crane, Lynne Greenwald, Steve Kelly, SJ, and Anne Montgomery RSCJ were arrested on Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, in Washington state. They had entered before dawn, walked across the base, and then cut their way through security fences into what is believed to be the largest nuclear weapon storage area in the U.S., serving the fleet of Trident ballistic missile submarines based at Bangor.

Now, five months after the misdemeanor charges were dismissed, no new charges have been filed, and “the five wonder if Navy authorities are so embarrassed at the unprecedented security breach that they want it to go away and be totally forgotten” writes Susan Crane. If so, it wouldn’t be the first time Plowshares prosecutors punted:

Peltier’s Parole Appeal Ignored, Then Denied

When Leonard Peltier’s attorney Eric Seitz hadn’t received a timely response to his appeal of the U.S. Parole Commission’s denial of 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 denied the appeal while making only the single concession, to acknowledge Peltier’s “recent prison record of good conduct.”

The Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee (LP-DOC) nevertheless asks supporters to keep calling the White House comment line at 202-456-1111 and demanding Leonard’s freedom.

On the very day in 1975 when two FBI agents died during a siege of the home of traditional tribal elders on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, the corrupt Pine Ridge tribal chairman was secretly signing away the tribe’s mineral rights, including those for uranium.

In 1977, Leonard Peltier was wrongfully convicted of killing the agents. On February 6, 2010, he had served 34 years in federal custody despite proof of his innocence, and also despite proof that he was convicted on the basis of fabricated and suppressed evidence, as well as coerced

Crane’s blog post at disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com recalls two other breaches of security and damage done to weapons that were never prosecuted: the 1991 Aegis Plowshares action at Bath Iron Works in Maine and the 2000 Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares in Colorado Springs. The four Riverside Plowshares activists who hammered on cruise missile launchers during a May 2003 public warship tour during Fleet Week in New York City were also never prosecuted.

King Day Action

About 65 members and supporters of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action participated in a vigil January 16 at the Bangor base’s main gate, honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. by opposing the nuclear weapons deployed there on Trident submarines.

Participants held signs and banners calling for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. A banner draped over a full-scale inflatable Trident missile read, “NUCLEAR DETERRENCE = TERRORISM”.

testimony. The United States Courts of Appeal have repeatedly acknowledged investigative and prosecutorial misconduct in this case but, by their decisions, have refused to take corrective 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 7488, Fargo, ND 58106, 701-235-2206, or visit their web site at www.whoisleonardpeltier.info



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 the prisoners name and ID number, and sent to Federal Bureau of Prisons, [name] [ID number], POB 474701, Des Moines, IA 50947. 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.

Ann Kittredge and Denny Moore attempted to enter the base using a folding ladder to climb over the perimeter fence near the base entrance. Taken by surprise, base security personnel raced to intercept the peaceful intruders. Moore made it over, while Kittredge was pulled off the ladder just before topping the fence. Security personnel followed Moore over the ladder and tackled him moments later. Both were questioned by base security, cited for trespass, and released.

They were arraigned April 7 in federal court in Tacoma, Washington, where they represented themselves and pleaded not guilty. Their request was granted for a combined trial, to begin on July 19 in Tacoma, before Judge Donahue.

Lynne Greenwald, a member of Ground Zero and one of the Disarm Now! Plowshares group, was on trial in the same courthouse on March 3 for crossing the line at Bangor last August 10.

Greenwald, who represented herself at the trial, attempted to provide personal testimony, giving the reasons for her actions. She began by stating that the Trident submarine is a first strike weapon, and that any use of such a weapon is a crime under international law. The judge interrupted Greenwald during her testimony, and instructed her that the “only question before the court is regarding trespass.” Greenwald reiterated her belief that she “crossed the blue line not to commit a crime, but to uphold international law. I believe that the authority of international humanitarian law requires me to take such action.”

Magistrate Karen Strombom rejected the authority of international law as a legal defense, and found Greenwald guilty of trespass.

At her sentencing hearing on May 5, Greenwald was placed on probation for two years, during which time she must pay a \$350 fine and serve 100 hours of community service, not to include service with any “peace protesting” organization.

Strombom lectured the “unrepentant” social worker and grandmother, ironically noting “a high likelihood” that she would “reoffend.”

NPT Action

Just two days before, on May 3, more than 25 people marched on the Bangor base for an early morning demonstration timed to coincide with the opening of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference at the United Nations. As workers streamed in, peacekeepers stopped traffic to make way for Anne Hall, Brenda McMillan and Jackie Hudson, who carried a large banner into the roadway. The women were soon arrested by state patrol officers, handcuffed and taken to the county jail to be cited for disorderly conduct. Meanwhile, Jessica Arteaga sat down straddling the blue line marking federal property, creating a bit of a dilemma for arresting officers. Eventually she was arrested by base security and cited for a federal charge of trespass. Arteaga was released at a different base gate nearby and awaits arraignment. The other women have no court date yet.

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action at info@gzcenter.org or by calling 360-286-9036.

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 community.

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 first-offenders 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 along with the one who pled guilty, fined \$105. Steve Baggarly’s conviction violated probation from his arrest at a Virginia Beach air show in 2008, while holding an anti-war banner atop a B-52. He was given a summons on April 7, and appeared in federal court April 20 for probation violation. He was sentenced to one day in jail and probation was terminated. Baggarly was released from custody three hours later.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from *Lompoc*

February 25, 2010

How Can I Cope?

Many people who write me – friends and supporters – ask about harsh treatment and brutality. I do not deny that in many prisons and jails these conditions do exist. One can even raise the charge of torture. In regards to myself I have not experienced such conditions. Hardships, yes, but not brutality or violence.

The hardships begin with the loss of freedom. I remember during my first incarceration, after having made pastoral visits in jail to prisoners, it was a shock as I realized the cell doors were closed and locked on me.

Jails are usually cold – or too hot – mats are hard, and not always present (as in the District of Columbia Central Cellblock), food is sometimes scarce and tasteless, clothes are inadequate (no coats or even underwear), they don’t fit, are not clean. Medical care may be hard to access, and not adequate, especially with serious needs. TVs are loud and almost always on. The noise can be horrific, even through the night. Then there is the isolation from family and friends. Phone calls are difficult and expensive. Visiting is restricted, mostly through glass, and more and more over in-house video systems.

People ask, “How do you cope?”

Most of my prison time in recent years has been for protesting torture, experienced by those subject to School of the Americas graduates, Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib, and Bagram, the U.S.-run prison in Afghanistan that is replacing Gitmo for its brutality. If this dulls the imagination there are the continuing renditions to countries that practice even more blatant torture. This goes on throughout the world.

If I start to feel sorry for myself I think of the suffering experienced in these and other horrific situations from slavery to executions. How can I really complain?

THE INSIDE LINE



Yes, it may well be called for to file complaints or act to have rules, regulations, and practices changed as has happened at Guantanamo Bay and by prison reform groups which expose such practices. Personally I question the whole prison system. As labor leader Eugene Debs said, “So long as there is a soul in prison, I am not free.” But when I think about these situations (often at night in bed), I am able to cope with my own deprivations.

Even more significant for me is to use these experiences and reflections to create empathy with all of those who suffer these horrific experiences. We are all part of this created world. Each person is sister and brother to me. Their suffering is my sorrow as well.

The gift of compassion emerges as I contemplate such misery of the human body. My situation is a gateway into the compassionate energy that fills all creation and opens me to transforming experiences that I hope to share with the world community.

For this I am grateful and value this precious time.

[Franciscan Friar Louis Vitale is serving a six month sentence for trespass at Fort Benning, Georgia, home of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security and Cooperation, formerly and notoriously known as the School of the Americas. The essay, reprinted from the website of Pace e Bene, was written from the U.S. Penitentiary in Atlanta, before Vitale was moved to the federal prison at Lompoc, California, where he will complete his sentence in late July.]



Photo by Ellen Davidson/War Resisters League

No NUKES BEGINS WITH U.S.

At the hour the United Nations opened its quinquennial review conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty May 3, nuclear abolitionists spelled out the goal for humanity in one of two sets of banners unfurled above the concourse at Grand Central Terminal in New York City: “Talk Less - Disarm More.” For an hour, about 80 people picketed with signs and banners, engaging throngs of commuters and tourists with a leaflet calling on the United States to set the example for the conference and unilaterally disarm its nuclear arsenal. Police tolerated the public speech until the two successive groups of banner hangers dropped their message from the mezzanine bar. The first set read “Nuclear Weapons = Terrorism” and as police moved to arrest the three activists holding them, the second set of banners was unrolled. Many of the leafletters then held a die-in on the concourse, resulting in more arrests. In all, 22 people were cited for disorderly conduct and released after an hour in custody at the Terminal’s police station. Their arraignment is set for July 1.

War is Not a Show

At the Aerospace and Arizona Days air show at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base on March 21, two Tucson residents were arrested for trespass. John Heid and Gretchen Nielsen unfurled a banner declaring “War is Not a Show” and stood peacefully near the Predator UAV (Unmanned aerial vehicle).

Heid wrote, “Today, just after the seventh anniversary of the war on Iraq, we vigil beside an MQ-1 Predator drone. Over 700 Pakistani civilians have been killed by this machine’s Hellfire missiles. Davis-Monthan is home base for the 214th Reconnaissance Group of the Arizona National Guard which flies around-the-clock combat missions over Iraq and Afghanistan with the Predator. In the shadow of death we raise our plea for peace. For skies free of weaponry. For an end to war without end. The show is over, let peace begin.”

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

U.S. & BRITISH WAR OBJECTORS JAILED

U.S. Army Specialist and conscientious objector Nicole Mitchell was sentenced May 20 to 30 days in jail for going AWOL, writes James Branum, an Oklahoma attorney with G.I. rights practice. His pro-bono client Mitchell was a military police officer, or M.P. 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 C.O. (conscientious objector) status. She faced significant harassment for applying, but Mitchell prevailed and was granted 1-A-0 conscientious objector status, which meant that she would continue to serve in the military but in a noncombat role.

Living as a conscientious objector in the U.S. Army proved to be nearly impossible. Mitchell was not reassigned, but instead had to serve as an unarmed M.P. When personal problems in her life added to the emotional strain, the stress became too much and she went AWOL.

Vandenberg Vigilers Undeterred by Arbitrary Arrests

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 July 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 Fina, Tensie Hernandez-Apel, Jorge Manly-Gil, Mary Becker and Fr. Steve Kelly. Apel and Eddy are charged with violating previous ban and bar letters by their presence in the main gate area where the base commander claims control over any demonstration.

That control was evident again January 31, when a demonstration was planned to coincide with a major 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 Evered, who was pinned to the ground under one soldier’s knee. Her shoulder was injured, requiring a trip to the

Peaceable Assembly Campaign Takes Root In Iowa & Minnesota

Voices for Creative Nonviolence’s Peaceable Assembly Campaign to pressure Congress to cut funding for war has led to a series of arrests at congressional offices in Iowa and Minnesota, and a die-in at the White House.

Each week since late October, Iowans participating in the campaign have hand delivered petitions to the Des Moines offices of Senators Grassley and Harkin encouraging them to sponsor and vote for legislation consistent with the campaign’s goals. As neither senator had responded to these repeated appeals, more than a dozen Iowans visited their offices on February 22 to wait for the senators’ agreements to join them in ending the illegal and wasteful wars of aggression in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. When the federal building closed for the day, police arrested those who refused to leave: Kirk Brown and Chris Gaunt in Grassley’s office, and Renee Espeland, Ed Bloomer and Elton Davis in Harkin’s. All were released with federal citations that evening.

Gaunt returned to Harkin’s office on March 11, first just sitting in, then lying down. When police asked her to leave after the 5 p.m. closing time, she replied that she was dead, and couldn’t leave. She was again arrested and taken to jail.

On her April 7 visit to Harkin’s office, Gaunt was joined by Brian Terrell, Renee Espeland and Espeland’s 12-year-old daughter Frankie. At closing time, Terrell and Renee Espeland were willing to leave, but Gaunt and Frankie Espeland stayed to make the point on the sign Gaunt held: “NO MORE \$\$\$ for WAR.” Police told Renee Espeland to order her daughter to leave, but she declined, stating it was her daughter’s decision to join Gaunt. The two were arrested, with Gaunt receiving both a federal and a state misdemeanor citation before they were released. Frankie Espeland was referred to juvenile court.

The next morning, Renee Espeland was called into the police department and issued a citation for “contributing to the delinquency of a minor.”

“How crazy,” Frankie Espeland told the *Des Moines Register*, after learning that her mother had been charged. “She didn’t contribute to anything. I did what was in my heart. No one suggested I do what I did.” She told the reporter, “The police officer who arrested me told me that my brain is not developed enough to know what I

am doing but my brain is developed enough to know that killing innocent people for no reason is wrong!” Renee Espeland’s charge was reviewed and dismissed a few days later.

On April 14, six people went down the hall to Sen. Grassley’s office, where they delivered another letter and had conversations with staff about Tax Day and war funding. Christ Gaunt, Brian Terrell and Mona Shaw were issued federal citations when they refused to leave at closing time. A frustrated security officer told the group, “This has got to stop!” and threatened to seek a court injunction against the protests. Gaunt continues to be cited at weekly die-ins at either office.

On June 8, Gaunt, Shaw, Renee Espeland, Brown, Davis and Terrell will be in U.S. District Court to face their accumulated charges. Gaunt faces several state charges as well.

For more information, visit vandenbergwitness.org.

Farther north in Minnesota, six people were arrested and ticketed April 8 after refusing to leave Sen. Al Franken’s office when he refused to commit to defunding the wars. On April 13, a hundred people rallied outside while nine people sat in at Sen. Amy Klobuchar’s office. She spoke with those peaceably assembled by phone but would not commit to voting against funding war in Afghanistan. The nine would not commit to leaving the office and were arrested.

Twenty-seven Minnesotans who have been lobbying to stop funding war in multiple Congressional districts had brought their message to Washington, D.C. in January. Their Peaceable Assembly Campaign joined with local activists, demonstrating in front of the White House on January 26. Police arrested 13 who held a die-in on the sidewalk. They were moved through four lockups over the next 28 hours, charged with unlawful assembly, failure to obey, and disorderly conduct. In court, some accepted a plea agreement to pay a \$150 forfeiture bond. Others with prior records did not have that option and pled not guilty.

For more information, visit vcnv.org/pac.

In addition to the Peaceable Assembly action at the White House, other anti-war direct actions in Washington, D.C. last winter and spring also resulted in arrests. See reports on page 7.

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 spoke out against the war at a London demonstration last fall, has pled guilty to a single charge of being AWOL. 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 stand of conscience.

Two U.S. army refusers had their prison sentences reduced last winter. Three months of Travis Bishop’s

12-month sentence was suspended on appeal, and he was released from military prison at Fort Lewis, Washington at the end of March. Cliff Cornell was granted a 30-day reduction in sentence and released from the brig at Fort Stewart in January.

About 200 U.S. war resisters are now seeking sanctuary in Canada. The case of Jeremy Hinzman, the first U.S. military refuser to seek asylum there, was argued in Canada’s Federal Court of Appeals on May 25. The court’s decision, which is expected to take several months, may decide not only the fate of Hinzman, his wife, and their two young children, but determine the fate of other young men and women who are facing deportation to the U.S., followed by court martial and imprisonment.

Also on May 25, the Canadian Parliament held a debate on a bill that would allow Iraq War resisters to

continued on page 7

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

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 of April 30, 2008, when they disabled a military spy base with common hand tools. The Waihopai Ploughshares had entered the base at Waihopai and used sickles to deflate one of the two 30-meter domes covering satellite interception dishes. Data gathered at the base is fed into the United States' top-secret ECHELON system for integrating electronic intelligence into war fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The jury was observed to be fully engaged in several days of compelling testimony from defendants Adrian Leason, Fr. Peter Murnane and Sam Land. 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 unconventional 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 spy equipment off-line, stop the 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 Harrup eventually disallowed necessity and self-defense, 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 testimonies under oath, were fully convinced of the lawfulness of their carefully executed act of disarmament.

After two hours of deliberation, the jury accepted this genuine belief as the defendants' claim of right and returned verdicts of not guilty to the charges of intentional 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.

continued from page 1

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 exercise 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 Balfour was helping with that but was only arrested after spray-painting a message. Brian Larkin, Eurig Scandrett, Barbara Dowling and Jean Oliver were arrested for blocking the gateway, locked together.

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 cut-out) American nuclear weapons to their owner. After a press conference April 8 outside the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, police prevented the group from going inside to drop off the faux bombs.

The demonstration in Italy was the 14th annual pilgrimage to the "sanctuary 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 5 to four months in prison. A court of appeal imposed the sentence, upholding the conviction of Anna Andersson and Martin Smedjeback for disarming fourteen bazookas at an arms factory. A second related conviction of Smedjeback was also upheld, and he was ordered to pay damages for climbing the fence at another arms factory, Aimpoint. Swedish convicts typically serve two-thirds of their sentence. Smedjeback 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 Smedjeback, Anstalten Skenäs, Fack 11, 610 31 Vikbolandet, Sweden.

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 (AWE) at Aldermaston 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. Most of those blockading were removed without being arrested, even though many were in place for several hours.

The blockaders - including Nobel peace laureates Jody Williams and Máiread 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 went swimming near the mouth of Port Philip 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 Afghanistan and Iraq before being apprehended. They found and shut down a switchboard and elsewhere pressed a button marked "emergency satellite shutdown" on 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

EDO Smashers 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 war crimes" defense 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. Six decommissioners declared this intention in videotaped statements, then barricaded themselves inside the EDO/ITT weapons factory and smashed computers and equipment on the production line, stopping production for a week. Three bystanders, called to the scene by supporters to witness the arrests, were themselves also arrested and face trial with the decommissioners. Defendant Elijah Smith has been held on remand since the action. For trial news and more information, visit decommissioners.co.uk.



Letters of support should be sent to Elijah James Smith A3186AM, HMP 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 special Parliamentary hearing on national energy policy January 27, two activists unfurled a banner that read "Local Democracy Dumped" (referring to a policy of "nationally significant infrastructure" planning that limits local input about new reactors). They were taken away by police, along with another activist who began distributing detailed briefings to committee members, and a fourth who was taking photos. All were held for a few hours before being released without charge.

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, closing 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 unauthorized 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. Holmes leapt to the stage with the same "NuKiller Power NO" placard midway through Brown's speech, before being wrestled away by security. He was interviewed by police for half an hour before being released without charge.

For more information, visit stopnuclearpower.blogspot.com.

inspiration from German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, "The followers of Christ have been called to peace. And they must not only have peace but also make it. His disciples keep the peace by choosing to endure suffering themselves rather than inflict it on others. In so doing they overcome evil with good, and establish 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 blockaded the temple and turned the tables inside. Today we are imitating Jesus' disruption. Sometimes you have to get in the way of injustice."

Arrests in Washington, D.C.

Leading up to the illicit Guantanamo Prison’s 8th anniversary in January, Witness Against Torture reprised their dramatic mass presence in orange jumpsuits. Most participants fasted for 12 days, joined by others in 40-plus person hooded processions through the Capitol city. On January 21, the procession ended at the Capitol Building, where 42 people were arrested.

Twenty-eight were arrested on the steps with large banners reading “Broken Promises, Broken Laws, Broken Lives.” In the Capitol Rotunda, 14 of the activists held a memorial for the three men whose deaths at Guantanamo in 2006 were initially reported as suicides and “acts of asymmetrical warfare” by military officials. New reports provide strong evidence that the men may have been tortured to death at a CIA secret prison in Guantanamo.



Photo by Mike Benedetti/Creative Commons
In the Capitol Rotunda, flower petals are sprinkled on a poster with their names to create a memorial to three victims of torture at Guantanamo Prison.

Most of those arrested carried no ID and initially gave the name of a Guantanamo prisoner as their own. All were held overnight before arraignment late the following day on charges of disorderly conduct and released.

For more information, visit witnessstorture.org

PEACE OF THE ACTION

The aspirations of Peace of the Action organizers for large numbers of people to join Camp OUT NOW! last March and be willing to “clog Washington, D.C. every week day through diffuse Civil Resistance (CR) actions to have the affect of tampering with ‘business as usual’ in the Capitol of the United States of America” went largely unmet, but the call is out to regroup again this summer.

Those assembled in March took part in trainings for nonviolent direct action and joined the March 20 anti-war march and rally in Peace (Lafayette) Park, opposite the White House. Mock coffins were laid outside the White House, and four people laid down beside them. Four others joined them across the police line, including Peace of the Action organizer Cindy Sheehan. They were quickly arrested. Two people were released that day, while the other six were jailed over the weekend, and released early Monday evening after their arraignment. Trial for the six is set for June 10. For more information, visit peaceofthe-action.org

Earlier on the march, another woman was arrested after a verbal confrontation with police over a closed side-walk and charged with crossing a police line. Kathleen Kirwin was released after eight hours, pending trial.

OBJECTORS JAILED, cont.

continued from page 5
remain in Canada. The House of Commons is expected to vote on this bill in September.



Letters of support should be sent soon (she will be released about June 19) to Nicole Mitchell, Naval Brig/CCU Puget Sound, 2020 Guardfish St., Silverdale, WA 98315-2020; and to Lance Corporal Joe Glenton, Military Corrective Training Centre, Berechurch Hall Camp, Colchester CO2 9NU, United Kingdom.

FUTURE ACTIONS

More future actions and event details can be found at nukeresister.org/future-actions

President Obama’s nuclear weapons budget calls for the multi-billion dollar replacement of three factories, one for plutonium components in 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 kcnukewatch.wordpress.com or call 913-271-7925 (Ann) or 913-206-4088 (Jane).

γ-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 nukewatch1@lakeland.ws, or visit nukewatch.com.

los alamos

The youth disarmament group, Think Outside the Bomb, is hosting Disarmament Summer, a series of actions and events across the country culminating with a permaculture encampment, July 30 – August 9 in Chimayo, 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: USS 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 front of the line and began reading the names of 250 Iraqi, American and Afghan war dead, placing the name of each, written on a coffin-shaped paper, neatly on the ground as it was read. They were arrested for disorderly conduct and released to appear in court on June 1.

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 + War – The Crucifixion Today.” 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 Haiti earthquake. Seven people 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.

Nevada Test Site

The Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Nuclear Test Site concluded 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.

bangor

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is holding a series of Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial events from August 4 to 9. The events will culminate with a nonviolent direct action on Monday, August 9 at the gates of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor Trident submarine base, Washington state. For more information visit www.gzcenter.org, email info@gzcenter.org, or call 360-930-8697.

lockheed-martin

Brandywine Peace Community will hold a Hiroshima Day commemoration and vigil, concluding with nonviolent civil disobedience on Friday, August 6 at Lockheed Martin on Goddard Boulevard, behind the King of Prussia Mall, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Call the Brandywine Peace Community, 610-544-1818, by July 30 if you plan to participate in the civil disobedience.

livermore

The annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemoration and civil disobedience will be held at Livermore Lab (San Francisco Bay Area) beginning at 8 a.m. on August 6. At this site where new and modified nuclear bombs are being developed, take a stand with the Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) against nuclear weapons anywhere. Gather at the northwest corner of the Lab at the intersection of Vasco and Patterson Pass Roads, Livermore, California. For more info, contact Tri-Valley CAREs at 925-443-7148.

faith & resistance/d.c.

Jonah House and the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Community will host a Faith and Resistance Retreat August 6-9 in Washington, D.C., with nonviolent direct actions at the White House and Pentagon. For more information, visit jonahhouse.org or call 410-233-6238.

Works of Mercy, Works of War

The Midwest Catholic Workers met in Chicago for their annual resistance gathering. Fifty of them held a demonstration to contrast the Works of Mercy with the Works of War at the federal building on April 26. To illustrate the works of mercy, some handed out food and coffee to passers-by, and engaged in discussions about war and peace, poverty and plenty. To illustrate the cost of war, some held a die-in outside while others wearing “Stop U.S. Wars” t-shirts entered the building and refused to leave. Seventeen people were arrested for failure to comply with signs and directions, and released pending court on July 12.

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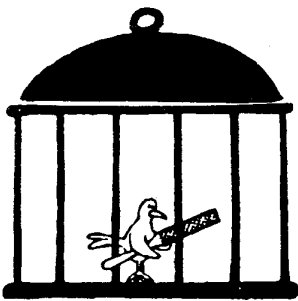
Update Files

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 Barfield 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 showed the police video of the protest, with police clearly escorting about 200 anti-war demonstrators into the shopping mall, and arresting people only as the protest was wrapping up and the crowd began to disperse. A seventh defendant, a photographer collared as she was documenting the scene, had her charges dismissed earlier...

CALGARY, ALBERTA: Indigenous activist and Attica prison uprising veteran John Boncore (also known as Splitting the Sky) awaits a June 7 verdict from the bench on the charge of obstructing police. Calgary police arrested him on March 17, 2009, preventing him from making a citizen’s arrest of accused war criminal George W. Bush on the former U. S. President’s first foreign visit since leaving office. The trial, scheduled for five days, began March 8, 2010, but on the second day Judge Manfred Delong shut the door on Boncore’s defense when he refused to hear testimony from two witnesses – former U.S. Representative Cynthia McKinney and Anthony Hall, a Canadian professor of globalization studies – about the credible evidence for Bush’s war crimes...



inside the building with the intent to shut down the main frame computer system and impede Raytheon’s contribution to Israel’s assault on Gaza, then in progress. “We knew that when the Derry mainframe went down, all of Raytheon’s UK plants were knocked out. In other words, it was a really effective way of stopping the war machine,” said defendant Goretti Horgan. The women are charged with burglary, criminal damage and assault, while one man is charged with impersonating an officer (he tried to talk his way past police to join the women inside) and the others face assorted charges related to graffiti and a scuffle with police. The women were unable to reach the computer, and ended their occupation when police agreed to investigate Raytheon’s complicity Israel’s war crimes – an agreement police did not keep. The trial continues, but a decade of campaigning to drive Raytheon out of Derry can already claim victory: the company left Northern Ireland for good in February...

ALLIANT TECH: A thoughtful Hennepin County judge heard the case of four people who tried last October to deliver a Nuremberg warning to the management of Minnesota’s premier death merchant, but were instead charged with trespass. The defendants requested a jury trial, explaining that they wanted the opportunity to educate the public about the illegal weapons made by Alliant Tech. Judge Peter Cahill offered to handle the case without trial and dismiss the charges in six months if the defendants stay off Alliant Tech’s property during that time. In return, he would hold a less formal hearing, where they could present their testimony, even bring in witnesses and photographs. Steve Clemens, Roger Cuthbertson, Geri Elkaas and Sr. Katie McDonald agreed, and a week later, presented their own testimony for the judge. Cahill listened intently, commended the defendants in a lengthy statement, and fined them a symbolic \$1.00 in court costs,

RAYTHEON / NORTHERN IRELAND: Trial began May 18 for nine women who occupied the international arms maker’s Derry offices in January, 2009, and five men arrested during the demonstration outside the office in support of the women. The women admit to barricading themselves

or one hour community service. Four activist stockholders charged with disorderly conduct and trespassing when they tried to attend Alliant Tech’s annual meeting in August had their charges dismissed after four court dates...
FT. HUACHUCA, ARIZONA: In federal court in Tucson on April 23, Joshua Harris entered a guilty plea to charges of trespass and refusing to provide a truthful name. He was sentenced to three months probation for each charge (to run concurrently), plus \$25 fee per charge and 100 hours of community service. Due to his initial refusal to identify himself, Harris was the only one to be prosecuted among five people arrested at Fort Huachuca on November 15, 2009, during a protest of both the interrogation and drone warfare training at the base...

TIME SERVED FOR MISSILE SILO PROTEST

Fr. Carl Kabat was on trial December 21 for cutting the fence and entering a nuclear missile silo launch site in northeastern Colorado. Kabat had refused bail and remained in jail since his August 6 arrest, charged under state law with trespass and criminal mischief. After the first day in court, Kabat permitted friends to post bail, and he joined supporters for dinner before his trial concluded the following day.

After his public defender helped select the jury and introduced his case, Kabat released her so he could better represent himself. When it was time to take the stand and tell the jury why he took action against these “simply insane” weapons, the prosecutor repeatedly objected to Kabat’s narrative. Exasperated, Kabat finally declared, “I wish you objected more to nuclear weapons than to me.”

The jury returned a guilty verdict after less than an hour of deliberation. Kabat was sentenced to time served, 137 days, plus court costs of about \$250. He told the court he would make no such payments for his prosecution, as that would be supporting nuclear weapons.

The 76-year-old priest, who has spent more than half of the last three decades in prison for opposing nuclear weapons, caught a ride with supporters back home to Illinois and Christmas with his family.

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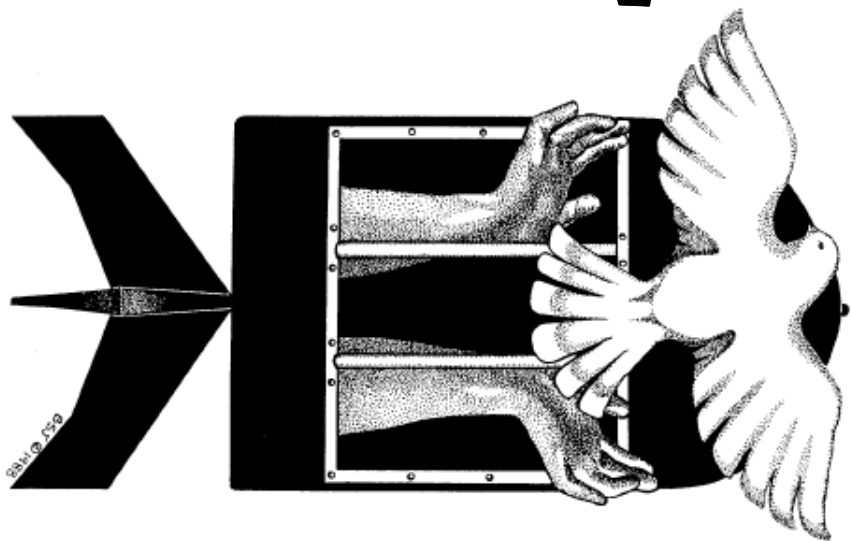
Vanunu Jailed Again

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INFORMATION ABOUT AND SUPPORT FOR IMPRISONED ANTI-NUCLEAR & ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS

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