

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 158 & 159

30th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

September 20, 2010

Resisting Obama's New Bomb Plants

President Obama has imagined a day, “perhaps not in my lifetime,” when the world will be without nuclear weapons. But Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spelled out the real intent of U.S. policy in July when she spoke to nuclear negotiators at a State Department ceremony. She praised their work towards the “goal of a world **some-day, in some century**, free of nuclear weapons...” Clinton knows that the administration has promised to replace and rebuild the nation's entire 60-plus-year-old industrial capacity for nuclear weapons production in its bid for Senate ratification of the New START treaty.

The administration proposes funding this criminal enterprise at an annual level exceeding the highest nuclear weapons budget of the Cold War era. The public relations spin is that the original Atomic Age labs and factories are worn out and leaky (true enough!), and the new ones will speed the dismantling of warheads already withdrawn from global arsenals while advancing the science behind nonproliferation efforts.

But not everyone is fooled.

Independent review of plans for three new factories that will be funded – a new plutonium “pit” factory in Los Alamos, a new facility for manufacturing highly enriched uranium “secondaries” at Oak Ridge, and a rebuilt Kansas City plant for the remaining 85 percent of unique and critical components of nuclear warheads such as casings, fuses and arming devices – reveals that the designed capacity of the trio is to produce up to 80 new warheads per year for another 50-100 years.

Acting on this knowledge, protest at each site this summer led to acts of civil resistance, challenging the pretense that building more nuclear weapons will achieve nuclear abolition.

Kansas City Plant

The first arrests took place in June in Kansas City, Missouri, the first time that civil disobedience occurred at the original plant, where activists have protested for decades. Known generically as the Kansas City Plant, the rebuilt factory will truly be Kansas City's plant.

Local organizers Jane Stoeber and Ann Suellentrop explain:

On June 14, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Kansas City signed a \$1.2 billion dollar lease agreement for a new south Kansas City “campus” for the complex's nuclear weapons plant. Local financial agent Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. received the go-ahead to offer bonds worth up to \$815 million for building the new plant. This bond authorization is the outgrowth of a convoluted privatization scheme whereby the city will own title to a federal nuclear weapons facility. The plan includes a decision by the city's Planned Industrial Expansion Authority (PIEA) to declare a soybean field “blighted” in order to use “urban blight funds” (desperately needed in midtown Kansas City) to build a nuclear weapons plant. The upshot: The PIEA recommended and the City Council approved a \$45 million tax cut for the new plant in the same year as the city is closing almost half its schools in a reorganization move.

“The new bomb plant will make millions of dollars for a few, get the workers sick, pollute the land and build weapons of mass destruction; meanwhile, our school are crumbling and being closed,” Suellentrop said.

The original plant site is heavily contaminated, and has a legacy of workers ill and dead from exposure to toxic and radioactive materials.

The week the lease agreement was signed, Peace-Works-KC, Physicians for Social Responsibility-KC, and East Meets West of Troost, a culture-based downtown economic development project, teamed up to celebrate



photo by Allison McGillivray

In the second of three civil resistance actions this summer in Kansas City, nuclear abolitionists stepped forward August 16 to stop heavy equipment from clearing a soybean field. The site is being prepared for a new factory that would make the non-nuclear components of the next generation of U.S. nuclear warheads.

Y-12

Please see page 7 for a report from the July 5 actions at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It's part of the centerfold report on Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future, our 30th anniversary gathering at nearby Maryville College.

Los Alamos

Eight people face trespass charges in New Mexico, following their arrest during a Hiroshima Day demonstration at the Los Alamos National nuclear weapons Laboratory (LANL). President Obama has asked Congress to fund a new \$4.25 billion Chemistry and Metallurgy Research and Replacement (CMRR) facility at Los Alamos, vital for the production of new nuclear weapons. The demonstration was organized by Think Outside the Bomb (TOTB), a youth-led network advocating nuclear abolition and a sustainable future.

Seeds of Peace served lunch for 120 people who rallied at Ashley Pond in downtown Los Alamos on August 6 before marching about a mile to the Lab's main gate. Giant puppets led the way: Sadako with a paper crane; Mother Earth; and a two-faced effigy of President Obama, one side the happy advocate for disarmament, and on the reverse, the cynical, sinister builder of new nuclear weapons.

In the middle of the intersection at LANL's main entrance, the procession paused for a performance by the puppets and others in costume.

Police from several agencies held back from the demonstration, some directing traffic around the artful blockade.

A LANL security official later admitted two goals for the day – that no one was hurt, and no one was arrested.

Half an hour later, the procession moved on, following a long, undulating “Living River” of blue cloth to the site where the government proposes to build the CMRR, to produce new plutonium pits.

The procession stopped at the door of a gatehouse, where TOTB activist Jason Ahmadi led a water ritual. Security guards watched through the locked door and body-armored federal agents surrounded the demonstrating crowd.

At the conclusion of the ritual, several people sat down with Ahmadi, blocking the entrance. Rain began to fall as the chief of police politely implored the group to leave the doorway. They refused. Some insisted that the crime at hand which demanded an arrest was nuclear weapons production, not their sit-in. With obvious reluctance, the chief realized that some people would have to be arrested before the day's demonstration would end.

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Two War Tax Resisters Report to Federal Prison

Two men, who for reasons of conscience in opposition to war had both privately resisted payment of federal income tax, have recently been prosecuted and sent to prison.

With belated serendipity, Carl (Carlos) Steward learned about the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) too late to avail himself of the experience, knowledge and counseling available, but not too late for the positive publicity and moral support that this network and clearinghouse for conscientious military tax refusal is well-prepared to offer.

On Hiroshima Day, August 6, Stewart reported to the federal prison camp on Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama to serve a two-year prison sentence for failure to file and filing false returns. Ruth Benn, coordinator of NWTRCC, wrote about Carlos for *More Than a Paycheck*, NWTRCC's newsletter:

Last year when we began to search for a film editor, Coleman Smith in North Carolina pointed us to Carlos Steward, whose proposal for completing our film was the best of many good proposals. He said many times how happy he was to see our footage, work on the film, and learn about war tax resistance. Until then he had not heard of our network. Little did any of us know that he was in the midst of a serious tax case...

It was while he was working on *Death and Taxes* last fall that Carlos was indicted by a Grand Jury on charges of tax evasion and providing false statements. There is no connection to his work on the NWTRCC film; the case had begun earlier in 2009 out of a complicated case with a former employer in West Virginia.

“There are real pitfalls to doing it the way I did it,” he says. “Not being aware of war tax resistance is a detriment for people trying to do the right thing but not knowing how to do it. I also learned the importance of being transparent about your resistance. The film is very educational for people and shows a better method for doing what you're doing.”

In February 2010, Stewart pleaded guilty to filing false income tax returns for 2002 and 2003 and failing to file returns for 2000 and 2001. On June 30, 2010, he was sentenced in federal court in Charleston, West Virginia to two years in prison.

NWTRCC is grateful for all the time and skill Carlos Steward put into our film – including his until-the-door-locks-behind-him promotion of *Death and Taxes*. Now, as he faces two years in prison, he says, “It is great to know there are other people out there that have been resisting and doing it better than I did it. I wish I had heard of you earlier! War tax resistance is definitely worth the risks. It is a very effective way to get the message out.”

For more information, visit nwtrcc.org, where you can also order a copy of the excellent *Death and Taxes* DVD (click on Resources from the home page).

Patrick O'Neill reports:

Since July 26, Francis “Frank” Donnelly has been serving a year-and-a-day federal prison sentence for war tax resistance. The feds claimed Donnelly evaded tens of thousands of dollars in back taxes in his small lobster business, but the truth is Donnelly's annual income was only about \$50,000 a year during the time the IRS spent investigating the case.

Last June 14, following an earlier guilty plea, Donnelly, 64, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine for failing to pay his federal taxes. Before the sentencing, about three dozen peace activists stood outside the federal courthouse to show support for Donnelly's stand as a war tax resister.

Donnelly's decision to resist war taxes in a less-than open way led to his being roundly criticized by both the prosecutor and the judge. Donnelly, who was open to his friends about his war tax resistance, said his motivation

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Resistance Reflections

The following is an edited transcript of the talk given by Elizabeth McAlister at the Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future Gathering.

by Elizabeth McAlister

So, here we are, celebrating thirty years of Plowshares, the Nuclear Resister and Nuke-watch - but it's five minutes to midnight, and our finger is firmly fixed on the nuclear button. It's in control of the power to destroy this magnificent planet many times over. We're living in a country on the brink of economic collapse, spending half a trillion dollars on the military, fighting trillion dollar wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Here we are - a society of killers; our killing fields global; our national landscape teeming with killers. They come out of the White House, the Pentagon, the Congress, DOE, Supreme Court - we see them all over D.C.

And they persecute us; they lie to and betray us; and, with their wars and their weapons, they take their measure to kill us. They kill with our silence and money; they kill in our name. I recall Lord Bertrand Russell, renowned philosopher and mathematician, writing from the Brixton Jail where he was serving time for an act of civil disobedience - and his was civil disobedience not civil resistance - at the War Ministry: "Kennedy and Khrushchev, Macmillan and Gaitskill, DeGaulle and Adenauer (all members of the nuclear club) are taking measure to kill us all."

Not without cause did our beloved Dick McSorley, SJ, call the bomb: "The taproot of all violence!" The intention to possess the bomb and use it breeds every other violence: guns on the street, war, political ambiguity and cowardice, charades of religion, public paralysis, ravaging of the earth. It trashes the moral order, creating disorder and lunacies of every kind. It declares war on all the world's people and on creation itself. It plunges the United States and the world into moral, social, and political madness.

What do people who love justice do in such a morass? We renounce killing. We strive to prevent our government from killing - we give no money for the killing machine, no silence before its crimes - nothing but inspired non-violent resistance.

Tonight we celebrate the Plowshares and 30 years of resistance embodied in the prophesy of Isaiah. For most of us there exists one or two commanding texts, words that speak to our hearts, to the longings that haunt our days and nights; words that beckon us from "the paralysis of analysis," toward simply "doing it."

To the Plowshares communities, the Isaiah text has been summons - words that set the deepest humanity in our souls into motion. Moreover, the congruence of the times of Isaiah with ours is so striking as to be utterly unsettling. He lived in an age of imperial darkness, of wars and rumors of wars, of duplicity and conniving in high places. His people had become an empire and in the process lost all sense of justice, of compassion, of peace.

In those terrible years, the voice of Isaiah was something to be reckoned with. Isaiah announced the impossible: "They will beat their swords into plowshares." Something new, beyond all effort or genius or ecstatic longing or imagining must come to be. The impossible must happen to those obsessed with violence and arms and the misuse of resources and the wanton expending of lives. The truth of this transformation oracle, "swords into plowshares," is crucial. It is crucial to the prospering of nations and cultures, to the survival of children, the elderly, and the ill. It is crucial to honor, faith, to any civilized sense of the human - it is crucial to the fate of the earth.

But the oracle is also impossible of fulfillment - or so it seems. Who in the time of Isaiah, who at present, believes it could come to pass? After Vietnam, Granada, Panama, Iraq, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq again ... who believes? War erupts. Theologians enter; just-war nonsense is dusted off. The war is fitted to theories. Swords are vindicated even as they kill. Yet the prophesy of Isaiah must come to pass - they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks - even though every poll and prevailing authority and purveyor of conventional wisdom and the preaching of ecclesiastical warriors proclaim it to be radically impossible. The task of transformation is crucial. The word of Isaiah must come to pass because the words surpass the human even while they engage our deepest longings. The words commit, invite, command, demand conversion - of hearts as well as swords. The words beckon into light all our own insipidness, our acceptance of dumb fate, our rehearsals of death. We are not helpless; we are not objects of fate; we are not dead. Despair is to our shame. Come forth!



photo by Jim Haber

Do not imagine that some magic will beat the world's swords into plowshares. We must disarm. We must take into account - at long last - the widows and orphans, the poor to whom the sword has brought such grief, those whom the sword has cheated. It cannot be done; it must be done. If it is to be done, it must be done - by us.

All the while we know that beating of swords into plowshares looks beyond the stated morality of all our religious traditions. Rather than calling the nation to judgment, our churches are deafening with conniving silence. They pronounce a sorry blessing on the forging and wielding of swords - a blessing that is a curse.

Yet the oracle sounds in our ears with absolute assurance: "They will beat their swords into plowshares..." The oracle implies a promise given and kept - wars shall cease. The tone of Isaiah is absolute, assured. The text invites an image. A hand appears, then many hands. Hands of women, men and children of all kinds. They dent the weapon, crack its shell, blunt its edge, neutralize its dread. More - in seeking to transform the object beyond its original purpose as an instrument of death and maiming and bloodletting, they are themselves transformed.

It is an unlikely time to issue a word of hope and imagination. Yet, the worst time, Isaiah dares say, is the apt time! The moment to speak is exactly when one is tempted to drop one's hands. This is exactly the time to announce the immanent toppling of the gods of war! We know it well - fidelity to the oracle is a sorry and thankless task. How many years of prison have people served for fidelity to this oracle? Yet we have the promise of Isaiah: the sword is turned aside, the plow renews the earth.

Chapter two of Isaiah is a song of hope. In chapter one, Isaiah went through a tunnel of evil to emerge into "Seeing the Word!" He saw it as only a third eye could see. Neither he, nor we, cannot not see something once we have seen it so deeply - even if we close our eyes really tight. We must shut off the vision by a terrible act of denial. It is burned in the inner eye. Our thrust is to see ever more clearly what we have seen, to walk with what we have seen, to grow into it.

Our study of Isaiah is a way of giving ourselves time to talk about and reflect on our own times. It is urgent that we not lose the message and meaning of Isaiah under the weight of today's bad news. Nothing of what is coming down today can be explained by a political process. It must be understood as idolatry, which always has the most lethal public consequences (violence, death). If this kind of worship of death is going on, we will reek of death and reap death on the world. Another implication is that no one lives except by a covenant - our covenant is either with God or with empire. No one is in a human vacuum.

These verses from Isaiah and their double in Micah are treated as indifferently as is the Sermon on the Mount. Place both into an abstract - really distant - future and we are not accountable to them. The opposite of that degradation of scripture is the human announcement that makes it now and real. Then the freedom of God and our own freedom function together to bring the vision into reality. But the vision remains on paper opposed by every contemporary concept that theologians conjure to free us from responsibility and accountability. One contemporary name is "Interim Ethic" - beware! The vision of Isaiah is for peace and justice here and now. It's for truth and disarmament, here and now. So let's keep keeping on, and making that vision a reality.

at nukeresister.org

- Regular news updates and color photos about anti-nuclear and anti-war actions, trials, activists in prison and current prison addresses.
- A secure, easy way to subscribe and donate to *the Nuclear Resister* online.
- Back issues of *the Nuclear Resister* newsletter.
- A form to sign up for *the Nuclear Resister* E-bulletin - a free supplement sent once a month to your inbox!
- Writings from prisoners.
- A list of future actions, with contact information.
- Reports, photos and videos from the 30th anniversary Resistance for a Nuclear-Free Future gathering, including an 18 minute slide show celebrating decades of nuclear resistance that was shown at the gathering, and video of a skit - The National Insecurity Complex Hotline: The Doctor is IN - performed at Y-12 by Ralph Hutchison, Jon Blickenstaff, Mary Ellen Gondeck, Kevin Kamps, and Jack Cohen-Joppa!

All this and more.... Check it out!

where we're at

The first issue of the Newsletter of the National No Nukes Prison Support Collective (now *the Nuclear Resister*) was published in October of 1980. Thirty years is a long time! Jack was 24 and Felice was 21 when they first started working on *the Nuclear Resister* - we've got kids older than that now!

The Resistance for a Nuclear-Free Future gathering was a wonderful celebration of anti-nuclear resistance, and the 30th anniversaries of Nukewatch, *the Nuclear Resister* and the Plowshares movement. With groups and activists spread far and wide across the U.S., it isn't often that we have a chance to gather together. What a gift it was! Please see the special center section (pages 7-10) for reports and photos.

We had hoped to get this issue out at the end of August. But August turned out to be very busy! Along with Jerry Zawada, we drove to New Mexico at the beginning of the month to join Think Outside the Bomb at their encampment, and Jack and seven others were arrested on Hiroshima Day at Los Alamos (see page 1). A week later, Jerry and Felice travelled to Kansas City, where they were arrested with 12 others while standing in front of a bulldozer which was clearing the site for the first new U.S. nuclear weapons plant to be built in 32 years (see page 1).

In mid-September, as we were finishing up this issue, Felice went to Las Vegas to attend the trial of 14 protesters arrested at Creech Air Force Base for protesting drone warfare. It was friend Mariah Klusmire's first trial, and proved to be a very inspiring one, filled with moving testimony (see page 12).

When we've finished this newsletter, we look forward to taking a walk in the desert, planting our winter garden, and even finding some time to look forward at the next three decades - or at least three months or years! Wishing you a peaceful autumn (and an autumn working for peace!).

Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa

Thanks

Thanks to Faith, Jerry, Rosemary, Bill, Steve, Paige, Betty, Cindy, Jim, Sarah, Ansel, Leslie, Joe, Kathleen, Ya Ching, and Charlotte for helping to mail the last issue.

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

18 Months for Recruiting Station Sit-in

Norman Lowry was convicted of trespass in July, and sentenced to 6–12 months plus a \$100 fine, with credit for time served. Lowry was jailed in January following an anti-war sit-in at a military recruiting office in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. His arrest violated probation from an earlier protest at the recruiting station, and he was sentenced to 18 months less 20 days for the violation. The sentences are to be served concurrently, and because Lowry will not pay restitution nor acquiesce to the constraints of probation and parole, he expects to max out his sentence on June 25, 2011.



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

Silo Vigiler Gets Time Served

On July 23, Richard Sauder was convicted in federal court in Minot, North Dakota of trespassing at a nuclear missile silo last April. He was sentenced to time served, 100 days, and released. Sauder spent most of his time on federal hold at the Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center in Rugby, North Dakota.

Following is the concluding passage from a longer public letter Sauder wrote just before trial. The full text of his letter can be read at nukeresister.org in the July 2010 archive.

Think outside the box, with the emphasis on creative nonviolence.

In short, we are free when we stop acting like corporate-government slaves and conscripts and start behaving like sovereign, free human beings.

No one can give you your freedom. You can only claim freedom for yourself. It comes down to this: either you are free or you are not. It's your decision. Which will it be?

Either we get rid of the nuclear missiles or they will get rid of us. We must have global, nuclear disarmament. I have on three occasions in my life gone over the fence at nuclear missile silos to perform nonviolent acts of civil disobedience.

I have been arrested and jailed, but nothing worth having comes without personal effort and sacrifice. Do you want nuclear disarmament? Do you really want to live on a planet free of the threat of nuclear apocalypse?

If you are serious, then you will have to do something. You. Personally.

DR. RAFIL DHAFIR TO BE RESENTENCED

On March 30, the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) filed suit against the Department of Justice challenging the two experimental federal prison blocks known as Communications Management Units, located at the federal prisons at Marion, Illinois and Terre Haute, Indiana. Though not a plaintiff in this suit, Dr. Rafil Dhafir was among the earliest CMU prisoners in Terre Haute, where he remains to this day as the elder among the men.

An Iraqi-born New York oncologist, Dhafir founded Help the Needy, a charity that directed more than \$1M in aid to Iraqi civilians during the era of U.S. sanctions, 1991-2003. He was arrested on the eve of the invasion of Iraq and repeatedly branded in public as a funder of terrorism. He was never granted bail, and because all of his business records were seized when he was arrested, he was eventually prosecuted in large part for money laundering and technical medicare billing violations. While Dhafir's conviction is still cited by the Department of Justice as a successful anti-terrorist prosecution, any mention of the widely cited terrorist funding allegations was specifically forbidden at his trial.

"These units are an experiment in social isolation," said CCR Attorney Alexis Agathocleous. "People are being put in these extraordinarily restrictive units without being told why and without any meaningful review. Dispensing with due process creates a situation ripe for abuse; in this case, it has allowed for a pattern of religious profiling, retaliation and arbitrary punishment. This is precisely what the rule of law and the Constitution forbid."

CCR further notes that "in addition to heavily restricted telephone and visitation access, CMU prisoners are categorically denied any physical contact with family

members and are forbidden from hugging, touching or embracing their children or spouses during visits. Attorneys say this blanket ban on contact visitation, which is unique in the federal prison system, not only causes suffering to the families of the incarcerated men, but is a violation of fundamental constitutional rights."

After the suit was filed, the Bureau of Prisons opened a brief period for public comment on a proposed rule that would, post-facto, "establish and describe Communication Management Units (CMUs) by regulation." For more information, visit ccrjustice.org/cmu-factsheet.

Dr. Dhafir remains very concerned that he, his wife and accountant are still named on the Department of Justice's list of trophy "terrorism convictions," and his supporters are looking into ways to challenge this slander.

Although a date has not yet been set, Dhafir is due to be re-sentenced this fall. His attorney is soliciting letters supporting a reduced sentence to present to the court at that time. For more information and instructions on writing to the judge, visit www.dhafirtrial.net/write-to-judge-mordue/.



Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir 11921-052, FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808. Please also read and sign the petition at www.dhafirtrial.net/sign-petition.

ARMY WHISTLEBLOWER JAILED

The war resisters' support organization Courage to Resist, in conjunction with others, has started the Bradley Manning Support Network. They are raising funds for accused Army whistleblower Bradley Manning's legal defense, and on Manning's direction have retained private attorney David Coombs.

Manning has been in custody since May 29, and in July he was formally charged with eight criminal offenses and four non-criminal violations of army regulations for allegedly giving Wikileaks.org a classified video of U.S. helicopter gunners killing civilians in Iraq, along with other classified documents. He is also a suspect in the release of tens of thousands of classified incident reports and other documents about the war in Afghanistan.

Whether or not Manning is actually the whistleblower he is alleged to be, the predictable consequence, if not also the intended result of the release of such video and documents is to reveal ugly truths about war in general and to challenge public support for these wars in particular. One statement made public from chat logs that led to Manning's arrest reveals, "I want people to see the truth ...

because without information, you cannot make informed decisions as a public." As a person accused of serious crimes, Manning has been rightfully mum about any motivation alleged for the acts. No date has been set for his court martial.

"He's aware of all the people who are rallying to his support. So his spirits are relatively good," attorney Coombs told Courage to Resist.

For more information and to contribute to Manning's defense fund, visit bradleymanning.org and couragetoresist.org.



Letters of support should be sent addressed to Inmate Bradley Manning, USMC Base Quantico Brig, 3247 Elrod Avenue, Quantico, VA 22134.

Inside & Out

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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

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)

MILITARY REFUSER

Inmate **Bradley Manning** (held pending charges)
USMC Base Quantico Brig, 3247 Elrod Avenue, Quantico, VA 22134.
(Alleged to have leaked military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes)



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

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Francis Donnelly 01787-036 (one year + one day - out 6/8/2011)
FCI Estill - Unit E, POB 699, Estill, SC 29918.
(Non-public war tax resister pled guilty to underreporting income, 10/09)

Carl W. Steward 09105-088 (2 years - out 5/2/2012)
FPC Montgomery, Federal Prison Camp, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL 36112.
(Non-public war tax resister pled guilty to filing false income tax returns and failing to file, 2/10)

Anna Andersson (four months, in 9/15/10)
Anstalten Hinseberg, Box 1005, 718 92 FRÖVI, Sweden.
(Disarmed fourteen bazookas made for export at a conventional arms factory, 10/08)

Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 10-0237 (18 months less 20 days - out 6/25/11)
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, violating probation from prior action)

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)

Previously listed, recently released:
Joe Glenton, Igor Sutyagin, Louis Vitale, Elijah James Smith, Nicole Mitchell, Nancy Gwin, Kenneth Hayes, Mordechai Vanunu, Richard Sauder

HIROSHIMA AND



photo by Felice Cohen-Joppa

Elias Kohn, Lisa Fithian, Jason Ahmadi and Bryan Martin sit-in on Hiroshima Day at the gatehouse in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where a new plutonium bomb pit factory is slated for construction.

LOS ALAMOS, CONT.

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Eight people were taken into custody, and transported to the local jail for processing. Jason Ahmadi, Jack Cohen-Joppa, David Coney, Lisa Fithian, Jeff Freitas, Elias Kohn, Brian Martin and Sr. Megan Rice were cited for trespass and released on a \$500 signature bond. All intend to plead not guilty and are awaiting a trial date.

For more information, including photos and stories from the Disarmament Summer Camp and more, visit thinkoutsidethebomb.org

Think Outside the Bomb in New Mexico

Following their 2009 national conference in Albuquerque, members of Think Outside the Bomb pursued their vision of sustainability by reaching out to local communities affected by the pollution, class and cultural conflict, and economic dependence resulting from the nuclear lab's growing dominance over three generations.

"The people of New Mexico know that these investments in weapons production don't make sense," explained Miguel Moreno, a TOTB organizer from nearby Chimayo. "We want jobs for our communities, but we want those jobs to support our public health and safety, not destroy our land and water."

Among their local allies, the family of Teresa Juarez offered a place in Chimayo for several dozen activists from around the country to gather in advance and prepare for the Hiroshima Day demonstration.

The TOTB Disarmament Camp opened July 30 on land where the Juarez family has hosted a summer camp for at-risk youth for at least 15 years. Workshops on permaculture demonstration projects, uranium mining, nuclear weapons, nuclear power and political activism filled some days, along with public demonstrations in Santa Fe and Española. Think Outside the Bomb improved the site with hands-on construction of composting toilets, solar showers, and a graywater harvesting system for the kitchen.

SOAW Prisoners All Out

Four people jailed following last November's School of the America's Watch (SOAW) vigil and peace witness to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC at Ft. Benning have all been released from federal prison. After serving sentences of six months each, Fr. Louis Vitale was released on July 23, Nancy Gwin on September 3, and Kenneth Hayes on September 13.

Most surprising was the fate of Michael Walli. True to his word at their arraignment in federal court in Columbus, Georgia last November, Walli did not return for trial in January. A warrant was issued for his arrest, and in March he was taken into custody at the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House in Washington, D.C. He was released a few days later, but in April federal authorities returned Walli to custody and shipped him back to Georgia to face trial.

On June 14, Magistrate Mallon Faircloth convicted Walli of trespass and sentenced him to six months in

VANDENBERG

The annual Catholic Worker sponsored Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration vigil took place on Saturday, August 7, at the main gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base, north of Santa Barbara, California. Five people crossed the line to pray for peace at the missile launch test base and were arrested and taken into custody. Los Angeles Catholic Workers Rebecca Casas, Jeff Dietrich and David Omondi were joined by Catholic priests Steve Kelly SJ and Louis Vitale OFM. Also arrested for being present at the protest site in violation of previous ban and bar orders were Catholic Workers Dennis Apel from nearby Guadalupe, California and Mike Wisniewski from Los Angeles.

All seven were cited, transported off base, and released about ten miles away in the town of Lompoc. A court date is forthcoming.

VANDENBERG UPDATES

Two trials for trespass after being ordered not to re-enter were held July 15 before a federal magistrate in Santa Barbara. First up were Dennis Apel and MacGregor Eddy, both previously barred from the protest area by the base commander. Apel and Eddy were arrested and charged with re-entry trespass on both January 31 and March 3. Apel and Fr. Steve Kelly SJ were arrested together on April 7, and their trial was the second of the day.

Writing about the trials for the *Santa Maria Sun*, Nicholas Walter explained that the question was: ...whether or not the base commander can issue "ban and bar letters" to individuals for standing on what's designated as a "public forum." In this case, that public forum is the grassy strip along Highway 1 outside of Vandenberg's main gate, where people have gathered to demonstrate for the past 14 years.

Vandenberg officials say it's base property and they can do what they want based on the commander's discretion. The protesters claim that because it's a public forum, the First Amendment applies and they're free to assemble there.

"We're not contesting whether the base can exclude certain individuals with the ban and bars — they're certainly valid on base," Apel said. "But is it valid on open public forums? That's what we're trying to have ruled on..."

"The base commander has the right to restrict access," [Eddy] explained. "The question is: Do they apply ban and bars in an arbitrary and capricious manner, which is prohibited by law?"

Magistrate Rita Coyne-Federman ruled at the outset that the designated protest area in question was not a "public forum" because it lies within the legal boundaries of the base. She later based the guilty verdicts on her decision that the base commander's issuance of ban and bar letters was not arbitrary or capricious.

An appeal is planned and was encouraged by the magistrate, who acknowledged that important First Amendment issues had been raised by this, the first prosecution of ban and bar violations at Vandenberg.

LIVERMORE

Security police at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) tried a new tactical approach to the annual Hiroshima Day demonstration and gate blockade of the California nuclear weapons lab. Organizer Marylia Kelley of Tri-Valley CAREs was contacted by the LLNL police liaison in advance of the demonstration and told that the west gate, nearest to the site of the morning commemoration program and where for years a prayerful blockade followed the program, would be closed on Hiroshima Day. However, she was told, if people wanted to proceed over a mile to the East Avenue/Vasco Road gate, it would be open.

Kelley and a colleague visited that gate the week before the action to assess safe parking and gathering

prison. With credit for time served, he had just over three months remaining.

Three days later, Walli surprised School of the Americas Watch founder Fr. Roy Bourgeois with an early morning knock on the door of his apartment in Columbus. While still at the local jail awaiting transport to federal prison, he was told to pack up and leave.

Later that day, Faircloth told a local reporter, "After further consideration of his hardships, I determined that time served was an appropriate sentence."

For more information, contact SOA Watch, POB 4566, Washington, DC 20017, 202-234-3440, info@soaw.org.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

As part of the continuing campaign of nonviolent resistance to Lockheed Martin, the Brandywine Peace Community organized a Hiroshima Day demonstration at Lockheed Martin in Valley Forge/King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. It began with a morning vigil for peace at the arms giant's main entrance, and the tolling of a large bell sixty-five times, for every year of nuclear weapons and war since the Hiroshima bombings.

By noon, nearly fifty people had gathered for a scheduled memorial of the 65th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombings, by the U.S. at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and to protest Lockheed Martin, the world's largest war profiteer and the U.S. chief nuclear weapons contractor.

The memorial included the audio broadcast of a narrative describing events surrounding the development of the first atomic bomb and the bombing of Hiroshima, readings from survivors of the Hiroshima bombing, and a Hiroshima Day 2010 ceremony and litany. Seven people tried to deliver a pictorial display of pictures from Japan showing the horrible aftermath of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to Lockheed Martin management. Arrested in the attempt were Robert Daniels II, Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Mary Jo McArthur, Fr. Patrick Sieber, OFM, Robert M. Smith, Mary Ellen Norpel, and Tom Mullian. They were taken to the Upper Merion police station, and released with a citation for disorderly conduct.

For more information, contact the Brandywine Peace Community, POB 81, Swarthmore, PA 19081, 610-544-1818, www.brandywinepeace.com

Coyne-Federman fined each defendant \$125 plus court costs.

On August 19, Jorge Manly-Gil was arraigned in Santa Barbara for trespass at Vandenberg last April 7. Citing indigency, Manly-Gil asked for a public defender, but the government objected. Prosecutor Sharon McCaslin said the government will not be seeking jail time nor probation, and noted that fellow resister Dennis Apel did a reasonable job representing himself the month before. Magistrate Coyne-Federman agreed, telling Manly-Gil he may represent himself or retain his own counsel.

The trial of Sr. Megan Rice and Fr. Louie Vitale for their August, 2009 ban and bar violation at Vandenberg has been postponed from September 16 until November 18, as both were also codefendants in Las Vegas on September 14. That case comes out of arrests last year at Creech Air Force base over the military use of killer drones piloted remotely from the base.

For more information, visit vandenbergwitness.org and macgregoreddy.com

places for participants not engaging in the blockade. Then she spoke again with the police liaison who confirmed that the gate would be open in one lane to accommodate people risking arrest, and that they would face the expected charges (of late, never prosecuted).

About 200 people attended the August 6 event. They all paused for a moment of silence at 8:15 a.m., the hour of the day when Hiroshima was destroyed. Survivor Takashi Tanemori spoke of his journey from a child orphaned by the Bomb and then an adult wracked for years with anger as he sought to avenge the loss of his family. In time, however, he learned the power of forgiveness by observing American Christians he met after emigrating in 1956. He found their actions resonated with some of his samurai father's last words, which had come back to him many times, "Takashi, learn to live for the benefit of others first. Then we all benefit... Know who you are, and follow the light in your heart."

Following the program, most of the people present walked to the East Avenue gate, only to find that LLNL police had placed a portable fence across all four traffic lanes, thwarting a blockade and endangering demonstrators.

Kelley nonviolently confronted the liaison officer, reminding him of their conversations about safety and his commitments. Soon, the gate was reopened, and 31 people were cited for blocking access and released.

For more information, contact Tri-Valley Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment, 925-443-7148, trivalleycares.org.

A small group of Catholic Workers and friends kept vigil at the gate of Offutt Air Force Base for three days, from August 6 until August 9. For more than 30 years, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries have been observed there with such vigils. The base near Omaha, Nebraska, is home to the U.S. Strategic Command, which is responsible for targeting all U.S. nuclear weapons.

On the morning of August 9, about thirty supporters gathered to witness four people cross the line onto the base in protest. Each made a brief statement before their nonviolent action. Fr. Jack McCaslin, 81, spoke of his “womb-to-tomb” approach to social justice and opposition to killing. He had recently joined a public prayer service in opposition to abortion, celebrated mass with death row prisoners, and would now risk imprisonment for saying no to nuclear weapons.

Peg Gallagher, 93, put her message simply. “Let’s stop all these useless wars and bring our military people back home.”

Navy veteran Charlie Wolford, 83, who arrived in Nagasaki one month after the bombing, read a prepared statement (see sidebar) before he stepped over the line.

Mark Kenney, at age 53 a more recent veteran of the nuclear navy, held up a processional crucifix and declared his Christian faith. “No one who believes in Jesus can ever justify the possession or use of any nuclear weapons,” he said. “Wars are never an option for a follower of Jesus in solving human conflicts.”

After taking a few steps inside the base, the four were met by base security who took them into custody. They were processed and released about an hour later, and now await word from the federal prosecutors about the expected trespass charges and court dates.

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

About 30 people who took part in the Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C. went to the Pentagon on Hiroshima Day. Four of the group donned sackcloth covered with ashes in mourning and repentance, and while holding photos of Hiroshima victims, knelt in silence inside a fenced area near the outdoor Pentagon entrance to the Metro subway.

Art Laffin, Bill Frankel-Streit, Nancy Gowan and Chrissy Nesbitt were arrested and charged with “failure to obey a lawful order.” Their trial is set for October 22, in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia.

On Nagasaki Day, the Faith and Resistance group returned to vigil outside the fenced area, displaying large banners of remembrance for the innocent victims and repentance for the bombing. Soon after this vigil was established outside, four representatives of the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR), who also took part in the retreat, arrived via the Metro at the Pentagon station and joined the crowd of employees headed upstairs.

The four came not to protest, but to follow up on NCNR's July 18 letter requesting to meet with war secretary Robert Gates. The letter had not been acknowledged, but the topic was urgent: an end to U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and a full accounting of the "Pentagon's role in the destruction of the environment." Jay Fanning, Joy First, Malachy Kilbride and Max Obuszewski had a copy of the letter in hand, and were ready to wait at the Pentagon while it was delivered again and a meeting held or appointment set up.

And while the letter had not been acknowledged, a response was waiting. The escalators going up three flights to the indoor concourse were turned off. As the four reached the top by climbing the steps, a line of rifle-toting Pentagon police intercepted their path, a good distance away from the security checkpoint.

In the course of the ensuing discussion, a team arrived to check the letter for anthrax or other threats. Eventually, the four were ordered to leave the area. They refused to leave because their request for a meeting had still not been acknowledged, and they had every right to wait in the public space. They were arrested for refusing to obey a lawful order, held for about 90 minutes, and released with the same October 22 court date as the Hiroshima Day defendants.

For more information, contact Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, 202-882-9649 and the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance, www.iraqpledge.org or Joy First, convener, at jsfirst@tds.net.

I had the unfortunate duty through my service in the U.S. Navy in World War II to witness the destruction of Nagasaki at that time where it was reported 70,000 men, women and children were extinguished in a matter of seconds, and later, as a result, another 40,000 lives were snuffed out and even more later.

We are here to call to mind, lest we forget, the horrible effect that we as humans are able to inflict upon our fellow human beings. The utter destruction just like that which took place on August 6th at Hiroshima and again on August 9th, 1945 at Nagasaki.

Why must we continue to sacrifice the lives of our young men and women again today just to satisfy the

Members and supporters of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action (GZ) commemorated the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki by blocking the New Main Gate entrance of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor and stopping traffic during the morning rush hour on Monday, August 9. As other demonstrators, many holding signs and banners, lined the side of the roadway behind a barrier designating the legal protest zone, nine resisters moved the barrier and entered the roadway in successive waves. Participants in the action ranged in age from 21 to 88.

Ground Zero trained peacekeepers first entered the roadway to stop traffic for three resisters who entered the roadway holding a banner reading “We can live without Trident.” Officers from the Washington State Patrol moved in and arrested Betsy Lamb, 71, of Bend, Oregon, and Shirley Morrison, 88, and Dorley Rainey, 83, both of Seattle, Washington.

A few minutes later peacekeepers again stopped traffic and the second group entered the roadway. Their banner read "Abolish Nuclear Weapons." Those arrested were Rev. Anne Hall, 65, of Seattle, Macknight Johnson, 54, of Silverdale, Washington, and Alice Zillah, 37, of Olympia, Washington.

Peacekeepers then stopped traffic one last time for the final group. Joe Anderson, 21, of Spokane, Washington, sat down in the roadway holding a rainbow peace flag and a sunflower, the symbol of nuclear abolition. Dr. David Hall, 64, of Seattle, also sat down in the roadway carrying a sign reading "Abolish Nuclear Weapons." Both were arrested by State Patrol officers. Brother Gilberto Perez, a Buddhist monk from Bainbridge Island, then walked onto the roadway holding the same message, and was arrested.

All the arrestees were transported to the Kitsap County Jail, where they were processed and then released later in the morning.

Three Ground Zero Center members were in federal court in Tacoma, Washington on July 16, the 65th anniversary of the nuclear explosion that first tested the concept of the atomic bomb.

Ann Kittredge and Denny Moore were tried for trespass following their combined action during a Ground Zero vigil honoring Martin Luther King Jr. on January 16, 2010.

When questioned by her defense attorney, Ken

After eight months in legal limbo, five people who entered the nuclear weapons storage area at the Kitsap-Bangor Trident submarine base in Washington state last November 2 have been indicted by a federal grand jury. Misdemeanor charges filed at the time against the Disarm Now Plowshares action group were dismissed in January. Announcing the new indictment, prosecutors could not bring themselves to say the words “Disarm Now,” instead labeling Fr. Bill Bichsel, Susan Crane, Lynne Greenwald, Fr. Steve Kelly and Sr. Anne Montgomery the “Bangor 5.” The five Disarm Now activists are charged with both felonies and misdemeanors, including one count each of conspiracy, trespass, destruction of property, and depredation of government property. All are summoned to appear in federal court in Tacoma, Washington for arraignment on September 24. A continuance is likely.

They had entered the base before dawn on All Souls

greed of our politicians and wealthy? Unless we as a nation are able to depart from the killing of the innocent whether by falsified war logic or sacrificing the lives of the innocent unborn, we will be headed for the destruction of our own nation. Further if we continue on this course or direction we will pay for it in the future in an even more horrible way.

Can we not by our demonstration this morning awaken the consciousness of our leaders to turn around to avoid even a worse disaster than before? Please pray. Give your attention and prayers to the mercy of our God so that we turn around in our direction to peaceful ways to save our nation. In God we trust.

Kagan, about her motivation, Kittredge related her action to Dr. King's vision. She enumerated her ongoing efforts including letters and petitions to the government, as well as marches and demonstrations to change U.S. government policy and reduce investments in nuclear weapons. Exhausted by her efforts and seeing no change, she chose nonviolent resistance as her only available means to alert the courts and citizens at large about the dangers of nuclear weapons.

Moore, a Vietnam combat veteran with two sons-in-law in the military (one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan) did not have legal counsel. Like Jorge Manly-Gil at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Moore was ineligible for a public defender since the government was not asking for jail time. Taking the stand in his own defense, Moore stated that like Kittredge, he has tried all the usual means to confront our government about building and servicing nuclear weapons.

He said, “Sometimes the country needs to be in the citizen’s hands.” Moore had given an arresting officer a letter addressed to the base commander asking him to act on behalf of undoing our nuclear arsenal.

Magistrate Judge James P. Donohue found both Kittredge and Moore guilty of trespass. Moore, who had never received a ban and bar letter, was fined \$100 and \$35 in court costs, and must serve 50 hours of community service. Kittredge, who has previously received a ban and bar letter, was fined \$200 and \$35 in court costs, given one year of probation, and must serve 50 hours of community service. The judge specified that the community service could not be served at the Ground Zero Center.

Also on July 16, Jessica Arteaga was arraigned and pled not guilty to a charge of trespassing on May 3. In federal court September 15, Arteaga changed her plea to guilty. She initially negotiated with the prosecutor for a sentence of community service, but objected when she learned that probation would be in force until the community service was completed. Not wanting the restrictions associated with probation, Arteaga negotiated a fine instead. After her plea was accepted and the judge heard that she was actually arrested while sitting ON the painted property line (and thus only half on federal property), he reduced the suggested fine and fee total by half, resulting in a total penalty of \$37.50.

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, 380-286-9036, info@gzcenter.org, www.gzcenter.org

And in Europe, More New Nukes

The hypocrisy of talking about disarmament while modernizing nuclear weapons and their delivery systems is not limited to the United States. France and the United Kingdom are also keeping pace in the leaner, meaner nuclear arms race, leading to recent acts of nonviolent resistance targeting new projects for weapons of mass destruction in both countries.

Biscarrosse

France has developed a new multi-warhead strategic missile, the M51, for its submarine fleet. Since 2006, citizen weapons inspectors from the pacifist group No Missile M51 have acted in lieu of invited inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency to observe this upgrade of nuclear attack capabilities and report the violation of France’s obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

Seven No Missile M51 inspectors were arrested last December 1, when they occupied a radar facility of the Missile Launch Test Center (CELM) in Biscarrosse, near Bordeaux, to disrupt the fourth M51 test launch. Despite several other inspections and arrests, this group is the first to be prosecuted, and faced trial September 8. At trial their attorney reminded the court that no one is supposed to ignore the law, but the French government was doing just that regarding its obligations under the NPT. The verdict is to be announced on November 3.

In July, when the final test launch before active deployment was planned from a submarine in the Bay of Biscay, No Missile M51 activists launched metallic helium balloons near the CELM to disrupt radar monitoring of the test launch. No arrests were reported.

War Tax Resisters to Prison, cont.

continued from page 1

in keeping a low profile came out of his desire to keep his tax dollars from going to the Pentagon.

Donnelly, who also faced a court martial during the Vietnam War years for refusing to wear his uniform in the Army reserve, has been a mainstay in the New England peace movement, and a community activist. During the Vietnam War, Donnelly also went on record as a war tax resister. At his Army court martial, Donnelly said he wouldn’t take his military pay or pay for war with his tax dollars.

At the sentencing, U.S. Attorney James McCarthy called Donnelly a “common, ordinary, run-of-the-mill, garden variety tax cheat ... the evidence indicates he is not a war tax resister.” He berated Donnelly because he made a good living for a few years as a lobster broker.

U.S. District Court Judge John Woodcock, who sentenced Donnelly, also came down hard on the defendant for not going public about his tax resistance. Woodcock, who seemed to be conflicted about how to punish Donnelly, believes civil disobedience is best expressed in the tradition of Mahatma Gandhi, who advocated for open and public discourse in his peace campaigns. While Gandhi, and later in the 20th century, Martin Luther King, Jr., expressed their direct action openly in the public square so to speak, Donnelly’s decision to quietly refuse to pay his taxes is also considered a valid means of war-tax resistance by many others.

During his sentencing hearing, Donnelly said: “I am not a rich man.” Yet, Donnelly was unfairly portrayed by the government as being greedy and hypocritical; that his failure to pay taxes was morally invalid because he made a decent living for a few years selling lobsters, and he didn’t go public with his anti-war-tax views.

At sentencing, the U.S. Attorney said Donnelly’s gross receipts for some years were more than \$1 million. These figures were not accompanied by the fact that Donnelly often made just a few cents on the dollar profit as he drove a small truck 200 miles a day in his lobster business.

Following an all-day hearing, Woodcock ultimately sent Donnelly to prison and imposed more than \$92,000 in fines and restitution. After his release, Donnelly must also serve one year of probation. The Internal Revenue Service has also presented Donnelly with a bill for almost \$1 million for back taxes and fines, a figure Donnelly said grossly distorts his income.



Letters of support should be sent to Carl W. Steward 09105-088, FPC Montgomery, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL 36112, and Francis Donnelly 01787-036, FCI Estill – Unit E, POB 699, Estill, SC 29918.



photo courtesy London Catholic Worker

Chris Cole, Fr. Martin Newell and Susan Clarkson display the tools and sign used to create the new disarmament gate at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment.

Aldermaston

In Britain, the latest planned development in the ongoing £1 billion/year modernization of the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons establishment (AWE) is Project Hydrus, a warhead testing facility that together with a new laser, an enriched uranium handling facility, and three new supercomputers will enable the United Kingdom to develop its own next-generation warheads without explosive full-scale test blasts, thus circumventing its obligations under the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Trident Poughshares direct actionists joined an alliance of anti-nuclear groups and environmentalists in nearby Reading over the first weekend of September, educating each other, soliciting letters from locals who object to the proposed development, and coordinating opposition. On Monday morning, September 6, about 20 Trident Ploughshares members and

Kansas City Plant, cont.

continued from page 1

Juneteenth from a new abolitionist perspective. Normally, the holiday celebrates the occasion in mid-June, 1865, when slaves in Texas learned of their emancipation. The sponsors observe a parallel bondage today, living under a government that produces nuclear weapons. Sasteh Mosley, president of East Meets West of Troost, pointed to the connection and the planned resistance this way: “People wanted to hold on to slavery, even after it began crippling the economy, until good people pressed the law demanding change.”

On Friday, June 18, about 45 people marched on the old plant. They planted crosses and outlined bodies in chalk along the highway, then blocked the employees’ entrance. Police arrested four people who refused to leave when ordered. Frank Cordaro, Ron Faust, Steve Jacobs and Jane Stoevers were held for about an hour before getting a federal citation for impeding or disrupting the official duties of a government employee. They were ordered to pay a fine of \$100 plus \$25 costs, or appear in court on August 6, Hiroshima Day.

The men agreed to pay the fine and costs. Stoevers took advantage of the court date to speak about Hiroshima and its legacy, building on the story of a hibakusha who stayed with her family two years earlier. Stoevers was convicted of disorderly conduct and sentenced to eight hours of community service.

Ten days later, about 75 demonstrators surprised contractors who had recently begun plowing up the “blighted” soybean field and moving earth to prepare the new plant site for construction. The demonstrators – some carrying a large banner reading “Stop Building for Nuclear War” – easily swarmed past a hard-hatted worker who warned they were trespassing, trying in vain to keep them from proceeding towards the heavy equipment.

For an hour until police arrived in force, demonstrators planted seeds, sang, and approached individual operators, offering them leaflets and imploring them to stop for the sake of peace. Those willing to risk arrest plodded through the mud to get in front of one particular earth mover, determined to impede preparation of the site for the first new U.S. nuclear bomb plant in 32 years.

Soon, a supervisor ordered all the workers to stop for safety’s sake. The machinery was stilled for another hour as police herded most of the activists slowly over dirt clod



photo by Joshua McElwee/National Catholic Reporter

Erik Johnson and Mark Kenney stop a busload of dignitaries arriving to celebrate groundbreaking for the new Kansas City nuclear bomb plant.

ridges back out to the highway.

Fourteen remained, continuing to halt construction, until they were arrested for trespass.

Josh Armfield, Ed Bloomer, Steve Clemens, Felice Cohen-Joppa, Donna Constantinean, Gina Cook, Frank Cordaro, Eric Garbison, Rachael Hoffman, Steve Jacobs, Robby Jones, Beth Seberger, Brian Terrell, and Jerry Zawada were held for four hours, then released on their promise to appear in municipal court on October 7.

Many of those arrested identify as Catholic or are associated with Catholic Worker communities. On September 2, less than one week before the formal groundbreaking at the site, local Catholic Bishop Robert Finn posted a statement that called the accumulation of nuclear arms a grave moral danger, and spoke of “an obligation to think responsibly concerning this nuclear weapons plant; to think beyond the local and examine the global dimensions of this project.”

Five hundred people were invited to attend the groundbreaking on September 8, but that did not include about 75 more who assembled at the edge of the site for a “Plant Peace, Not Nukes! - Groundbreaking for Works of Mercy, Not Works of War.”

They stood along the road, greeting those attending the golden shovel ceremony with signs, banners and chants such as “Build for Peace, Not for War”, “No New Bomb Plant”, “Close It! Clean it! Don’t Repeat it!”, and “Stop Building for Nuclear War.”

Three large tour buses bringing politicians, bureaucrats and developers onto the site were blocked by eight people who police then arrested. Ed Bloomer, Sarah Cool, Frank Cordaro, Jim Hannahs, Erik Johnson, Mark Kenney and Joan Wages were handcuffed and taken to jail. There they were booked on a charge of disorderly conduct, then released on a promise to appear in court November 4. The eight blockader, Sajh Kaya, was in her motorized scooter chair when she was arrested, but was not transported to jail or charged before being released from custody.

For more information, visit kcukeswatch.wordpress.com, or email Ann annsuellen@gmail.com and Jane janepstoevers@yahoo.com.



Y-12 Complex

On the morning of July 5, more than two hundred people went to the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee for a rally and nonviolent direct action declaring independence from nuclear weapons. The group, which had been together over the July 4th weekend for the Resistance for a Nuclear-Free Future gathering in nearby Maryville, breakfasted on fresh local berries and bagels, while listening to music, poetry and a skit.



Brute force vs. truth force. State police were dispatched in formation, as monks and nuns of the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order chanted for peace.

By the time the demonstrators arrived at Y-12, police had already placed barricades across the entry road at the property line and begun to line up behind the barricades. After the rally concluded, people hung origami cranes on the fence and barricades. While some milled about on the blocked entry road, 22 people lined up directly in a row in front of the barricades, holding up four large banners reading “Independence From Nuclear Terrorism.”

Police began to clear the road, warning of imminent arrest for any who remained. Marcus Atkinson, part of a Clown Army who brought serious levity to the scene and had not intended to risk arrest, was grabbed by police and handcuffed when he mimed police motions and did not move away quickly enough. State police then began arresting the banner-holding blockaders, who were taken to jail.

Meanwhile, another 13 people passed through or around a barbed wire boundary fence at the edge of the rally site, entering federal property with a sign that read “Y-12 = Death” and another sign asserting that continued nuclear weapons production at Y-12 was a violation of international law and U.S. treaty obligations. Once inside, they scattered sunflower seeds, circled together and read



In front of the banner blockade of Y-12’s main gate, clowns K.A. Garlick and Marcus Atkinson offered sunflowers, symbol of nuclear disarmament, to the police.

aloud the Declaration of Independence from Y-12 (see sidebar on page 10).

Arrested and jailed overnight on federal trespass charges were Steve Baggarly, Bill Bichsel, David Corcoran, Dennis DuVall, Carol Gilbert, Jean Gump, Jackie Hudson, Mary Dennis Lentsch, Bradford Lyttle, Ardeth Platte, Beth Rosdatter, Bonnie Urfer and Michael Walli. The next afternoon, they all appeared before Judge Bruce Guyton in U.S. District Court in Knoxville for a detention hearing. Each entered a plea of not guilty, and all were released without bond on their own recognizance, pending trial. The federal defendants all qualified for a court-appointed attorney, and a joint motion for dismissal was filed in early September. Bonnie Urfer intends to change her plea to guilty at a hearing set for October 12.

The twelve other federal defendants are scheduled for a pretrial motions hearing on November 12. In addition to a defense motion to dismiss, prosecutors have filed a sweeping motion in limine that could be summarized as “sit down and shut up.” The motion asks the court to prohibit all testimony about any of the potentially relevant defenses, including: necessity; international law; the First Amendment; morality or immorality of, or defendant’s religious, moral, or political beliefs regarding nuclear weapons or nuclear power; “good motive”; or the United States government’s policy regarding nuclear weapons. Trial for the federal defendants is scheduled for January 11, 2011.

Of the 23 arrested on state charges, most were released later on July 5 on a promise to appear in court on July 12. Three women with prior protest convictions at Y-12 stayed in the Anderson County Jail. At a hearing on July 8, Alice Baker and Billie Hickey pled guilty and were fined \$50 plus court costs and sentenced to five days in jail. Beth Brockman, with multiple priors, was fined \$50 plus costs and sentenced to ten days in jail. The three women were released after serving their full sentences. Marcus Atkinson was also in court on July 12. He pled guilty and paid the fine plus about \$240 court costs.

On Monday, July 12, eight of the remaining state defendants were in court. Jon Blickenstaff, Barbara Corcoran, Nancy Gowan, Judith Hallock, Tom Palumbo, John Schuchardt, Janice Sevré-Duszynska and Joan Wages all pled either guilty or no contest. Each was fined \$25 and given 30 days suspended sentences, plus court costs. Pro bono attorney Mike Whelan tried to speak on behalf of eleven more defendants from out of state who did not or could not return for the court date, but the judge would not hear it. Bench warrants for failure to appear were issued for Ed Bloomer, Steve Clemens, Frank Cordaro, Susan Crane, Paul Fesefelt, Clare Grady, Joe Gump, Martha Hennessy, Steve Jacobs, Elizabeth McAlister and Pepperwolf.

For more information, contact the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), which has been engaged in protest and civil resistance at Y-12 for over 20 years, at orep@earthlink.net, or visit their website, www.stopthebombs.org. More photos, reports and video of the action can be found at the Nuclear Resister blog, www.nukeresister.org.



As the Clown Army retreats, stage right, 22 banner holders stay put, blocking the state road leading into Y-12.



photo by Felice Cohen-Joppa

**As I went walking I saw a sign there
And on the sign it said “No Trespassing.”
But on the other side it didn’t say nothing,
That side was made for you and me.**

After entering federal property, the thirteen resisters joined in a circle to read the Declaration of Independence from Y-12.



photo © jpKERNODLE

Federal defendant Dennis DuVall is taken into custody.



photo © Tom Bottolene/CircleVision.org

Sr. Ardeth Platte gets a little help from friends to pass through the barbed wire and onto the site.

Resistance for a Nuclear-Free Future



On Saturday morning, Ralph Hutchison (Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance), Mary Olson (Nuclear Information and Resource Service), Glenn Carroll (Nuclear Watch South) and Jay Coghlin (Nuclear Watch of New Mexico) gave us all the low-down on Y-12, nuclear waste, nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

The participation, generosity and creativity of so many is what made Resistance for a Nuclear-Free Future the special, successful and inspiring gathering that it was.

People helped with a multitude of tasks, such as cutting the 30th anniversary cake, doing airport runs, sitting at the registration table, buying the locally grown berries and bagels for our breakfast at Y-12, assisting with childcare, silkscreening T-shirts, flipping burgers and cutting watermelon for our 4th of July picnic, taking photos and shooting video, doing action and jail support. Our deep thanks goes out to all of them, and to our wonderful hosts, the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), as well as the speakers, musicians, workshop and plenary presenters, nonviolence trainers, group facilitators, clowns, sponsors, donors and to all who attended, from children to elders... and last but not least, the 36 arrested at Y-12 on July 5!

Special and heartfelt thanks also goes to Bonnie Urfer and John LaForge of Nukewatch, and Ralph Hutchison of OREPA, for our work together for over a year to take the vision of a national anti-nuclear resistance gathering and make it a reality. It was really great to work with them.

And thanks, of course, to the many nuclear resisters, past, present and future.

~ Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa



photo by Kim Bergier

Workshops and strategy discussions filled the afternoon hours on Saturday.



photo © jpKERNODLE

Song pioneers of the civil rights movement, Guy and Candie Carawan of the Highlander Center, led us in song with their son Evan joining in on mandolin.



photo by Felice Cohen-Joppa

Catholic Workers Sam Yergler and Allison McGillivray, with Think Outside the Bomb activists Mariah Klusmire (also a Catholic Worker) and Steve Stormoen at Y-12.

More information, photos, videos, poems from the 30th anniversary gathering can be found at www.nukeresister.org (click in the right hand column on Report from July 2010.)

Lots of singing and plenty of hugging. Greeting old friends and meeting new ones. Thirtieth anniversary cake, watermelon and locally grown blackberries. On July 3, plenaries, workshops, music and speakers, ending with a fabulous 30th anniversary celebration. On July 4, a nonviolence training, action planning, the weekly OREPA vigil at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex, topped off with a cookout and a puppetista performance, Bombs Away! Isn't that how everyone celebrates the 4th of July? And on July 5, a protest and nonviolent direct action at Y-12, together saying NO! to nuclear weapons....

by Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa

The weekend gathering was all that we had hoped it would be - a powerful celebration of nonviolent resistance to the nuclear industry from the mines to the dumps, and all the reactors, bombs and poisoning along the way, marking the thirtieth anniversaries of Nukewatch, the Nuclear Resister, and the first Plowshares direct disarmament action.

More than two hundred anti-nuclear activists from across the United States, and a few from Australia, spent the Fourth of July weekend on the campus of Maryville College in Tennessee to advance the role of nonviolent direct action and civil resistance in the movement for a nuclear-free future.

Saturday morning began with plenary presentations summarizing the status of nuclear power and nuclear waste (with Glenn Carroll from Nuclear Watch South/NoNewNukes.org and Mary Olson of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service), nuclear weapons (with Jay Coghlan of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico), and the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex (with Ralph Hutchison of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance).

It was followed by roundtable reports from activists involved in more than a dozen nonviolent anti-nuclear direct action campaigns around the country. The morning presentations brought everyone up to speed on the state of the movement and the challenges we face.

After lunch, Jack Cohen-Joppa began the strategizing for the future session with a brief look at the history of the anti-nuclear resistance movement. Different groups then met to consider strategies for continuing the struggle to resist nuclear power, nuclear weapons, and uranium mining, as well as considering an anti-nuclear resistance network and other tools (such as ongoing trainings in nonviolent direct action) to help carry the movement forward. An idea for an international day of action, perhaps on the April 26 Chernobyl anniversary date, was proposed (with a follow-up discussion in the works by Nukewatch, the Nuclear Resister and others).

A wonderful selection of afternoon workshop sessions included in-depth presentations on new nuclear bomb plants, the nuclear power relapse, nuclear waste issues nationally and in Tennessee, and more. Workshops focused on issues for resisters also included presentations on war tax resistance, nonviolent blockading, the Plowshares movement, songs to sing at protests and in jail, representing yourself in court, and doing time in prison.

CELEBRATION!

The Saturday evening celebration was kicked off by event organizers Ralph Hutchison, Bonnie Urfer, John LaForge and Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa, who performed their anti-nuclear rendition of Malvina Reynolds' "It Isn't Nice." What better way to start a resistance party than to sing out, "It isn't nice to block the doorway, it isn't nice to go to jail, there are nicer ways to do it, but the nice ways always fail, It isn't nice, it isn't nice, you told us once, you told us twice, but if that is freedom's price we don't mind"! The five served as MC's throughout the evening, sharing introductions, funny stories and reflections on 30 years.



photo © jpKERNODLE

The Emancipators – Matt Bryant-Chaney, Mitzi Wood-von Mizener and Larry Osborne – perform at Y-12 on the 4th of July.

Now

The 18 minute slide show by Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, *the Nuclear Resister*, Nukewatch music from Anne Feltz, Sweet Honey

It is a very inspiring and Makes ya wanna get

Visit www.nukeresister.org under **Report from July 2010** please contact the Nuclear Resister

Nuclear Free Future



photo © jpKERNODLE

How we spent our Fourth of July.

Former anti-nuclear prisoner of conscience and Voices for Creative Nonviolence cofounder Kathy Kelly delivered a stirring talk about the human cost of U.S. wars and occupations, and the need for each individual to acknowledge their participation in violence and take action for peace.

Singing was led by song pioneers of the civil rights movement, Guy and Candie Carawan of the Highlander Center, with their son Evan joining in on mandolin. Nourishment for the soul from the deepest of the grassroots... what a wonderful 30th anniversary gift that was!

The lights then went out for the viewing of the specially produced slideshow celebrating 30 years of Nuke-watch, the Nuclear Resister and the Plowshares in pictures and song, powerfully invoking decades of anti-nuclear resistance and moving many to tears.

A tribute to the Plowshares Eight began with Steve Jacobs singing "The Hammer Has to Fall" (a song about the disarmament action written by Charlie King), with the chorus telling us, "I hear the prophet's cry of hope ring through the prison walls, we've waited 30 centuries to hear that hammer fall. If we think we've got thirty more we cannot see at all, For swords into plowshares, the hammer has to fall".

The four members present – Fr. Carl Kabat, Molly Rush, John Schuchardt and Sr. Anne Montgomery – each shared anecdotes, Schuchardt saying that the 30th anniversary was "a powerful stimulus to memory." Liz McAlister, Plowshares activist and wife of the late Plowshares Eight member Phil Berrigan, shared a moving reflection on 30 years of the plowshares movement. Several told stories about Phil and Elmer Maas, another of the Eight who died in 2005. A message from Dean Hammer and a poem written by Dan Berrigan for the Plowshares Eight were read aloud. More than 20 activists from different Plowshares actions over the years were in attendance. (See a transcript of Liz's talk on page 2, and excerpts from Carl, Molly, John and Anne's remarks on page 10.)

Kathy Kelly moved us with challenging stories from her time listening to the victims of America's wars.



photo © jpKERNODLE

Catholic Worker Steve Jacobs co-led the Songs to Sing at Actions and in Jail workshop.

Available for viewing!

celebrating decades of anti-nuclear resistance, produced by Joppa especially for this summer's celebration of 30 years of Nuke-watch and Plowshares. Powerful photos paired with moving poetry by Peggy Seeger, Charlie King, Joyce Katzberg, and the Rock and the Seattle Labor Chorus.

and uplifting presentation.

off the bench and back into the fray!

~ Plowshares activist Ciaran O'Reilly

and click on the pop-out video player on the right column, 2010. If you'd like a DVD to show at a meeting or gathering, contact the Nuclear Resister at nukeresister@igc.org or 520-323-8697.

The party ended with everyone singing, eating delicious cake and socializing late into the warm and wonderful summer evening.

FOURTH OF JULY

Sunday events included nonviolence training and preparation for Monday's action. Fr. Steve Kelly shared his experience and insight on noncooperation in court and in custody, and attorneys Kary Love and Anabel Dwyer presented the international law case against nuclear weapons and for a citizen's duty to resist. Small groups broke off for deeper discussion of some of the topics that had been introduced that morning.

In the late afternoon, participants joined members of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, who hosted the gathering, for their weekly Sunday afternoon vigil at Y-12, together declaring our freedom from nuclear weapons. Music was provided by a local acoustic trio, The Emancipators.

Who needed fireworks with the gorgeous Smoky Mountains in the background? Back at the college, the July 4th cookout was followed by a theatrical performance. Local cultural workers enlisted the help of both children and adults at the gathering to perform Bombs Away!, a colorful, lively production with costumes, music and large puppets.

CIVIL RESISTANCE

On Monday morning, July 5, a new Declaration of Independence was delivered at the gates of the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, after which thirteen people crossed the property line and twenty-two more stretched a long banner across the road to block the entrance to the bomb plant. Thirty-six in all were arrested on state and federal charges (see accompanying story on page 7 about the arrests, and read the Declaration of Independence on page 10). During the demonstration, people tied hundreds of origami peace cranes to the barbed wire fence and road barricades, the Clown Army invited a joyful and disarming presence, and poetry and songs were shared. Together we said a resounding Yes! to the vision of a nuclear-free future.



photo by Kim Bergier

Gordon Maham, 94, helped build the Y-12 plant. Maham quit the Manhattan Project when he heard about Hiroshima and his role in building the bomb. He then lost his war industry draft exemption and served three years in federal prison as a post-war conscientious objector.

Children recited a pledge of nonviolence.



photo © jpKERNODLE



photo © jpKERNODLE

Saturday night's entertainment began with an anti-nuclear adaptation of Malvina Reynold's *It Isn't Nice*, performed by the organizer's ensemble of Ralph Hutchison, Felice Cohen-Joppa, Jack Cohen-Joppa, Bonnie Urfer and John LaForge. It could only go up from there!



photo © jpKERNODLE

Yes, we celebrated. With chocolate-raspberry cake and vanilla-strawberry cream cake from Knoxville's fabulous Mag-Pies Bakery.



People and puppets perform Bombs Away!, our Fourth of July entertainment.

photo © jpKERNODLE

Declaration of Independence from Nuclear Weapons at Y-12

Read aloud by those who entered federal property at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex on July 5, 2010

The Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 indicted a government that engaged in barbaric conduct contrary to the laws of Humanity that included “works of death, destruction and tyranny unparalleled in the most barbaric ages” until the Age of Now!

Current law requires an end to all planning, preparation, production, threat, or use of nuclear weapons and adherence to the fundamental rules and principles of humanitarian law.

The cardinal rules and principles of humanitarian law require that civilians never be the object of attack and prohibit weapons that are incapable of distinguishing between civilians and military targets.

The International Court of Justice found that the destructive power of nuclear weapons cannot be contained in either space or time, and nuclear weapons have the potential to destroy all civilization and the entire ecosystem of the planet.

All W-76 and W-76-1 thermonuclear secondaries produced at Y-12 are designed and intended to unleash 100 KT of uncontrollable and indiscriminate heat, blast and radiation, six times more than the Hiroshima bomb. Because any threat or use of these weapons is a crime against peace, war crime or crime against humanity, any complicity in planning or preparation for threat or use is similarly unlawful.

Under principals of democracy we exercise the right of every citizen of this republic and this planet to peacefully resist the nuclear threat; attacking as it does every core concept of human rights.

We act to exercise our basic rights to life and freedom from violence and we exercise our duty to protect children and future generations.

We act to ensure that our government fulfills its promise and responsibilities to unequivocally pursue and achieve nuclear disarmament in good faith.

We call on this government to end the use of our tax dollars to wage permanent war and demand clean up all chemical and radioactive contamination.



Sr. Mary Dennis Lentsch was among the federal arrestees. She vigils every week at the Y-12 complex.

Honoring the Plowshares 8

On September 9, 1980, eight people entered a General Electric weapons factory in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, where critical components for nuclear warheads were manufactured. With hope and a prayer, the activists entered the secure facility with relative ease. On the shop floor, they took household hammers and began beating on the missile warhead cones, giving substance to the biblical call of the prophet Isaiah to “beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.”

The symbolism – indeed, the manifest reality – of people with hand tools simply beginning the work of nuclear disarmament inspired a movement now thirty years old, and international in scope. Scores of action groups, involving hundreds of people as activists and supporters, have kept this vision of disarmament alive despite jail and prison sentences of up to 18 years.

During the Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future gathering, we honored the 30th anniversary of the Plowshares Eight action, and the continuing legacy of the Plowshares movement.

Four of the eight - John Schuchardt, Anne Montgomery, Molly Rush and Carl Kabat - joined us in Tennessee, and the following snippets are from their remarks at the Saturday evening celebration. Dean Hammer sent a message that was read aloud, and Dan Berrigan’s poem for the Plowshares Eight, Some, was recited. There were also loving memories shared of Phil Berrigan and Elmer Maas, who died in 2002 and 2005.



The Plowshares 8 (l-r): Carl Kabat, Elmer Maas, Philip Berrigan, Molly Rush, Daniel Berrigan, Anne Montgomery, John Schuchardt, and Dean Hammer.

Gratitude, friends, for the vision and faith to wield those first hammers in pursuit of a disarmed world.

The Vatican Council says that nuclear weapons are a crime against humanity and are to be condemned unreservedly, and working for justice is a constitutive element of the Gospel. Nonviolent public resistance to evil, in my judgment, is a constitutive element of the Gospel. It can be legal or illegal. So we do what needs to be done, and then celebrate! ~ Carl Kabat

We didn’t quite think about starting a movement. In fact, I was the new kid on the block. I’d been in jail exactly one night in my life. For my discernment I put all these pros and cons down, and in the end I tore up all those pieces of paper and said, “This is an act of faith.” What was in my mind as a motive was, “Okay, you see a dangerous weapon, it’s in somebody’s hands, you’re supposed to knock it out and maybe destroy it.” ~ Anne Montgomery

Where does this gift of joy come from? We were in the darkness of the holding tank as they were writing up 13 felony charges, everything they could imagine and conceive of. We were sitting there, a little bit stunned, a little bit quiet, in the dark, not knowing what’s next. You hear this voice, Elmer Maas’s: “This is the happiest day of my life!” Well, that shed some light on our situation. ~ John Schuchardt

Here were these little things that looked like highway markers. One was up on a table and it was a goldish color, some kind of metal with lines around it. And you know, I don’t use a hammer very much, but I hit with that hammer and a little piece came under here [touches chin] and.... they’re not really invulnerable. They really are not. We’re vulnerable, but so are they. And that means that human beings have made these, and human beings can unmake them. ~ Molly Rush



We were honored to have four of the six surviving members of the Plowshares Eight on hand. From left to right, Molly Rush, Sr. Anne Montgomery, Fr. Carl Kabat and John Schuchardt.



The backdrop for our gathering was this banner created from scraps of Philip Berrigan’s clothing for his funeral, by his daughter Frida Berrigan and daughter-in-law Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan.

SOME

(to the Plowshares 8, with love)

by Daniel Berrigan

Some stood up once, and sat down.
Some walked a mile, and walked away.

Some stood up twice, then sat down.
“It’s too much,” they cried.
Some walked two miles, then walked away.
“I’ve had it,” they cried.

Some stood and stood and stood.
They were taken for fools,
they were taken for being taken in.

Some walked and walked and walked –
they walked the earth,
they walked the waters,
they walked the air.

“Why do you stand?” they were asked, and
“Why do you walk?”

“Because of the children,” they said, and
“Because of the heart,” and
“Because of the bread.”

“Because the cause is
the heart’s beat, and
the children born, and
the risen bread.”

Iowa Sit- & Die-Ins

While a federal judge has ordered her to stay off the property of the Des Moines federal building, Iowa vegan hog farmer Christine Gaunt continues to vigil each week outside the Des Moines offices of U.S. Senators Grassley and Harkin, calling on her representatives to vote as the sign she holds states: “NO MORE \$\$\$ FOR WAR.”

Gaunt, together with others who have joined her on one or another occasion, was in court three times this summer and jailed for three days as a consequence of multiple arrests made during a series of sit-ins and die-ins inside the offices that began last winter.

Codefendant Brian Terrell wrote about the first trial in federal court on June 8:

Three Homeland Security police officers were called as witnesses for the government, each testify- ing that they understood our purpose of protest- ing these wars and witnessed to the nonviolent nature of these actions. Federal Protective Services Commander Michael Goldberg admitted that these assemblies were peaceful but complained that they were not the normal way of doing things and he expressed his hope that the court would impose an injunction keeping the defendants out of the federal building all together.

The seven represented themselves with the aid of attorney Sally Frank and gave evidence that weekly visits to the senators’ offices, beginning with delivery of petitions from the Peaceable Assembly Campaign in October 2009, were largely ignored by both senators until they started to continue their lobbying past office hours in February. While Senators Grassley and Harkin both voted in favor of the recent war funding bill, they and their staffs have at least entered into respectful and productive conversation with these citizens after their arrests. Unlike defense contractors, insurance companies and others who can “buy” the attention of the senators, the defendants testified that they had no other effective way of having their grievances

continued on page 14

Blackwater vs. Pinkwater

CODEPINK cofounder Medea Benjamin and two colleagues read that Erik Prince, founder and owner of the mercenary Blackwater (now Xe) Corporation, had moved his family to Abu Dhabi, fleeing civil lawsuits, criminal charges and a Congressional investigation. They thought they’d visit his McLean, Virginia home a few days after his reported departure, and photograph themselves in front of the fine residence with an “Adios Diablo Prince” sign.

To their surprise, Prince’s mother-in-law answered the door and invited Benjamin into the front room, and the company of Prince’s children and wife. Wife Joanna Prince asked who was the woman in pink and why was she in her house. Benjamin was just as quickly pushed back out the door.

Police were summoned, and the CODEPINK crew waited around to assure the officers that Benjamin had been invited inside (it was all on tape, in fact, and is now on youtube.com) and left when asked to leave. Neverthe- less, Joanna Prince filed a complaint alleging Benjamin had been told to leave the house but refused. Benjamin was arrested for trespass and held for five hours until she posted \$500 bail. Plaintiff Prince and defendant Benjamin are both due in court September 28.

While waiting for the police, Benjamin scribbled this note and taped it to the door of the Prince home:

Dear Erik Prince,

On behalf of U.S. taxpayers, we say “Shame on You.” Through your company Blackwater, or Xe as you now like to call it, you made – or should I say stole? – hundreds of millions of dollars and your employees also killed innocent civilians in Iraq. You should be held responsible. Don’t run away to the Emirates to escape prosecution. Stay here in the USA and face the consequences of your actions, like a good Christian.

Sincerely,
Pinkwater

For more information, visit codepink.org

Sen. Levin Pied

A Michigan State University student is free on bond after being jailed for planting an apple pie in the face of Michigan’s U.S. Senator Carl Levin. Ahlam Mohsen was facing state felony charges of aggravated stalking and conspiracy to commit aggravated stalking follow- ing the August 16 incident, and bail was originally set at \$250,000.

The pastry protest began at a coffee shop in Big Rapids, Michigan, where Levin was politicking with local Democratic Party members. Mohsen’s friend Max Kantar stood up during the Q&A period and read a state- ment accusing Levin of complicity in war crimes for his role as chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and condemning the party’s ongoing role in U.S. wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and threats to Iran, as well as U.S. support for Israel’s war of aggression against Palestinian people. As Kantar finished the statement, Mohsen stood and delivered the dessert.

The two were hustled out of the restaurant, and fol- lowed by a local reporter who caught up to them two blocks away. Before police arrived on the scene, Mohsen told the reporter, “People tend to blame the war on Repub- licans, but we wanted to target Levin today to send a mes- sage that liberals and Democrats are just as implicated in the violence as the Republicans.” Mohsen was taken into custody; Kantar gave a copy of his statement to police but was not arrested.

Kantar turned himself in two days later after learning he was wanted on the same charges as Mohsen for his role in the incident. He was arraigned and freed soon after posting a \$1,000 cash bond. Mohsen’s state charges were then temporarily suspended and her bail was reduced while the FBI considers whether she should be charged with assaulting a member of Congress. A \$5,000 cash bond was posted and she was released August 24. The potential stalking charge is predicated on the fact that Mohsen, Kantar, and a third person were arrested in Janu- ary, 2009, for sitting-in at Levin’s office to demand U.S. aid to Israel be cut off in the wake of the just-concluded Operation Cast Lead, Israel’s notorious attack on Gaza. No further court dates have been set.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Lewisburg

February 6, 2010

Greetings to everyone,

Thirty-four years. It doesn’t even sound like a real number to me. Not when one really thinks about being in a jail cell for that long. All these years and I swear, I still think sometimes I’ll wake up from this nightmare in my own bed, in my own home, with my family in the next room. I would never have imagined such a thing. Surely the only place people are unjustly imprisoned for 34 years is in far away lands, books or fairy tales.

It’s been that long since I woke up when I needed to, worked where I wanted to, loved who I was supposed to love, or did what I was compelled to do. It’s been that long – long enough to see my children have grandchil- dren. Long enough to have many of my friends and loved ones die in the course of a normal life, while I was here unable to know them in their final days.

So often in my daily life, the thought creeps in – “I don’t deserve this”. It lingers like acid in my mouth. But I have to push those types of thoughts away. I made a commitment long ago, many of us did. Some didn’t live up to their commitments, and some of us didn’t have a choice. Joe Stuntz didn’t have a choice. Neither did Buddy Lamont. I never thought my commitment would mean sacrificing like this, but I was willing to do so nonetheless. And really, if necessary, I’d do it all over again, because it was the right thing to do. We didn’t go to ceremony and say, “I’ll fight for the people as long as it doesn’t cost too much.” We prayed, and we gave. Like I say, some of us didn’t have a choice. Our only other op- tion was to run away, and we couldn’t even do that. Back then, we had no where left to run to.

I have cried so many tears over these three plus decades. Like the many families directly affected by this whole series of events, my family’s tears have not been in short supply. Our tears have joined all the tears from over 500 years of oppression. Together our tears come together and form a giant river of suffering and I hope, cleansing. Injustice is never final, I keep telling myself. I pray this is true for all of us.

To those who know I am innocent, thank you for your faith. And I hope you continue working for my release. That is, to work towards truth and justice. To those who think me guilty, I ask you to believe in and work for the rule of law. Even the law says I should be free by now, regardless of guilt. What has happened to me isn’t justice, it isn’t the law, it isn’t fair, it isn’t right. This has

THE INSIDE LINE



been a long battle in an even longer war. But we have to remain vigilant, as we have a righteous cause. After all this time, I can only ask this: Don’t give up. Not ever. Stay in this fight with me. Suffer with me. Grieve with me. Endure with me. Believe with me. Outlast with me. And one day, celebrate freedom with me. Hoka hey!

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,

Leonard Peltier

~ ~ ~

September 6, 2010

Sisters, brothers, friends and supporters,

I wish I could sit across the table from each of you right now. We’d share a meal and reflect on changes in this world over these 35 or so years. Yes, I pay attention to things on the outside (as much as possible). I know the world is in turmoil and I ache for the Native people who languish in utter poverty on reservations and in inner cit- ies across America.

As a young man, all I wanted to do was make a posi- tive difference in the People’s lives. I’ll turn 66 years old next week and I still want that. It’s difficult to have an impact in my current circumstances, though. That’s a constant source of frustration for me. On the outside, given the chance to roll up my sleeves once again, I suspect I’d still be somewhat frustrated. All that must be done is more than any one person can accomplish. I’d still like the opportunity to do my part.

Thinking back to those days on Pine Ridge, what I remember is the funerals. There were so many funerals... So many families lost loved ones.

There was a powerful force at work on the reservation back then, one with a single purpose—to stamp out the last resistance of the Lakota people.

We (the Oglala traditionals and members of the American Indian Movement) stood up because we were

trying to defend our People. It was the right thing to do. We had — have — the right to survive.

The land was being stolen, too... used for mining mostly. No thought was given to the disposal of toxic waste. The rivers were full of poisons. Not much has changed, I hear.

In those days, though, the reservation was torn apart by a tribal dispute and the federal government armed one group against another. The result was a long line of trag- edies for the People of Pine Ridge... and for the People who were there that day in June 1975.

I honestly understand the pain and anguish suffered by all concerned and I have been part of that suffering. I have watched people lie on the witness stand count- less times and felt the doors closing on me. I have heard judges admonish prosecutors for allowing false evidence in and, in some cases, for participating in the falsification itself. The government hid evidence, too. Or manufac- tured it. Literally.

... Last year, as you know, my parole was denied. That was a disappointment, but I am not defeated. My fight for freedom — for my People and myself — is not over. I am a pipe carrier and a Sundancer. Abandoning The Struggle is not — never will be — a consideration.

I am an Indian man and proud of it. I love my People and culture and spiritual beliefs. My enemies like to suggest otherwise and seek to rob me of all dignity. They won’t succeed.

When I look back over all the years, I remember all the good people who have stood up for me, for a day or a decade. Of course, many have stayed with me all along the way. I think of the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who have signed petitions for me, too... people on the poorest of reservations to the highest of political offices.

As we have learned over these many years, my free- dom won’t come quickly or easily. To succeed, the com- ing battle will have to be hard fought. Please continue to help my Committee and legal team as you have always done. Your support is more important now than ever before. When freedom comes, it will be due in no small part to the actions you take on my behalf.

Again, thank you for remembering me. You can’t know the comfort you bring to an innocent man locked away from the world for so very long.

Doksha,

Leonard Peltier

[February 6, 2010 marked the 34th year of Leonard Peltier’s imprisonment for a crime he did not commit: the killing of two federal agents. Peltier observed his 66th birthday on September 12.]

DRONES ON TRIAL

A Nevada judge hearing the case of fourteen people arrested at Creech Air Force Base was persuaded that, “This case has a lot more consequences than a trespass case.”

Judge William Jansen and a courtroom full of supporters were fully engaged by the expert testimony presented on behalf of the defendants, and at the conclusion of a four-hour bench trial September 14 Jansen told the parties he needed more time to reach his verdict.

“I want to make sure my decision is the correct decision.” After study and review of the testimony and the legal issues presented, Jansen said he will issue his written verdict when the defendants return to court on January 27, 2011.

The defendants – Fr. John Dear, SJ, Dennis DuVall, Renee Espeland, Judy Homanich, Kathy Kelly, Fr. Steve Kelly, SJ; Mariah Klusmire, Brad Lyttle, Libby Pappalardo, Sr. Megan Rice, SHCJ; Brian Terrell, Eve Tetaz, Fr. Louie Vitale, OFM and Fr. Jerry Zawada, OFM – were charged with entering the Indian Springs, Nevada base in April 2009 during a week of demonstrations and vigils to condemn the U.S. military’s use of weaponized drones, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in Afghanistan and elsewhere for remote controlled, extrajudicial assassination missions.

Judge Jansen allowed the pro-se defendants to call three expert witnesses – former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, former diplomat and retired Army Col. Ann Wright, and Bill Quigley, Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights.

The judge told the defendants that their questions and the expert testimony must strictly pertain to the charge of trespass. However, through a carefully crafted series of questions for the witnesses, defendants Fr. Steve Kelly

and Kathy Kelly (not related) were able to draw from their decades of front-line experience a history lesson on the contribution of civil disobedience in social justice movements in the United States. Along the way, the witnesses also made several key points related to current drone warfare:

- Intentional killing is a war crime, as embodied in U.S. constitutional law.
- Drone strikes by U.S. and coalition forces kill a disproportionate number of civilians.
- People have the right, even the duty, to stop war crimes.
- According to the Nuremberg principles, individuals are required to disobey domestic orders that cause crimes against humanity.

At the conclusion of the expert testimony, the defendants huddled briefly and decided that none of them would take the stand, allowing the weight of the persuasive expert testimony to stand alone.

Defendant Brian Terrell delivered the group’s closing statement. Referring to earlier mention of a classic metaphor used in cases invoking the necessity defense, he said, “The house is on fire; the baby is in the house,” alluding to the civilian deaths caused by U.S. drones in Afghanistan. “We fourteen are ones who see the smoke, and will not allow a ‘no trespass’ sign to stop us from reaching burning children.”

After announcing his decision to thoroughly consider his verdict, Judge Jansen’s parting words before leaving the courtroom were, “Go in peace.”

For more information, contact the Nevada Desert Experience, 702-646-4814, info@nevadadesertexperience.org; or Voices for Creative Nonviolence, 773-878-3815, info@vcnv.org

A Day in New York City Court

Eleven people arrested on Good Friday while memorializing the names of recent war dead at the USS Intrepid Museum in New York City were in Manhattan Community Court on June 1.

Bloggng at the dailygazette.com (Schenectady), Linda LaTendre wrote about their arraignment:

Fr. Dan was called up to the bench first. “Mr. Daniel Berrigan,” the court clerk called out. “Mr.?”, we all thought.

The judge asked if he was THE Daniel Berrigan. “I remember you from the Vietnam War,” the judge said. “You and I were working the same side of the street. I used to give legal advice to war protesters and I told them if an officer asks you to move along, you do. This case in dismissed in the interest of justice.” (I heard “cha-ching” in my head -- “dismissed in the interest of justice” is the holy grail of civil disobedience)

We all started to applaud and the bailiffs immediately were on us to be quiet. I’ve been to this particular Community Court three times now with the same bailiffs and they look like they’ve had permanent scowls surgically implanted onto their faces.

The judge did the same for each of us and when it was my turn to appear before him he commented about the distance of Saratoga Springs and asked how things were “up there.” I told him all was fine and invited him to come visit us sometime. He remarked that if he does and a police officer asks him to move along he will.

“May I say your honor that the officers who arrested us were wonderful,” I said to the judge.

“When we say New York’s finest we mean it, they are,” he agreed.

“Yes, they truly are,” I replied.

You could hear the grins from the bailiffs. I turned to go and one of them shook my hand and said “thank you” as the sun rose in a smile so big his face could hardly contain it.

GUANTANAMO DEMO CHARGE TOSSED

On Monday, June 14, twenty-four activists with Witness Against Torture were acquitted in Washington, D.C. Superior Court of charges of “unlawful entry with disorderly conduct.” The charges stemmed from demonstrations at the U.S. Capitol on January 21, 2010 – the date by which President Obama had promised to close the Guantanamo detention camp.

Judge Russell Canan, hearing the case from the bench, granted the defense motion for a judgment of acquittal after the government rested its case. Defense attorney Bill Quigley argued for acquittal based on the First Amendment, International Law and Necessity, but Canan ruled that the group was not properly charged. “In my opinion, the judge found a way to validate the spirit of the protesters, and their struggle against the injustice of Guantanamo,” said Quigley.

Some of the defendants, dressed as Guantanamo prisoners, were arrested on the steps of the Capitol holding banners reading “Broken Promises, Broken Laws, Broken Lives.” Inside the Capitol Rotunda, at the location where deceased presidents lie in state, fourteen activists were arrested while holding a memorial service for three men who died at Guantanamo in 2006. Initially reported as suicides, recent evidence reviewed by Scott Horton in *Harpers Magazine* (“Murders at Guantanamo” March 2010), suggests the deaths may have been the result of the men being tortured to death.

“Our acquittal is a victory for free speech and for the right of Americans to stand up for those falsely imprisoned and abused at Guantanamo,” said Ellen Graves, one of the defendants. “We tried to shine a light on the unconstitutional policies of the Bush and now the Obama administrations. That light shone brightly today.”

“We will use our freedom to continue to work for the day when Guantanamo is closed and those who designed and carried out torture policies are held to account,” said defendant Paul Thorson.

For more information, visit witness torture.org

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Danbury

Illegal Reentry

by Nancy Gwin

THE INSIDE LINE



I. In January I was found guilty in Federal Court in Columbus, Georgia of “Illegal Reentry onto a United States Military Reservation.” I have been incarcerated here at Danbury Federal Correctional Institution since March 8. The illegal reentry occurred last November when Fr. Louis Vitale, Ken Hayes, Michael Walli and I walked onto Fort Benning, a US Army base. On our way in we prayed and sang to close the taxpayer-funded School of the Americas housed there.

Before arriving here, I hoped I’d be able to keep the faces of my Latin American and Caribbean brothers and sisters before my eyes. Would I be able to set aside my own loss of freedom and physical comfort, and my attachment to loved ones and community, to stay focused on outreach, organizing and prayer to close the SOA?

Finding those faces at Danbury FCI hasn’t been hard. According to one staff person, of the 1100+ women incarcerated in the “Big House,” at least 500 are here for immigration issues. They refer to Danbury as an “immigration station.” Most will serve their sentences and then be deported. Some, because of treaty arrangements, will finish their sentence in the country to which they are deported.

I hear Spanish everywhere here – at meals, in the dorms, on the commissary line, on work assignments, over dominos or a jigsaw puzzle. The staff translates at faith services, at Admission and Orientation sessions, but never over the loudspeaker. There is little opportunity to learn English as a Second Language – although there are some GED classes in Spanish. Resources are limited.

I share my crime of “reentry” with many of the women. “Reentry” – once removed, once warned, once deported, you must not reenter. Even if your youngest child is eight, a US citizen, living in California without you. Even if you have never lived in the country to which you are being deported.

II. Are any of these women from countries whose military officers trained at the SOA/WHINSEC? Yes. Referring only to women whose personal stories I’ve heard, I count Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Brazil, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala.

Mercedes, stopped while driving, was charged with reentry in Arizona. Serving 30 months, she’ll then be deported to Mexico. Her husband is a US citizen living in Los Angeles. They have five children, all US citizens. Mercedes wept as she told me that her husband has had her phone calls blocked because her eight-year old is so distraught when she hears her voice.

LaSandra and I reminisced about Nicaragua and sang “Nicaraguita” together. Her sentence is 12 months and then deportation. She has ten children, ages 15 to 27, living in Texas. The youngest six are US citizens; the oldest four are documented with working papers.

Andrea, in her early 20s, came to the US from Mexico with her parents when she was three. Her parents, documented permanent residents, never became US citizens and she isn’t one. Her younger siblings, born in the US, are citizens. Andrea has committed a drug crime and faces deportation upon release (although her sentence may be markedly reduced by a new disparity-in-sentencing law). At Danbury, she has completed her GED and now teaches other women. She has no family in Mexico.

Norma came to this country with her husband 25 years ago to escape genocide in Guatemala. She worked for 20 years cleaning houses. But recently her Green Card wasn’t renewed. After 11 months’ incarceration, she’ll be deported to Guatemala. Her two children are both high school students and US citizens, as is her former husband.

So many children without their mothers and grandmothers. So many mothers yearning to parent their children. So much effort to call, to design cards, to crochet gifts, to write letters of advice and love.

III. Daily I’m reminded of the consequences of the US government’s “War Against Drugs.” Women whose drug offenses are nonviolent crimes of poverty and insecurity languish with painfully long sentences. My six-month sentence, now five, seems short as I wait with these women to embrace a daughter, to reconcile with a son, to hold a grandchild. We wait and work with others on the outside to move a cautious Congress. We wait to hear that the new law correcting disparity in sentencing for crack and cocaine use will retroactively reduce sentences. We wait for cruel three-strikes laws to be tossed out, for immigration reform to include family reunification and reasonable paths to citizenship. We wait for HR 2567 – the law to close the SOA – to pass.

[Nancy Gwin recently completed a four-month sentence for trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia.]

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Aussies Return to Scene of Crime After Charges are Dismissed

Australian anti-war activists who call themselves the Bonhoeffer Four appeared in Geelong Magistrate’s Court June 16 to answer charges of trespass at the Swan Island military base in southern Victoria state last March. Two of the group had blocked the base’s road entrance from the mainland while the others paddled ashore. Once inside the base, the two swimmers turned off circuits in a switch-board they found, then hit the switch labeled “emergency satellite shutdown” next to a giant dish antenna. They believe their action shut down communications vital to Australia’s participation in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

About 50 supporters filled the courtroom and gathered outside to vigil and leaflet in support. Defendants Jacob Bolton, Fr. Simon Moyle, Jessica Morrison and Simon Reeves told the chief magistrate they would plead guilty, not out of an emotional sense of guilt, but to take responsibility for their anti-war action. The prosecutor reviewed the evidence, and acknowledged that the base had been closed for the day.

The magistrate found the charge proved, and invited statements from the four. Each spoke of their engaged lives as people for whom resisting war is simply part of acting in good conscience. They addressed the Afghan War, Swan Island’s role, the history of civil disobedience and their Christian faith. Then the magistrate gave his verdict.

Defendant Jessica Morrison writes:

He indicated that the debates about Afghanistan

Raytheon Women Acquitted

In Belfast, Northern Ireland, a jury acquitted nine women facing multiple charges for locking themselves inside a Raytheon facility in Derry and trying to disrupt the war supplier’s business with Israel. At the time of their arrest, January 12, 2009, Operation Cast Lead was well underway, driving their urgency to act. The verdict was returned in one hour on June 2, two days after Israeli forces killed nine people while commandeering the Gaza Freedom Flotilla.

At the time of their action and throughout the two and one half week trial, the women admitted they wanted to damage the mainframe computer server, and had locked themselves inside the office building when they could not get into the server room.

Five men who were arrested outside while supporting the women were also on trial. The judge directed the jury to acquit three for lack of evidence. James King was found guilty of criminal damage and intent to cause criminal damage, and fined £75 plus £80 compensation for cleaning the wall he graffitied. Kieran Gallagher was convicted of impersonating a police officer and given 12 months conditional discharge.

Sweden Goes Nuclear

Sweden’s 30-year moratorium on new nuclear power has been reversed by the government, and the reversal was approved by the Swedish parliament on June 17. The policy shift clears the way for replacing ten aging reactors with new ones.

Three days earlier, Greenpeace dramatically entered the public debate when about 40 activists from across northern Europe entered the Forsmark nuclear power reactor site to urge a “no” vote. Some were costumed to represent renewable energy sources such as sun, wind and water. Their message was that nuclear is too costly, too risky, too slow to come online and would pull investment money away from the renewable energy options that create more jobs. Two paragliders circled the scene pulling banners with “no new nuclear power” messages.

Police arrested those inside the fenced site. On July 1, a court in Uppsala handed down fines ranging up to \$2,000 for trespass to 29 people – 13 Germans, eight Poles, four Danes, a Frenchman, a Finn, a Swede and a Briton.

continue to go on, and that this is important. He warned us about using our faith as a justification for breaking the law, noting many awful things have been done in the name of “a higher power” – and I thought his caution was well founded. He then referred to Section 19B of the Commonwealth Crimes Act, which gives a magistrate the freedom to dismiss charges. He then stated that given the nature of the offending (the lowest sort of offending behaviour) and the character of those of us charged – he would dismiss the charges. We were flabbergasted!

Supporters clapped and cheered, then hosted the defendants for lunch.

After lunch, about 40 people returned to Swan Island, where they were met near the gate by a large assortment of law enforcers. A die-in commenced in remembrance of the civilian and military deaths in Afghanistan, and police arrested nine people who remained to block the gate after being ordered to clear the area. The nine were soon released and told they may still be summoned to court.



photo by Chip Henriss

Blocking the gate at Australia’s Swan Island military base, June 16, 2010.

Joint Air Force Exercises Disrupted

During two weeks in early August, U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) came to the area of Norrbotten in Northern Sweden for joint air exercises with the Swedish Air Force. The anti-war direct action network Ofog (“Mischievous”) organized an action camp to highlight Sweden’s role in training and preparing for war and to disrupt the bomb exercise.

In the main city of Luleå, Ofog was joined by Women for Peace, Afghanistan Solidarity and the NATO Out of Sweden Network, where they held speeches, and performed street theater to highlight employment alternatives to military exercises. Direct actions took place at the military airport F21 and at Vidsel, which is used for bomb training.

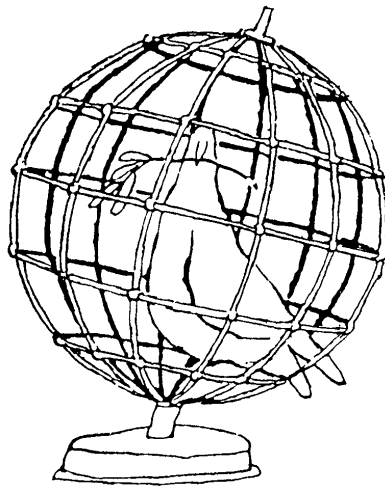
On July 29, Ofog brought the street theater to military airport F21. Big banners were hung high in the trees, and passing cars were urged to honk for peace. Seven Ofog activists went into the protected area dressed as nurses, teachers, librarians and other professions that could be better supported if not so much were spent on militarism and war. The seven were arrested and driven out of the area.

On Monday, August 2, five Ofog activists made their way into the bomb training area in Vidsel, about 70 miles from Luleå. They walked all the way to a radar station used during the war exercises. After about five hours the activists were arrested by police and spent some hours at the police station before being released.

A few days later, on August 5, two Ofog activists went into the bomb exercise area again to interfere with the exercise which was then in full swing. They stayed overnight and the next morning the military admitted they could not drop any bombs as long as there were people inside and they didn’t know exactly where. The pair stayed about 18 hours inside the area.

No court dates have been set. A smaller number arrested during the 2009 summer war games were fined, and plans are already underway for protest during the summer, 2011 exercises.

For more information, visit www.ofog.org/english.



Disarming Duo In and Out of Prison

Anna Andersson begins serving a four month prison sentence in Sweden on September 15. She was convicted in the October, 2008 disarmament of fourteen rocket-propelled grenade launchers made for export at the Saab Bofors Dynamics arms plant in Eskilstuna.

“The Swedish weapons export has increased by more than 400 percent since 2001, in spite of the fact that a majority of the Swedish people, according to a recent published poll, wants to stop it. It is my responsibility as a fellow human being to act against this deadly trade which causes so much destruction in the world,” said Andersson at sentencing in April.

Her codefendant Martin Smedjeback finished his four-month sentence September 3. “Life at my Swedish prison is pretty sweet,” he wrote in June. “Today we played soccer on a nice grass court, followed by swimming in a nearby lake and barbecue.”

Andersson expects similar treatment. She blogged a week before about getting ready to report to the prison: “The many subsequent conversations have resulted in inadequate information and frustration over red tape and complicated rules, but also in relief over how nice everyone treated me and how relaxed and available the staff seem to be. I phoned the office in the middle of their crayfish party and a happy guard talked about what the room looked like, what food we had and wished me a warm welcome. It all felt a bit like booking a holiday with full board.”



Letters of support should be sent to Anna Andersson, Anstalten Hinseberg, Box 1005, 718 92 Frövi, Sweden. Andersson may be released in mid-December, with credit for good behavior.

British War Refuser Released

British military refuser Joe Glenton was released from military jail on July 12. Two weeks later, on the day Wikileaks released thousands of pages of classified war documents, Glenton addressed 400 people at a London meeting of Stop the War Machine.

This year has been the most challenging of my life. Since I spoke last I’ve served a prison sentence - for objecting, speaking out and absence without leave. But rest assured I would serve it again. In the current climate, I consider it a badge of honor to have served a prison sentence.

To have resisted, to continue to resist is certainly the most empowering experience I’ve known in my life. And it’s fear between every emotion you can imagine - it’s been terrifying and others times it’s been almost therapeutic to be up against the state.

.... I realize I have a lot more in common with the people of Afghanistan than with my own military and political commanders. The real enemy, I’ve concluded, is not the man to your front who you’re facing with a rifle but the man directly behind you and above you telling you to pull the trigger...

Igor Sutyagin Freed



photo courtesy Sutyagin.org

Igor Sutyagin at Tower Bridge, London

After serving more than ten years of a 15-year sentence for espionage, Russian arms researcher Igor Sutyagin was freed July 8 in what was reported as the largest spy swap between the United States and Russia since the end of the Cold War.

Sutyagin was never a spy, a fact confirmed by the State Department on the day of the swap. Nevertheless, he was convicted of sharing sensitive information from public sources about Russian nuclear weapons while under contract with a London firm later alleged to be a CIA front. His research drew the unwelcome attention of the FSB, Russia's secret police successor to the Soviet KGB. His case was taken up by human rights organizations, and the U.S. State Department declared he was a political prisoner.

As part of the deal for his release, Sutyagin signed a confession. He reportedly agreed to the deal to avoid four and one half more years in the penal colony near Arkhangel'sk. Now, however, the 45-year-old father of two is in limbo in London. Britain will allow him to stay indefinitely. He would like to return home to his family near Moscow, but there is no assurance he would be safe from further prosecution if he returned.

Vanunu Released Early

For reasons unknown, Mordechai Vanunu was released on August 8, two weeks before completing a three month prison sentence. The Israeli nuclear whistleblower was jailed again following conviction for violating post-prison restrictions imposed since April, 2004, when he was released after serving an 18-year sentence for espionage and treason. His contact with foreign media following his release violated the restrictions. Other restrictions prohibit him from leaving Israel, as he desires.

Vanunu was kept in solitary confinement during his 11 weeks in jail. Ten days before his release, Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire and Gerry Grehan, Chair of the Peace People in Northern Ireland, posted an online petition to world leaders, appealing for their intervention on behalf of the prisoner and his desire to leave Israel. To sign the petition, visit change.org and search for "Vanunu." According to his website, vanunu.com, Vanunu has recently moved from East Jerusalem to Tel Aviv.

Iowa, cont.

continued from page 11

heard other than putting their bodies on the line.

Despite the evidence that the defendants were "peaceably assembled for the redress of grievances" and that their First Amendment rights had been "abridged" by the police orders in question, Judge Magistrate Celeste Bremer found Christine Gaunt (on four counts), Kirk Brown, Ed Bloomer, Renee Espeland, Elton Davis, Brian Terrell and Mona Shaw guilty of failure to comply with the directions of a police officer, and imposed a \$50 fine per count. Commander Goldberg's hopes for injunctive relief from such assemblies were disappointed, however, by Judge Bremer's final words to those she had convicted and fined: "I hope that your witness to the senators continues and expands!"

On July 7, Gaunt faced trial in state court for trespass during the April 7 die-in. Representing herself, Gaunt spoke of the power of nonviolence, and the relationships she has established with office staff as a result of her regular presence. She argued for acquittal based on the First Amendment.

Magistrate David Welu found her guilty and fined Gaunt \$500 plus about \$250 in court costs. Trial concluded in time for Gaunt to die-in once again at Sen. Grassley's office, until she was ordered to leave the office shortly after 5 p.m. She remained in the hall outside, praying and meditating until the federal building closed at 6 p.m. and she departed for home.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES, cont.

Democracy Village

May Day anti-election marches in London converged on the lawn of Parliament Square for a carnival demanding action to end the war in Afghanistan. A protest camp was pitched on the green, initially intended to remain through the election on May 6. In the first few days a People's Parliament emerged from what they called Democracy Village, demanding not only an end to the war, but also climate justice, civil liberties, land reform and more.

Three weeks later, in advance of the Queen arriving to open the session of Parliament, the Lord Mayor of London had eviction notices served on the campers, and Brian Haw and fellow protester Barbara Tucker were arrested again.

Haw has kept vigil on the sidewalk by the Square since 2001, first in opposition to the sanctions against Iraq, then broadened after 9/11 to oppose British and American-led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. He won legal right to his free speech spot when a move to outlaw it backfired.

The city said the camp had become a magnet for the homeless and addicted, and its presence discouraged tourists and other members of the public from using the common property.

EDO Decommissioners Acquitted

Seven British anti-war activists were acquitted of criminal damage and conspiracy to commit criminal damage at the end of June, following a lengthy and long-delayed trial for decommissioning a Brighton arms factory back in January, 2009. Crown Court Judge Bathurst-Norman dismissed an eighth defendant, Rosa Bellamy, for having no case to answer after prosecutors presented insufficient evidence. After two days of deliberations, the jury declared Simon Levin, Bob Nicholls, Ornella Saibene, Harvey Tadman, and Tom Woodhead innocent, and were still deliberating the fate of Chris Osmond and Elijah James Smith when directed by the judge to acquit them, as well.

In their defense, the seven repeatedly explained that, "We are the accusers not the accused." They claimed they had a lawful excuse – the prevention of imminent war crimes – for breaking into the factory and hammering on machinery, destroying files and tossing computers out the window.

One decommissioner said, "We made our case very clear and 12 normal people from Sussex heard that case and agreed unanimously that we'd done nothing wrong. We did around £200,000 of damage and we've never denied that. We did what we believed was necessary and the jury agreed."

The EDO-MBM/ITT plant in Brighton has been the focus of sustained protest by a boisterous local campaign group, Smash EDO, for several years. Their research reveals that despite public denials, the firm supplied critical bomb release and fusing mechanisms to U.S.-made F-16 warplanes used by Israel, in violation of export agreements.

During Operation Cast Lead, Israel's 2009 aerial and ground assault on Gaza, Nicholls, Saibene, Smith, Tadman, and Woodhead took direct action to shut down the factory and interrupt a supply of equipment vital to the military attack. Before taking their hammers into the factory early on the

Commander Goldberg brought the state police back into the scene a couple of weeks later. At their September 7 pretrial hearing, Gaunt and Elton Davis were given a November 4 bench trial date.

Gaunt's third trial was back in federal court on August 20, facing citations for after-hours die-ins on three dates. Magistrate Walters convicted her on two counts, but on the third, interfering with the duties of Senator Grassley's staff, she successfully argued for acquittal because no one from the staff was there to testify about the allegation. He reduced the penalty on the other convictions, fining Gaunt a total of \$105.

For more information, contact Christine Gaunt at gaunt@grinnell.edu.

Weeks of hearings and appeals ended in late July in the Lord Mayor's favor. Early on the 20th, about 50 bailiffs roused the campers but made no arrests. A high fence was installed around the square, save for one small nook where Brian Haw's 24/7 anti-war vigil remained, protected by earlier court rulings. That afternoon, a fence-jumping tournament was held, and police were engaged chasing nearly two dozen people around inside the barrier and plopping them down outside of it.

It was unclear how police fencing off the area promoted tourism and public use of the park.

Earlier in the month, jubilant over a temporary victory in the legal fight over their eviction, Democracy Villagers held a spontaneous sit-in outside the gates of Parliament, where two fence-climbers were arrested, before marching on Downing Street for a sit-in outside the Prime Minister's residence. Thirteen more were arrested there. Most were later released with a warning, but three were jailed for seven days for refusing to pay a £40 fine, and Simon Moore was jailed 20 days for contempt of court, namely bringing his peace banner into the chamber.

For more information, visit democracyvillage.org.

morning of January 17, 2009, they videotaped personal declarations of their intent to prevent war crimes. The videos were posted online shortly after their arrest. Police also arrested and charged Bellamy, Levin and Osmond, supporters who had been invited at the last minute to witness from outside the factory gates, but who had no advance knowledge or other involvement with the direct action.

One of the decommissioners, Elijah Smith, was denied bail due to another charge related to EDO protest and kept in jail for 17 months awaiting trial. He was finally released from prison following the acquittal and a new bail hearing July 7.

Critical testimony at their trial was provided by Caroline Lucas, a Green party member of Parliament, and Paul Hills, managing director of the factory. Lucas told the court that all diplomatic and democratic means for halting Israel's aggression in Gaza had been exhausted, and that by mid-January, 2009, nonviolent direct action was the only remaining option.

Hills ended up on the stand for five days, being questioned in detail by defense counsel about the dossier of several hundred pages of evidence assembled by Smash EDO campaigners to show the firm's links to Israel. While never directly admitting to the fact, Hills did concede that a member of the public, reviewing the evidence that influenced the defendants, would come to the conclusion that the firm was supplying critical military hardware to Israel.

The court also heard testimony from a nurse who worked in a Gaza hospital that came under fire by F-16s during the 2009 siege, and about the fleeing patients who were then shot. It was one of the specific attacks that drove the defendants into action.

After three and one-half weeks of trial, Bathurst-Norman gave a lengthy summing-up to the jury, wherein he questioned Hills'

credibility, praised the humanity of the defendants, and described Gaza during Operation Cast Lead as "hell on earth." The question for the jury, he explained, was not whether Hills was lying about supplying arms that were used to enforce Israel's occupations, but whether the defendants had an honest belief from the evidence that this was true – something Hills had already conceded was possible. In the wake of the verdict, the judge has come under partisan criticism and judicial investigation for expressing a bias against Israel in his summing-up.

Campaigners continue to demonstrate weekly at the Brighton plant, reminding workers, "We will be here until you are gone."

"ITT's Hammertime!", a "mass siege" of EDO-MBM/ITT is being planned for October 13 in Brighton.

For more information, contact smashedo@riseup.net, or visit decommissioners.co.uk and www.smashedo.org.uk.



RNC 8 now 4

Only four men still face felony conspiracy charges for organizing protest at the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota. On September 16, state prosecutors dismissed their case against Monica Bicking, Luce Guillen-Givins and Eryn Trimmer.

Originally, eight people involved with the RNC Welcoming Committee were arrested on the eve of the event and charged in the conspiracy. One of the eight pled guilty August 28 to a single gross misdemeanor charge of conspiracy to commit criminal damage. Erik Oseland was fined \$100 and will begin serving a 91 day jail sentence on October 20. With credit for good behavior and time served following his arrest two years ago on the eve of the Convention, he may be released by mid-December.

Oseland demanded and received two conditions to his plea agreement: that he not be called to testify against any of the other RNC defendants, and that no probation will be imposed after he serves the jail sentence.

In May, a lengthy pretrial hearing began into probable cause for the felony conspiracy charges against the RNC 8. Testimony revealed that police relied upon dubious information from paid informants “proven to be unreliable and volatile,” said Melissa Hill of the RNC 8 Defense Committee. “The more we hear from the police in court, the clearer it becomes that the state manufactured reasons to justify their desires to stifle dissent surrounding the RNC.”

Furthermore, a police investigator and two paid informants “failed to identify any instance of actual members of the Welcoming Committee conspiring to use violence, damage property or commit any other crime during protests at the RNC.” Trial for Rob Czernik, Garrett Fitzgerald, Nathanael Secor and Max Specktor is set to begin October 25 in Ramsey County Court. For more information, visit www.rnc8.org



FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON: Brianna Herrera and Patty Imani were brought to trial in January, charged with disorderly conduct in August, 2008, when they blocked a highway off ramp to halt the flow of army Stryker brigade equipment during one of the Olympia Port Militarization Resistance actions. They admitted the facts of the case, and the judge had agreed they could present a defense of necessity. After the prosecution rested its case on the testimony of two police officers, a spectator informed the judge that a juror was observed making eye contact with and waving to a prosecution witness. The juror had failed to acknowledge his affiliation with law enforcement, and when this was disclosed, the judge declared a mistrial. On the eve of their retrial, Herrera agreed to an offer of deferred prosecution, with charges dismissed after a period of lawful behavior. Patti Imani faced a new jury on August 11-12, over two years after her arrest. She admitted to the fact of blocking the war material, but argued that the action was necessary to prevent a greater, imminent harm. Her defense included testimony from, among others, an Iraq war veteran and Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, on the necessity of direct action when legal alternatives have failed to prevent crimes against peace. The jury deliberated for only 20 minutes before convicting Imani. She was fined \$500 or must perform 50 hours of community service. The Port of Olympia is considering a new shipping contract with the Army, and a new formation, South Salish Military Convoy Watch, is monitoring the situation to alert nonviolent resisters. After her conviction, Imani wrote to supporters, “I do believe if all stood up and non-violently resisted those instruments of death from passing through our public streets and ports, the occupations could not continue. I don’t believe resistance is ever futile, where motivated by a natural response towards justice and away from oppressive structures, actions, and thinking...”

CALGARY, ALBERTA: John Boncore (aka Splitting the Sky) was placed on one year probation and given a conditional discharge, following his conviction June 7 for obstructing police. He was cited after trying to cross a police line to make a citizen’s arrest of George W. Bush for war crimes when the former President came to speak in Calgary in March, 2009. Boncore was also ordered to make a \$1,000 donation to the charity of his choice. The prosecutor acknowledged that Boncore’s actions were deliberate and well planned, and did not seek jail time...

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA: Eleven people arrested during an anti-war march in December will have their unlawful assembly charge dismissed after completing eight hours of community service...

FUTURE ACTIONS

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

kansas city plant

The Kansas City Peace Planters will sponsor events including training and opportunity for nonviolent direct action in conjunction with upcoming court dates for people arrested this summer at the site of the new nuclear weapons parts plant. Planning begins October 6 in anticipation of the October 7 hearing for people arrested August 16. Following the hearing, Peace Planters will rally in Ilus Davis Park and march on City Hall to protest municipal bond financing of nuclear weapons production.

On November 3, nonviolent direct action preparation and discussion will precede a November 4 hearing for those arrested September 8. For more information, visit kenukeswatch.wordpress.com.

allianttech

AlliantACTION will host a celebration October 2 of the 141st Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, including nonviolent direct action at the arms manufacture’s headquarters in in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. For more information, visit www.alliantaction.org

castor n-waste train

Shut down nuclear power! Help stop the nuclear waste trains in northern Germany this November. Tens of thousands will blockade trains and undermine the tracks’ ballast. For more information, visit www.castor-schottern.org (in German).

BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA: In 2008, the city agreed with the ACLU to stop ticketing motorists who honked for peace in response to signs held regularly outside Rep. John Kline’s office, except when “necessary to preserve public safety.” Enthusiastic peace honker Robert Palmer was nevertheless ticketed after at least 52 toots on his horn one day last year. The ACLU again had to take the city to court to get the charge dismissed following a lengthy evidentiary hearing in April...

WAR RESISTERS: Army objector Nicole Mitchell (NR #157) was released June 12 and has since separated from the Army. “I received quite a few letters of support from people across all spans of the U.S. Those letters truly helped me to stay positive not just about my reasons for being confined, but about being able to remain stable outside the military,” she wrote to Courage to Resist.

In Canada on July 6, a three-judge panel of the federal Court of Appeal unanimously overturned the rejection of military refuser Jeremy Hinzman’s application for permanent residency on humanitarian grounds. The court said the initial decision was “unreasonable” and “significantly flawed” for failing to take Hinzman’s pacifist religious beliefs into account. His application will now go back for reconsideration by a new officer, a process that could take a year or longer. Meanwhile, he and his family are at home in Canada. The Canadian Parliament is currently considering Bill C-440, which would allow U.S. Iraq War resisters to apply for permanent residence in Canada...

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE: Gretchen Nielsen was found not guilty of trespass on June 25 by a Tucson city court judge. She was arrested in March on the flight line near a Predator UAV during the base’s biennial air show, while holding a banner reading “War is not a show” with John Heid. Neilsen represented herself at trial, arguing that her intention was simply communication, not “protest” as alleged by the prosecution. The judge questioned the prosecution’s witnesses, and satisfied himself that it was as much the content of the message as the manner of its expression that led to her arrest. He was leaning towards acquittal on free speech grounds until the prosecutor cited U.S. v. Albertini, a notable First Amendment anti-war case from the U.S. 9th Circuit. The judge’s review of the decision convinced him that military bases are special, and access can be restricted at the whim of the commander despite the commander also having invited the public onto the base for the air show. Nonetheless, the judge noted that the specific section of the trespass law under which Neilsen was charged referred to a “fenced commercial yard,” but in his judgment, that did not describe the air force base. Because she was wrongly charged, he found her not guilty. Heid’s trial is expected this fall...

ALFALIGHT: Three women were convicted of trespass in Madison, Wisconsin municipal court on March 8, following their arrest last December at the local war contractor. Judge Kovel showed sympathy for the cause and reduced the standard fine from \$400 to \$149, and said that Jennifer First, her mom Joy First, and Marilyn Ross could perform 11 hours of community service in lieu of payment...

LOS ANGELES: In February, a federal magistrate declared that the police reports were inadequate and all charges were dismissed against six people arrested at the federal building in December, on the eve of the Nobel

continued on page 16

devonport

Trident Ploughshares invites participation in a blockade of the Devonport Dockyard in Plymouth, England on November 1. The dockyard not only refits, maintains, and upgrades Britain’s Trident nuclear submarine fleet, but has also become the dumping ground for old and out of service nuclear submarines. For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org/article1608

fort benning

The 20th anniversary November Vigil to Close the School of the Americas will be held from November 18-21, 2010. Vigil and rally at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, nonviolent direct action, teach-in, concerts, workshops and an anti-militarization organizers conference are planned, bringing together religious communities, students, teachers, veterans, community organizers, musicians, puppetistas and many others. Organize your community for the 2010 vigil. Organizing materials and more information at soa.org or phone 202-234-3440. For information about the sister vigil at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona on November 14, visit southwestwitness.org.

faith @ resistance/england

Catholic Workers in England will host a Faith and Resistance retreat around December 28, the Feast of Holy Innocents. Location will be the Catholic Worker Farmhouse, Rickmansworth. For more information, contact Ciaron O’Reilly at ciaronx@yahoo.com or the Catholic Worker House, 16 De Beauvoir Rd., London N1 5SU, England.

faith @ resistance/ washington, d.c.

Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Community and Jonah House will again sponsor a Holy Innocents Faith and Resistance Retreat December 28-30, with nonviolent actions at the Pentagon and White House. For more information, call Dorothy Day House, 202-882-9649 or visit jonahhouse.org

lockheed martin/sunnyvale

Civil resistance on March 7, 2011 at the #1 war profiteer’s California missile center will conclude the Pacific Life Community’s spring retreat. Retreat includes civil disobedience workshop for new activists and keynote address by Frida Berrigan Sunday, March 6. For more information, call Bryce, 419-705-3462 or Peggy, 408- 221-3424, or visit pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com

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Update Files, cont.

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Prize award ceremony. Five Catholic Workers who held signs by the door declaring Obama: No Peace, No Prize had been cited for disorderly conduct, along with a photographer...

SALEM, OREGON: Six people were convicted of trespass during vigils on the State House steps in 2008 and 2009, held in opposition to Oregon National Guard deployments to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. They were fined \$500 each, and the American Civil Liberties Union is handling the appeal of the convictions. Two will not pay the fine, and instead will redirect the money to charities serving war victims and assisting returning Guard members...

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK: Of eleven people arrested when police rioted on an October 2009 anti-war march, charges against six were dismissed (with the judge stating he believed one woman’s First Amendment rights had been violated) and adjourned contemplating dismissal for the other five...

CHICAGO: Fifteen people were convicted July 12 and fined \$100 for refusing to leave the federal building during an anti-war protest April 26. The demonstration was part of the Midwest Catholic Worker gathering. John Heid and Jake Olzen could not return to Chicago for the July trial and have had their cases postponed...

DSEI ARMS FAIR/LONDON: After a three day trial, a judge acquitted seven people charged with failure to comply. Police broke up a demonstration outside a big hotel dinner for the death merchants, demanding the demo move to a fenced-off area out of sight. The judge said he was not convinced that the police decision to put the condition on where to demonstrate in place was reasonable, and that the condition to protest only in the obscured fenced area offended against the right of the demonstrators to legitimate protest...

NEW YORK CITY: “The MTA Police Department has failed to file a legally acceptable accusatory instrument with this court. There is no need for you to return to court on the summons number referenced above,” read the memo dismissing disorderly conduct charges against

nearly all of 22 people arrested during a nuclear disarmament banner-drop and die-in at Grand Central Terminal on May 3, the opening day of the nonproliferation treaty review conference. Bev Rice and Carol Husten’s accusatory instruments were legally acceptable (read: legible and coherent) and they are due in court October 1...

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Joy First and Malachy Kilbride were in court April 12 for trial following their arrest in the “picture post-card” zone in front of the White House in June, 2009, during the annual fast and vigil with the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition. When their case was called, the prosecution told the court that it had reviewed the case and declined to prosecute. First speculates that the case was dismissed because both defendants had already spent 54 hours in custody after their arrest on the minor charge.

Six people who also were arrested in front of the White House following the March 20, 2010 anti-war march were in D.C. Superior Court for a bench trial on July 12. Prosecutors showed a National Park Service video as their key evidence, leading to a guilty verdict against Elaine Brower, Matthis Chiroux for failing to obey a legal order, and against Leflora Cunningham for crossing a police line. Peace of the Action activists Cindy Sheehan, Jonathan Gold and James Veeder were found not guilty of the charge of crossing a police line because the video did not confirm the charge.

The protracted appeal by a handful of people arrested during an anti-war protest at the Capitol in September, 2006, who were charged with civil contempt for refusing to pay \$50 court costs upon conviction of the criminal charges, proceeds with oral arguments on the contempt charges scheduled for October 7. Judge Craig Iscoe of the D.C. Superior Court now has the case, and four defendants out of 11 remain, the others having paid the \$50 at some point during the past three years of appeals...

SENS. AL FRANKEN AND AMY KLOBUCHAR: In the wake of the Peaceable Assembly Campaign arrests in the Minnesota senator’s offices, five cited at Franken’s office April 8 will be arraigned October 25. Eight arrested at Klobuchar’s office face trial October 8. A ninth defendant pled guilty and was fined \$200 plus court costs...

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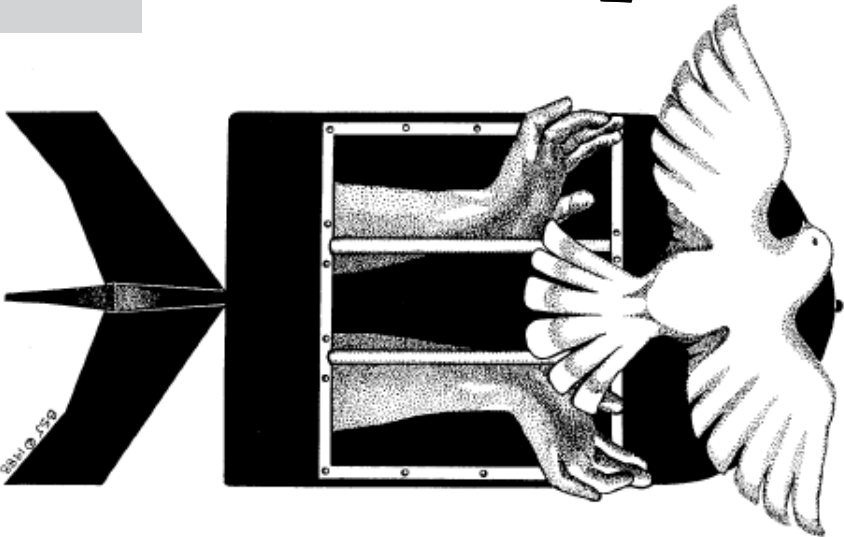
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