

# the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 160

December 20, 2010

## VETERANS DEMAND: END THESE WARS!



Photo by Ellen Davidson

### Veterans at the White House fence.

Veterans for Peace and others took a stand against war on Thursday, December 16, in the largest veterans-led civil resistance action and allied demonstrations to date against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Veterans of American wars from World War II to the latest two took part in the demonstrations. After a morning rally in Lafayette Park, the veterans and their supporters formed a solemn single-file procession to the White House, silent except for a drum beat. There, they encountered police barricades. Some veterans began climbing over the barricades, until the police opened them up, allowing people to approach the fence in front of the White House with their banners and signs.

As the light snow increased to heavy and began accumulating, activists kept warm by singing and chanting. Some of the demonstrators stood in the snow and freezing temperatures for nearly four hours before being arrested and taken to Anacostia processing center. In total, at least 131 people were arrested, cited and released that day. Some have elected to pay a fine, while others will go to trial on the charge of disobeying a lawful order.

Among companion demonstrations in several other cities, arrests were reported in New York City and San Francisco.

New York Catholic Workers, Grandmothers Against the War and others joined two local members of Veterans for Peace in a blockade of 44th Street, opposite the military recruiting station in Times Square. Eleven were arrested for disorderly conduct, cited at a midtown precinct station, and released.

In San Francisco, all entrances to the downtown federal building were blocked by a die-in calling both for an end to the wars and freedom for Julian Assange, and 26 people were arrested. They were also cited and released.

For more information, visit [www.stopthesewars.org](http://www.stopthesewars.org).

## Two Imprisoned Following Annual Ft. Benning Protest

In many ways, the dynamic changed this 20th year of the annual memorial vigil and direct action to close the training institution formerly known as the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia. But one result was the same: a federal judge gave maximum prison terms to some who crossed the line.

Attendance, still in the thousands, was smaller than in recent years. There was a civil disobedience action scheduled for Saturday (risking arrest outside the base, in the town of Columbus), in addition to Sunday. And there is a new judge in federal court, following the retirement of the notorious Robert “Maximum Bob” Faircloth.

This year’s invitation to engage in nonviolent direct action acknowledged that

Before the fence was built around Fort Benning, thousands crossed onto the base in solidarity with the people of Latin America in a massive outpouring of support through acts of nonviolence that were arrestable offenses. More recently, the harsh prison sentences for “line crossers” have limited this aspect of our resistance. This year, we hope to take back some of that ground with a large-scale, city-side act of civil disobedience. We are being called back to our roots and our tradition of widespread nonviolent resistance which can be undertaken by ordinary men and women dedicated to ending the reign of violence grounded in the counterinsurgency training coming out of the School of the Americas.

This year, we invite you to take action in solidarity with those who have been tortured and incarcerated in Latin America, and to get a small glimpse of what it feels like to be on the other side of a system that treats you like a malfunctioning piece of machinery. As our movement has encountered the criminal justice system in the United States, it is increasingly clear that the military-industrial complex in the United States grinds down the poor and people of color right here in the United States...

The city’s response to this plan was more than just “a small glimpse” – it was an eye-opener for many.

At least five undercover law enforcement officers had infiltrated the planning meetings. Twelve people, including puppetistas who intended to risk arrest, left the permitted rally site late in the afternoon to lead a march down Victory Road. Police had warned they would be arrested once they left the site, and they were quickly taken into custody. Video evidence later revealed that all five plainclothes cops were part of this group, and were placed in a separate police cruiser that never arrived at the jail. The other seven were booked on charges of obstructing the road and failure to disperse. Only one of the undercover

officers was in court the next day - revealed as an agent of the Metro Narcotics Task Force when she testified against the others.

These arrests created a scene that drew reporters and the attention of groups of demonstrators leaving the rally. Police then turned on this peaceful assembly, ordering some to get back on the sidewalk even while arresting others who did so. Another 17 people were rounded up in their sweep, including a television news crew from Russia. Today, a student videographer and then her sister, who tried to pull the arresting officer away and was charged with obstructing his duty. Even a Columbus resident who stepped out of the barber shop where he worked to take photos of the action was arrested.

Twenty-two people were held on up to \$5,000 bail each, most charged by the city with failure to disperse and unlawful assembly, and by the state with obstruction and failure to disperse. Hundreds of supporters rallied through the evening outside the Muscogee County Jail.

At a special hearing on the city charges Sunday afternoon, the defendants all pleaded not guilty. City Recorder’s Court Judge Michael Cielinski viewed several videos from the scene before finding 21 of the 22 defendants guilty on the city charges. He ordered fines ranging from \$1,300 to \$5,500, and much of them were paid by emergency contributions to a legal defense fund. Some are appealing the verdict to state court, where they must return for trial on the state charge at a later date anyway. All but one pleaded not guilty to the state charge as well. It took several hours for all the fines to be paid, and the last defendant was not released from jail until very early Monday morning.

Two others arrested on Saturday, Jesuit Fr. Bill Brennan, who uses a wheelchair, and Janice Sevre-Duszynska who was accompanying him, were both cited at the scene and released until trial on Monday, November 22.

Both were found guilty and given six months probation. Brennan was fined \$50 and Sevre-Duszynska \$500.

A few people were planning to cross the line into the base and face federal charges on Sunday. Seeing the unexpected reaction by authorities on Saturday, Fr. Louis Vitale, OFM and Nancy Smith decided to act then. They walked into the post at the entrance off Interstate 185 and were arrested on federal charges. Later on Saturday, Vitale posted bond.

Midday Sunday, as the vigil continued outside the main gate, Chris Spicer and David Omondi both scaled the barbed-wire fence and were arrested on federal trespassing charges.

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## Jury Convicts Plowshares Disarmament Action Group

A federal jury in Tacoma, Washington has convicted the five veteran nuclear disarmament activists of the Disarm Now Plowshares group on all charges of conspiracy, trespass, destruction of Navy property and depredation of government property. The five – Fr. Bill “Bix” Bichsel, SJ, 81; Susan Crane, 67; Lynne Greenwald, 60; Fr. Steve Kelly, SJ, 60; and Sr. Anne Montgomery, RSCJ, 83 – each face a possible sentence of up to ten years in prison for the three felony and one misdemeanor convictions.

Judge Benjamin Settle imposed no restrictions before the five return to court for sentencing on March 28.

The five were arrested inside the Trident nuclear submarine homeport at Kitsap-Bangor Naval Base during the night of All Souls, November 2, 2009, after cutting through chain link fences. They walked undetected for hours nearly four miles inside the base to their target, breaching top security to enter a field of buried bunkers known as the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific. They displayed two big banners which said “Disarm Now Plowshares – Trident: Illegal and Immoral,” scattered sunflower seeds, and prayed until they were arrested at dawn. Once arrested, the five were cuffed and hooded with sand bags because, as the marine in charge later testified, “when we secure prisoners anywhere in Iraq or Afghanistan we hood them... so we did it to them” to keep them from seeing the prohibited area.



U.S. government photo

**November 2, 2009: Seen through the hole they had cut in the fence, one of the pacifists, prostrate, hooded and handcuffed, is held at gunpoint before the bunkers that shelter nuclear weapons.**

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark testified to the illegality of Trident nuclear warheads at a pretrial hearing in November, in support of a motion to dismiss the charges. This motion and another to permit the defendants to raise affirmative defenses under international law

and necessity were both denied.

The five-day trial, which began on December 7, was sandwiched between nightly public Festivals of Hope that brought the defendants, their legal advisors and supporters together as a community for a shared meal, fellowship, talks and music. People packed the main courtroom every day. More followed the trial via audio hook-up in an adjacent overflow courtroom.

Susan Crane, representing herself as each defendant did, included in her voir dire of the jury pool the question, “Would you have convicted Rosa Parks?” One prospective juror, who is herself a lawyer, called Parks “courageous”, and said she would feel “conflicted” if asked to come to a verdict on her case. There are the facts of the case, she said, and then, “there are things in our society that are just wrong. It would be very difficult for me.” Another prospective juror was excluded from the trial because, when asked whether he would follow the instructions of the judge in this case, said, “I totally respect the rule of law, but some laws are meant to be broken. That is how things change.”

Once the twelve-person jury and alternates were sworn in, the trial began. Crane opened by introducing the defendants and all the humanitarian work they have done in Tacoma and around the world. She then focused on

*continued on page 4*



## WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Ocilla

December 8, 2010

### HERE WE ARE AGAIN

by Fr. Louis Vitale

Two weeks have passed since David Omondi and I began our sojourn here at Irwin County Detention Center in southern Georgia. Some may say, “Vitale has protested himself back into the poky below the Mason-Dixon line” and “He has been jailed again in an effort to bring peace and social justice.” SF Chronicle 11/28

Many ask, “Why do you keep doing this?” We try to respond: “Because the oppression goes on and our nation is a major participant in that oppression of the poor and of all creation.” Specifically this manifestation of mourning focuses on the School of the Americas (WHINSEC) at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where U.S. military have taught counter-insurgency techniques, including torture and disappearance, to Latin American military. It still goes on, as recently observed with the outrageous coup in Honduras carried out by graduates of the School of the Americas. In fact, our involvement in oppressive militarism extends throughout the world!

But why so many times at Ft. Benning (my fourth arrest and incarceration, and so far from my home base)? The School of the Americas is an icon of our intrusion into developing countries over many years and the

## THE INSIDE LINE



source of horrific massacres including religious leaders and thousands of peasants. Also Ft. Benning is a major military base feeding vast numbers into the war machine. Thousands gather annually to mourn the victims and to call for an end to our war machine that continues to grow into more bases, nuclear weapons manufacturing facilities, even into space war (and the new X-37B militarized version of the space shuttle).

Are we ready to declare peace and act in its presence? Let's call - with all our energy - for nonviolent solutions now, transforming many peoples' lives and our world. Our work is cut out for us as we must be vigilant and active with nonviolent resistance. May we move towards peace in the new year.

*[Franciscan Friar Louis Vitale is serving a six month sentence for trespass at Fort Benning, Georgia last November.]*

## Stop Building for Nuclear War!

On October 7, fourteen people who last August blocked heavy machinery clearing the site for construction of a new nuclear weapons factory in Kansas City, Missouri, appeared in court. In the morning, half the group pled guilty or did not contest the charge of trespass. Ed Bloomer, Donna Constantineau, Gina Cook, Frank Cordaro, Steve Jacobs, Robert Jones and Beth Seberger were sentenced to pay a \$100 fine or serve one year probation plus 10 hours community service. Several defendants told the court they would give nothing to a city that builds nuclear weapons, a reference to the city's unique investment in the project.

In the afternoon, Bloomer and Cordaro crossed the street to where the city council was meeting. “Sounding an alarm” in the tradition of the prophets, Cordaro vocally interrupted the meeting as they unfurled a banner reading, “Stop Building for Nuclear War.” Both men were hustled out as local organizer Ann Suellentrop stood to read aloud from a petition against building the plant signed by hundreds. She was also led out of the room but not charged.

## Charges Dropped; Women Return to Vermont Yankee

As a plume of radioactive, tritiated water flowed toward the Connecticut River from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon on August 10, eight women blocked the gate to demand the immediate shutdown of the 38-year-old facility.

Four women breached the plant's security trap while the others stood just outside the gate with a banner reading “No More Leaks and Lies: Shut It Down Now.” All eight were arrested by local and state police and charged with trespassing.

It was the ninth appearance on Entergy Vermont Yankee property by the Shut It Down Affinity Group since 2005, when the women began their campaign of civil resistance aimed at closing the nuclear power plant.

The eight read aloud together from their prepared statement citing the nuclear power industry as “perilous... We are here to Shut Down Vermont Yankee and demand that the contamination from the tritiated water, cobalt, zinc and strontium 90 be cleaned up now.”

“Entergy's Vermont Yankee is dangerous and threatens everyone's health,” said Hattie Nestel, one of those arrested. “Furthermore, nuclear power is not clean, safe, or green in spite of the lies perpetrated by the nuclear industry. And nuclear weapons depend on nuclear power reactors, which are nothing more than bomb factories.”

Those arrested included three Vermonters, Julia Bonafine, 41, of Shrewsbury; Nina Swaim, 72, of Sharon; Martha Hennessy, 55, of Wethersfield and five from Massachusetts, Paki Wieland, 66, and Frances Crowe, 91, of Northampton; Ellen Graves, 69, of West Springfield;

Bloomer and Cordaro were jailed overnight and released the next day on time served.

Back in court, the remaining seven defendants had a bench trial that afternoon. Josh Armfield, Steve Clemens, Felice Cohen-Joppa, Eric Garbison, Rachel Hoffman, Brian Terrell and Fr. Jerry Zawada, OFM, were all convicted and given the same sentence as the others.

Zawada told the court, “The most urgent task we have is to get rid of the threat of nuclear war. I believe the nuclear threat is the ultimate slap in the face of God.”

Seven people who were arrested September 8 when they blocked buses bringing dignitaries to the formal groundbreaking ceremony at the construction site all had their cases dropped at the end of October. The prosecutor said the evidence did not support the charge of disorderly conduct.

For more information, contact Kansas City Peace Planters at [www.peaceworkskc.org](http://www.peaceworkskc.org)

Nestel, 71, and Marcia Gagliardi, 62, of Athol.

Intervenors, lobbyists and politicians are also in the fray, and the Vermont Senate voted in May not to renew the power plant's license in 2012 when it is scheduled to expire. But agitation from Entergy and its proponents support a license extension in spite of the Senate vote.

For the ninth time, the state's attorney dropped charges before the women got to court. So on September 21, the date they were to have been in court, the group instead returned midday to Vermont Yankee.

At the entrance, four of them hopped out of a car and, paint cans shaken, began to spray “Danger!” and “Shut it Down” on the long driveway. The officer at the gate told them they were trespassing, but he was ignored. Meanwhile, three other women walked quickly through the first gate, up the drive, and locked themselves to the second gate, preventing it from being opened. While police were distracted by the lock down, the graffitiists completed their messages before joining the blockade.

Seven of the eight women arrested in August (minus Bonafine) were arrested again, cut free, and released with a new court date on charges of trespass and mischief. When those charges were in turn dismissed, the women were asked if they would participate in a restorative justice process, and meet with Entergy officials. They agreed, but have heard no more from the court.

Shut It Down promises to live up to their name again in the new year.

(Thanks to Shut It Down for this report.)

## ...inspiring similar disruptive actions...

When you throw your time and energy into organizing an event, it's nice to know that others notice.

In October, writing at CommonDreams.org, Bill Quigley and Rachel Meeropol at the Center for Constitutional Rights alerted us to the work of one of the many private firms consulted by government and industry about terrorist threats. The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) produced weekly custom reports for the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security (POHS), until the overzealous content of the reports became public knowledge. That led the director of POHS to resign and the state to cancel the contract.

Grassroots organizing by groups such as the Ruckus Society, Jobs with Justice, the Brandywine Peace Community, PETA, MOVE, The Yes Men, Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, Climate Ground Zero, Rainforest Action Network, Puerto Rican nationalists, prisoners' rights organizations, citizen conservation groups, and immigration activists were all subjected to scrutiny.

Analyzing the contribution of such groups to legitimate terrorist threats against the Homeland must be hard work. Reading what ITRR had to say last June about our Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future event over July Fourth weekend, you'd think they got an invitation. Or read our website. From their description:

Three anti-nuclear power movements, NUCLEAR RESISTER, NUKEWATCH and the OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE ALLIANCE (OREPA), have announced plans for “a national gathering, culminating with nonviolent, anti-nuclear direct action” in Tennessee to mark three decades of their activities...

And in a 500-word analysis (at what cost per word?!) of the “moderate” threat posed by such an event, the report declares:

The Tennessee 30th anniversary events, as well as the June “direct actions” in Kansas City and Sweden, will most likely impact subsequent anti-nuclear protest events by inspiring similar disruptive actions elsewhere.

We can only hope so...

*Jack & Felice Cohen-Joppa, editors*

## Thanks

Thanks to Sarah, Jim, Faith, Jerry, Charlotte, Kathleen, Cindy, Joe, Cathy, Matan, Roger, David, John, Russell, Danilo, Bob and Mike 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 five times/year 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



# Vandenberg Vigilers Arrested Again; Two Convicted

Military police continue to arrest nuclear abolitionists vigiling along a public highway outside the main gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base. California Highway 1 passes through the coastal base, where missiles to launch nuclear war are tested.

The gate itself is in the interior of the installation, north of Santa Barbara. The commander has issued his own interpretation of the First Amendment regarding demonstrations at the gate, but it is capriciously enforced.

At the monthly first-Wednesday Vandenberg Witness vigil on November 3, several people who have been arrested and barred from returning to the base were present. Police, however, only approached three of them: vigil organizer Dennis Apel, Fr. Louis Vitale and Fr. Steve Kelly.

They were politely informed that if they did not leave within two minutes, they would be arrested for trespass in violation of a previous ban.

The men, believing their peaceful protest of nuclear war is supported by the law, refused to leave and were arrested. While in custody at the visitor’s center, police asked the arrestees if Scott Fina, another barred demonstrator, was present at the vigil. The men replied that they did not know.

The police then returned to the vigil, and identified Fina from photographs. Fina was taken directly into custody without further warning, and despite his willingness when confronted to leave the area. The four men were cited for trespass then released opposite the gate in the public school parking lot where vigilers are permitted to park.

On December 1, Dennis Apel again joined the monthly vigil, and was again arrested for violating his ban from entering the base. He was cited and released.

On November 18, Fr. Louie Vitale and Sr. Megan Rice stood trial in federal court in Santa Barbara for trespass at Vandenberg. This time, they had been charged with trespass on August 22, 2009, when they walked through the gate to protest the nighttime test launch of the land-based nuclear attack missile, Minuteman III. They were convicted and fined: Vitale \$1,000 and Rice \$500.

In September, trespass charges against Jorge Manly-Gil were dropped on the eve of his trial in Santa Barbara. He had been charged with violating an order banning him from the base, but the charge that led to the ban, for failure to provide identification, had been dropped. No charge means no pretext to ban the person.

For more information, visit vandenbergwitness.org/, or contact 805-343-6322, info@vandenbergwitness.org.

# CONCERN FOR BRADLEY MANNING IN SPARTAN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Accused whistleblower Private First Class Bradley Manning remains in solitary confinement at the Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Virginia. His attorney David Coombs expects a preliminary hearing early in 2011 on the eight criminal and four non-criminal charges related to allegations he anonymously passed thousands of classified military and diplomatic documents on to the transparency advocates at Wikileaks.org. Manning’s court martial could begin as early as April.

Based on published emails attributed to Manning, his supporters have pointed out that Manning’s motives were significantly, in part, to report the war crime recorded in the *Collateral Murder* video released by Wikileaks last spring.

Manning has made no public statement since his arrest in late May, but Coombs reports that Manning is aware of his public support, and that “he has asked me to express how very thankful that he is for the support that he has received so far. Brad also told me that he looks forward to the day that he can express his gratitude in person to those that have rallied to his defense.”

Coombs recently detailed the conditions of Manning’s confinement at his blog [www.armycourtmartialdefense.info](http://www.armycourtmartialdefense.info). His small cell is austere, and he must acknowledge the guards who check on him every five minutes. Guards are reported to be professional, and do not engage in harassment or bullying of Manning. Although a television with limited channels is available to view for at least an hour a day, Manning has no personal property in his cell, and is allowed only one book or magazine at a time, limited time for writing to a restricted list of approved correspondents, and no conversation with guards or other prisoners. He may not exercise or sleep in his cell during the day, and must surrender his clothes to guards at night before retiring with two blankets on a mattress with built-in pillow. He is placed in an empty cell for one hour of exercise each day. Approved visitors are permitted to visit on weekends for a few hours.

A recent Guardian (U.K.) interview with a friend who visits Manning revealed concern about his deteriorating mental state under such harsh pretrial confinement. Also, it is reported that the Justice Department is considering a plea agreement to offer Manning if he will implicate Wikileaks founder Julian Assange as an active partner in the events that led to the unprecedented breach of secrecy.

While Assange was recently jailed in Britain for nine days on a Swedish warrant for questioning about allegations he engaged in nonconsensual sex, it became clear the United States was pursuing his possible extradition on even more serious charges. The international attention to lurid details of the high-profile allegations was predictable, and also brought attention to Bradley Manning’s plight.

Editors’ note: We support – and encourage others to support – the important work of Wikileaks, and condemn efforts to extradite Julian Assange and prosecute him related to this work. Because Assange has stated in the past that people involved with Wikileaks do not have anti-

war motives but are rather “transparency activists who understand that transparent government tends to produce just government”, we are not including him in the Nuclear Resister as an anti-war prisoner. If you would like to contribute money to the Julian Assange Legal Defence Fund, go to [fsilaw.com](http://fsilaw.com), the website of his attorneys.

For more information, visit [couragetoresist.org](http://couragetoresist.org) or [www.bradleymanning.org](http://www.bradleymanning.org).



If Bradley Manning receives a letter from someone not on his approved list, he must sign a rejection form. The letter is then either returned to the sender or destroyed.

For this reason, cards and letters of support should be sent to Bradley Manning, c/o Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610.

Letters will be opened, “contraband” discarded and then mailed weekly to Manning via someone on his approved correspondence list.

Courage to Resist has coordinated Manning’s international support, and to date helped raise over \$100,000 in both general support donations and specific legal support via a Massachusetts IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) Program managed by his attorney.

## Ft. Benning, cont.

*continued from page 1*

pass charges. Both were jailed until Tuesday morning, November 23, when the four federal defendants were all in court. Omondi and Vitale both pleaded no contest to trespass. It was Omondi’s first arrest, and Vitale’s fourth, at Fort Benning. Vitale told the court, “As a Franciscan, I don’t have much I can put out there besides my body.” Magistrate Stephen Hyles sentenced both to the maximum six months in jail, remanding them to custody immediately.

Smith and Spicer both pleaded not guilty. Their trial is set for January 5.

Visit [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org) for more information.



Omondi and Vitale were held in the Irwin County Detention Center for three weeks, and are now in transit to federal facilities. Letters of support should be sent for forwarding to Louis Vitale, c/o the Nuclear Resister, P. O. Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733, and Michael David Omondi, c/o Los Angeles Catholic Worker, 632 N. Britania St., Los Angeles, CA 90033.

## Inside & Out

**Name** ID # [if needed]  
prison or support address  
(Sentence - in/out date if known. Action & date)

### NUCLEAR RESISTERS

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

**Leonard Peltier** 89637-132  
USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.  
(Life. Native American political prisoner framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands)

### ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

**Bradley Manning**  
c/o Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610.  
(Held pending charges. 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](http://nukeresister.org/inside-out)

**Louis Vitale**  
c/o the Nuclear Resister, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733.  
(6 months – in 11/23/10. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)  
**Michael David Omondi**  
c/o Los Angeles Catholic Worker, 632 N. Britania St., Los Angeles, CA 90033.  
(6 months – in 11/21/10. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)

**Frank Donnelly**  
15 Ash Lane, Lamoine, ME 04605.  
(One year + one day – out of halfway house 6/8/2011. Non-public war tax resister pled guilty to under reporting income, 10/09)

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

**Norman Edgar Lowry Jr.** 10-0237  
Lancaster County Prison THU DAYF, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199.  
(18 months less 20 days – out 6/25/11. Trespass at military recruiting office 1/15/10, violating probation from prior action)

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

**Previously listed, recently released:**  
**Anna Andersson**



# Mass Nonviolent Resistance to German N-Waste Shipment

The periodic shipment of nuclear waste from a reprocessing facility in France to the burial dump at Gorleben, Germany, has long inspired mass nonviolent direct actions, but the scale and intensity of this year’s resistance eclipsed any previous mobilization.

German anti-nuclear sentiment has been stoked by the government’s recent decision to extend the lifetime of current nuclear power plants, guaranteeing even more waste production.

The latest special train bearing the massive CASTOR storage casks left from France on Friday, November 5 for the 900 mile trip. The train was soon stopped for three hours near Caen, Normandy, in a coordinated solidarity action organized by GANVA (Groupe d’Actions Non Violentes Antinucléaires, Anti-Nuclear Nonviolent Action Group).

After their “guardian angels” had successfully blocked the train, five people about a kilometer farther down the tracks locked arms inside steel tubes placed under the rails. A banner in German displayed among hundreds of supporters nearby declared, “Our resistance knows no borders.”

French riot police were quickly on the scene, pulling supporters from the tracks and erecting a screen to hide behind while they broke up the lock down. In apparent haste to clear the tracks, police severely burned two of the activists and severed tendons in the hand of a third when they used a large circular power saw to cut off the tubes. The three were taken to the hospital and released to police custody after treatment, which included surgery for the severed tendons.

In addition to the five who were cut loose, police charged two of their “guardian angels.” They were all eventually released on bond.



**With the nuclear waste shipment halted in the background, French police begin clearing activists from the railroad tracks, shortly after the train left the nuclear reprocessing facility in Normandy bound for Germany.**

At their trial on December 8, supporters had to sit-in just to gain entry to the courthouse, but were still barred from the courtroom by French riot police. Testimony revealed that before the police cut free the people in the arm tubes, they were asked if they were left- or right-handed. They all replied right-handed and the three injured people have injuries on their left hand. The burn victims have both required skin grafts.

The prosecutor asked for suspended prison sentences of two months, fines of €2,000 – €3,000, and an extra month for the defendant who refused to be photographed or fingerprinted. The court will give its decision on January 26.

In the northern German city of Dannenberg, near

Gorleben, the eleven CASTORS would be unloaded for transport by special trucks to the disposal site a few miles away. The train was due on Sunday, November 7, and by then more than 400 chartered motor coaches had arrived, bringing blockaders from all over Germany. Eventually, up to 50,000 demonstrators were on hand.

All along the route through Germany, thousands more converged to block the tracks and delay the train’s progress with a tactically diverse series of actions, large and small. As the train crossed the border into southwest Germany, 2,000 opponents gathered, and more than 600 people blocked the tracks in the first mass-blockade the region had seen. Police stopped removing people from the tracks after the train was rerouted – a small victory that encouraged more actions down the line.

Among many actions was that of two activists who suspended themselves over the tracks from a high bridge near Morschen, stopping the train for two hours.

Saturday night, more than a thousand people joined the “CASTOR Schottern” action, removing the gravel ballast from under 150 meters of track. Police responded with tear gas, pepper spray and batons, gassing hundreds and breaking more than a dozen bones. The track had to be repaired before the train could proceed.

Sunday afternoon, the massive police presence between Dannenberg and Gorleben was outmaneuvered by farmers on 600 tractors. In smaller convoys, they blocked roundabouts and roads to prevent police from mobilizing effectively while 5,000 people converged to block a large section of needed track at Gedelitz. Again, the train was halted as police regrouped. Locals supported the blockade with a steady supply of blankets, hot drinks and food.

Overnight, police moved in to clear the rails, disperse

*continued on page 5*

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## Jury Convicts Plowshares Disarmament Action Group, cont.

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*continued from page 1*

the three central pillars of their defense: the missiles are weapons of mass destruction; the weapons are both illegal and immoral; and that all citizens have the right to try to stop international war crimes being committed by these weapons of mass destruction.

The jury listened attentively as Crane described the medical and environmental effects of nuclear weapons. She tried to convey to the jury that the use and threatened use of nuclear weapons is a war crime, but the prosecutor objected to the reference to international law. Crane replied, “Alright, I’ll go on, but it is hard not to tell the truth.”

In his opening statement, Father Bichsel’s voice shook with emotion as he described his experience in Japan hearing the stories of survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He said the greatest gift he brought back from his visit was the commission to “please get rid of these nuclear weapons.”

Bichsel also explained how the consciences of the Disarm Now Plowshares have been formed by the people they hoped to call as expert witnesses in the coming days.

The prosecution presented their case, calling their last four witnesses Thursday morning. Examining the witnesses, they paid great attention to the physical details of the case and the cost to the government of the disarmament action. Craig Spencer, an investigator with the Naval Criminal Investigation Service Counterterrorism Unit, was asked about the width and height of the opening cut in the outer fence, as well as the use of twist ties to close the opening.

On the other hand, the defense focused on questions of a more universal nature in cross-examination. Do nuclear weapons exist? Has the United States developed submarines intended to carry nuclear weapons? Are there any of those submarines in the vicinity of the base where you work? Did the base have nuclear-armed submarines on the day in question?

Steve Kelly asked Spencer, “Are you aware of Trident’s capacity for mass destruction?” “No, I’m not aware of what it can and cannot do,” replied Spencer. Kelly then asked, “If you knew of a crime being committed, a law that was being broken on the base, would you be alarmed?” Spencer replied simply, “I would investigate.”

In her cross examination of Naval Petty Officer Austin Wilchek, Anne Montgomery asked, “In any of your training were you given military regulations that prohibit the indiscriminate killing of civilians?” The prosecution objected that the question was irrelevant, to which Montgomery replied, “Well, it was very important to us.”

The government rested its case before the morning was over, and Montgomery then made her opening state-

ment. She spoke eloquently of conspiring, of community, and of invitation.

“We are charged with conspiracy, which has legal definitions and requirements. However, we will show that, according to the real meaning of the word, we ‘breathed together from the depths of our spirit’ in prayer, reflection, and discernment in forming our intent to expose and symbolically disarm weapons of mass destruction housed in Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific. Our purpose was that our action would be joined with the efforts of others to abolish war and to restore the billions of dollars poured into this facility to the basic human needs of the victims of war and our military budget.”

She invited the jury and all present in the courtroom to join in community to abolish nuclear weapons. “We felt that we could show a way for people who feel isolated and helpless, show that we are vulnerable too, we are afraid, but we had hope, and walked through that to find freedom from the prison of fear and isolation.”

The trial brought peace activists from around the world to challenge the U.S. use of the Trident nuclear weapons.

The first defense witness was Scottish Trident Ploughshares organizer and activist Angie Zelter, who has been acquitted for Ploughshares actions in Scotland. Zelter testified about a sense of urgency shared with the American activists, and about the resistance to Trident weapons in Europe.

Steve Leeper, chair of the Peace Culture Foundation in Hiroshima, told the jury “the world is facing a critical moment” because of the existence and proliferation of nuclear weapons. Though prohibited from testifying about the details of the death, destruction, and genetic damage to civilians from the U.S. nuclear attack on Hiroshima, he testified that the defendants “have a tremendous amount of support in Hiroshima.”

Retired U.S. Navy Captain Thomas Rogers, 31 years in the Navy, including several years as Commander of a nuclear submarine, told the court he thought the U.S. possession of nuclear weapons after the Cold War was illegal and immoral. When asked how these weapons would impact civilians, he responded, “it is really hard to detonate a 475 kiloton nuclear device without killing civilians.”

Dr. David Hall of Physicians for Social Responsibility testified about the humanitarian core beliefs of the defendants. And Professor Michael Honey told the jury about the importance of nonviolent direct action in bringing about social change.

Prosecutors successfully objected to and excluded most of the defense evidence about the horrific effects of nuclear weapons, the illegality of nuclear weapons under

U.S. treaty agreements and humanitarian law, and the right of citizens to try to stop war crimes by their government.

At one point, Montgomery challenged the prosecutors and the court, “Why are we so afraid to discuss the fact that there are nuclear weapons?”

The defense concluded its case on Friday, and both sides made closing arguments that again reflected the schism exposed when the law meets nuclear weapons.

For the prosecution, the case was simply about trespass and property damage. For the defense, it was about the choice: nuclear weapons or a common future.

Anne Montgomery’s closing argument provided the jury with a rationale to acquit the Disarm Now Plowshares defendants on every charge.

“We did cut the fence and we take responsibility. Our purpose was to open that area to inspection by citizens.” She stated that the fences are nothing compared to the submarines and the weapons they are designed to launch. They did not intend to commit a crime.

“You may feel that by being on [Naval Base] Kitsap, cutting a hole in the fence and walking through, we are guilty of a crime. However, the government must prove intent. Our intent was to keep the law, to protect our lives as human beings and the lives of others.”

Lynne Greenwald said, in her closing, “I would like to believe that – if I had lived in that time and place – I would have had the courage to do the same thing to expose the reality of what was behind the fences of Auschwitz and other camps, where many were murdered, including my children’s relatives.”

The jury was sent out Friday afternoon. After some deliberation, they sent a question back, asking about the definition of “malicious” related to one of the charges. Late in the afternoon, the jury asked what to do if unanimous agreement could not be reached on one charge. The judge asked them to keep trying, but after the weekend. Deliberations resumed Monday morning, and the verdict was announced before noon.

After the verdict was read and Judge Settle was about to dismiss the jury, Steve Kelly stood and announced that the defendants would like to bless the jury. The defendants stood with their hands raised in blessing as he said, “May you go in peace and have a safe, happy holiday.”

For more information, visit [disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com](http://disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com).

(Thanks to Leonard Eiger and Chrissy Nesbitt for their reporting on the trial, which provided the foundation for most of this story.)



# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

## Turkey

Police in Ankara arrested 58 people last summer as they tried to present Parliament with 170,000 petition signatures in opposition to a proposed nuclear power plant. While Parliament debated terms of a deal with Russia to build the new reactor, the Greenpeace activists had gathered in front of the building with twenty bundles of signed petitions. When no one would receive the petitions, they began a sit-in, leading to their arrest. In October, the 58 activists were in court, charged with unauthorized demonstrating and resisting arrest. Prosecutors asked for jail terms of six months to three years, while outside scores of supporters demanded to be put on trial as well, for their anti-nuclear beliefs. Some testimony was taken, and then the hearing was adjourned until January 12.

## Germany, cont.

*continued from page 4*

some blockaders and hold 1,000 or more in a temporary pen next to the tracks while the train moved past. Two additional serious injuries were reported: one blockader stepped on by a police horse, and another who fell from a tree after being hit with pepper spray.

Midmorning Monday, the train arrived at Dannenberg. While the casks were being transferred to the trucks (an 8-hour affair), Greenpeace activists disguised in a beer delivery truck used the vehicle to block the exit road. Some chained themselves beneath it. When police were finally able to clear that obstruction, they found the road blocked a little farther along by 2,000 sheep and goats and more tractors. Once that obstacle was cleared, police then had to remove 5,000 more people who were camped in the street, next to the storage facility. Most of the thousands of people were only temporarily detained, and many were never asked for identification.

After the casks arrived, the police union publicly questioned why its members had to be burdened with the consequences of a bad nuclear policy.

## Devonport

The latest civil resistance action against Britain’s nuclear force targeted the Devonport Dockyard in Plymouth, where the Trident submarines are refitted, maintained and upgraded. The Dockyard is also increasingly becoming the dumping ground for old and out of service nuclear-powered submarines, posing a further risk of radioactive contamination to area residents.

Two hundred people took part in the November 1 action called by the Tamarians, a Plymouth-based affiliate of the Trident Ploughshares campaign. In explaining the action to their neighbors, the Tamarians pointed to a recent report that shows that Trident, and the government’s plan to continue its deployment, costs more jobs than it creates. “Furthermore, nuclear weaponry is poison for the soul, and Trident is poison for the people of Plymouth. The only way to ‘Save Our Dockyard’ is to cut out the cancerous growth that is Trident.”

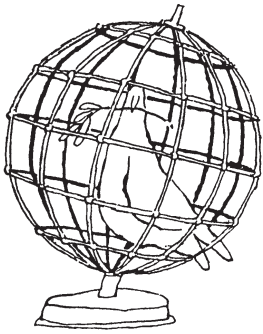
Beginning before dawn, activists used a variety of blockading methods to close down two gates into the Dockyard for several hours, leading to 14 arrests for obstruction of a highway, failure to comply and/or aggravated trespass. All were bailed and are due in court over the next couple of months.

For more information, visit [tridentploughshares.org](http://tridentploughshares.org).

## Spain

When the Valencian village of Zarra was named the likely candidate for a central temporary storage facility for the country’s irradiated reactor fuel in September, residents and regional opponents moved into action. The first in a series of demonstrations was a slow-moving 200-car caravan on the A-31 Alicante-Madrid highway on Sunday the 19th, causing an eight-mile back-up on the popular coast-to-capitol route. Two days later, the road through Zarra was blocked a few miles north of the village, at the entrance to the Cofrentes nuclear power plant.

The next Monday, police responded by serving a summons on seventeen people, including organizers of the



demonstrations. The activists were identified from photos of the demonstrations and taken into custody on disobedience, public disorder and traffic safety charges. First to be arrested was Manuel Lopez, mayor of nearby Ayora, who was detained in front of his students at a school where he teaches.

Three hundred supporters rallied outside Ayora City Hall the next day when the defendants were brought to court, then released after being photographed and fingerprinted. Four thousand people marched against the temporary dump a few nights later.

## Hundreds of Anti-nuclear Satyagrahis Jailed

At least 800 people were arrested October 29, protesting the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project (JNPP) on India’s west coast. The project is the crown jewel of the U.S./India nuclear partnership, and, if realized, it would be the world’s largest nuclear energy park.

Six huge French-designed reactors producing 10,000 MW of electricity for Mumbai and Goa would displace thousands of village farmers and fishers. Compensation payments for the targeted villagers have been refused en masse, and in October a large police escort kept locals from confronting a visiting committee of site-selection experts. When a regional government official declared

*continued on page 8*

## WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Lancaster

Thursday, November 4, 2010

... Regarding the nuclear debacle, I recall the perspective of Jonathan Schell, in his ‘80s treatise *The Fate of the Earth*, who said, “...While reflection on death may lead to resignation and acceptance, reflection on extinction must lead to the opposite response - to arousal, rejection, indignation and action. Extinction is not something to contemplate, it is something to rebel against.”

It has been a source of constant amazement to me that our society remains, for the most part, so naive and apathetic to this monster of an issue. Being born merely eight years after Hiroshima/Nagasaki, I was, early, struck by the grave implications and the seemingly crass disregard for the human costs.

My first compassionate insights came from reading John Hershey’s Hiroshima, which inspired a fairly thorough search for perspective. Through the years, I was both horrified and thrilled by perspectives offered by Robert Oppenheimer, Niels Bohr, Albert Einstein, Richard Feynman, Admiral Rickover, Henry Stimson, etc.

The scientists were generally awed and increasingly cautious, as they moved forward with their explorations. Even Admiral Rickover’s final assessment, that the nuclear fleet he pioneered needed to be scuttled and dismantled, showed great compassionate thoughts. However, the politician’s diaries read like horror stories.

Of note were Secretary of War Henry Stimson’s diaries. The media and popular writers seemed to tout Mr. Stimson as being a man of impeccable ethics. Maybe they had stopped short of reading how he arrogantly refused his Russian counterparts’ pleas to allow Japan to surrender, with dignity; rather preferring to showcase U.S. super bombs and the extraction of some extra vengeance on innocent people. After Hiroshima/Nagasaki came his threats, to said counterpart, of using another such bomb against Moscow, if the Russians didn’t surrender unconditionally. Counterthreats ensued and the Cold War was on. Of course, U.S. history has always said that it was the Russians who started the Cold War.

## THE INSIDE LINE



Today, our citizenry continues to believe, *en masse*, that we are somehow more noble, honorable, moral, ethical than our detractors. Yet, it is we who still today use active nuclear weapons on a continual basis. Because our politicians call weaponry manufactured with depleted uranium (due to the depletion of only the fissile isotope, U-235) non-nuclear, the masses don’t know or seem to care that the widespread use of this armor-piercing ammunition has left huge portions of our battlefields in Iraq and the Balkans irradiated and littered with water-soluble nuclear dust that is a chief source of cancers & genetic mutations among our so-called enemies, as well as among our own soldiers and logistics people.

Of course we could then mention, among other related items, the dumping of our nuclear/toxic wastes off the coast of Somalia, causing cancer to the majority of people who swim off the Somali coast and the eradication of safe fishing (#1 Somali industry), motivating the fishermen to take up piracy as an alternative.

In the moments immediately following the Hiroshima bombing, the words of a naked, severely burnt, likely dying, sobbing little girl seemed to say it all, where our culture’s blind and deaf subservience to the nuclear horror is concerned - “Stupid Americans”!

Thomas Merton once wrote to Daniel Berrigan that “There is an absolute need for the solitary, bare, dark ... kind of prayer ... unless that dimension is there in the church somewhere, the whole caboodle lacks life and light and intelligence, too. It is a kind of hidden, secret, unknown stabilizer and a compass, too.”

I remain well, focused and directed!

My time in prison is lightened by an ever-increasing awareness of the endless and seemingly hopeless stream of quality, yet mostly forgotten people who come and go each day. My abhorrence of this absolutely corrupt and unjust system makes my heart cry and ache for these oppressed ones. Don’t get me wrong. I deeply desire that all will give up their crime but more I desire that we will choose to love so that crime will not as often be the chosen option. And, if we love, we who love will not allow injustice to flourish and to corrupt our prized institutions.

In the day to day life here, I am appalled at the violence: both inmate against inmate and staff against inmate. I have observed well over 100 incidences of violence; many to the extreme. Bones get broken and remain unset for up to a week. Internal injuries go unattended; concerns ignored. People with serious diseases (including cancer) are refused treatment. Mental health inmates are put in regular population, with no compassionate service. Inmates who claim to have been raped are not seen to immediately, if at all. Suicides are encouraged by staff. Inmates are subjected to seasonal heat/cold, without windows being opened (in time), thus causing deaths.

Not being one given to fear, I eagerly confront these issues, in person and in writing, with appropriate staff and management, and seldom get response, beside “That sort of thing doesn’t happen here”, or “That’s an administrative concern”, or “You could get hurt (or beat up) if you don’t keep quiet.” The head of the gang task force will talk the most, yet seems mostly concerned with keeping the peace of his system. The director of medical came to talk, with a witness, yet maintains that she has no knowledge of such infractions. The warden never responds. Various supervisors threaten punitive sanctions. Of the 30+ correctional officers talked with, over 80% say that they have participated in said violence or know who has (including mentioning of names), yet most say, “It is what it is” and “I need to think about my retirement” and “We can’t really effect change.” To say the least, living here provides ample opportunity for growth.

Blessings,

Norm Lowry

*[Norman Lowry is serving a nearly 18-month sentence for trespass following an anti-war sit-in at a military recruiting center, and for violation of probation from an earlier action at the center.]*



# ITT's Hammertime

On October 13, hundreds of anti-militarists converged on Brighton, England, for a mass siege of arms manufacturer EDO/ITT. The “ITT’s Hammertime” event aimed at closing EDO down for the day, and was named after the tools used by activists in January, 2009 to dismantle machinery, computers and inventory at the nondescript factory. Those activists were acquitted last summer.

An estimated 500 police were mobilized from as far away as Wales with special powers to protect the property of the war shop, which had closed for the day anyway in anticipation of the large protest. Police moved first, early in the morning, against a squatted community center where activists were converging, forcing most out of the building and escorting them to a designated protest area away from the factory. Along the way, the corralled march demanded they be allowed to proceed to the announced meeting point, a local cafe.

Police then tried to cordon off the cafe but a large bloc of activists headed for the woods behind the factory, only to be met there by another line of police, some on

horses, some overhead in helicopters. Several hours of cat-and-mouse games ensued, with the outnumbered activists kettled (tactically surrounded by police) in small groups. Police eventually arrested 53 people. None, however, were charged when released later in the day.

One protester told SchNEWS, the cheeky weekly of British agitprop, “If the financing of the policing of the demo had come out of the military budget rather than the police, it would have been a huge success.”

Smash EDO continues regular and surprise noise demos at the factory gates. On December 14, three people locked and glued themselves to the gate at 6 a.m., keeping staff out until the company president took a grinder to the gate and cut his way in. Police showed up briefly, then departed, perhaps because management is loathe to return to court against the protesters. At 11 a.m., everyone detached from the gate and walked away with no arrests.

For more information, visit [smashedo.org.uk](http://smashedo.org.uk)

## Australian Activists Discharged Again

For the second time this year, people arrested at a military base critical to Australia’s support of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have admitted the alleged crime, only to have their case dismissed by the judge.

After four people walked free from court in June, they and their supporters returned to the gate of the Swan Island base that same afternoon. One of the four, Jessica Morrison, joined seven others in a die-in and blockade, and all were arrested.

It was a different judge who heard the case on November 29, but Morrison suggested to the court that the offenses of the day were similar to that of the previous action, and so Section 19B, the legal basis for the June dismissal, should again be considered.

The judge had some questions of her own for Morrison.

“She asked whether our actions were aimed at publicity. I replied that my primary goal was not publicity, that the voice of the Afghanis, not mine, needed to be prominent. But that I was seeking to disrupt our war making. She said that I’d gone back to Swan Island straight after my previous court case, that I can’t keep expecting leniency.”

“How long will you keep doing this?” she asked. I swallowed. It became a moment for me of crossing over. Of indicating, openly, to the law that I intended to keep breaking its edicts. There is always a powerful moment in this crossing over, of choosing to hold to ones own truth, when you know it puts you in conflict with the powers that be. So I indicated that I would continue to break the law until the unjust laws stopped – that because this war was so central to my life, and our country, that I intended to keep going. I breathed. And felt liberated.”

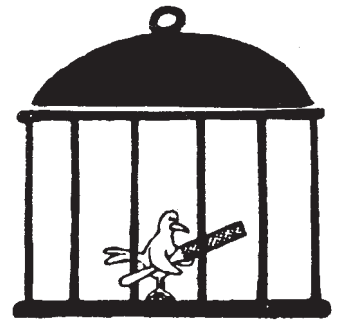
Morrison’s codefendants then each delivered their own closing statements. Afterwards, the judge said she was convinced that all of the people acted with “conscientious and heartfelt effort. I am satisfied that everyone has a respect for the law... but felt a greater duty to do what they can to stop war, and persuade the Government to stop war and are prepared to accept the consequences.”

She went on to say, “I take into account the guilty plea... I take into account that it was a nonviolent protest. It caused inconvenience but no harm... that you conscientiously object to war... that one of you stated you feel disempowered by the Government’s response, and that this has been a motivating factor.

“Weighing up all considerations, I find it inappropriate to record a conviction for any of you.”

Because of her two arrests, Morrison was given a “good behavior” bond for one month and they all walked free.

# Update Files



**BLACKWATER v. PINKWATER:** CODEPINK cofounder Medea Benjamin faced trial on October 26 in Fairfax County, Virginia, charged with trespass last summer at the home of Eric Prince, founder of the mercenary Blackwater corporation. On the witness stand, Mrs. Prince testified that Benjamin had entered her home uninvited and then refused to leave. But the video CODEPINK submitted as evidence told a different story — that Benjamin was invited inside and left when asked. Defense witnesses got to talk about why the activists had gone to the Prince home to verify news reports that Prince had moved to Abu Dhabi, fleeing from a series of civil lawsuits, criminal charges and Congressional investigations stemming from his company’s violent behavior in Iraq and Afghanistan. The judge found Benjamin not guilty...

**PENTAGON:** Two groups of activists arrested at the Pentagon August 9 were in federal court on October 22. In keeping with the practice for those arrested for the first time at the Pentagon, Jay Fanning, Malachy Kilbride, Nancy Gowan and Chrissy Nesbitt each had their charge dismissed. The case against Joy First and Maz Obuszewski, who were arrested inside the Pentagon Metro station on their way to deliver a letter and request a meeting with the War Secretary to decry the Pentagon’s role in the destruction of the environment, was continued until January 7. The defendants believe that police who confronted them on the day of their arrest had advance knowledge of their plan, and filed a motion for discovery of all surveillance and intelligence reports leading up to the action. Prosecutors asked and were given more time to respond.

Trial then proceeded for Bill Frankel-Streit and Art Laffin, who had been arrested outside the building during a public act of repentance for the atomic bombings. Laffin writes: “Bill and I both spoke about the sin and war crimes the U.S. committed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and of the biblical imperative to repent and disarm. Bill also spoke to the legal mandate we have under international law to carry out nonviolent acts of resistance to prevent war crimes. I spoke about my encounter with the Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) 32 years ago during the first U.N. Special Session on Disarmament and how it was a life-changing experience for me. My meeting the Hibakusha was one on the main reasons why I have dedicated my life to working for disarmament and ending war. I also quoted Pope Paul VI that the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a “butchery of untold magnitude.” I quoted, too, Pope John Paul II who, upon visiting Hiroshima, declared: “To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace.” I then held a photo of the destroyed city of Hiroshima and asked the Judge to imagine all of Alexandria being incinerated. This prompted [Judge Buchanan] to speak about the 9/11 tragedy. We then told her that we oppose all violence and are working to make sure there are no future Hiroshimas or 9/11s. Through God’s grace we were able to spark a dialogue with Magistrate Buchanan, who on previous occasions has sentenced Bill and other peacemakers to jail. However, this time, she found us guilty but gave us a \$30 fine.”


In December, the court informed First and Obuszewski that their pending case had been dismissed with prejudice, so it cannot be re-filed. The two speculate that the reason for the dismissal may have been because the Pentagon police did not want to provide them with the intelligence report or other material suggesting surveillance was taking place. A case at the Pentagon in 2008 involving First, Obuszewski and others arrested for violating a lawful order also resulted in dismissal after a similar motion for discovery had been filed, leading to speculation that the police have something to hide....

**LOS ALAMOS:** At a pretrial hearing in the local magistrates court October 21, Elias Kohn pled no contest to the charge of trespass at the New Mexico nuclear weapons lab last August 6. He was fined \$500 and sentenced to 60 days probation. Seven codefendants pled not guilty and are scheduled for a jury trial on February 8...

**Y-12 PLANT, OAK RIDGE:** A date of May 9 in Knoxville has been set for the federal trial of thirteen people arrested last July at the Tennessee nuclear weapons plant...

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## Ploughshares in Sweden and New Zealand Sued for Damages

Disarmament activists in Sweden and New Zealand are being pursued for payment of damages resulting from their actions.

In November, a Swedish judge ordered Anna Andersson and Martin Smedjeback to pay over €50,000 to Saab Bofors Dynamics, the nation’s biggest arms producer, in compensation for damages to export-bound conventional weapons during their October, 2008 action.

Speaking from prison where she was serving a four month sentence for the action, Andersson said, “Arms made in Sweden cause wanton destruction overseas, hence it is the manufacturers who ought to be paying

repairs.” Andersson completed her prison sentence in December. Neither activist intends to pay for the disarmed weapons.

New Zealand’s spy agency has filed a NZ\$1 million claim against three men found not guilty of criminal charges after they deflated a dome that hid and protected the operation of a critical spy satellite’s ground antenna. Waihopai Plowshares activists Sam Land, Adrian Leason and Fr. Peter Murnane estimate their combined assets total a bit more than NZ\$1,000. The government is also seeking to amend the law to prohibit the “claim of right” that the men successfully argued in their acquittal.



# Update Files, cont.

continued from page 6

**MORDECHAI VANUNU:** On October 11, Israel’s Supreme Court denied the Israeli nuclear whistleblower’s latest appeal of restrictions on his free movement and association, restrictions enforced now for more than six years after he completed an 18-year prison sentence. In September, the International League for Human Rights announced its intention to award Vanunu the Carl von Ossietzky Prize at a ceremony in Berlin on December 12. Carl von Ossietzky was a German pacifist and whistleblower convicted of high treason and espionage in 1931, after revealing Germany’s violation of the Treaty of Versailles by rebuilding an air force. He was awarded the 1935 Nobel Peace Prize but prevented from attending by the German government. Vanunu responded, “I will accept the award only in one condition, that I myself will be present to receive it. If it is not possible to guarantee that this condition is met then I would prefer that you do not give the award to me now, and keep the option to give it to me in time when I am free.” He also wrote, “I was sentenced to 18 years prison in Israel, 12 of them in isolation, and after the release 6 more years without freedom of speech and freedom of movements in Israel. I was following the spirit of Ossietzky without even knowing or having read about him. This proves that we, the people, have the same mind, same spirit, same beliefs in human rights and freedom and fight for the rights of the people everywhere. The first step is to give the people the information and let them chose the right direction. Ossietzky did not survive the brutality of prison. I survived, and I am ready to continue to speak on behalf of all the whistleblowers. Knowledge is the power of every human being.” The League applied to Israel without success for Vanunu to be allowed to attend the award ceremony. Respecting Vanunu’s wish, they canceled the ceremony and held a protest rally instead...

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** By the time Judge Craig Iscoe of the D.C. Superior Court convened another hearing on October 7 in a long-running case that began with anti-war arrests on Capitol Hill in September, 2006, only three defendants remained to explain why they would not pay a \$50 assessment fee and should not be held in contempt of court for refusing. Iscoe had already expressed great impatience with the defendants. He ruled that “crossing a police line” was a “serious misdemeanor” and the failure to pay was thus subject to a judgment of contempt. As each of the defendants tried to explain that paying the fee was tantamount to admitting guilt, Iscoe would cut them off. He declared each in turn to be in contempt of court and subject to immediate imprisonment. Under this duress, Maria Allwine and Max Obuszewski paid the \$50 fine. Michelle Grise, a mother of six, still held that the defendants had been unfairly arrested while peacefully assembled, and refused to pay. Before she could be taken to the jail, her partner paid her fine and she was released. Grise and Obuszewski have filed an appeal of the “serious misdemeanor” ruling...

**DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE:** John Heid defended himself in Tucson City Court against a charge of trespass at the air show in March. In front of a Predator UAV, Heid held a banner stating “War is Not a Show.” Codefendant Gretchen Nielsen was acquitted last summer because prosecutors had cited the wrong section of the trespass code, and Heid’s charge was re-filed under a different section. In his defense, Heid spoke of the Predator drones piloted from Davis-Monthan and their successful missions, lauded in the local press, firing missiles on innocent civilians halfway around the world. He invoked international law, and the apparent war crime of extra-judicial execution, even if the intended target is the only casualty. During his cross-examination, Heid asked both the arresting police officer and air force security chief what a person should do when they come face to face with such an instrument of crime. Judge Cranshaw said he needed time to consider the evidence, and would mail notice of his verdict...

**REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION:** On the eve of their scheduled trial, the remaining four defendants facing felony conspiracy charges for organizing with the RNC Welcoming Committee, an anarchist-oriented collective that facilitated protest at the 2008 presidential nominating convention, accepted plea agreements. Rob Czernik and Max Specktor pled to one count each of gross misdemeanor conspiracy to riot. Garrett Fitzgerald and Nathanael Secor pled to one count each of gross misdemeanor conspiracy to destroy property. The agreements specify a \$200 fine, 100 hours of community service, and two years probation each. Additionally, the defendants will not be required to testify against anyone else in any other criminal case arising from their cases. A spokesperson for the RNC 8 Defense Committee concluded, “Their case was so weak from the beginning that through political pressure, they have been forced from pursuing felony terrorism charges into settling on a plea with no jail time”...

# FUTURE ACTIONS

## witness against torture

Witness Against Torture will begin an 11-day Vigil and Fast for Justice with a rally at the White House on January 11, demanding that the Guantanamo prison camp be closed immediately and that those who designed and carried out torture policies be held to account. The vigil and fast will continue there and with demonstrations throughout Washington, concluding with a “prisoner procession” to the Department of Justice, where members of Witness Against Torture will engage in nonviolent direct action. For more information, visit [www.witnesstorture.org/call-to-action-2011](http://www.witnesstorture.org/call-to-action-2011) or contact Frida (347-683-4928, [frida.berrigan@gmail.com](mailto:frida.berrigan@gmail.com)) or Jeremy (732-979-3119, [jvaron@aol.com](mailto:jvaron@aol.com)).

## martin luther king, jr. day lockheed/martin

Brandywine Peace Community will host their annual Martin Luther King Day of Nonviolent Resistance (& nonviolent civil disobedience) in front of war merchant Lockheed Martin Corporation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, on Monday, January 17, 2011 at noon. For more information, visit [brandywinepeace.com](http://brandywinepeace.com) or contact Brandywine Peace Community, P.O. Box 81, Swarthmore, PA, 19081, 610-544-1818.

## bangor

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action will host their Martin Luther King, Jr. Day gathering on Saturday, January 15, 2011, including civil resistance at the Kitsap-Bangor naval base, homeport of Trident nuclear submarines. For more information, contact Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org), 360-286-9036, [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org).

## white house

January 15, 2011 marks twenty years since the U.S. began to bomb Iraq. Join Pax Christi Metro D.C. for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas Gumbleton tentatively set for 8:45 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Then march at 11 a.m. to the White House for a public witness. Other events are being planned for this day, concluding with a 7 p.m. candlelight vigil at the White House which will mark the time the bombing of Baghdad began in 1991. For more information, contact [january15peacecommittee@post.com](mailto:january15peacecommittee@post.com) or Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, 202-882-9649.

## nevada test site

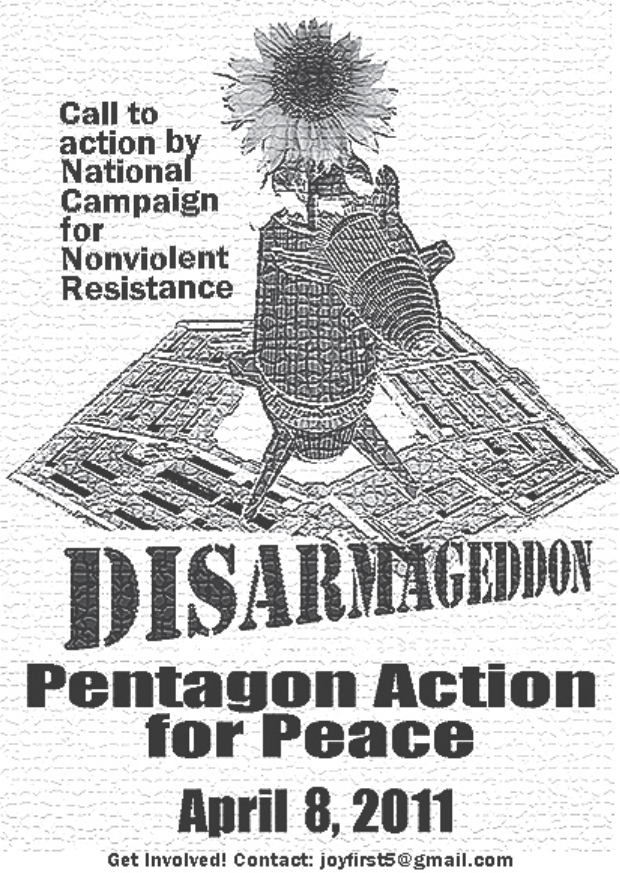
The 2011 Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada National Security Site (formerly the Nevada Test Site) will take place from April 18–25, 2011. The 65 mile journey is a walking meditation. It is also an opportunity for civil resistance calling for an end to development, testing and use of new weapons of mass destruction at the Nevada Test Site and Creech Air Force Base. Most nights are spent camping with help from a Las Vegas support team. Other accommodations are also available. Part-time “pilgrims” are welcome. Visit [NevadaDesertExperience.org](http://NevadaDesertExperience.org) for schedule details.

Early registrations and queries help with planning. Consider sponsoring a low-income walker. Walk-a-thon pledge forms are online. Suggested fundraising goal is \$150 per person. Any contribution makes a difference. Ideas for extended presence at Creech AFB in conjunction with the walk are being discussed.

For more information, contact Nevada Desert Experience, 1420 W. Bartlett Ave., Las Vegas NV 89106, 702-646-4814, [info@NevadaDesertExperience.org](mailto:info@NevadaDesertExperience.org).

**IOWA SENATORS’ DES MOINES OFFICE:** Both Federal and local authorities have been increasingly frustrated by the persistence of a few citizens who dare to exercise their rights by assembling peaceably and bringing their grievances over U.S. wars of aggression to their senators’ offices in the Federal Building. Grinnell grandmother Chris Gaunt’s weekly die-ins at the offices of Senators Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin led Polk County prosecutors to suggest she and co-defendant Elton Davis be barred from the building for life, following their conviction November 5 on charges of trespass and, for Gaunt, criminal mischief. Their arrests in August were the latest resulting from Iowan’s participation in the Peaceable Assembly Campaign promoted by Voices for Creative Nonviolence ([vcnv.org](http://vcnv.org)). The suggested sentence drew immediate condemnation from civil libertarians, and was withdrawn the next week. Instead the prosecutor asked for no fine, a sentence of time served, and that Gaunt and Davis just “please, go away.” Gaunt’s weekly visits and die-ins continue....

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## pentagon

The National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance has put out a call to action and is working with other peace and environmental organizations to plan an action of nonviolent civil resistance at the Pentagon on April 8, 2011. For more information or to get involved, contact [joyfirst5@gmail.com](mailto:joyfirst5@gmail.com).

## faith & resistance/kansas city

The Midwest Catholic Worker’s annual Faith & Resistance Retreat will be in Kansas City, April 29–May 2, focused on the new factory under construction there for special nuclear weapons parts. For more information, contact Cherith Brook Catholic Worker community, 816-241-8047 or visit [cherithbrookkc.blogspot.com](http://cherithbrookkc.blogspot.com).

## sweden

Ofog, the Swedish anti-militarist network, invites international activists to next summer’s action camp against military combat training in Luleå, northern Sweden, July 22–29, 2011. July 26 will be the day for nonviolent direct action at NEAT, the North European Aerospace Test Range, during NATO war practice. Make a direct impact on the largest training ground for war in Europe and meet as organizations and activists to exchange experiences and knowledge and coordinate resistance in the future. For more information, visit [www.warstartshere.com](http://www.warstartshere.com) and [www.ofog.org](http://www.ofog.org) or contact [info@ofog.org](mailto:info@ofog.org), phone +46 (0) 733 81 53 61.

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# Satyagrahis, cont.

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that locals did not oppose the project and outside instigators were at work, the people’s organization Janhit Seva Samiti called for a satyagraha action October 29 in remote Madban Village, at the heart of the area coveted by the JNPP. Warrants were issued for the arrest of Janhit Seva Samiti leaders, and some were detained while others went underground.

On the day of the action, police from three districts were mobilized to block roads and enforce an emergency closure of the area. They were outnumbered by more than 3,000 villagers who walked jungle paths or arrived by sea to pack the village temple and peacefully defy the orders. Some held placards declaring “Areva, Go Back,” “Sarkozy, Go Back” and “Obama, Go Back.”

Police had arrested 800 people before begging Janhit Seva Samiti leaders to stop a protest that had overwhelmed their capacity to arrest and transport people to a detention center 15 miles away. Those in custody were released that evening.

# Update Files, cont.

continued from page 7

**NEW YORK CITY:** In the only two cases that went to court following the May 3 nuclear abolition banner-drop and die-in at Grand Central Terminal, one was dismissed November 18 when the court learned that the officer who wrote the summons was not Bev Rice’s arresting officer. Asked by the judge for details, the officer was unable to identify Rice and told the court, “a lieutenant told me to write out the summons.” Carol Husten’s trial was October 29, but the court deferred judgement to review the transcript. The officer who signed her summons also did not arrest her, and claimed Husten was “supine on the floor” despite a photo from the scene clearly showing her holding a banner from the mezzanine, overlooking the concourse. The apparently confused officer also testified that there was much confusion and even gun shots reported. Husten was found not guilty...

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE FUTURE

April 26, 2011, 25th Chernobyl Anniversary



*It’s time for groups and activists all over the world to plan protests and actions to mark the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe.*

Each year, the French anti-nuclear network *Sortir du nucleaire* has issued a call to action on Chernobyl Day. In support of this call, U.S. organizations Nukewatch and *the Nuclear Resister* invite you to organize public protest and/or nonviolent direct action/civil resistance in your area, or participate in other events or actions being planned on or around April 26. It will be a day to declare, together with millions of others around the world, NO to nuclear power, nuclear weapons, nuclear testing, uranium mining and radioactive waste and YES to a nuclear-free future!

Whatever you plan, please post your event on the international roster of actions hosted by Sortir du nucleaire: [www.chernobyl-day.org/?lang=en](http://www.chernobyl-day.org/?lang=en), and let Nukewatch and *the Nuclear Resister* know what you are planning, for inclusion on websites and in media outreach. When the action is over, please post and send reports and photos.

Together let’s work for a nuclear-free future!

For more about Chernobyl: [www.nirs.org/factsheets/chernobylcanhappenhere2005.pdf](http://www.nirs.org/factsheets/chernobylcanhappenhere2005.pdf)

Nukewatch: [www.nukewatch.com/](http://www.nukewatch.com/), Email [nukewatch1@lakeland.ws](mailto:nukewatch1@lakeland.ws)

Nuclear Resister: [www.nukeresister.org/](http://www.nukeresister.org/), Email [nukeresister@igc.org](mailto:nukeresister@igc.org)

Sortir du nucleaire: [www.chernobyl-day.org/?lang=en](http://www.chernobyl-day.org/?lang=en) , Email [charlotte.mijeon@sortirdunucleaire.fr](mailto:charlotte.mijeon@sortirdunucleaire.fr)

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

inside this issue... Prisoner Addresses, p.3 Writings from Jail, Future Actions ...and more

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