

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 161

March 1, 2011

Ft. Benning Trespass

Two More Get Six Months Max Jail Time

Nancy Smith and Christopher Spicer were sentenced to six months in federal prison on January 5, following conviction for trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia. They were arrested inside the base along with David Omondi and Fr. Louis Vitale during the annual School of the Americas Watch vigil and nonviolent action last November.

In the Columbus, Georgia court of Magistrate Judge Stephen Hyles, Smith changed her plea to no contest and affirmed a “strong moral imperative” to take such action “on behalf of those who have suffered so terribly.”

When Smith told the court that she accepted full responsibility for her action and expected to be held accountable to the consequences, the judge asked if she meant that she was wrong in her action, and planned to reform her conduct.

“Oh! No...” she replied.

Spicer was also found guilty by Judge Hyles. Before sentencing he spoke to the court about his many trips to El Salvador to serve the poor, hear their stories, and participate in activities with a sister parish there, and how his Christian faith brought him to Ft. Benning.

Spicer and Smith were both taken from the court to the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia, pending placement in a federal facility. In mid-February, both were transferred. Smith ended up at Danbury, Connecticut; Spicer is still in transit. Smith and Spicer’s stay at Irwin County began soon after co-defendants Omondi and Vitale, jailed since the action, were moved from there to federal prisons.

Vitale was returned to the prison camp at Lompoc, California, inside the sprawling Vandenberg Air Force Base where he served time last year for trespass at Ft. Benning. Ironically, Vitale will be on trial soon after his release from prison for trespass at Vandenberg, opposing nuclear missile test launches (see page 4).

Omondi was moved to the federal prison at McRae, Georgia, a facility holding many immigrants facing deportation. Omondi’s dual U.S.–Kenya citizenship and

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Vermont Yankee - Shut It Down Now!

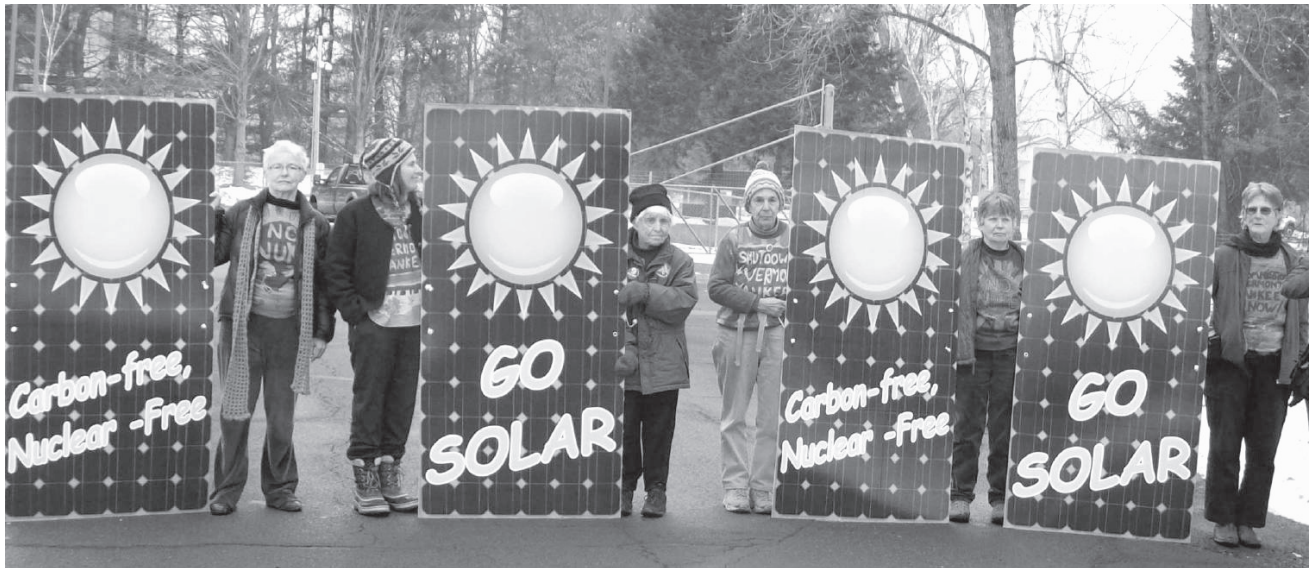


photo by Susan Smallheer

With the solution in their hands, women from Massachusetts and Vermont make their point with a blockade of the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor on New Year’s Day, 2011.

The women of the Shut It Down affinity group rang out the old as they rang in the new year on January 1, bringing solar panels to replace the nuclear energy from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon.

Nine women blocked the driveway at Entergy Corporation’s aging, leaky reactor. Their message was clearly communicated with solar photovoltaic panels as props and a banner reading “No More Leaks and No More Lies – Shut It Down Now”. They stressed that solar, wind, and water power along with efficiency can replace Vermont Yankee’s nuclear energy without endangering health and at lower cost.

Police arrested and booked the women, releasing them to appear in Windham County District Court in Brattleboro on February 28.

It was Shut It Down’s eleventh witness against nuclear power at Vermont Yankee since the women began appearing there in December, 2005. Despite the women’s repeated insistence that they would appreciate follow-through on a court date, the state’s attorney has dropped all previous charges, and on February 18, the latest charges were dropped as well.

The nine arrested are Julia Bonafine, Martha Hennessy, Robin Lloyd, and Nina Swaim from Vermont, and Frances Crowe, Marcia Gagliardi, Ellen Graves, Hattie Nestel, and Paki Wieland from Massachusetts. Ages range

from Bonafine, 40, to Crowe, who is 91.

While blocking the driveway, the women read the following statement:

We are here on New Year’s Eve to shut down Vermont Yankee now.

Vermont, New England, and America can not wait until 2012 to end the dangerous, wasteful, inefficient, and expensive nuclear power generated here.

In its place, we bring Vermont the safe, sustainable, economical, and cost effective power of the sun. With solar, wind, and water power plus efficiency, we will go forward into the bright future of sufficient, renewable energy that is carbon-free, nuclear-free, and safe for all — including the workers who bring us electricity.

We resolve to do everything possible to support immediate decommissioning of Vermont Yankee. No more leaks, no more lies, no more so-called unusual events.

Out with the old and in with the new. The future is now.

We can be carbon-free and nuclear-free.

For more information, contact Marcia Gagliardi, 800-215-8805 or haley.antique@verizon.net.

(Thanks to Shut It Down for this report.)

Nonviolent Direct Action Tributes to Dr. Martin Luther King

This year’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday weekend coincided with the 20th anniversary of the 1991 U.S. attack on Iraq that began a war continuing to this day. Across the country, anti-war events featured King’s eloquent denunciations of militarism, poverty, and racism, while his leadership in the practice of nonviolent direct action to confront injustice was honored by resisters at military bases in Washington and Arizona, and the corporate offices in Pennsylvania of war profiteer Lockheed–Martin.

BANGOR

On Saturday, January 15, more than 80 people from the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action participated in a vigil at the Kitsap Mall in Silverdale, Washington. Alongside their full scale, 44-foot long, inflatable Trident D-5 nuclear-armed missile, participants carried signs and banners calling for an end to war and nuclear weapons. Notable was a banner quoting Dr. King: “When scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men.”

Later, back at the Ground Zero Center, Dr. David Hall, former president of the Washington chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, gave a presentation on the threats posed by these nuclear weapons stored at Strategic

Weapons Facility–Pacific and deployed on the Trident nuclear submarines based at the Kitsap-Bangor Navy Base. The Center shares a back fence with the base, home to the largest single stockpile of nuclear warheads in the U.S. arsenal, housing as many as 2,000 nuclear warheads.

After nonviolence training, demonstrators went to the nearby Trigger Avenue gate. Twelve activists risked arrest during the afternoon shift change.

Washington State residents Shirley Morrison, 88, Rosy Betz-Zall, 60, and Anne Hall, 65, all of Seattle; Larry Kerschner, 64, of Centralia; Brenda McMillan, 77, of Port Townsend; and Denny Moore, 66, of Bainbridge Island, walked onto the road with a banner reading “BILLIONS FOR LIFE, NOT BILLIONS FOR DEATH.”

Kitsap County sheriffs arrested the six protesters. They were taken to the county jail where they were issued citations for blocking traffic and later released.

At the gate, another six activists crossed the blue line marking federal property. Gordon Sturrock, 52, of Eugene, Oregon, was arrested along with Washington residents Patti Bass, 63, of Poulsbo; Carolyn Dorisdorfer, 72, of Seattle; Norm Keegel, 71, of Bainbridge Island; Sam Tower, 68, of Tacoma; and Robert Friend Weber Whitlock, 32, of Olympia. Naval security personnel took them

into custody for processing and they were later released with citations for trespass.

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, www.gzcenter.org, 360-286-9036, info@gzcenter.org.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

On a frigid holiday Monday, January 17, nearly seventy-five people gathered in front of Lockheed Martin’s corporate complex in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The Brandywine Peace Community has been honoring King’s legacy of nonviolent action for 33 consecutive years, and since 1993, with annual vigils and civil disobedience actions at Lockheed–Martin.

Along half a block, people holding banners and signs stood next to large free-standing pictures of Dr. King, and listened to an audio broadcast of excerpts from his sermons and speeches. A memorial litany drawn from King’s writings concluded with the toll of a bell as eight people, prepared to be arrested in civil disobedience, walked into the crosswalk at Lockheed Martin’s main driveway. They wore sandwich board signs – one side with a graphic of King and the words “It’s About Justice ... Make War No

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Resistance Reflections

Reflections on the ANZUS Plowshares 20 Years Later

New Year’s Day 2011
Little Flower Catholic Worker Farm
Virginia, USA

by Sue Frankel-Streit in collaboration
with Bill Frankel-Streit

I don’t know what effect hammering on a B-52 bomber actually had on the first Gulf War (other than that particular bomber not bombing). But I know that the effect that action had on me was immense; likely immeasurable. I don’t think about the ANZUS Plowshares action that often. I don’t speak about it unless someone asks. It was 20 years ago, after all. There have been so many creative, risky, beautiful acts of resistance before and since, that I don’t dwell often on that one.

Still, though, those few solid thwacks of my hammer on that huge plane in the early hours of the New Year 1991, and all the preparation leading up to them, and all the court time and, most especially, all the jail time that followed, have pretty much informed every aspect of my life since.

For one thing, I believe without doubt that there is a power greater than I that supports liberation and creativity, and that any time we enter into the flow of that spirit of life (which is really what we are meant to be doing), we open ourselves to grace and unexpected, amazing things happen. So every day I try and be there; I try and look at the world, and at my little corner of it, and see what I can be a part of that will be a part of that flow.

Second, I hate prison. I find prison, and punishment in general, to be cruel, ineffective, uncreative, stifling, and shame-inducing. As does most anyone who spends any time in there, I permanently lost a part of my freedom when I went to jail, because I discovered how many of my brothers and sisters were, are, and will remain in prison. Though I found a year in jail to be personally transformative in many positive ways, I mostly found it to be heart-breaking— day by day, week by week, unjustly imprisoned cell-mate by unjustly imprisoned cell-mate. I lost any illusion I might have had about the “justice” of our legal system. I lost any sense I might have had about our country’s progress in dealing with racism or sexism. I lost the ability to walk through the woods, or sit in silence, or hold a baby, without remembering all those for whom such basic elixirs are prohibited by the system. So I write to prisoners. I read prisoners’ writings. I support, in any way I can find, prisoners and those fighting to abolish prison. And I live with the longing of the imprisoned permanently lodged in my peripheral vision.

And I know viscerally that the imprisonment of brothers and sisters is hopelessly tangled in our willingness to

support war. War and weapons of war imprison us just as thoroughly as the prison industrial complex. The money and energy that go into war making take away from the creation of a society where, to quote Peter Maurin, “it is easier to be good”, i.e., to get our needs met without breaking laws (which leads, for those of us without means, to prison). And the enemy mentality needed to maintain war is the same mentality that justifies imprisonment. Not to mention that any war results in prisoners of war, who are accorded even less rights than other prisoners— witness Guantanamo.

Finally, I need community in order to resist all of this, and I need resistance to survive community. It took a lot of people to get us to that bomber and support us through that jail time. And it took a great action (“an act of personal and political disarmament”, as Phil Berrigan used to say) to bring together all those people. So in the years since, I’ve continued to try and build community, and to engage in direct actions against systemic violence.

If this planet is going to survive much more of us, we first-worlders are going to have to learn how to live together again. “To know each other is to love each other,” Dorothy Day said, “and we know each other in the breaking of the bread”. And if we break bread together on a regular basis, we’ll also get to know that some of us don’t wash dishes well. Some of us have a weird sense of humor. Some of us use too much fire wood or don’t take out the trash or drink too much or neglect our kids. And we can still love each other. And we can still even live together. But all of that’s a lot easier to deal with if we feel that we’re part of a movement—that our struggles to overcome our inclinations towards isolation and individual fulfillment at the expense of the common good are part of a universal struggle for liberation; that our willingness to keep living with other people in underheated, overcrowded houses, sharing refrigerators and bathrooms and cars and money, is the very thing that grants us the ability to engage in direct action; because we are not solely responsible for our household or our children, but we have community and can therefore act boldly.

Over the last 20 years, Bill and I have spent a lot of time and energy on what Gandhi referred to as “the constructive program” – living simply and communally, growing food and raising kids, offering hospitality to those in need, and supporting the work of marginalized activists and young folks. We’ve made, and continue to make, our share of mistakes. We continue to struggle with community, authentic living, and authentic loving. But we have continued to place nonviolent, direct action at the center of our lives. We have never regretted any direct action that either one of us, or any member of our community, has taken. Though I lost a part of my freedom forever when I went to jail, I also gained a part of my freedom

when I hammered on that plane, for I was able to act in that moment because I was free from the fear of prison – not that I did not fear prison, but in that moment my fear of prison did not stop me from acting. To have lived that possibility is a great gift and a frightening challenge, and that effect of the ANZUS Plowshares action continues to help me help the liberation struggle every day.

Where we’re at

Spring approaches... the peach tree out back is starting to flower. We have to wait a couple more weeks to determine if our big lemon tree survived an unusually hard freeze for three nights running in January. Even some of the cactus in our yard fell over and didn’t survive - it was the coldest weather in the 25 years we’ve lived in Tucson!

In contrast, for the past several weeks our hearts have been warmed by the generous outpouring of support in response to the appeal for Helen Woodson sent to subscribers of *the Nuclear Resister* and many others. We have been moved by more than 200 donations and caring notes, and Helen is very touched and grateful as well.

Coming this spring are many peace and anti-nuclear actions. Please see page 7 for a list of future actions, and remember to check the Nuclear Resister blog for new listings between newsletters at www.nukeresister.org/future-actions.

Also at the Nuclear Resister blog, you can sign up for the monthly E-bulletin - just click on “Email Updates” at the top of the page, then fill out the form. Or simply email your request to nukeresister@igc.org.

Nuclear Resister E-bulletins will keep you up-to-date between print issues, highlighting recent trials and sentences, prisoner updates, support needs and more. The E-Bulletins and blog give us more room to share longer essays, letters from prisoners, actions reports and updates.

All that and much more is distilled into each print edition to bring this news to you, and to the peace prisoners currently behind bars. The print edition of *the Nuclear Resister* remains the only source of comprehensive information about contemporary anti-war and anti-nuclear nonviolent resistance, and we are very grateful for your subscriptions and support.

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa, editors

Thanks

Thanks to Jim, Betty, Jerry, Sonia, Charlotte, Paige, Roger, John and Sue 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!

SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

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

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

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

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

The Nuclear Resister is published about 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

Writing to Plowshares Sentencing Judge

Sentencing of the Disarm Now Plowshares group is scheduled for March 28 in Tacoma, Washington federal court. They are facing a maximum possible sentence of ten years in prison for entering the nuclear weapons storage facility at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in November, 2009.

Since their December conviction for trespass, felony damage to federal property, felony injury to property and felony conspiracy to damage property, many people have told the five – Fr. Bill Bichsel, Susan Crane, Lynne Green-

wald, Fr. Steve Kelly and Sr. Anne Montgomery – that they want to write to Federal Judge Settle.

“Considering the illegal treatment of the Guantanamo prisoners and the thousands of people held unjustly in U.S. prisons,” the defendants write, “it’s hard to ask people to write on our behalf. At the same time, we appreciate and need the support, and suggest these talking points:

- The nuclear weapons at the U.S. Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor and on the Trident subs are horrendous, capable of destroying all life on earth.
- The nuclear weapons at the U.S. Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor are illegal according to the rules and principles of humanitarian law, U.S. war crimes (18 USC 2441) and Genocide (18 USC 1091) statutes and military law. It is the responsibility of every citizen in the U.S. to find nonviolent ways to disarm these weapons.
- We are NOT asking for leniency from the judge, but for justice. The weapons are illegal. We shouldn’t have been on trial.
- Further, we ask that you speak of us as a community of resisters rather than individuals.
- We are asking the judge to join us in disarming these weapons that can end life on earth. Although Judge Settle made a decision before the trial to preclude us from using the affirmative defenses of necessity and humanitarian law, he could do something about that and stand with us now.”

Send your letters by land mail to: Judge Benjamin H. Settle, U.S. Federal District Court Tacoma, 1717 Pacific Ave. Room 3100, Tacoma, WA 98402-3200. Please send a copy to the Tacoma Federal Public Defender, 1331 Broadway, Suite 400, Tacoma, WA 98402. Finally, send a copy by email to: disarmnowplowshares@gmail.com.

For a schedule of public events planned around the sentencing, visit www.disarmnowplowshares.org.

In Memory of Sister Rosemary Lynch, OSF

March 18, 1917
- January 9, 2011

Peacemaker,
Franciscan sister,
co-founder of the
Nevada Desert
Experience and
Pace e Bene,
Story-teller,
Poet



Photo by Mario Intino, Jr.

*In full bloom
this desert Rose
four score years and ten
speaks truth petals across continents
gardens the spirituality of nonviolence
through the generations.*

Peter Ediger, marking
Sr. Rosemary’s 90th birthday

Support Letters Needed for Bradley Manning

Army private Bradley Manning remains in maximum security custody at the Marine Corps prison at Quantico, under the austere conditions of a Prevention of Injury watch sustained despite the repeated recommendation to the contrary of brig forensic psychiatrists.

For two days after more than 150 people rallied for his freedom on Martin Luther King Day, Manning was placed without justification on even more restrictive Suicide Watch. Pentagon officials insisted Manning’s conditions of confinement were no different than other pretrial detainees, but his lawyer David Coombs documented the falsehood of the claim and has filed a formal complaint against the unique conditions. Still, no hearing has been scheduled and Manning has yet to face formal charges.

After being detained and questioned the previous weekend until visiting hours were over, Bradley Manning Support Network member and friend David House was allowed to visit the accused WikiLeaks whistleblower at Quantico on both January 29 and 30. He reported Manning displayed some classic symptoms of prolonged solitary confinement, but became most animated when told of the democracy demonstrations in Tunisia and Egypt.

Appeal for Leonard Peltier’s Urgent Medical Transfer

The prostate biopsy that was ordered by a physician last November was finally performed on Leonard Peltier on February 23. Peltier will receive the results in seven to ten days. The feedback from the physician wasn’t positive, however.

Peltier had experienced symptoms of prostate cancer for over a year. After months of pressure by attorneys, he underwent blood tests in June, 2010. Those results were not made available until early November 2010, at which time the biopsy was finally ordered and approved by the prison.



The Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee (LP-DOC) asks supporters to write and fax or mail an immediate request that Peltier be transferred to a federal prison better equipped to provide timely, quality care.

The following is offered as suggested text by the LPCOD, who remind supporters that, “Often a handwritten heartfelt letter is quite effective. Remember to always employ a respectful tone and keep your comments brief and to the point.”

Letters should include your name and return address, and be addressed to: Harley G. Lappin, Director; U.S. Bureau of Prisons; 320 First Street, NW; Washington, DC 20534. Fax: 202-514-6620.

Dear Mr. Lappin:

It has come to my attention that Leonard Peltier #89637-132, an inmate at the U.S. Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, is in dire need of medical

In late February, PayPal made an “internal policy decision” to shut down the account of the Bradley Manning Support Fund, administered by Courage to Resist. The dispute had been brewing for more than two months, since Wikileaks’ account was shut down by the internet money transfer company. Protest ensued once news of the action hit the internet, and by the end of the day, the account was restored without further comment.

For more information, visit www.bradleymanning.org.



Supporters are asked to write to Quantico commanders and demand an end to the inhumane, degrading conditions of pretrial confinement and respect for Manning’s human rights, specifically, lifting the “Prevention of Injury (POI) watch order”. This would allow Bradley meaningful physical exercise, uninterrupted sleep during the night, and a release from isolation. The request is not for “special treatment”, but in fact for an immediate end to the special

attention.

I believe that Mr. Peltier’s medical needs are urgent. He needs to be seen by proper medical staff. Therefore, I respectfully request that Leonard Peltier be transferred to FCI-Oxford in Wisconsin or FMC-Rochester in Minnesota. Either of these facilities can adequately accommodate Mr. Peltier’s medical needs.

Thank you in advance for transferring Leonard Peltier and immediately addressing his medical needs!

Sincerely,
xxx

In 1977, Leonard Peltier was wrongfully convicted of killing two FBI agents. On the very day in 1975 when the agents died during a police and military siege on the home of traditional tribal elders on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, the corrupt Pine Ridge Reservation tribal chairman was secretly signing away the tribe’s mineral rights, including those for uranium.

On February 6, 2011, he had served 35 years in federal custody despite proof of his innocence, and also despite proof that he was convicted on the basis of fabricated and suppressed evidence, as well as coerced testimony. The United States Courts of Appeal have repeatedly acknowledged investigative and prosecutorial misconduct in this case but, by their decisions, have refused to take corrective action. A model prisoner, Leonard Peltier also has been denied fair consideration for parole and Executive Clemency.

For more information, visit www.whoisleonardpeltier.info, or contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee, POB 7488, Fargo, ND 58106, contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info.

treatment. Address letters to Quantico Base Commander Colonel Daniel Choike, 3250 Catlin Avenue, Quantico VA 22134, 703-432-0289 (Media Officer phone); and Quantico Brig Commanding Officer, CWO2 Denise Barnes, 3247 Elrod Avenue, Quantico VA 22134.

Manning may only receive mail from approved correspondents. Therefore, 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 mail will be sent weekly to Manning via someone on his approved correspondence list.

On Sunday, March 20, the day after anti-war demonstrations in Washington, D.C., Manning’s supporters will gather for a 2:00 p.m. rally in the town of Triangle, Virginia (intersection of Main St. and Route 1), then march to the gates of the Quantico Marine Corps Base.

Another Six Months for STRATCOM Line-Crosser

Mark Kenney was sentenced to a six month prison term on February 25, for stepping across the line at Offutt Air Force Base. The Nagasaki Day (August 9) demonstration was part of an annual vigil and protest at the home of the U.S. Strategic Command, overseer of the nation’s nuclear weapons arsenal. Federal Magistrate Judge Thomas D. Thalken accepted Kenney’s guilty plea, and noted that Kenney’s prior record of line crossing at Offutt resulted in his serving 30 day, 45 day and two six month sentences (the two six months sentences being given by Judge Thalken).

Kenney, 53, spoke briefly to the court, concluding,

“If I am guilty of anything, it’s that I desire to hold onto my faith in Jesus the Christ more than I wish to hold onto the manufactured myth of the American Dream. If I am guilty of anything, it’s that I fear God more than I fear the courts.

“For these reasons, I do what I do. For these reasons, I will try to accept as faithfully as I can whatever the courts or society have in store for me.”

Thalken said he respected Kenney’s personal convictions for peace, and admitted that any prison time given to Kenney would not be a deterrent but only punishment. He sentenced Kenney to the full six month maximum jail time because of Kenney’s prior sentences. Kenney will self-surrender within four to six weeks.

Two codefendants are considering a plea agreement, and the third, Fr. Jack McCaslin, 81, was set to appear with Kenney but is recovering from recent illness. His trial is postponed until April 12. Judge Thalken vowed last time Fr. McCaslin was arrested that should he return, he’d send him to jail regardless of his age or health.

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

Inside & Out

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

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

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

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)



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)

Louis Vitale 25803-048
FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc, CA 93436.
(6 months – out 5/21/11. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)

Michael David Omondi 94638-020
McRae Correctional Institute, P.O. Drawer 30, McRae, GA 31055.
(6 months – out 5/20/11. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)

Nancy H. Smith 94641-020
FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811.
(6 months – out 7/3/11. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)

Christopher Spicer 94642-020
(In transit) c/o the Nuclear Resister, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733.
(6 months – out 7/3/11. 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 6/8/11. 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 5/2/12. 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)

Tributes to King, cont.

continued from page 1

More”, and on the other side a comparison of the cost in billions of a Lockheed Martin weapons systems to the domestic human needs the same billions could meet.

Fr. Patrick Sieber, of Camden, New Jersey, was arrested with Pennsylvanians Tom Mullian of Prospect Park, Annie Geers of Media, Mary Jo McArthur, Beth Friedlan, Sr. Margaret McKenna, and Robert M. Smith, all of Philadelphia. All were taken to the Upper Merion police station and released with disorderly conduct citations.

For more information, visit www.brandywinepeace.com.

DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE

Following Tucson’s annual King Day march on January 17, ten people carried Dr. King’s message to nearby Davis–Monthan Air Force Base.

Three men – Jean Boucher, Dennis DuVall, and John Heid – walked into the base with messages for base personnel opposing depleted uranium munitions and armed drones.

They were stopped at the gate by military police who repeatedly asked the men to turn around and leave. When all declined, Tucson police were summoned. The three were arrested, taken into custody, and released that evening on their own recognizance from the Pima County Jail. They have separate court dates in March and April.

“I’m frustrated by the war-as-usual aspects of my country,” said Boucher, a 46-year-old border educator and former mechanical engineer from Tucson. “President Obama’s mandate, when he spoke last week in Tucson [following the tragic January 8 mass shooting that killed six], that ‘we should do everything we can to make sure this country lives up to our children’s expectations’ compels me to act. I do not believe that constant war lives up to the expectations of our nation’s children.”

Heid also found Obama’s challenge to be an added incentive for anti-war witness to honor the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. A 56-year old Quaker and Catholic Worker, Heid explained, “Already two generations of U.S. and Iraqi children have grown up under war. What kind of legacy is this for the future generations? King’s timeless vision summons us. Now Obama’s recent summons ‘to love’ reinvigorates us. The children of the world are worthy of it. And they are waiting.”

DuVall, 69 and a military veteran from Prescott, Arizona, went to the base to deliver a letter to Colonel Randy Inman, the newly installed commander of the 214th Reconnaissance Group. DuVall wrote, “Tucson’s complicity in the drone air war is another Tucson tragedy. The tragedy is that Arizona Air National Guard’s 214th Predator Unit here at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is helping to murder hundreds of innocent people by remote control in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. By guiding Hellfire missiles to their targets in homes and villages, ANG’s Predator Unit will typically kill 10-50 innocent people for each targeted victim...”

“Blowing people apart with Hellfire missiles only unites people in outrage and incites more revenge, violence and retaliation. Drone air attacks do not prevent or eliminate terrorism. They are terrorism!... As a veteran, and in the spirit of Martin Luther King, I would welcome the opportunity to enter into a dialog with you and your aircrews. As President Obama said in Tucson just a few days ago, ‘Only an honest discourse and debate’ can honor those who die in senseless acts of violence.”

In their joint statement, the men wrote that Davis-Monthan has also “played a central role in the use of depleted uranium weapons in Iraq. Today we call upon General William M. Fraser III, Air Combat Command Leadership and Colonel John A. Cherry to comply with the recent United Nations mandate to reveal the sites where the U.S. has fired depleted uranium shells in Iraq.”

As previously reported, Heid stood trial in December in Tucson city court, charged with trespass last March at the Davis-Monthan air show. Magistrate Crenshaw deferred judgment, and told Heid that if he were convicted, he’d be notified in advance of a January 14 sentencing. Heid’s heard nothing more on the matter.

DuVall, who is awaiting trial in May in federal court in Tennessee (see the Y-12 Update File, page 7), informed his parole officer in Flagstaff of his arrest in Tucson, and later, of his arrest in Nevada on January 29 (see Creech 14 story, this page). As a result, DuVall was summoned to Knoxville on February 8, where he stood in front of Magistrate Judge Bruce Guyton with a toothbrush in his pocket, expecting jail. To DuVall’s surprise, the government did not ask that his bond be revoked. Noting that conscience moved DuVall to act when the opportunity presented itself, the government asked only that he be restricted to the state of Arizona until trial, and that he be



Photo by Melissa K. Elliott

Annie Geers is taken into custody at the Pennsylvania headquarters of war supplier Lockheed-Martin on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

prohibited from attending any protests of any kind.

DuVall’s public defender, Robert Kurtz, countered that he should also be allowed to travel to and from court in Tennessee, and to exercise his First Amendment rights. He should only be prohibited from getting arrested again. The judge agreed that demonstrations and protests are okay, but to avoid the temptations of conscience, DuVall must keep a 50-yard distance from any fixed perimeter. DuVall agreed, and returned home.

For more information, contact *the Nuclear Resister*, 520-323-8697, nukeresister@igc.org.

CREECH 14 GUILTY; TIME SERVED

On Thursday, January 27, thirteen people charged with trespass and their supporters filled Clark County Judge William Jansen’s Las Vegas, Nevada, courtroom to hear his verdict regarding their April, 2009 protest at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs. Crews at Creech control the drones used in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, killing civilians in remote controlled assassination attacks.

In a 20-page written decision, Jansen found the fourteen defendants guilty of trespass as charged, ruling that their defense did not meet the legal requirement of imminence for acquittal based on necessity. Defendant Fr. Louis Vitale did not attend due to his imprisonment in California for trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Before being sentenced, twelve defendants made statements affirming the imminence of the threat, and calling for an end to the drone bombings and for nonviolent ways of resolving international conflict. All were sentenced to time served.

Although Jansen had insisted at the start of the September trial that he would only hear evidence related to a relatively minor trespass charge, the case was notable because expert witness testimony was admitted about the role of conscientious trespass in the struggle for social justice, and because the judge opted to take the case under advisement for months and issue a written decision.

The conclusion of the Creech 14 trial coincided with the 60th anniversary of the first atomic explosion at the notorious Nevada nuclear weapons Test Site northwest of Las Vegas. In observance of the occasion on January 29, eight people, including five of the Creech 14 defendants, entered the recently renamed Nevada National Security Site at the Mercury gate and were immediately arrested.

Despite holding permits to enter the land issued by the Western Shoshone National Council, Mary Lou Anderson, Dennis DuVall, Renee Espeland, Jim Haber, George Homanich, Judy Homanich, Brian Terrell and Fr. Jerry Zawada were issued trespass citations by Nye County deputies and released.

As they walked past a painted line on the pavement, Western Shoshone leader Johnnie Bobb told the group, “You bless the land with each of your footsteps.”

For more information, contact the Nevada Desert Experience, 1420 W. Bartlett Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106, 702-646-4814, info@NevadaDesertExperience.org, or visit www.NevadaDesertExperience.org.

More Vigilers Arrested at Vandenberg

While the Air Force enthusiastically enforces its boundaries at Vandenberg Air Force Base, the U.S. attorney and federal court show no comparable passion for prosecution.

It’s a curious situation, where the main gate sits at an intersection along a stretch of California State Highway 1 that crosses the base.

On first Wednesdays, a monthly peace vigil at the gate of this base (where missiles to launch nuclear war are tested) is closely monitored by military police. If participants are identified from a large binder of photographs of those previously banned for crossing the line, they may be ordered to leave the area and quickly arrested if they don’t.

When they get to the federal circuit court in Santa Barbara, charges are dropped or the penalty is modest.

Dennis Apel and Bud Boothe were arrested for defying their banishment as they vigiled on January 5. Boothe, a World War II veteran as well as veteran of resistance at Vandenberg after nearly 30 years of protest there, was roughed-up once when arrested last year. This day, he came to the vigil with his wrists taped to protect his skin from the handcuffs. He was again tightly handcuffed for more than an hour before being released, and his requests for the painful cuffs to be loosened were simply ignored. By the time he was processed, driven off base and released, his wrists were badly bruised and swollen.

A month later on February 2, Apel, Boothe, and Fr. Steve Kelly were yet again arrested and cited for violating their ban and bar orders as they vigiled outside the gate.

In the interval, five people who had actually crossed the line last August 7 had trespass charges dropped, as were citations served that day on Dennis Apel and Mike Wisniewski, who were vigiling in spite of active bans.

On February 17, Apel and Kelly reported to federal court for a hearing on their November 3 citations. First, however, Apel was handed a poorly written citation for violating his ban and bar order at the December 1 vigil. He told the judge that he noticed two different dates appeared on the charging documents.

“I was wondering about that, too...,” the judge offered. Without prompting, the prosecutor then asked for and received a summary dismissal of the charge.

Because their November codefendant, Fr. Louis Vitale, is currently serving a six month prison sentence, Apel then asked if the November matter could be taken up later, after Vitale’s May 20 release date. The prosecutor said the third Thursday in June would be okay, even while noting that her main military witness expects to be re-assigned to Korea by then. The case was continued to June 16.

Meanwhile, two appeals challenging the Air Force’s claim of jurisdiction along the highway easement by the gate, including one by Dennis Apel and Scott Fina, are pending before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

For more information, contact Vandenberg Witness, 4575 9th St., Guadalupe, CA 93434, 805-343-6322, info@vandenbergwitness.org.

Remembering Victims of WASHINGTON, D.C.

Over 50 people from the Atlantic Life Community and other peacemakers gathered December 27–30 in Washington, D.C. for the annual Holy Innocents Faith and Resistance Retreat, honoring all the innocent victims of war while commemorating the biblical slaughter of innocent children ordered by King Herod, who feared the Messiah.

During the retreat, three nonviolent actions were taken at several centers of the military, economic and political power of the U.S. empire. At the Pentagon on December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, retreatants called for an end to U.S. warmaking and the abolition of all weapons. Children in the group appealed for an end to the bombing of children in places like Afghanistan and Pakistan. Parents Steve Woolford, Beth Brockman, and Joan Wages were arrested for trying to leaflet workers, and later released with a March 18 court date.

Demonstrations on December 29 at four Capitol city sites related to the IMF and World Bank, and at the White House on December 30, brought warnings but no arrests.

LONDON

In London, about 30 people representing several faith traditions and none at all participated in a Holy Innocents

Two More Get Six Months, cont.

continued from page 1

transfer to McRae led to speculation he might be deported after completing his sentence, but he’s been told that will not happen. Recently Omondi was notified that he would be transferred again. He hopes to go to California, where he’s part of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker community.

Back in Columbus, the School of the Americas Watch Legal Collective has filed a round of motions for those facing state charges, including one for a jury trial. The appeals from municipal court have yet to be docketed. When they are, they will be consolidated with the trial cases.

In late December, a letter to “Friends of the Movement to Close the School of the Americas”, signed by 27 SOAW volunteer organizers, former prisoners of conscience, and staff addressed the circumstances that led to significant police infiltration of the 2010 action group and multiple municipal and state charges.

As part of the collective leadership of our movement, we must tell you that we remain very concerned and disturbed by the actions of the Columbus police at the close of the demonstration on Saturday, November 20. While arrests may have been expected by people who continued their protest outside of the permitted area, the wholesale arrests of innocent people who were just walking to their cars was totally unjust. Likewise, the people arrested were given extra charges and extra high bonds. Tens of thousands of dollars had to be raised in a short time to get people out of jail. Many in our movement still face state charges for those arrests and our legal collective is working with them to try to resolve those charges.

We pledge to you that we will protect the people in our movement. We are examining what happened and will do whatever is in our power to make sure that next November arrests of innocent people will not happen again.

As a community, we must take the negative energy that was generated by the conduct of law enforcement and parts of the judicial system and transform that into passion to close the SOA/WHINSEC and to bring about justice.

Anger is the first response of the heart to injustice. It is a light that points us to what is wrong, and it is important. Anger needs, however, her sister Courage to change the injustice and to create hope.

A lot of money went into bail and fines for people in our movement. People were very generous. This shows the strength of our movement. We assure you that the SOA Watch movement remains financially healthy and able to continue our struggles. As usual, we are going to be asking you for money to help our organization continue to grow, but just know our movement is OK.

Finally, we know that transparent evaluation is necessary in movements for justice. We are gazing with a humble and thorough eye at all facets of our 2010 gathering and how our movement should respond. We do this in a spirit of openness and creativity to help us build a movement that reflects the best of who we are as a community. If you have thoughts to share with us, please do - we need your participation.

Email feedback to nico@soaw.org, or mail to SOA Watch, POB 4566, Washington, DC 20017.

All social justice movements face resistance from

the Innocent the Empire

Faith and Resistance retreat. They took action December 29 at Northwood, the British military headquarters in a leafy London suburb, joined by another 20 anti-war activists to march on the compound from a nearby tube station.

Seven Catholic Workers went ahead with a can of red paint to once again mark the “Northwood Headquarters” sign with symbolic blood, but the sign had been temporarily removed, likely for the occasion. The paint was instead poured on the driveway in the shape of a cross, and six of the group blocked the gate entrance. Ciaran O’Reilly, wearing a large photo of Bradley Manning, scaled the fence, carefully moved through the razorwire on top, and dropped down inside the barrier to a rather inaccessible space. For over an hour, he spoke through the fence with police, military, and other demonstrators. Tim Saunders tried to follow but was pulled back and questioned by police before being let go to rejoin the vigil. Eventually, O’Reilly read the group’s statement aloud and then surrendered. He was taken inside the base for questioning but soon rejoined the vigil as well, with no charges.

For more information, contact the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, 202-882-9649, DCcatholicworker.wordpress.com and the London Catholic Worker, 020 8348 8212, londoncatholicworker.org.

systems of power. One of our struggles is not to begin to reflect the abuses of power, of person, and of values in our own movement as we seek change. This means we need to continuously evolve to reflect a healthy, open, justice-loving whole! We are committed to that ongoing evolution as we create a safe and justice-loving whole in our 2011 gatherings.



Letters of support should be sent to Fr. Louis Vitale, Michael David Omondi, Nancy Smith and Chris Spicer at the addresses listed on page 3, Inside & Out.

Before going to jail, Nancy Smith asked to not have money deposited to her commissary account, for numerous and well-considered reasons. While she is not wanting for her personal needs, she will not be purchasing stamps. “Please know that while I appreciate any correspondence you may send, I will be unable to reciprocate,” she wrote, just before going to prison.

A supporter is keeping a website updated with messages from Smith: www.sconant.net/nancysmith/. A friend of Chris Spicer’s is keeping two blogs about his experience, www.jailhousegenesis.blogspot.com and www.thegenesis-letters.blogspot.com. David Omondi’s letters from jail are posted at www.lacatholicworker.org

Corrections:

Due to a memory and editing error, our original report of the 2010 SOAW vigil in the last issue mistakenly conflated the names of two retired federal judges into one Robert “Maximum Bob” Faircloth responsible for sentencing Ft. Benning line-crossers: Robert “Maximum Bob” Elliott, who retired in 1999 at age 90, following a stroke, and his recently retired replacement on the bench, Mallon Faircloth (who also routinely imposed maximum jail terms on SOAW defendants).

THE
INSIDE
LINE

WRITINGS FROM JAIL
~ from Atlanta

(Untitled)
For Grace and Arnal

Angels all around me
In the dungeons of Atlanta USP
Guiding light, the truth of love
And daily learned humility
Listen, still, pray, still —
Silence clamours through the night
Watch, patient, pray, still silent —
Quietly desires flee.

For blessings come when
Least expected.

Though mind and flesh
In constancy may seek
Reprieve through material
The spirit beckons
Through the din
To peace
So subtle
And ethereal
Yet congruent, tangible
Simple and simply infinitesimal.

The freedom of captivity
Angels whisper
In a penitentiary.

David Omondi
January, 2011

[David Omondi is serving a six month sentence in federal prison for trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, in November, 2010.]

Dhafir Awaits Re-sentencing

Jailed Iraqi-American physician and philanthropist Rafil Dhafir now waits for a re-sentencing date to be set. Dhafir was originally sentenced to nearly 22 years, but the federal appeals court, when remanding the case to the trial judge for re-sentencing last year on technical grounds, suggested an even longer term might be in order.

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 February 26, 2003, on the eve of the invasion of Iraq and repeatedly branded in public as a funder of terrorism. He was denied bail for 19 months before trial, and because all of his business records were seized when he was arrested, he was eventually prosecuted in large part for money laundering related to the unregistered charity and medicare billing violations. Dhafir’s conviction is still cited by the Department of Justice as a successful antiterrorist prosecution, although any mention of such public allegations was specifically forbidden at his trial.

In another case of humanitarians being prosecuted, Seattle physician Bert Sacks is the target of a civil suit by the U.S. government over his refusal to pay a \$10,000 fine, levied in 2002 over his 1997 violation of the Iraq sanctions. Sacks had joined Voices in the Wilderness and brought embargoed medical supplies into the suffering nation. Trial begins September 19 in federal court in Seattle.

For more information about supporting Sacks and Iraqi children, visit www.iraqikids.org. For more information about the case of Dr. Dhafir, visit www.dhafirtrial.net.



Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir 11921-052, FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.

WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE

On January 11, one full year after its promised closure, the rogue prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba is still in business. Witness Against Torture hosted their annual public fast and nonviolent actions in Washington, D.C. to highlight the plight of the men held captive in a legal limbo.

After a warm and somber reunion the night before, more than 300 fasters and supporters rallied in Peace (Lafayette) Park, opposite the White House. Dozens wore orange jumpsuits and black hoods over their coats, representing the 173 prisoners still at Guantanamo. Two by two, they marched first to the White House, and then to the Department of Justice (DoJ). There, at least 60 of the “detainees” first blocked one, and then all three entrances for half the afternoon. Police warned the blockaders but then relented, and no one was arrested.

The fasters, about 35-50 in Washington of more than 100 nationwide, returned to the DoJ on each of the next ten days of fasting, and were also present at the White House, FBI, Pentagon, Congress and the federal courts.

A letter was sent to the Attorney General asking him to come and break bread with the fasters outside the DoJ on January 19. He didn’t come out, so for four hours that afternoon, 22 fasters willing to risk arrest blocked the doors and then the garage entrance. Police unrolled crime scene tape and a jail wagon was brought in, but again no arrests were made. The group moved to the sidewalk after sunset, where they vigiled overnight before breaking their fast.

Coordinated vigils and fasts were held in several other cities. In Chicago, ten people were arrested January 11 and released after an hour in custody. They tried to deliver a letter to Chief Justice Holderman at the Dirksen Federal Building, urging him to help the prisoners get justice. After being denied entrance, some of the doors were blocked by vigilers in orange jumpsuits and black hoods, who knelt in prayer for over an hour before being arrested.

For more information, visit witness torture.org.

British Resisters
Jailed

Three British activists have been jailed in separate cases this year for refusing payment of fines levied for their anti-nuclear and anti-war actions.

First in the box was Chris Cole, 47, who would not pay nearly £2,000 for a graffiti protest at an arms fair in 2009. In court January 19, Cole was sentenced to 30 days, and with statutory credit for good time, was released on February 2.

Cole’s pre-prison reflection is on page 6 of this issue.

One week later, 81-year-old anti-nuclear campaigner Georgina Smith of Scotland appeared in court. On Remembrance Day, November 11, 2006, during the year-long Faslane365 series of blockades at Faslane, Britain’s Trident nuclear submarine homeport, Smith and Helen John painted “Genocide”, “No More War Crimes”, “No Upgrade”, “Respect the War Dead” and “Art, Law, Morality” on the walls outside of the High Court on Edinburgh’s Royal Mile. The action was a protest against the High Court’s complicity in the illegal deployment of the genocidal nuclear weapon system by ruling it legal in the Lord Advocates Reference of 2000. In addition, their action condemned the Scottish legal system for holding people who blockaded during Faslane365 for up to thirty hours before releasing them without charge.

Smith and John are both veterans of the 1980’s-90’s Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp, and had already served 40 and 45 days in Cornton Vale Prison for the action but had refused to pay the compensation order. John had questioned the order, which originally claimed damages of £6,000, because the Crown Prosecution Service had failed to account for this figure. The amount was then dropped to £3,000 and mysteriously the court only pursued Smith. She offered to pay up if former Prime Minister Tony Blair were brought to court for war crimes, but the judge instead sentenced her to 45 days in jail.

Smith was released ten days early on February 8, after an anonymous benefactor paid the compensation order she had refused to pay.

Pre-prison Reflections

It’s Just the Way Things Are
by Chris Cole
January 18, 2011

In 2009, the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) exhibition was due to hold its bi-annual arms selling jamboree in East London, opening with a conference at the Queen Elizabeth Conference centre in central London. According to its official brochure, the aim of the “U.K. Defence Conference 2009” was to bring together “senior officials from the arms industry, the military and the U.K. government” to “explore the business opportunities” to be found in “global security threats such as climate change, major population movements, growing water scarcity, competition for energy sources and the continued rise of Islamism.” Here then was another opportunity to confront the U.K.’s military-industrial complex as it gathered together at the beginning of its week-long arms spree.

So with spray can in hand, I went to the conference centre just before the event and sprayed “build peace not war machines”, “stop this bloody business” and “arms trade = death” on the front entrance and poured fake blood over the steps. I was shortly convicted of criminal damage and fined just under £2,000. Eighteen months (and numerous court letters, bailiffs threats and visits) later, it’s time to go back to court to explain my actions and why I won’t pay the fine.

As a committed Christian peace activist I’ve been researching into, speaking about, and resisting the arms industry for over twenty years now. No matter how many times I think I’ve seen it all, another corruption story, new deal, or yet another lethal technological development will come along to shock me. Over the years I have had private conversations with senior arm company executives and I’ve engaged in public debates with their PR people. I’ve written thousands of words in newsletters, magazines, briefings and on websites. I’ve spoken at countless meetings and I’ve taken part in more vigils, protests and nonviolent demonstrations that I can possibly remember. I’ve also been arrested, spied upon, injunctioned

Upon release Georgina said, “I am fine. I’m not a frail old granny. Anti-nuclear people don’t fade away as soon as they are eighty. They go on resisting these beastly weapons. It was very kind of whoever paid my fine to do so, but what they don’t realize is that when we do these actions we want to take responsibility for them ourselves, even if that means going to prison... I was well looked after and the staff and other prisoners were very nice.”

Sylvia Boyes, 67, was in Bingley Magistrates Court on February 3. She was sentenced to 14 days in New Hall Prison for refusing to pay fines arising from a series of protests against Trident in and around Faslane during the summer of 2009. Boyes’ actions included painting a rock with the words “Scots! Say No to Trident”, blockading the Coulport nuclear weapons storage facility, and walking in the main gate of Faslane. For these actions she was convicted of malicious mischief, breach of the peace and aggravated trespass.

Boyes has been imprisoned on numerous occasions for anti-Trident protests. The court refused to allow her to give a statement of her reasons for refusing to pay £700 in fines. However, she insisted the court accept her written statement which said:

As a responsible person I must act to bring about disarmament. A necessary part of that campaign is to carry out nonviolent direct actions at military bases. No government can continue policies without the active or silent acceptance of its people. This includes the police and judiciary. So while I accept responsibility for my actions, I am refusing to pay fines as a further act of civil disobedience and am fully aware of the consequences.

The peace-loving pensioners’ actions were part of the ongoing campaign by Trident Ploughshares, a network of global citizens committed to the disarmament of Trident. Boyes was released after serving seven days.

For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org.

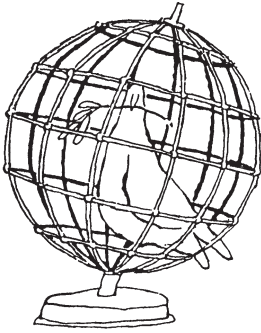
and imprisoned. I have no illusions about the power that the “defence” industry can wield nor the depths it will stoop to make its profit or to promote the ideology of “might is right”. But I continue to undertake nonviolent action against the arms dealers.

So what is the point of such a small scale piece of direct action that hardly disrupts the smooth running of the monolithic arms industry? What is the point of going through all the hassle of courts, fines, bailiffs and prison? What possible difference does it make and in what way does it help the victims of the arms industry?

For me the point of nonviolent direct action (as well as the court and prison witness that follows) is to dramatize the choice that we as a society are making. In the Christian tradition this choice is summed up in the ancient Book of Deuteronomy: “I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.” (Deut 30:19)

Nonviolent direct action is about trying to make visible the choices that we are making – or that are being made on our behalf – and articulating the fact that there is an alternative. A classic example of this type of confrontation would perhaps be Rosa Parks’ refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man in 1955. That direct confrontation with the Power of institutional racism in a concrete situation produced a wider circumstance of choice – the Montgomery Bus Boycott – where people had to choose to side with the Power (a Power which insisted that there was no choice, this is just the way things are and always will be) or to stand against racism and on the side of equality and life.

In a similar way, the powers that be tell us that there is no choice with regard to peace and security in our world. The only realistic way to achieve peace and security, they say, is through the gun, the drone and the nuclear deterrent. “It’s the way things are and always will be” is the cry, and I have heard it from school boys in the classroom, from CEO’s in the boardroom, and politicians in the parliamentary committee room. The powers have managed to convince us that armed force is our salvation, that



Italian N-waste
Train Blocked

In early February, about 50 people gathered overnight near a station along the railroad tracks passing through the Susa Valley in northern Italy, waiting to disrupt a special train carrying casks of Italian nuclear waste to Le Havre, France for reprocessing. A much larger police force surrounded the camp, and before the sun rose or the train arrived, police charged the camp and sent protesters scattering. Police took about 30 into custody, recording the identification of most before releasing them without charge, and arresting two on criminal offenses.

Update Files

PLYMOUTH, U.K.: Of fourteen people arrested during last November’s Big Blockade at the Devonport docks where Trident nuclear subs are fixed up, six had their charges dropped, two accepted a caution, two have apparently not been charged, and four are moving forward to trial...

TURKEY: The prosecution of 58 people who presented an anti-nuclear power petition to the parliament last summer resumed January 12 in Ankara. Half an hour later, it was again adjourned, this time until March 16...

FRANCE: Seven people have been convicted of criminal obstruction and civil defamation after the November blockade of a train carrying reprocessed nuclear waste back to Germany. They were sentenced to one month in jail, suspended, plus a €1,000 fine. One activist was fined an additional €500 for refusing to be fingerprinted. The French nuclear industry AREVA received civil damages of €1, while the railroad was awarded €20,500. The judgment is being appealed, and a complaint has been lodged over the severe burns and damage to tendons suffered by three of the blockaders when their lock-down hardware was removed with power saws. In another case involving members of the anti-nuclear nonviolent action group GANVA, six people were convicted February 21 in the June, 2007 two-day occupation of high-voltage power lines erected to carry nuclear-generated electricity across northwest France. The judge considered the serious context and careful preparation of the activists to avoid injury, and gave a suspended sentence...

in bomb we must trust. But of course, that is nonsense. As we have seen clearly over the past twenty years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan in the so-called war on terror, armed force does not bring peace to the world nor defend the widow and the orphan – in fact, just the opposite.

There is, of course, an alternative to armed violence: justice. As the prophet Isaiah said around 2,750 years ago, “Integrity will bring peace, justice give everlasting security.” (Isa. 32:17) By tackling the root causes of injustice around the world, like the situation of Palestine for example, we can address some of the real drivers of insecurity in the world. Instead of pouring resources into more lethal ways to kill each other, we need to be addressing global inequality by devoting resources to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and helping to achieve political and economic rights for all human beings and communities. Perhaps most importantly of all, we need to be educating our fellow citizens to understand that our future security depends on global welfare and the common good rather than self-interest and national prosperity.

So I return to court tomorrow with the possibility of a prison sentence to follow. Cynics will say of course that it is a waste of time. My direct action at the DSEI opening conference in 2009 did not stop the arms fair from happening nor more arms deals being made. But the lie that is “this is just the way things are and always will be”, the pretence that there is no alternative, was exposed. Conference delegates, arms company employees, security guards, court officials, passers-by, friends, neighbours and readers of this very article all have a choice to make: to choose to support on the one hand, the arms trade, national self-interest, militarism, injustice, violence or on the other peaceful resistance, community, justice and the common good.

Just as Rosa Parks and the bus boycott used the racist transport system to expose and challenge institutional racism, let’s use London’s DSEI arms fair – which will be held once again in London this coming September – to expose the corruption, injustice and lethality of war, the arms trade and the ideology of “might is right”.

CIA Defector Beat Up at State Department

Ray McGovern, career C.I.A. agent turned whistle-blower, was arrested and battered by police February 15 at a Department of State press conference. While Secretary of State Hillary Clinton bemoaned the lack of respect for basic human rights in Egypt, McGovern, wearing his Veterans for Peace t-shirt, quietly stood and turned his back on Clinton.

“It was not the theme of her speech I was protesting,” he told a blogger. “It was her war policies and support of Mubarak.”

He was soon beset by both a uniformed and plain-clothes police officer, who roughly forced the 71-year-old Army veteran out of the room. McGovern was bruised in the incident and handcuffed so tightly in two sets of metal cuffs that his wrists began to bleed. After being released from the station on a charge of disorderly conduct, he took a cab to the hospital for treatment of his wounds. Because he was an obvious victim of assault, McGovern was told he would have to tell police who the perpetrator was.

For more information, contact Veterans for Peace, 216 S. Meramec, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-725-6005, www.veteransforpeace.org

Federal Felony Charge for Political Pastry Protest

Two Michigan anti-war activists now face federal felony charges of forcible assault on a federal officer and misdemeanor assault on a member of Congress. Ahlam Mohsen and Max Kantar, both 23, were arrested last summer after the public pieing of Senator Carl Levin, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee and poster-boy for Democratic Party complicity in U.S. war crimes from Iraq to Afghanistan, and in support for Israel’s criminal aggression.

Mohsen, who ably pitched the apple pastry during Levin’s coffee-shop meeting with local Democrats in Big Rapids, was arrested shortly after the event and jailed with high bail for a week. She faced state felony charges of aggravated stalking and conspiracy to commit aggravated stalking.

Kantar set the table for the just dessert by reading a litany of Levin’s legacy of war mongering. He turned himself in after learning he’d also been charged.

A few days after both had posted bond (Mohsen’s bail having been reduced), the state charges were dismissed without prejudice, possibly to be refiled.

Instead, a federal grand jury handed down the more serious assault charges on December 30. Mohsen and Kantar pled not guilty at their arraignment January 24, and were released on their own recognizance. Trial is set for March 28. The two face a maximum penalty of eight years in prison.

For more information, visit the Campaign to Free Ahlam Mohsen and Max Kantar at freeahlamandmax.blogspot.com or email campaignforfreedom@gmail.com. Contributions for their legal defense made payable to the “Campaign to Free Ahlam Mohsen and Max Kantar” should be sent c/o the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice, 5920 Second Ave., Detroit, MI 48202.



LOS ALAMOS: Seven people charged with trespass last August during a demonstration at the New Mexico nuclear weapons lab pleaded no contest in local magistrate court. Each will pay \$73 court costs and do ten hours of community service where they live in Idaho, California, Nevada, Arizona and Texas. Defendants David Covey, Bryan Martin, Lisa Fithian, Sr. Megan Rice, and Jack Cohen-Joppa were allowed to change their pleas by telephone and fax. Jeff Freitas and Jason Ahmadi came from their homes in California and entered their pleas in person on February 8. That morning, they joined a vigil at the gates of Los Alamos National Laboratory by members of Trinity Nuclear Abolitionists and Think Outside the Bomb...

FUTURE ACTIONS

white house

Veterans’ peace organizations joined by a broad array of activist groups will gather en masse at the White House on March 19 as they did on December 16, 2010, and again refuse to move. Members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, March Forward!, Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Veterans For Peace have joined forces with “three clear demands for the President. End these wars and occupations. Expose the Lies. Free Bradley Manning.” For more information, visit www.stopthesewars.org, or email stopthesewars@gmail.com.

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 for schedule details.

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

hancock airfield, ny

Join a peace walk from Ithica, N.Y. to Hancock Airfield in Syracuse, April 17 to April 21, concluding with a rally and nonviolent civil resistance action on April 22 (Earth Day, Passover, Good Friday and a day of prayer for Muslims). Hancock is the national maintenance center for the Reaper drone. For more information, contact Ellen Grady at demottgrady6@gmail.com.

chernobyl day

Plans are underway around the world for protests and actions to mark the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power catastrophe 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! Post your Chernobyl event at www.chernobyl-day.org/spip.php?page=actions.

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 and www.ofog.org or contact info@ofog.org, phone +46 (0) 733 81 53 61.

Y-12 NUCLEAR SECURITY COMPLEX: At a January pre-trial hearing, Federal Magistrate Judge Bruce Guyton agreed to hear pre-trial testimony from international law expert Charles Moxley, and at that time decide if it can be raised in defense of thirteen people arrested for trespass last summer at the nuclear weapons facility in Oak Ridge. Federal prosecutors have filed a motion in limine against the testimony, arguing that legal precedent is settled against the proposition that international law is a factor in such protest trespass cases. Arguing for the defense, Francis Lloyd explained that international law is not something that relies upon a set of statutes, but that it was developed and evolves constantly from norms, customs, cases, and even treaties. Thus the need for an expert who was learned in the subject to inform the court’s decision. “How can the court know if he will provide helpful information [to the jury] without hearing what the information is?” Francis asked. He closed by quoting Thomas Jefferson, founder of the magistrate’s alma mater, the University of Virginia: “I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet devised by man by which governments can be held to their principles.” A pretrial hearing is set for March 4, with Moxley testifying about international law and nuclear weapons, and defendant Sr. Mary Dennis Lentsch testifying about civil disobedience. Trial is set for May 9...

WHITE HOUSE: Charges of “failure to obey a lawful order” against more than 130 people arrested at the veteran-led anti-war protest on December 16 have been dismissed. Forty-two in the group planned to take the case to trial, with the first group appearing in court January 4. Prosecutors declined to proceed that day, citing missing or incomplete police paperwork. The judge then dismissed all of the charges...

continued on page 8

pentagon

The National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR) invites “all who are sick of heart and conscience over these actions by our government” to come together in solidarity and act in resistance against the activities of the U.S. military. Interested activists are encouraged to form autonomous affinity groups for nonviolent civil resistance at the Pentagon on April 8. Groups are encouraged to descend on the Pentagon around noon that day, but each group will decide when and where to meet to begin their action. An action planning meeting will take place Thursday, April 7, at a time and place in Washington, D.C. to be announced. For more information or to get involved, contact joyfirst5@gmail.com. While in town for this action, NCNR encourages supporters to also participate in the SOA Watch event, below.

soa watch

School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) is mobilizing for a gathering in Washington, D.C. to take their demands to the White House, the halls of Congress, and other places where military and foreign policy decisions are made, April 4-11, 2011. Join with the Latin America Solidarity Coalition for the Anti-Militarization conference, lobbying, and for direct action where the policy makers are to shut down the SOA/WHINSEC and to resist the increasing U.S. militarization of the Americas: at the Pentagon on April 8 (with the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance), and at the White House on April 10. Please consider joining SOA Watch in nonviolent direct action in Washington, D.C. If you are interested in engaging in arrestable actions, please contact SOAW field organizer Nico in the SOA Watch office in D.C. at 202-234-3440 or Nico@soaw.org

faith & resistance washington, d.c.

Dorothy Day Catholic Worker in Washington, D.C. and Jonah House in Baltimore, Maryland will host a Faith and Resistance retreat leading up to Easter, April 24. Plans are in formation. For more information, email disarmnow@verizon.net.

london

The London Catholic Worker will also host a Faith and Resistance retreat sometime in the Easter season. For more information, email londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk.

kansas city

The Midwest Catholic Worker annual Faith & Resistance Retreat will be in Kansas City, April 29 - May 2. The retreat will focus on the new factory under construction there for special nuclear weapons parts, with a non-violent action on Monday, May 2. For more information, contact Cherith Brook Catholic Worker, 816-241-8047 or visit cherithbrookkc.blogspot.com.

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Update Files, cont.

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SAN FRANCISCO: Charges were also dismissed for 26 people arrested at a veteran-led solidarity action December 16 that blocked three entrances to the federal building. At a preliminary hearing February 17, it was noted that the citations did not accurately reflect where each person was arrested...

EDO-ITT, U.K.: Early Monday morning, December 13, three people locked themselves to the closed gate of the Brighton, England, arms factory, blocking the first shift from getting in. Police responded but took no action, while EDO executive Paul Hill cut the fence to open the gate and let his workers in. After a jury last year acquitted a group who had decommissioned the factory in a daring act of direct disarmment in January 2009, Hill has been reluctant to bring charges against the repeated demonstrations of the Smash EDO campaign. However, in October, Elijah Smith, the EDO decommissioner who spent 17 months in prison awaiting trial, was given a restraining order under the Protection from Harassment Act, demanding he stay away from the factory for five years...

SIZEWELL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, U.K.: By the time they came to court for trial January 4, crown prosecutors had had seven previous pre-trial hearings to correct an error in the charge against Andreas Speck and Ian Mills for a gate blockade in February, 2010. Prosecutors knew the men had not been asked to leave the blockade, yet persisted with a charge of aggravated trespass. The judge said justice would not be served by once again adjourning the trial while the proper trespass charge was brought. “This should have been picked up a long time ago,” he scolded. Case dismissed. Police were summoned to a February 2 lock-down blockade by a group of anti-nuclear campaigners costumed as fish. The blockaders were given notice to leave or face the charge of aggravated trespass. The blockade was lifted...

FASLANE, SCOTLAND: On October 6, the justice of the peace had just declared that international law was irrelevant to their defense, then convicted and fined four anti-nuclear campaigners £500 each for the Easter 2010 blockade of the Faslane Naval Base in protest of Britain’s Trident nuclear weapons system. Upon leaving court, two of them spray-spainted their own judgement against

...**Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice** seeks essays on the theme Prisons, Peace, and Social Justice. Issue 23.3 is dedicated to exploring the intersection of Peace Studies and Prison Studies, two burgeoning interdisciplinary fields that promise to challenge basic assumptions about the modern world and offer radical analysis and possible solutions. Essays are welcome on any aspect of this issue’s theme, broadly conceived. Submissions that address global issues and perspectives are especially encouraged. Topics may include but are not limited to: militarism and the carceral society – theorizing the domestic and foreign “enemy” – critiquing deterrence based arguments for war and prison – books not bombs, education not incarceration: a penal/war economy, public education, and democracy – peacemaking as a viable alternative to aggression and banishment – philosophical arguments

the Dumbarton Court inside the court building and on the front door of the building. Barbara Dowling painted “This J.P. Court does not uphold international law” in red paint at the top of the steps in the newly renovated court building. Janet Fenton painted out the brass “Justice of the Peace Court” plaque outside the front door, changing it to read “We Want A Peace Court”. The women were taken into custody and held overnight. They were released the next day, and a plea hearing has been postponed until May 16. The four are appealing the £500 fine to the Scottish High Court March 30...

ALDERMASTON, U.K.: Three British activists who opened a path for disarmament by cutting through the fence at the nuclear weapons establishment last September have entered not guilty pleas. Susan Clarkson, Chris Cole and Fr. Martin Newell next have a pretrial hearing May 24...


USAF MILDENHALL, U.K.: Another date for trial, April 5, 2011, has been set for Lindis Percy of the British Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases. In October, 2009, she was waved through the gate and enjoyed a 45-minute walkabout before being arrested under the post-9/11 Serious Organized Crime and Police Act. Due to the failure of prosecutors to disclose all subpoenaed security videos, Percy moved for the case to be stayed on grounds of abuse of process. The judge said a hearing on the motion would be the first issue addressed before the trial would begin...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

about human nature in Peace Studies and Prison Studies – race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, nationality, and the criminalized Other – anti-prison pacifist philosophies and practices – prison as a tool of war, imperialism, white supremacy, and class domination – political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, etc. Interested writers should submit essays (2,500-3,500 words) and 2-3 line bios to Peace Review no later than April 15, 2011. Essays should be jargon- and footnote-free. See Submission Guidelines at: usf.usfca.edu/peacereview. Send essays to: Editors, Peace Review, University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton St., San Francisco, CA 94117-1080; or by email: peacereview@usfca.edu.

New at nukeresister.org

The Catholic Worker on Nuclear Weapons



Felton Davis of the New York Catholic Worker has made available for the internet a special collection of articles from the *Catholic Worker* newspaper, appearing between 1955 and 1961, that address nuclear weapons and the involvement of Catholic Workers in the civil disobedience campaign against New York City’s compulsory air raid drills. Writers include Dorothy Day, Karl Barth, Ammon Hennacy, and more. The text can be downloaded from *the Nuclear Resister’s* blog, www.nukeresister.org.

Davis, who has been jailed several times for nuclear protests tells us, “You can’t just erase from historical memory a half-century of anti-nuclear work, and re-educate the public as if several generations of activists had not lived and struggled over this issue! Before many of us were born, and while some others of us were little children, our Catholic Worker predecessors agonized over the thought that atomic weapons meant the end of human life. They agonized, they protested, they went to jail, and they wrote down their thoughts and reflections.

“Let us recover this special history and ponder it closely, as we continue to insist that what was unthinkable yesterday, is still unthinkable today, and will continue to be unthinkable tomorrow and forever.”

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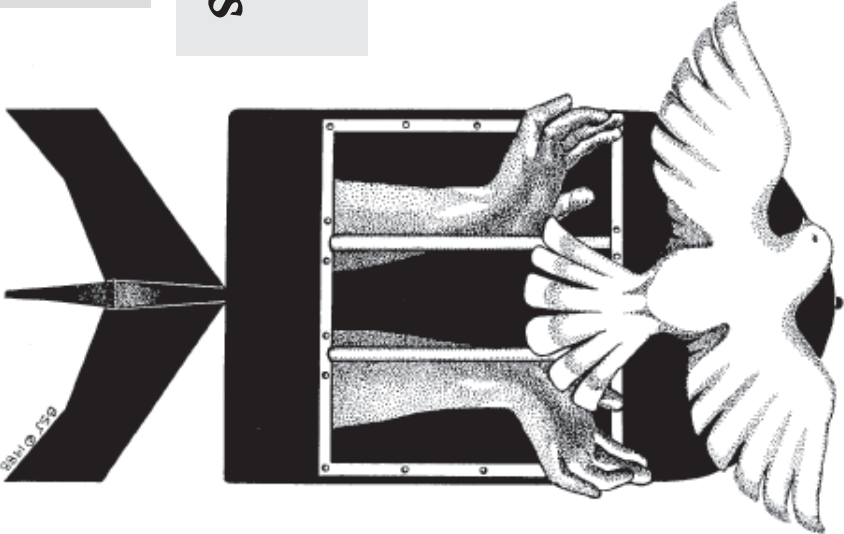
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