

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

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GLOBAL RESISTANCE TO NUCLEAR POWER ON THE RISE



Photo © mini mouse

Boycott EDF group brings London traffic to a halt on the A302 outside EDF Energy's headquarters, April 11, 2011.

Post-Fukushima, the nuclear power industry is in retreat, and anti-nuclear campaigners are out in the streets, if not also taking the streets.

Hundreds of demonstrations against nuclear power were reported around the world. Many occurred during the month of April to mark the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, including these that resulted in arrests.

LONDON

Campaigners brought London rush hour traffic to a standstill on the morning of April 11 with a protest against EDF Energy's plans to build a new generation of nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom. All four lanes of the A302 outside EDF Energy's headquarters in Grosvenor Place – which runs alongside the gardens of Buckingham Palace – were blocked shortly after 8 a.m. as the campaigners erected and occupied two 14-foot tripods, hung banners, and declared a “nuclear disaster area”.

After seven hours, the police called a specialist team to erect scaffolding to bring down the two activists who were on top of the bamboo tripods. Once they were down, the pair were arrested and taken to the Belgravia police station. They were charged with obstructing the highway and impeding lawful activity, and have been bailed to return to Belgravia police station on June 23.

For more information, contact the Stop Nuclear Power Network at london@stopnuclearpoweruk.net

ONTARIO

Four Canadian Greenpeace activists visited the Toronto office of Ontario Energy Minister Brad Duguid for a sit-in on April 19. They chained themselves together and unrolled a banner reading “No Nukes are Safe, Go Green - Stop Darlington, Choose Safe Green Energy.”

One of the four tweeted their message from the office: “40 days after Fukushima and Duguid has yet to consider alternatives.” (to new reactors at the Darlington site). The minister's press secretary first said they could remain as long as they were peaceful, but by noon, police showed up with tools. They cut the chains, removed the activists from the office and ticketed each for trespass, a \$75 fine.

VERMONT YANKEE

Eleven women from Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire returned to the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont on Friday afternoon, April 22, to chain and lock the main gate. The demonstrators, whose average age is 71, carried two banners reading “No More Leaks / No More Lies / Shut It Down Now” and “No More Accidents / Shut it Down Now.” They also stretched yellow caution tape across the Entergy driveway and

noticed that spray-painted warnings they applied several months ago are still visible.

State and local police soon arrived and took the women to the Vernon police station, where they were cited for trespass and released pending a June 20 appearance in Brattleboro's Windham District Court.

The eleven read the following statement after chaining the gate shut:

We are here today to shut down the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant IMMEDIATELY and WITHOUT DELAY and FOR GOOD.

We are appalled at the irresponsible action of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in granting Entergy permission to operate this dangerous facility for more than another twenty years.

Because the federal government and Entergy will not honor the public good by shutting down Vermont Yankee, we must take this action and SHUT IT DOWN NOW.

No more accidents.

No more leaks.

No more lies.

No more tax subsidies.

No more.

Enough.

SHUT IT DOWN NOW.

For more information, contact Shut it Down Affinity Group, c/o Marcia Gagliardi, haley.antique@verizon.net

MINSK

In Belarus, where social organizations are under increasing repression, public demonstrations require permitting and are tightly controlled. In Minsk, about 40 friends of the anarchist Anti-nuclear Resistance decided to forgo the formal commemorations, and engage the public directly on the Chernobyl anniversary with a series of flashmob demonstrations in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic. The first, at a supermarket, went off without a hitch as some held banners, others leafletted, and a loudspeaker was used to address the crowd for at least ten minutes. The banner, leaflets and speeches linked the legacy of Chernobyl and the latest reminder from Fukushima with opposition to Belarus' controversial Ostrovets nuclear power project.

At the next stop, the Pushkinskaja metro station, the action had just begun when more than a dozen plain-clothes police stormed the scene, brutally arresting a dozen people from Belarus, Poland and Germany. They were hauled off and brought to court the next day, where they were all fined €150, and the foreigners were deported and barred from returning for two years. Ihar Truhanovich was detained during the trial for trying to take pictures of prosecution witnesses and jailed for ten days. For more information, visit bellona.org.

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Across the Nation, N-Bomb Protests Lead to Prison

In the United States, the nuclear disarmament movement's firmest rebuke of the Obama administration's commitment to completely rebuild U.S. nuclear weapons production and delivery capacity for the next half century has come from its resurgent nonviolent resistance wing. Evidence comes from the fact that more nuclear resisters are presently in prison than at any time in more than a decade, and the largest number of arrests at a nuclear weapons protest in several years was reported from Kansas City in early May.

The largest group now in federal custody was convicted of trespass at the Y-12 uranium production facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Seven of twelve defendants found guilty at their trial in May refused conditional release and are being held for sentencing. Defendant Fr. Bill Bichsel was already in prison serving time with four co-defendants in the Disarm Now Plowshares action. Rounding out the recent additions to the roster of jailed nuclear resisters is Mark Kenney, a serial line-crosser at Offutt Air Force Base, where the U.S. nuclear Strategic Command is headquartered.

Their three stories follow.

Five Jailed for Cutting Fence at Nuclear Bunker

Compiled from reports by Bill Quigley, Leonard Eiger and Chrissy Nesbitt.

Two grandmothers, two priests and a nun were sentenced in federal court in Tacoma, Washington on Monday, March 28, for confronting hundreds of U.S. nuclear weapons stockpiled for use by the deadly Trident submarines.

Judge Benjamin Settle heard testimony from the defendants and several supporters before sending them all to prison, albeit for only about half the time recommended by prosecutors.

Their sentences are:

Sr. Anne Montgomery, 84, a Sacred Heart sister from Redwood City, California — two months in federal prison and four months electronic home confinement;

Fr. Bill “Bix” Bichsel, 83, a Jesuit priest from Tacoma, Washington — three months in prison and six months electronic home confinement;

Susan Crane, 67, a member of the Jonah House community in Baltimore, Maryland — fifteen months in federal prison;

Lynne Greenwald, 61, a nurse from Bremerton, Washington — six months in federal prison; and

Fr. Steve Kelly, 62, a Jesuit priest from Oakland, California — fifteen months in federal prison.

They were also ordered to pay \$5,300 each and serve an additional year on supervised probation.

Bichsel and Greenwald are long-time members of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, a community resisting Trident nuclear weapons since 1977. Crane, Kelly and Montgomery are each veterans of multiple Plowshares disarmament actions.

In the darkness of All Souls night, November 2, 2009, the five quietly cut through a chain link perimeter fence topped with barbed wire.

Carefully stepping through the hole in the fence, they entered into the Kitsap-Bangor Navy Base outside of Tacoma, Washington – home to hundreds of nuclear warheads used in the eight Trident submarines based there. Walking undetected through the heavily guarded base for hours, they covered nearly four miles before they came to where the nuclear missiles are stored.

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Resistance Reflections

FROM CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE TO CIVIL DEFIANCE

by Ed Kinane

Civil disobedience is not our problem. Our problem is civil obedience. Our problem is the numbers of people all over the world who have obeyed the dictates of the leaders of their government and have gone to war, and millions have been killed because of this obedience ... Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world in the face of poverty and starvation and stupidity, and war, and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves ... [and] the grand thieves are running the country. That's our problem.

— Howard Zinn

Over the years I've been jailed numerous times. Each such event arose from what is loosely called "civil disobedience."

The tactical value of arrest and ensuing "court witness" and "prison witness" is that they can generate mainstream and movement news helping to bring vital, often neglected, issues to public notice. These mindful acts can boost solidarity and the grassroots campaigns in which they are embedded. And some actions –while ignored by U.S. media – find their way into international media. (*The India Times*, for example, noted our April 22 anti-drone die-in at Hancock Air Base. Russian and Latin American press covered our SOA Watch U.S.-Military-Out-of-Colombia action last August outside a Colombian military base.)

At a personal level, court and trial witness help us keep our "edge," maintain our focus, clarify our values. Such public stands impede co-optation. Court witness provides the opportunity to craft trial statements articulating why one has taken part in a given direct action. Along with such statements, the testimony of defense witnesses can be used to turn the tables on the prosecutors. They can

KARL MEYER'S NOTES ON *PRO SE* DEFENSE

In Faretta v. California (1975) the U.S. Supreme Court found that under the Sixth Amendment defendants have the Constitutional right to defend themselves in court without being represented by an attorney. Going pro se is not the best strategy for every activist defendant. But for those prepared to do so, it can be an empowering and consciousness-raising experience – and one that can bring key legal and political issues to the fore.

Here are some updated notes Meyer originally shared with SOA Watch defendants in the 2002 Gandhian Wave.

1. *Pro Se* is personally empowering. It also helps to reinforce the understanding among judges and the general public that people have the right to defend themselves in court, and that legal process should be simple and clear enough to make such defense feasible.
2. Judges, especially in local misdemeanor courts, usually have crowded dockets that put pressure on them to dispose of many cases as rapidly as possible. They become impatient and arbitrary if defendants (or lawyers) present long-winded evidence or arguments that seem to them unnecessary or legally irrelevant. However, contemporary judges often respect *pro se* defendants who show understanding of legal issues, and present concise evidence and persuasive legal and Constitutional arguments.
3. There is often a large gap between the way legal process is supposed to work in principle, and the way it is actually practiced, especially in crowded local misdemeanor courts.
4. Law and legal process are complex; it is helpful to read about them, but quicker and easier to seek advice from experienced *pro se* defendants and lawyers. One of the best ways to learn how things actually work in your jurisdiction, and the attitudes of the judge who may try you, is to always sit in the front pew and listen intently to every other case, while you are waiting for your hearing.
5. Prosecutors have heavy caseloads. In misdemeanor courts, they seldom prepare cases in advance by carefully debriefing witnesses and arresting officers. The same is true for public defenders and, in many cases, paid defense lawyers. Therefore, there is an advantage to defendants who thoroughly understand the facts in their case and have thought carefully about the legal issues.

Shortly after arrest, you should make detailed notes of all the facts and circumstances that seem relevant. Reconstruct direct quotations of everything relevant said to you by arresting officers and other witnesses, and what you said to them.

Before trial, think about everything probable that witnesses may testify about your arrest. Make notes of all questions you might ask to bring out legally relevant facts, so that in the heat of the trial you don't forget them. Prepare a concise outline of your own testimony, and what you want to ask your own witnesses. Prepare an outline for your closing statement and arguments. If possible, role-play your trial with friends who have some understanding of trials

put militarism (or whatever issue is at stake) "on trial." And testimony can be published, reaching well beyond the courtroom.

Those willing to do court and jail witness are often deeply affected. The solidarity and community such experiences generate can be transformative. And for privileged white folks it's eye-opening to expose ourselves to the "justice" system of this overly-incarcerating nation. Given the disproportionate numbers of people of color in every jail and prison, any conscious person can't help but become more aware of our society's stark and systemic racism.

Thanks in large part to court and prison witness, one grassroots organization I've long worked with has grown by leaps and bounds. Determined to expose and close the Pentagon's School of the Americas—a.k.a. the "School of Assassins"—more than 200 SOA Watch activists over the years have willingly endured trial and incarceration.

Inspired by them, each November thousands from all over the country converge on Ft. Benning, Georgia to protest the SOA there for fostering large-scale bloodshed and human rights abuse in Latin America. (In response to our persistent pressure the SOA has undergone a PR makeover: it now calls itself the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation/WHINSEC.)

Most of us vote. However, merely voting is tokenistic. It's barely the beginning of citizenship. It's not doing our part to neutralize the toxic power structure impacting everyone the U.S. imperium touches, i.e., the entire planet. Democracy is far more than voting and elections; democracy must be struggled for perpetually. Each nonviolent direct action ("civil disobedience") is a vote multiplied many times over. If more middle class citizens would risk arrest and incarceration through nonviolent acts of soli-

Arresting officers in misdemeanor cases seldom document their arrests with careful notes or descriptions. By the time of trial several weeks or months later, they often forget most of the details of their arrests and conversations with defendants.

In mass arrest situations, there may be no documentation of individual arrests. Several officers may be selected to sign charges and appear as witnesses against multiple defendants, whose arrests they did not observe or participate in. If officer witnesses did not participate in the arrest of an individual or personally observe the behavior leading to the arrest, their testimony about the arrest is hearsay, which should lead to acquittal, in the absence of other evidence. Being taken into custody is not evidence of a crime.

6. *Pro se* defense in civil protest cases can often expose three major sources of weakness in prosecution:

A) FACTS. To justify the arrest and to obtain a conviction, arresting officers sometimes exaggerate, misrepresent or lie about the facts of an arrest situation. These errors can be exposed by careful cross-examination, or by the honest testimony of defendants or other defense witnesses.

B) LAW. Because those activities annoy officers, property owners, or government [or military] officials who want them stopped, officers often arrest people for legal protest activities protected by the law and the Constitution. Police officers are often only marginally informed about the laws they are supposedly enforcing. When they get back to the police station with you, they ask superior officers or search in their code books to figure out what the criminal charges should be. Often they settle on "trespassing," "disorderly conduct," or "resisting a police officer."

When you're released, always get a copy of the charges. To find out what the law actually says, go to a public library or law library and look up the sections of the code or regulations you are charged with violating. To find out the statutory definition of certain key terms used in the code (which may differ from their vernacular or dictionary definition), look up the "definitions" section of the relevant chapter of the code.

The description of your behavior in the citation or statement of charges, or in the testimony of witnesses against you may not match the statutory description or definition of the offenses charged. If this happens, you may get your case dismissed by pointing this out to the judge before trial, or at the conclusion of the prosecution case.

For instance, disorderly conduct charges are often dismissed after police witnesses concede that a protest was completely peaceful and orderly. Trespassing charges are often dismissed after prosecution witnesses concede that commercial or public property was open to the public, and that defendants were arrested without being notified they were trespassing, or were not allowed to leave after be-

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curity and conscience, ours might well be a better nation, a better world.

Many of us have valid reasons not to risk arrest. But some of us are in a position to take the plunge... or we're in a position to make changes in our life style or circumstances so we can risk arrest and its consequences when that imperative calls. In any case we can actively support those nonviolently taking such risk. Bradley Manning, the young soldier who allegedly provided Wikileaks with secret files exposing – among much else – US military massacres of civilians in Iraq, is deeply at risk. For nearly a year Bradley – perhaps the premier patriot of our day – has languished in Abu Ghraib-like conditions in the Quantico Marine base brig. For his whistleblowing he faces possible execution. [Update: in the wake of the March 20 demonstration at Quantico, Bradley has been transferred to Leavenworth Penitentiary in Kansas.]

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This past winter's events in Tunisia and Egypt have much to teach us. These North Africans embody what Gandhi taught: when enough of us withdraw our cooperation from it, tyranny crumbles. Tyranny can't be sustained if good people refuse to go along. To avoid or remove tyranny we need to cultivate the will to disobey, the will to defy.

"Civil disobedience" isn't the best term for what's been happening in Cairo and elsewhere throughout the Islamic world –and in Wisconsin. More apt and bracing is "civil defiance." "Civil" because it involves citizens acting civilly, i.e., nonviolently. That Cairenes may ignore curfew and crowd control orders (i.e., they disobey) is less relevant than that they have collectively risked life and limb to oust Mubarak. And that they continue to do so in the face of his military successors.

"Civil defiance" is the term embraced by Harvard's Gene Sharp. Sharp's tally of 198 Methods of Nonviolent Action is reprinted in the appendix of his seminal 93-page *From Dictatorship to Democracy*, fourth U.S. edition, May 2010 (orig. 1993). This how-to manual has been translated into many languages – including Arabic – and is downloadable free from the Albert Einstein Institution website, www.aeinstein.org. Sharp isn't just about the grassroots mobilizing to depose a tyrant; Sharp seeks to assure that the tyrant isn't replaced by another tyrannical regime – a common fate of palace coups, violent revolution and outside military intervention.

Some Egyptian activists have likely read *From Dictatorship*. U.S. activists would do well to also study it to understand not only the rise of people power throughout the Middle East... but to better see how together we too might counter any moves toward tyranny here.

Thanks

Thanks to Jim, Jerry, Matt, Kate, Doran, Roger, Sue, Pat, Sherri, and Richard for helping to mail the last issue!

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

Please send news, updates and donations! Mail us (or e-mail or phone) new action reports, updates, jail information, statements, graphics, photos & clippings about local actions. Thanks!

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

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

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

The Nuclear Resister is published about every two months and serves to network this nonviolent resistance movement while acting as a clearinghouse for information about contemporary nonviolent resistance to war and the nuclear threat. We believe that in any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are imprisoned. Behind bars, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Broader awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future.

Each issue provides the names and jail addresses of currently imprisoned anti-nuclear and anti-war activists. Readers are encouraged to provide active support by writing letters to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

Orlando Arrests Food Not Bombs

For feeding too many people too many times, three Food Not Bombs (FNB) volunteers were arrested after sharing free vegan meals with the hungry at Lake Eola Park in Orlando, Florida on June 1.

For five years, the local chapter of the international network has been embroiled in a legal dispute over an Orlando ordinance that requires a permit for group feeding of more than 25 people, and limits permits to two per year per park.

On April 12, the Eleventh Circuit Federal Court of Appeal ruled against Food Not Bombs. In response, some community groups began flooding city hall with permit requests, while FNB asserted their right and continued to share food twice a week in Lake Eola Park, Monday breakfast and Wednesday dinner, without a permit. Police monitored the charity meals, building a case to enforce the law with arrests. Twice they even placed a filled-in form on the table next to the soup, so they could tell the court the group “received” a permit.

Both times, a server simply crumpled up the form and tried to give it back.

Instead, they waited until June 1. After about 40 people had taken dinner, police moved in and cited Keith McHenry, Benjamin Markeson and Jessica Cross with violating the ordinance. Bail was set at \$250. Cross and Markeson were released in the wee hours Thursday, and have a June 30 trial date. McHenry got out after appearing in court Thursday morning and was told to return for trial July 5.

At an afternoon press conference, Markeson said that Food Not Bombs feeds the homeless in public locations “to protest poverty, war and other social inequalities.” The group vowed to be at Lake Eola the next Monday morning, serving breakfast as usual.

Police again waited for breakfast to be served to about 30 people Monday morning, June 6 before arresting Steve Willis, Dylan Howeller, Noelle Bivens, and Brock Monroe for violating the group feeding ordinance. They were taken to jail, then released to await trial.

“If we comply with the rules, they’ll just change the rules,” said McHenry. “The city’s goal is not to have us continue feeding homeless Americans. Our goal is to inspire people to change society so nobody has to eat in a soup kitchen or live in a shelter.”

In Fort Lauderdale, Florida police have been harassing the local FNB volunteers for months, and in February raided a community house near Stranahan Park, where meals are shared with the homeless and poor twice a week. Police kicked in a bedroom door and asked the volunteers if they were terrorists. The city recently installed an observation tower to help police watch the homeless who frequent the park. Two volunteers were arrested May 1, cited by a cop with a record of harassing the homeless and their advocates, for unintentionally trespassing on private property near the park as they played a May Day game of capture the flag.

For more information, contact Food Not Bombs, 1-800-884-1136, menu@foodnotbombs.net or visit FoodNotBombs.net.

LONGEST-SERVING NUCLEAR RESISTER DUE OUT IN SEPTEMBER

Helen Woodson went to prison the week after Ronald Reagan’s 1984 reelection for her part in the pneumatic jackhammer and sledgehammer disarmament of a nuclear missile silo in Missouri, the Silo Pruning Hooks action.



Helen Woodson, right, with Silo Pruning Hook codefendants from left, Fr. Carl Kabat, Larry Cloud Morgan, and Fr. Paul Kabat, before their disarmament of nuclear missile silo N5 in rural Missouri.

Paroled twice, she was returned behind bars within days on charges related to new protests against war and other assaults on human dignity and the environment.

For all but those few days since then, she has served time in more than half a dozen federal prisons and local jails. On September 9, after nearly 27 years in prison, she will be released from the highest security women’s prison in the United States, the Administrative Maximum unit of the Federal Medical Center–Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas. Woodson intends to retire from resistance actions to pursue her religious vocation and spend time with her family.

Woodson has been approved to initially reside with sponsors. She has several chronic health issues that will need to be addressed after her release, including recommended cataract removal and back surgery. While in prison, Woodson has become an Orthodox Oblate of St. Benedict, and will continue to pursue this religious vocation after her release.



Letters of support should be sent to Helen Woodson 03231-045, FMC Carswell Admin Max, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127. Please understand that she may not have time to answer all of her mail before her release.

Inside & Out

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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Steve Baggarly ID 8955
Carol Gilbert ID 8959
Ardeth Platte ID 8961
Bonnie Urfer ID 8957
Michael Walli ID 4444
(Inmates Name), Irwin County Detention Center, 132 Cotton Dr., Ocilla, GA 31774.
Jean Gump ID 8956
c/o the Nuclear Resister, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733.
Jackie Hudson ID 8958
c/o Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370.
(Jailed until sentencing after 5/10/11 federal conviction for trespass at Y12 nuclear weapons complex, 7/5/2010)
Mark Kenney 14018-047 (six months – in 4/27/11)
FPC Duluth, POB 1000, Duluth, MN 55814.
(Trespass at Offutt AFB, home of the Strategic Command, 8/9/10)
William Bichsel IDN 1155703 (three months + six months home confinement)
Unit 2B, Knox County Sheriff’s Detention Facility, 5001 Maloneyville Rd., Knoxville, TN 37918.
Susan Crane 87783-011 (15 months – in 3/28/11)
FCI Dublin, 5701 8th St. – Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568.
Lynne Greenwald 40672-086 (six months – in 3/28/11)
FDC SEATAC, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198.

Stephen Kelly 00816-111 (15 months – in 3/28/11)
FDC SEATAC, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198.
Anne Montgomery 03827-018 (two months + four months home confinement – in 3/28/11)
c/o Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370.
(Disarm Now Plowshares group convicted of felony damage to government property, conspiracy and trespass for cutting the fence and entering the nuclear weapons storage area at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, 11/2009)
Helen Woodson 03231-045 (106 months - out 9/9/11)
FMC Carswell, Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127.
(Parole violation with anti-war protest at the federal courthouse, Kansas City, Missouri, 3/11/04)
Leonard Peltier 89637-132 (life)
USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.
(Native American political prisoner)

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22)
FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)
Carl W. Steward 09105-088 (2 years – out 5/2/12)
FPC Montgomery, Federal Prison Camp, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL 36112.
(Non-public war tax resister pled guilty to filing false income tax returns and failing to file, 2/10)



Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 10-0237 (18 months less 20 days – out 6/25/11)
Lancaster County Prison THU DAYF, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199.
(Trespass at military recruiting office 1/15/10, violating probation from prior action)
Bradley Manning 89289 (awaiting court martial)
JRCF, 830 Sabalu Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027.
(Charged with disclosing military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes)

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

Nancy H. Smith 94641-020 (6 months – out 7/3/11)
FCI Danbury, Federal Correctional institution, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811.
Christopher Spicer 94642-020 (6 months – out 7/3/11)
105 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60607.
(Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)
PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Louis Vitale, Michael David Omondi, Frank Donnelly

Five Jailed for Cutting Fence, cont.

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The storage area was lit up by floodlights. Dozens of small gray bunkers – about the size of double car garages – were ringed by two more chain link fences topped with taut barbed wire.

“USE OF DEADLY FORCE AUTHORIZED” one sign boldly proclaimed. Another said, “WARNING RESTRICTED AREA” and was decorated with skull and crossbones.

This was it – the heart of the U.S. Trident Pacific nuclear weapons program. Nuclear weapons were stored in the bunkers inside the double fence line.

Wire cutters cut through these fences as well. There they unfurled hand-painted banners which said, “Disarm Now Plowshares: Trident Illegal and Immoral”, knelt to pray and waited to be arrested as dawn broke.

For their sentencing, about two hundred fifty people gathered at the courthouse to support the Plowshares activists with their presence, song, and prayer. Those who entered the courthouse overflowed the courtroom as well as a second one set aside for a closed-circuit video feed from the proceedings.

Addressing the court on behalf of the defendants’ legal team were Anabel Dwyer, Michigan attorney and board member of the Lawyers’ Committee on Nuclear Policy (LCNP), and Bill Quigley, Legal Director for the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York and Professor of Law at Loyola University New Orleans, who laid out the broader legal picture of the case.

“The problem is that nuclear weapons and the rule of law can’t exist side by side,” Dwyer said. “The other problem is, we cannot disarm nuclear weapons unless through the rule of law. We are in a conundrum here.”

Quigley submitted that lawyers are obligated to “understand difference between law and justice and to narrow that gap.” He encouraged the judge to look back one hundred years and consider how many of the laws of that time were “legal but manifestly unjust.”

Among those who testified on their behalf were retired Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Clark told the court that never in his life has he encountered such unselfish people as those who participate in the Plowshares tradition of direct action against nuclear weapons. “Their consciences tell them they have to do it. God will bless them for it and the courts of the United States should, too.”

Rosella Apel, age 11, took the stand as a character witness for Kelly, who lived with her Catholic Worker family in California while her father recovered from a massive heart attack. “I have a clear image that when I grow up I’m going to do the exact same thing that these five have,” she said.

Following testimony about the work and character of each of the five, Judge Settle acknowledged that, “it’s not easy to sit in judgment of people who have lived such sacrificial lives.” Nevertheless, “there is no indication of remorse” for actions that represented a “form of anarchy” and thus cannot go unchecked.

As U.S. Marshals led the five from the courtroom one by one, supporters stood and sang, “Rejoice in the Lord Always.”

They were all taken to the Federal Detention Center (FDC)–SeaTac in Seattle, where the men were bunked together until Bill Bichsel was transferred for trial in Tennessee via Pahrump, Nevada, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Atlanta, Georgia, and two Tennessee jails (see story, page 5). Kelly has been assigned to serve his full term at FDC–SeaTac, where despite his conscientious refusal to take part in prison labor or other programs he remains in general population.

Crane and Montgomery were also roommates until Crane was transferred in early May to the federal prison at Dublin, California, near her family. On May 27, Anne Montgomery was released to a friend’s home in the Seattle area, where she will serve four months of monitored home confinement. Lynne Greenwald will also complete her sentence at the SeaTac facility.

All five plan to appeal their conviction.

Greenwald recently wrote, “My life is becoming fuller with stories of struggling lives. Every day a woman shares some heart wrenching experience. I’m ‘Momma’ to the Hispanic women and others. One woman told me I reminded her of her mother and it was comforting to have me here. So grandparents have a place in prisons. Mentor, counselor – good listening skills are beneficial.”

For more information, visit their informative support blog at DisarmNowPlowshares.wordpress.com.

continued with Support Action, next column

StratCom Resister in Prison Again

Mark Kenney turned himself in at the federal prison in Duluth, Minnesota on April 27. He is now serving his third six-month sentence for crossing the line at Offutt Air Force Base, home of StratCom, the U.S. nuclear command center outside of Omaha, Nebraska. Prior to serving the maximum terms, Kenney has served 30- and 45-day sentences for trespass at StratCom.

Kenney enlisted in the Navy’s nuclear propulsion program in 1977, but when he first came nose-to-nose with a nuclear missile on his submarine, the abstract became real and his scruples soon scuttled his schooling.

Kenney told the National Catholic Reporter (NCR):

I had this moment of bizarre, human acceptance. I came to realize there’s no justification for nuclear weapons except for the fact that we’re afraid somebody else is going to use them on us, so we’re going to do it to them, and better. To me, it just didn’t seem to be what the Sermon on the Mount taught.

That didn’t come about overnight, it’s just I knew it bothered me. I tried to go back to studying for the program. But then I started thinking about it more and I came to a point where I was getting behind because I couldn’t concentrate on my studies.



Letters of support should be sent to William Bichsel, Susan Crane, Lynne Greenwald, Steve Kelly and Anne Montgomery at the addresses listed on page 3, Inside & Out. Contributions to their commissary are being accepted by the Ground Zero Center For Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370. Checks should be made payable to Sue Ablao and state “Disarm Now Plowshares” in the memo line.

My superiors began to ask me why I was falling behind. I told them my doubts about nuclear weapons and they responded: “Well, everybody goes through this. You just have to go talk to a chaplain or something to get through it.”

I said back: “Well, if everybody goes through this, why are they doing it?” I could never get anybody to answer that question for me. Everybody accepted the fact that it was bad, even immoral. But it just had to be done. The United States, being more righteous than the rest of the world, had to take the responsibility of doing it. That was the mentality. It was a bizarre twist for me and I could never make it work, so eventually I opted out.

Fr. Jack McCaslin, who crossed the line alongside Kenney last August, was in federal court April 12 to enter a guilty plea and be sentenced. The hearing had been postponed once due to illness, and McCaslin, 82, was still not in great health when he appeared before Judge Thalken. He’d faced the judge before, and was told to expect a jail sentence if he returned.

Thalken lectured the priest against civil disobedience, and reminded him that the pulpit was his privileged place for legally spreading his message.

McCaslin simply said he did not want to pay any fine, and that “I do this for the betterment of the world.”

The judge relented in consideration of McCaslin’s health, and sentenced the Catholic priest to three years probation and a \$300 fine, to be paid in \$50 monthly installments as a condition of probation.



Letters of support should be sent to Mark Kenney 14018-047, FPC Duluth, POB 1000, Duluth, NM 55814.

THE
INSIDE
LINE

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Tacoma

April 14, 2011
Day 16 at SeaTac Federal Detention

by Fr. Bill Bichsel, S.J.

I will pursue my hope to do some writing while in lock-up. I feel the spirit present with me in lock-up and feel confirmed by the spirit that here is where I should be.

As I slowly shuffle around the common area, I thank God for being here and for the peace I experience. I am not anxious or overly concerned by anything, though I do feel some tugs to answer my letters and to get my calling and visitor lists into the computer.

I have had generous help from different inmates such as: Reno, Bo, Hugo, Ronnie, etc. to help me with the computer. They have been most obliging. The kindness and welcoming by the inmates – especially the Mexican brothers and some of the Black brothers has been great. They make sure that we have what is necessary. They give easily. Most of the guys on this 6b inmate unit have heard of our Bangor action and are supportive. A very touching incident, that highlights our treatment by the inmates, happened on our second day here when there was a shake down. All the inmates had to file into the big, very cold, exercise room while the guards went through our cells looking for contraband. While I was standing there shivering one of the Mexican inmates came up and put his jacket around my shoulders. I was touched by his compassion.

I’m very lucky to have Steve Kelly, S.J. as my cell mate. Ordinarily, he would go into the Special Housing Unit (the hole) upon entering into BOP custody because of his non-cooperation with BOP regulations and restrictions; however, out of consideration for me, he has elected to stay in the general population with its regulations in order to be a companion to me – as long as he can. He shares his humor, consideration, helping hand, and patience with an 82-year-old that has things wrong with him from head to toe, moves slowly, tires easily, and takes a ton of pills to prolong breath and life. Steve has been great. We are somewhat the odd couple. Guess which one is neat and orderly.

I’m blessed by the peace and quiet spirit inside. I’m not concerned about trying to be more than I am with the other inmates. I’m trying to let them see – and not hide or disguise – my lack of knowledge of so many things. I want to be as I have been formed by time and the community of people about me at different stages and positions in my life. Like I said: I’m lucky to be here.

I know I’m getting weaker – it takes all my strength and breath to make my bunk. I have to sit down a few times in the process. It takes all I have now to do one or two slow shuffles around the common area. I don’t feel panicked or upset about my condition. I know I can keel over at any time; but I feel very much at peace with this condition and understand and accept it – thankfully – as part of my journey.

I don’t have a regular prayer time now – but pray and try to be alert, i.e. at rest in the presence of God. I ask God to lead me as God sees fit. There is no anxiousness or compulsiveness or resolve to preach or hold prayer sessions or do any “religious actions” – just be and shuffle around. There are four TVs I avoid with their steady diet of sex and violence.

I am so thankful to feel at peace with my life. It’s a gift from God and I do feel God working in – with me. I could be wrong – but this is what I experience.

The action we did was beyond us – as the carrying out of other Plowshare actions have been. I do feel our prison stay is part of the same journey.

[Fr. Bill Bichsel is serving a three month prison sentence for his part in the Disarm Now Plowshares action of November, 2009 at the Trident nuclear submarine base in Washington state, and also awaiting sentencing for trespass last summer at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Tennessee.]

Twelve Convicted of Y-12 Trespass; Eight Jailed Till Sentencing

Editors’ note: As we go to press, we have learned that later this week, Jean Gump and Jackie Hudson are scheduled to appear back in federal court in Knoxville. It is expected they will be released from custody after promising to return to court when they are summoned for sentencing. News from those hearings and current prisoner addresses will be posted at our blog, nukeresister.org. Thanks to Ralph Hutchison for most of the selected courtroom reporting incorporated into this story.

The federal court jury in Knoxville, Tennessee deliberated only about an hour before finding twelve people guilty of trespassing last summer at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex.

The May 11 verdict was not a surprise — the scales of justice were tipped against the defendants long before the trial began. But the prosecution had to work harder than they imagined, as the twelve Y-12 resisters mounted a vigorous defense, successfully putting U.S. nuclear policy on trial at several points, and challenging plans for a new bomb plant at Oak Ridge.

In an April 29 order, Magistrate Judge Bruce Guyton granted the government’s motion to preclude certain defenses and evidence. His words swept away the defendants’ right to tell the jury why they committed their act:

The fact that the Defendants felt compelled to enter onto the Y-12 National Security Complex by their own moral, political, and religious beliefs; their desire to exercise their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech or religion; their desire to comply with international law; or their desire to prevent future death and destruction from the use of nuclear weapons does not constitute a legal defense to the charge ... and is not relevant at trial. Testimony to this effect is not admissible at trial.

“With this sweeping ruling, Judge Guyton clearly intends to deny the defendants the right to tell ‘the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,’” said Ralph Hutchison, coordinator of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA).

At a March 4 motions hearing, Professor Charles Moxley of Fordham University testified for the defense that nuclear weapons not only violate international law, but also contravene U.S. law and the military code of conduct of U.S. armed forces. Defendants Mary Dennis Lentsch and Beth Rosdatter testified at the same hearing about their reasons for crossing the barrier at the Y-12 complex.

On the occasion of their arrest last July 5, at the Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future gathering, thirteen people were arrested after crossing through or around a barbed wire fence near the main gate at Y-12, where the United States continues to manufacture the thermonuclear components for nuclear weapons. Due to illness, thirteenth defendant David Corcoran’s case was continued for a separate trial on August 22.

The defendants arrived from across the country and just up the valley. Jesuit Fr. Bill Bichsel, from Tacoma, Washington, was already in federal custody (see page 1). Federal marshals shuffled him cross-country by air and road for two weeks, through three federal and two state lockups before he was booked into the Knox County Sheriff’s Detention Facility in time to meet with his attorney before trial.

Dominican sister Jackie Hudson also came from Washington state; Dennis DuVall from Prescott, Arizona; Bonnie Urfer from Luck, Wisconsin; Bradford Lyttle from Chicago; Jean Gump from Bloomington, Michigan; Dominican sisters Carol Gilbert and Ardeh Platte from Baltimore; Michael Walli from Washington, D.C.; Steve Baggarly from Norfolk, Virginia; Beth Rosdatter from Lexington, Kentucky; and Sister of the Presentation Mary Dennis Lentsch from Washburn, Tennessee.

On the eve of the trial, OREPA’s weekly vigil at Y-12 preceded a Festival of Hope-Filled Resistance. Elements of the festival returned in the morning, as the defendants and supporters, led by Buddhist drumming and chanting and accompanied by giant peace crane banners and stilt walkers, processed to the courthouse. Throughout the first day of the trial, people vigiled on the street with 13 posters picturing the individual defendants and handed out leaflets to passersby.

In court, as the marshals brought Bill Bichsel into the courtroom, supporters stood and sang “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize.” By the time they were on the third verse of “Ain’t Gonna Study War No More,” the marshals were in the courtroom, furious, waving arms to silence the supporters, who first finished the verse. The marshal in charge admonished them, at the order of the judge, and forbade future singing because they could be heard in the jury room.

Jury selection was revealing. Of thirty-one prospec-

Midwest Catholic Workers Block Work at Kansas City Nuclear Weapons Factory



photo by Joshua McElwee/National Catholic Reporter
Catholic Workers encircle a construction company truck, blocking the work gate at the site of the Kansas City nuclear weapons plant, May 2, 2011.

This year’s Midwest Catholic Worker Faith and Resistance Retreat took place April 29—May 2 in Kansas City, Missouri and concluded with the arrest and jailing of 53 people who blocked the construction gate at the new nuclear warhead production plant being built in the city.

About 120 Catholic Workers and friends, representing 20 communities across the midwest and as far afield as Tucson, Arizona, and Washington, D.C., were the guests of Kansas City’s sister Catholic Worker communities, Cherith Brook and Holy Family House.

Art Laffin, from the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker community in Washington, D.C., gave a keynote talk that set the theme and tone for the weekend, “The Hope of Easter and a Disarmed World.” Jay Coghlan, executive director of Nuke Watch of New Mexico, told the history of the old and new Kansas City plants, which make most of the unique, even toxic parts of The Bomb, just not the radioactive ones. Sunday started with a vigil and prayer service at the gate of the plant construction site. The rest of the day was spent preparing for Monday’s rally, street theater and nonviolent “gospel obedience” action.

Monday morning, May 2, over 160 people were present at the gate. A satirical theatrical piece with giant puppets lampooned the Religion of The Bomb, followed by an ecumenical liturgy.

A statement, “Transformation not Annihilation: No

tive jurors, all but four said they had guns in their homes. None had ever written a letter-to-the-editor, one had participated in a public demonstration (the Tea Party), none admitted to ever having contributed to a group espousing a political objective, one had ever written a letter to a public official (a few, over the years, but he could not recall the subject of any of them). Two or three said they believed they would have not returned slaves to their owners had they lived in the days of the fugitive slave act — the rest would hand them over.

Assessing their demographic, Baggarly asked about their knowledge of Bible stories such as Jesus tossing the money changers from the temple and other historic rejections of illegitimate authority.

Once the jury was sworn in, the prosecutor presented the case to be as simple as, “They openly and intentionally broke the law. They knew what they were doing. They wanted to be arrested.”

Defense opening statements came from Bill Bichsel’s attorney Mike Whalen and defendants Lyttle and Baggarly, who were representing themselves, and suggested that the defendants knew what they were doing, and it wasn’t breaking the law.

Yet although the government had successfully gagged the defendants, it promptly took the gag off. The first government witness, Ted Sherry, site manager at Y-12, took the stand and, in a matter of minutes, mentioned deterrence, U.S. nuclear policy and nonproliferation, opening the door for the defense to talk about these things. By the end of the day Tuesday, the second day of the trial, they still hadn’t managed to shut the door.

It was just the first in a string of prosecutorial actions that provided opportunities for defense lawyers, and the two pro se defendants, to tell the jury about the weapons of mass destruction manufactured at Y-12, and their conscientious action to address this threat.

Steve Baggarly elicited testimony about the new \$6.5 billion Uranium Processing Facility and the hair-trigger alert status of nuclear weapons; pursuing each topic until the prosecutor objected and was sustained.

During the testimony of the prosecution’s second witness, the lead security officer for July 5, 2010, lawyer

Nukes” was read aloud (see below), and then the whole group moved onto the driveway and blocked a security truck in front of the closed gate. After ten minutes of joyful singing and prayer, police gave a warning that anyone remaining on the driveway would be arrested. Many moved away, but police arrested 27 men and 26 women who remained, blocking the truck and gate.

Police initially ran out of handcuffs, and their bus had to make two trips to haul the crowd off to jail. Five people posted \$100 bond, but the remainder refused, knowing that under local rules, they would be released on their signature if they hadn’t seen a judge within 20 hours. Most were released by 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, but for five who had outstanding warrants for nonpayment of past protest fines. Eric Garbison, Josh Armfield, Steve Jacobs, Frank Cordaro and Ed Bloomer faced a judge during morning TV court from the jail, who gave each man 60-90 more days to pay and released them on the signature bond.

All arrested were given a July 19 arraignment date.

For more information, contact Holy Family House Community, 908 E. 31st St., Kansas City, MO 64109; 816-753-2677; or visit peaceworkskc.org/kcplant.

Transformation, Not Annihilation: No Nukes

The spirit of Easter has brought us together in hope — hope for life over death. We are here to call for the conversion of this plant from an instrument of war to an instrument of life... We lament this, the first new nuclear weapons production plant in 32 years, which will continue to make 85% of the non-nuclear parts for nuclear weapons. We lament that over \$815 million of Kansas City municipal bonds — which should be spent on social uplift — is being spent on building this plant. We lament the health risks posed by this plant to its workers and the people and environment of Kansas City. We have hope for the conversion of this plant — we imagine a rebirth where this site would provide beneficial, peaceful and green jobs, such as solar and wind energy jobs. We support the local ballot initiative of the K.C. Peace Planters and other efforts for disarmament.

Mike Whalen asked the witness, Mr. Seals, about a photo showing a phalanx of Tennessee Highway Patrol, dressed in heavy helmets with faceguards and truncheons ready.

“If you wanted to keep people out, why didn’t you have these people at the fence before they crossed over instead of bringing them in after?”

The reply was appropriately odd: the barbed-wire fence that encloses the Y-12 property is not to keep people out but to make sure they are aware they are trespassing if they do.

The prosecutor had asked Seals about the preparations for the demonstration, and what was hanging from the fence. Seals said, “I think it’s called origami.” A few minutes later, Steve Baggarly stepped to the podium for a final cross examination.

Baggarly: Mr. Seals, are you aware that origami is Japanese paper folding?

Seals: I guess at some point I knew that.

Baggarly: Are you aware that this is a picture of a peace crane, named after a Japanese girl named Sadako Sasaki, who was in Hiroshima, Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped, and...

He never took a breath to allow an objection. In three minutes Baggarly unspooled the powerful story of Sadako and her leukemia and her thousand cranes and how others took up her dream as a symbol of the hopes of the work for peace and, on May 10, 2011, Sadako Sasaki came into a courtroom in Knoxville, Tennessee, and was present with the judge and the jury and the federal marshals and the defendants and the lawyers and the spectators, and more than one eye was full of tears. It was quite a moment, but not surprising - the Norfolk Catholic Worker where Baggarly and his family live and work is named Sadako Sasaki House.

By mid-afternoon, the first defense witness, Mary Dennis Lentsch, took the stand. She told of her life and her baptismal promises and her action at Y-12. It was an expression of her promise to renounce and resist evil. As she spoke of her religious motivation, the prosecution remained quiet. When she finally was asked if she felt she had a choice on July 5, the objection of the prosecutor

continued on page 10

MANNING CHARGED, IS MOVED TO LEAVENWORTH

Public protest over the punitive treatment of jailed army private and accused whistleblower Bradley Manning grew steadily through the spring. Finally, on April 20, Manning was moved from an austere solitary confinement regime at the Quantico, Virginia marine corps brig to medium-security pretrial status in a military prison at Leavenworth, Kansas.

On March 2, while still at Quantico, Manning was served with a revised charge sheet, alleging 22 new violations including the capital offense of “aiding the enemy”.

“While the military is down playing the fact, the option to execute Bradley has been placed on the table,” said Jeff Paterson, project director of Courage to Resist and Bradley Manning Support Network Steering Committee member. “It’s beyond ironic that leaked U.S. State Department cables have contributed to revolution and revolt in dictatorships across the Middle East and North Africa, yet an American may be executed, or at best face life in prison, for being the primary whistleblower. Millions of Americans, and even more internationally, clearly understand the contribution of PFC Manning towards not only freedom of information, but literally freedom itself.”

That night, Manning was also told that the Quantico commander had denied his Article 138 complaint requesting that he be removed from maximum custody and prevention of injury watch.

Manning’s attorney David Coombs blogged:

Understandably frustrated by this decision after enduring over seven months of unduly harsh confinement conditions, PFC Manning inquired of the ... officer what he needed to do in order to be downgraded from maximum custody and POI [prevention of injury status] ... In response to PFC Manning’s question, he was told that there was nothing he could do to downgrade his detainee status and that the Brig simply considered him a risk of self-harm. PFC Manning then remarked that the POI restrictions were “absurd” and sarcastically stated that if he wanted to harm himself, he could conceivably do so with the elastic waistband of his underwear or with his flip-flops.

Without consulting any Brig mental health provider, Chief Warrant Officer Denise Barnes used PFC’s Manning’s sarcastic quip as justification to increase the restrictions imposed upon him under the guise of being concerned that PFC Manning was a suicide risk.

For the next three nights, Manning was forced to surrender all of his clothing, and further humiliated by being made to stand naked at attention at his cell door for morning count before his clothing was returned. Manning was then issued a rough textured, tear-proof “suicide smock” and ordered to wear it at night in lieu of his confiscated clothes.

Manning filed a lengthy appeal on March 10, with even more details about the pretrial punishment he has endured.

That same evening, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley made headlines, calling the latest treatment of Manning “ridiculous and counterproductive and stupid.” Three days later, an unapologetic Crowley submitted his resignation.

Police violence against some of Manning’s supporters when they demonstrated outside Quantico on March 20 (see story, this page) only provoked more outrage at the government and more support for Manning.

By mid-April, 600,000 people had written letters or signed a petition decrying Manning’s treatment as a “violation of his constitutionally guaranteed human rights, and a chilling deterrent to other potential whistleblowers committed to public integrity.” Three hundred top legal scholars, including Obama’s constitutional law professor at Harvard, signed a letter to the administration declaring Manning’s pretrial treatment to be a clear violation of the 5th and 8th Amendments. His attorney was on the verge of filing a writ of habeus corpus regarding Manning’s illicit confinement to the strict regime at Quantico when he learned April 19 that Manning would be moved to the Midwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility (JRCF) in Leavenworth.

Several days later, Coombs visited Manning there and confirmed, “PFC Manning is now being held in medium custody. He is no longer under prevention of injury watch and is no longer subjected to harsh pretrial confinement conditions.”

Manning is held in a private cell in a small unit with other pretrial detainees. His clothing is not taken away at night, he is permitted personal items in his cell, and he has access to writing materials at all times. Anyone may write directly to Manning, but he may only possess 20 letters in

Veterans Lead Resistance on Iraq Invasion Anniversary

On March 19, the 8th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War led a coalition of groups that brought 1,500 people to rally in Lafayette Park. Chanting “Stop the War! Expose the Lies! Free Bradley Manning!”, the veterans led some of the crowd across Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House fence. There they remained, some chained to the fence while others displayed banners and signs in violation of the ban on stationary protests directly in front of the President’s home. Police eventually arrested 113 people, charging them with disorderly conduct and disobeying a lawful order, then releasing them with court dates in April.

Many of those arrested posted and forfeited a bond, but up to 41 people are scheduled for trial on July 11. Eve Tetez pled guilty and despite her lengthy protest rap sheet was sentenced to six months unsupervised probation, plus \$100 fine and \$150 to the victims fund.

The next day, more than 300 people rallied outside the gate of the marine corps base at nearby Quantico, Virginia in support of accused army whistleblower Bradley Manning. At the time, Manning was being held at the brig there in solitary confinement under a harsh “prevention of injury” regime (see update, this page).

Eddie Becker writes:

The demonstrators, including many U.S. military veterans, wanted to put flowers on a replica of the Iwo Jima memorial that sits outside the entrance to the base, but the base authorities closed access to the statue, which is normally open to the public. A deal was negotiated to allow six of the demonstrators, accompanied by a videographer and a

photographer, to lay flowers on the memorial, but they weren’t even allowed to go up to the statue, instead having to throw the flowers over a barrier about 10 feet away.

The rest of the demonstrators were enclosed in a pen across the road from the site. After the flowers were left, three of the six – Dan Ellsberg, Elaine Brower, and Ret. Col. Ann Wright – sat in the middle of Route 1 and were soon joined by other demonstrators who broke out of the barricades.

At least nine different police agencies were on hand to deal with the nonviolent protest, including military police, Prince William County mounted police, Quantico town police, and Washington, D.C., metropolitan police.

When they moved in to make arrests, Virginia state police handled some of the protesters quite roughly, including pulling people to their feet by their heads and necks and pushing standing protesters on top of those sitting next to them.

All told, 33 people were arrested and held several hours for processing on charges of unlawful assembly and malicious obstruction of traffic. The last arrestee was released early Monday morning.

Steve Lane was the only defendant in court May 25, when he entered a guilty plea and refused to pay any fine. He was given a two-day jail sentence but released the next morning. Several others had guilty pleas entered on their behalf and mailed in a fine. Those pleading not guilty have different court dates through June, depending on the schedule of their arresting officer.

For more information, visit www.stopthesewars.org

Forgotten Dead Memorialized In Hollywood



Photo courtesy Military Families Speak Out

Grauman’s Chinese Theatre, Hollywood, California, March 19, 2011.

Eleven military family members and veterans were arrested for trespass March 19 in front of Grauman’s Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California, where they staged a sit-in on the 8th anniversary of the occupation of Iraq. They brought with them photographs and the boots of soldiers who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq, and a block of wet cement. As they sat among the hand and footprints of Hollywood legends on the Walk of Fame, they pressed

his cell at a time, and excess mail must be mailed out to others or it will be destroyed.

For more information, visit bradleymanning.org, or contact Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave # 41, Oakland CA 94610, 510-488-3559, www.couragetoresist.org



Letters of support should be sent to Bradley Manning 89289, JRCF, 830 Sabalu Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027. The following list of authorized and unauthorized items was provided by the JRCF.

Authorized Items: Letters - Unlimited (cannot contain written sexually explicit material). Photos – Unlimited (cannot contain full or partial nudity). Internet printouts cannot exceed 5 pages per day. Newspaper, magazines, periodicals, books and other publications must be purchased and received directly from the publisher or a commercial source. Postal money orders and cashiers’ checks made out to Bradley Manning will be accepted.

Unauthorized Items: Personal checks, food items, musical/electronic cards, any tangible items (jewelry, clothing, etc.).

the foot prints of an empty pair of combat boots into the cement, and signed the footprints, “Forgotten Dead”. Purple Heart veteran Ed Garza wrote “5,945 [Americans killed in action] & 1.5 million Iraqis and Afghanis. The Forgotten Dead.”

Tourists stopped and took pictures as though this were part of a Hollywood skit, but soon realized that protesters were making a strong, heartfelt statement. When police moved in to make arrests, they closed the area for over an hour.

“We had to do this,” said Pat Alviso, mother of a Marine who is currently in Afghanistan on his fourth deployment. “We have done everything we can think of to let our Representative and the President know that we want our troops home now. We want them to know we are serious about this and not going to stop until they are all home.”

Also arrested was Laurie Loving, who commented, “My son enlisted 8 years ago and I can’t believe we are still trying to bring our loved ones home. Closing down Grauman’s Chinese Theater was a minor inconvenience when compared to the horrors our families are experiencing every day.”

The eleven were booked and released to return for arraignment April 13. On that date, the Hollywood district attorney said the cases would be referred to a Los Angeles court, and the defendants would be notified if a charge is filed.

For more information, visit Military Families Speak Out at www.mfso.org.

Pacific Life Community Retreat & Action

Over the first weekend in March, about sixty people from as far as Albuquerque, New Mexico and Poulsbo, Washington met in Menlo Park, California for a two-day retreat of the Pacific Life Community, a faith-based network of activists who are dedicated to “ending nuclear weapons and war making through nonviolent direct action.”

The retreat culminated on Monday, March 7 with a two-hour vigil at the gate of Lockheed-Martin’s nearby Sunnyvale missile plant. Twelve vigilers carrying large flags depicting the earth and a peace sign walked past the gatehouse to bring their message directly to workers. Their path was soon blocked, and when they did not leave, all were arrested. Most were cited and released a short time later; Fr. Steve Kelly refused the conditional release. He was jailed for two more days before being released on time served. The prosecutor did not proceed with charges against the others. For more information, visit PacificLifeCommunity.wordpress.com.

Senate Sidewalk Die-In Not a Crime

When Christine Gaunt was in Washington, D.C. last winter for the Witness Against Torture vigils and fast, she also visited the offices of her Iowa senators to continue her witness against war. Back home, dozens of weekly die-ins at their Des Moines offices have served to build a respectful relationship between Gaunt and office staff, while Gaunt has collected a sheaf of citations.

When Capitol police told Gaunt not to display her NO MORE \$\$\$ FOR WAR sign inside the Hart senate office building, she left, concealed her sign, and returned to visit Senator Harkin. Police confronted her again in the 7th floor bathroom, confiscated the sign and escorted her out of the building.

Gaunt decided to do what she’s done in Des Moines when kicked out of the federal building. She staged a die-in on the sidewalk, writing END WAR/END TORTURE in chalk, outlining a victim’s body, and laying down with a copy of the First Amendment under her heart.

Police again accosted the pacifist hog farmer. She told them she had an appointment at 5:15 p.m. with Senator Grassley’s staff. For a moment, it seemed police would escort her back into the office building, but instead she was handcuffed by an apologetic officer and charged with defacing government property and laying on an improved surface.

She was released and returned for trial on April 7. Court documents charged her only with failure to obey, and after listening to the testimony of four police officers, the judge dismissed the charge as having impeded her protected First Amendment activity.

“Go home to your hogs,” he told her, but first Gaunt joined the next day’s Disarmageddon action at the Pentagon, and the SOA Watch die-in at the White House April 10.

Back in Iowa, Gaunt resumed the weekly visits to her senators, and was cited again April 12 for loitering in the hallway before she entered the office to conduct her die-in, and twice more on April 27. Since then, she has not been cited again during her weekly die-ins.

Gaunt will be in federal court in Des Moines June 9 to answer three citations for failure to obey federal marshals last December 29, February 9, and March 30.

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

“Disarm, Disarm! The Sword of Murder is Not the Balance of Justice!”

As these words of Julia Ward Howe’s original Mother’s Day proclamation rang out, nuclear resisters symbolically closed Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Washington state.

Each D-5 missile, deployed at Bangor on Trident nuclear-powered submarines, carries up to eight thermo-nuclear warheads, each with an explosive yield of up to 475 kilotons. With at least 1,000 nuclear warheads at Bangor, it is believed to hold the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons in the world.

Eighty-three people gathered at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action on Saturday, May 7 to celebrate Mother’s Day weekend, honoring nurturing women and resisting the Trident submarine’s nuclear weapons at Bangor. After nonviolence training, participants, led by drummers from the Bainbridge Island Nipponzan Myo-hoji Temple, walked from the Center to the Bangor main gate, where they vigiled once again.

Ground Zero Center peacekeepers entered the roadway to safely block traffic just before seven people crossed the roadway and stood blocking it with a long banner that read “THE EARTH IS OUR MOTHER — TREAT HER WITH RESPECT.”

Washington State Patrol officers arrested the resisters, charging them with “walking in a roadway where prohibited.” Each one was processed at the scene, given a citation carrying a \$56 fine, and released.

Livermore



photo courtesy Tangle via indybay.org

Cops face Christians across the line at Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory, California.

The Good Friday action at Livermore nuclear weapons lab drew about 150 participants. Following a program featuring speakers, music and dance, thirty-three people were arrested as they peaceably blocked the Lab’s west gate. The interfaith event has been held at the gates of Livermore Lab for more than 25 years. This year, it also coincided with Earth Day. As expected, those arrested were soon released, and no prosecutions resulted. For more information, visit trivalleycares.org.

Lockheed/Martin

About 35 people participated in the annual Good Friday observance at Lockheed Martin’s Valley Forge, Pennsylvania aerospace complex. They lined the driveway, holding Good Friday/Earth Day wooden crosses, each with Lockheed Martin logos at the crucifixion nail points. One large cross was draped with an Earth flag. Arrested for blocking the main driveway entrance and attempting to carry the Good Friday/Earth Day crosses to the Lockheed Martin plant were Mary Jo McArthur, Fr. Patrick Sieber, Robert M. Smith, Mary Ellen Norpel, Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Tom Mullian, Theresa Camerota, Jackie Bauman and ninety-one-year-old Annie Geers. All were cited for disorderly conduct at the Upper Merion police station and released. For more information, visit brandywinepeace.org.

Nevada Test Site

The annual interfaith Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the re-branded Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) — better known for its legacy as the Nevada nuclear weapons test site — concluded there on Easter, April 24. Local members of the Western Shoshone National Council, Buddhist Nipponzan Myohoji monks from Washington state and Catholic Workers from Nevada joined demonstrators from Arizona, California, Illinois, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah,

Arrested were Mary Gleysteen, Rev. Anne Hall, David Hall, M.D., Bernard Meyer, Shirley Morrison, Dorli Rainey and Alice Zillah.

Some of the arrestees wore signs with the names, registration numbers and prison locations of the five Disarm Now Plowshares activists – Bix Bichsel, Susan Crane, Lynne Greenwald, Steve Kelly and Anne Montgomery – honoring their 2009 Plowshares action.

Participants heard about the recently declared Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone initiative, and its work that includes supporting the campaign to stop the Navy from building a second Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor.

BANGOR UPDATE

Six people charged with trespass after crossing the line at Bangor last January were arraigned in federal court on April 6. Attorney Blake Kremer argued that the case be dismissed because the charging documents do not accuse the defendants of a crime, nor had the government shown any criminal intent. The magistrate reserved his decision, later ruling to sustain the charge. The six then took a plea agreement, and on June 1 pled guilty. Each took the opportunity to address the court, and each was fined \$100 plus \$35 fees.

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.

Holy Week

Wisconsin, The Netherlands and Japan. After music and liturgy, sixteen people crossed the line, allegedly to trespass but with the permission of the Western Shoshone, the traditional and rightful stewards of the land. The eight women and eight men were cited and soon released. For more information, contact the Nevada Desert Experience, 1420 West Bartlett Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89106-2226, 702-646-4814, NevadaDesertExperience.org.

Pentagon

More than 40 people gathered in Washington, D.C. to participate in the annual Holy Week Faith and Resistance retreat sponsored by Jonah House and the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker. Those attending the retreat included members of the New Jerusalem Community in Philadelphia, students from Loras College in Iowa, and peacemakers from around the northeast. Acts of nonviolent witness at the White House and Pentagon included crucifixion re-enactments with black-robed participants representing contemporary victims of war, economic exploitation, torture, and political repression and imprisonment. On Good Friday morning, Bill Frankel-Streit, Sr. Margaret McKenna, Brian Hynes and Rosemary Thompson were arrested at the Pentagon as they held a banner and read a leaflet outside the designated “protest zone.” They were charged with failure to obey a lawful order and given a July 22 trial date.

For more information, contact Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, 202-882-9649.

Seattle

The annual Proclamation of the Passion According to John at the Seattle federal building on Good Friday culminated in an “extended liturgical action” in which 1/2 gallon of symbolic blood was poured over the hands of members of the assembly. Participants then marked the concrete walls and glass doors of the building with their handprints. Arrested on “preservation of property” charges were Ben Adam, Sue Ferguson Johson, Peter Gallagher, Wes Howard-Brook, Barbara Isole, Sarah Klassen, Donovan Malley, Weldon Nisly, Marilyn Ottinger, Jack Towe and Don Whitman. They were released after two hours and have not yet been summoned to court.

Their statement read in part, “We gather at the federal building because it is the local parallel to where Jesus was held and abused: the Roman governor’s local headquarters. Then, as now, the central government claimed the power of life and death, while so often doing the will of the wealthy elite. Our federal government, like that of ancient Rome, blatantly serves corporations and banks while taxing and exploiting the poor and middle class. We stand in its shadow to announce God’s Victory over this system of global oppression and empire.”

Resisters Pushed Out by Pentagon Cops

The letter they mailed was never acknowledged. So on April 8, participants in the National Campaign for Non-violent Resistance came to the Pentagon to deliver a letter asking for a meeting with Secretary of War Robert Gates. They wanted to discuss bringing an end to U.S. wars and the wanton destruction of the global environment resulting from military activity. For contrast, they named their vision DisArmageddon.

Outside, about three dozen supporters rallied in a designated protest zone, while another 25 people got off the Metro subway train and headed for the Pentagon entrance with the letter.

Within minutes, Pentagon police swarmed the scene, violently rushing the activists from the station and ignoring requests to receive the letter for the Secretary. The activists were pushed and shoved, arms were painfully wrenched behind backs, and police knocked Eve Tetaz, 80, to the ground. It was never announced that they were being arrested as police forced them onto a waiting bus.

The protesters were taken to the Navy Annex where they were given a warning for failure to obey a lawful order. Once the Pentagon police had the names of all the activists, they searched their system and found that eight of the 25 had been arrested at the Pentagon in the past. Those eight were then given a citation for “disorderly conduct”. The charges were dismissed prior to their June 3 court date.

For more information, e-mail Joy First at joyfirst5@gmail.com.

SOA WATCH DIRECT ACTION AT ANNUAL D.C. LOBBY DAYS

Near the end of the annual SOA Watch Spring Days of Action, hundreds of human rights activists marched on the White House on Sunday, April 10. The march included torture survivors, union workers, educators and students from across the Americas. Marchers carried banners, flags and large puppets, including a 14-foot tall Mother of the Disappeared. Twenty-seven, including some who had been fasting for a week in front of the White House, were arrested when they staged a die-in on the sidewalk to call attention to thousands of Latin Americans murdered by graduates of the U.S. Army School of the Americas.

“The School of the Americas has left a trail of blood and suffering in every country where its graduates have returned,” said School of the Americas Watch founder Fr. Roy Bourgeois. “SOA graduates overthrew the democratically elected president of Honduras in 2009 and are involved in the current repression campaign against the pro-democracy movement in that country. It is up to people of conscience to stand up to the injustice and to call for an end to the violence.”

Bourgeois and 26 others were cited and released. Trial on charges of failure to obey and incommoding is set for September 12.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE UPDATE

Two of the four people arrested last November at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where the SOA/WHINSEC is located, have completed six month prison sentences. David Omondi and Fr. Louis Vitale were released from federal prisons

on May 20 and have returned to their California homes.

Christopher Spicer was released May 19 from the federal detention center in Seattle to complete his six month sentence at a halfway house in Chicago. He told his parents, who met him at the prison and took him to the airport, that he appreciated all of the prayers, books, letters and visits, but knew he could not respond to all of them. Supporter Anne Tropeano and others have typed many of Spicer’s letters and posted them at jailhousegenesis.blogspot.com.

Nancy Smith will complete her six month sentence and be released from the federal women’s prison in Danbury, Connecticut on July 1. Federal prisoners are required to earn a GED if they have not completed high school. In the absence of her 50-year-old school records, Smith enrolled with three other women from her unit and together they passed the GED. As an indigent prisoner, with limited money for stamps, her monthly letters to supporters and correspondents describing life at Danbury are posted online at sconant.net/nancysmith.

Updating the local arrests in Columbus, Georgia, at last November’s SOA Watch demonstrations, charges against two journalists from Russia Today caught up in the cops’ sweep were dismissed. Pre-trial discussion with prosecutors about the other cases is ongoing.

For more information, visit soaw.org or contact School of the Americas Watch, POB 4566, Washington, DC 20017, 202-234-3440.

GROUND THE DRONES

Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars organized two peace walks, some congressional office visits, and a series of public meetings in April, leading up to a major demonstration on April 22 at Hancock Field, near Syracuse, New York. From Hancock, a New York Air National Guard unit wages war, piloting armed MQ-9 Reaper drones over Afghanistan. More than 250 people attended the afternoon protest, and in the largest robotic warfare resistance action to date in the United States, 37 people were arrested after a die-in at the gate.

About 100 took part in some or all of a four-day walk from Ithaca, meeting in Syracuse on the day before the demonstration with a smaller group who walked from Rochester. Walkers were welcomed into churches and homes, where they raised public awareness about the war being fought from their midst. The Ithaca walkers were also warmly received by Onondaga chiefs and elders at the longhouse on the reservation south of Syracuse.

Kathy Kelly, recently back from another Voices for Creative Nonviolence trip to Afghanistan, spoke at the Thursday evening public program. She talked about specific drone attacks that killed civilians and asked, “What kind of intelligence are we getting when children can be killed month after month, week after week?”

Many of those attending the program signed an enlarged copy of the indictment that would be delivered to the base the next day. The document began,

“We charge the chain of command, from President Barack Obama, to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, to Commander [of Hancock Field] Colonel Kevin Bradley, to every drone crew, with the following crimes: extrajudicial killings, violation of due process, wars of aggression, violation of national sovereignty and the killing of innocent civilians... Extrajudicial targeted killings by the use of unmanned aircraft drones by the United States of America are intentional, premeditated and deliberate use of lethal force in violation of U.S. and international human rights law.”

On Friday morning, a “Walk of Transformation” led from the federal building through downtown Syracuse. After lunch, some walked six more miles, and others drove to Hancock Field.

The gate was closed, with local police cars lined up outside, and military police at the ready behind the gate.

A few people spoke to the crowd from the bed of a pickup truck, and then dozens of people moved into the driveway and began a die-in, some covering themselves in red-stained sheets. Police handcuffed and arrested 37 people, including Jerry Berrigan, 91, and Mary Snyder, 86, who police rolled away in their wheelchairs.

The first eight brought to jail had bail set, but authorities seemed overwhelmed by the number of arrestees. The others were just cited and released by early the next morning.

Martha Hennessey and Kathy Kelly refused bail and spent two nights in jail, accepting bail that others had raised only after learning they might be held until trial, possibly in September.



Photo By Gary Walts © The Post-Standard

A police officer surveys the symbolic carnage from a mock drone attack outside the gate of Hancock Field, New York.

All were charged with obstructing government and disorderly conduct. A trial date has not been set.

Geoff Oldfield, whose mother Julianne Oldfield was among those arrested, was himself cited for criminal mischief after the demonstration because he had driven his pickup onto the lawn to provide the speakers’ platform.

For more information, visit upstatedroneaction.peace-worksrochester.org or contact Carol Baum at the Syracuse Peace Council, carol@peacecouncil.net

Thanks to Nick Mottern for his report of the events at Truthout.org.

Tax Time in Milwaukee

Lincoln Rice writes at nwtrcc.org:

In Milwaukee, a handful of us protested on tax day outside the federal courthouse that houses the office of our new Tea Party senator, Ron Johnson. Afterward, Lincoln Rice, Michael Komba, Rachel Stoll, Don Timmerman and Roberta Thurston did a sit-in at Johnson’s office and were arrested and escorted out of the building by Homeland Security.

The following day, we were contacted by the senator’s state director, Tony Blando, and met with him a couple days later at the same office we had been removed from. He stated that the Senator feels that cuts to federal spending should definitely include military spending and he was receptive to our suggestions to cuts in notorious government programs (e.g., School of the Americas and nuclear weapons) as well as military aid to countries that violate human rights (i.e., Israel and Colombia). We are awaiting further response from his office. If the senator’s office stays true to their word regarding the need to slash military funding, perhaps the Tea Party representatives can embarrass the Democrats into making drastic cuts in military spending. Time will tell.

The five were issued \$270 citations, but no court date.

FASLANE

Four days after the Scottish National Party (SNP) became the first party to form a majority government in the Scottish Parliament since its inception in 1999, Trident Ploughshares and Faslane Peace Camp activists in Scotland jointly blockaded the Faslane nuclear submarine base north of Glasgow on May 10, shutting it down for two hours. Four members of Trident Ploughshares blocked the North Gate of the base, while six Peace Campers locked themselves together and blocked the South Gate.

The activists called for the anti-Trident SNP government to fulfill its commitments and demand immediate disarmament of Trident and a global ban on nuclear weapons.

All ten were arrested for Breach of the Peace. The six from the peace camp were released from jail after 12 hours. The four from Trident Ploughshares remained in custody overnight but were released the next day without appearing in court. None of the ten expect to be prosecuted, because they were not given charges in a timely manner before leaving police custody.

Speaking on behalf of Trident Ploughshares, blockader Janet Fenton, coordinator of the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, secretary of Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and secretary of the Scottish branch of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, said,

Our actions here are not illegal, and are in support of the new Scottish government. Once again the Scottish people have voted overwhelmingly in opposition to nuclear weapons. This time, there is a clear parliamentary majority for a single party with a manifesto promise to put pressure on the U.K. government to remove these illegal weapons from Scotland. We are seeking prompt action from the SNP, a party that has supported our actions in the past. Sandra White MSP (SNP) called for direct action for disarmament at Hiroshima Day remembrance events in August. We are here today to remind the new administration of the strength of feeling and the support that it can expect from the Scottish people in requesting an opinion from the Lord Advocate on the legality of Trident in relation to the Scotland Act requirement for it to uphold international humanitarian law, and calling on the U.K. government to remove Trident and enter negotiations with other powers to establish a nuclear weapons convention to ban them globally.

Scotland has the obligation and the right, under the terms of the Scotland Act, to refuse to be complicit with the possession of Trident. It constitutes a threat to use it, and using it would inevitably kill hundreds of thousands of civilians indiscriminately and cause environmental devastation that would last for thousands of years. This is illegal, as well as immoral, wasteful and undemocratic.

In June, Faslane Peace Camp will mark its continuous presence on the road outside Faslane for twenty-nine years.

For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org.

Buffalo Cop Pepper-Sprays Non-Resisting War Protester

Outside a Buffalo, New York bank on April 7, Niagara Frontier Transit Authority police got a little zealous about enforcement after asking peaceful anti-war demonstrators to get off a low wall on bank property off Lafayette Square. At the demonstration organized by the local MoveOn.org chapter, Nate Buckley apparently didn’t move on quickly enough. He pulled away briefly when police first grabbed his arms to arrest him, but by the time one cop pulled Buckley’s hands behind his back and a second officer had a grip on his right arm, Buckley submitted and was standing calmly. The officer holding Buckley’s wrists with his left hand then used his right to grab a spray can from his belt, reach around and blast Buckley in the face with mace. The unprovoked assault was captured on a cell phone video and posted to youtube.com, sparking a speak-out in Buffalo and new public criticism of the law enforcement agency. Jason Wilson and Elliot Zyglis were also arrested, and all three men were charged with misdemeanor rioting, incitement, unlawful assembly, disorderly conduct and trespass. Buckley initially got the same charges plus resisting arrest and a total of six disorderly conduct charges.

Once in court, all charges of riot, incitement and disorderly conduct were dropped, leaving only a civil trespass violation against Wilson and Zyglis. Buckley has rejected any plea deal and awaits trial on charges of resisting arrest and one count of disorderly conduct

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

JEJU ISLAND

On Jeju Island, South Korea, a jailed local opponent of a new U.S. navy base being built there is set to go on trial June 10. Sung-Hee Choi and eight others were arrested May 19 when a construction crew, escorted by about 100 members of the police and military, brought heavy equipment to destroy the greenhouse on the Jungdeok coast that has been occupied by protesters for several years. Many people gathered in an attempt to stop the greenhouse from being destroyed, some blocking the construction equipment while others chained themselves to the greenhouse.

For the time, they were successful in stopping destruction of the greenhouse, but eight leaders of the opposition to the naval base, including Sung-Hee Choi, were arrested. Sung-Hee was holding a banner that read, in Korean, “Do not touch any stone or any flower.”

Jeju is a volcanic island off the southern coast of Korea, with a history of cultural and political independence from the mainland. It is renowned as a World Natural Heritage Site for its clear waters, pristine, rocky beaches, volcanic geology and unique marine and island ecology. The U.S. Navy has long sought a port on this Island of Peace, due to its strategic location in the South China Sea between China, Korea, and Japan. The conservative government of Lee Myung Bak has suppressed voices for peace and reconciliation, and over the democratically expressed objection of the large majority of area residents, pushed hard to build a base that even the Korean Navy says it does not need.

When construction cranes were first brought in before dawn one day last summer, fed-up residents turned them back with a broad-based nonviolent campaign including civil disobedience. Then late last December, 66 cement trucks rolled into the site, accompanied by a very large police force. Police arrested 34 people who tried to block the construction convoy.

Among those jailed at the time was Yang Yoon-Mo, Korea’s most prominent film critic.

He was given a restraining order, only to be arrested again April 6 as he and other residents of Gangjeong village, at the center of the targeted coast, disrupted construction by locking themselves under the earth moving equipment. He was jailed again for violating a restraining order. Yang refused food from day one, and declared his willingness to fast until death unless plans for the base are abandoned.

When Sung-Hee Choi was arrested, she began a hunger strike in solidarity with Yang. Sung-Hee is a board member of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, and has spent time in the United States. When she returned to Korea a few years ago, she began blogging in Korean and English about Korean resistance to militarism at nobasestorieskorea.blogspot.com.

Following her arrest, Global Network coordinator Bruce Gagnon stepped up his own agitation on behalf of the Jeju Islanders, soliciting solidarity and protest statements, e-mails, calls and faxes from around the world to Korean embassies and consulates, and initiating his own fast. From his home in Maine, he also began daily pickets at the Bath Iron Works, where the Aegis-class missile-interceptor warships destined for the Jeju Island base are built.

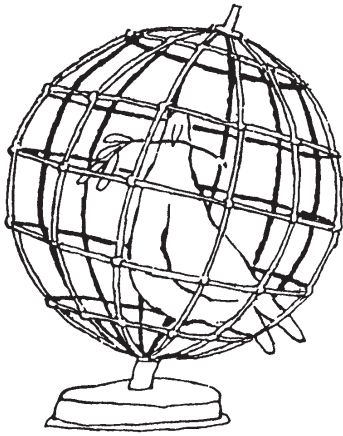
On June 1, Prof. Yang was tried and convicted, and sentenced to one and one-half years in jail with a suspended sentence and two years probation. Korean activists have no doubt that the international outcry on his behalf helped spring him from the jailhouse.

Upon release from a prison hospital after 57 days without food, his first words were, “Is Gangjeong peaceful?” and then, “My struggle will be continued to the end. Gangjeong villagers are the teacher who led me to the road of justice.” The next day the Catholic Bishop of Jeju visited him at a hospital and persuaded Yang to end his hunger strike, and Sung-Hee, still in prison, did as well because her health was in severe decline.

Supporters are concerned the harsh sentence spared Prof. Yang will fall on Sung-Hee, who is not so prominent. Global Network board member MacGregor Eddy traveled to Jeju for the trial. Sung-Hee gathered signatures of support from Korean activists after protesters were arrested at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California a couple of years ago, protesting space launches at events that Eddy organized.



For the latest news of Sung-Hee Choi’s trial, visit Bruce Gagnon’s blog at space4peace.blogspot.com. If



Sung-Hee is sentenced to more time in prison, support details will also be posted at nukeresister.org.

Yang Yoon-Mo, Sung-Hee Choi and the Gangjeong villagers ask that supporters contact the South Korean embassy or consulates in their country to demand an end to construction of the base, freedom for the prisoners, and reinstatement of the preservation law that was selectively annulled to open the coast to such massive development.

LONDON

Ash Wednesday in London was again the occasion for a demonstration outside the Ministry of Defence (MoD), this year organized by Pax Christi, Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Catholic Worker but inclusive of all faiths and people with no faith tradition. On three occasions, Catholic Workers crossed police lines and marked the MoD building with charcoal, “Repent”, “No More War”, “Trident is Sin”, “God is Love” and more.

Fr. Martin Newell, Henrietta Cullinan, Scott Albrecht, Maria Albrecht and Sr. Susan Clarkson were detained by police, questioned and eventually released with the notice that they may be summoned to court at a later date.

On Good Friday, British Catholic Workers mapped out a “Geography of Suffering” across central London, with stops along the way at arms dealers and government ministries where they carried out their own Stations of the Cross ritual. It began and ended at the Prime Minister’s residence at 10 Downing Street. When the twenty or so participants returned to that point, three men moved to the front of the tourists peering through the gates. When the gate was opened to let a car out, Frank Cordaro and Steve Jacobs, Catholic Workers visiting from the U.S., slipped in with London Catholic Worker Ciaron O’Reilly, kneeling in the road while holding signs in support of alleged U.S. army whistleblower and prisoner Bradley Manning.

What followed was a 40-minute standoff with London’s finest, while the three men used their impromptu soapbox to address the tourists about Manning’s treatment, war and torture. After repeated threats of arrest and imprisonment, police finally escorted the three men away across the street from the Prime Minister’s residence, questioned them, then released them from custody without charge.

GLOBAL RESISTANCE TO NUCLEAR POWER, CONT.

continued from page 1

FLAMANVILLE

At dawn on May 2, dozens of Greenpeace activists began a blockade of construction at France’s new Flamanville nuclear power plant. Two trucks were purposefully stuck in the ground to block the road, while other activists chained themselves to the gates and climbers occupied three construction cranes at the site. Workers were sent home, halting work for the day. Police arriving to the scene first cut through the chains and locks of those blocking the gates, and by afternoon were at work bringing down the climbers. Police reported that “The evacuation was completed without incident”, but among the 26 people released that evening, at least four showed evidence of police abuse including taser shots, blackened eyes and a chipped tooth. The 26 are charged with denying others the freedom to work and obstructing public works, and have a June 16 court date. The 16 climbers were held overnight and in court the next day faced an additional charge of endangering others. They’ll also be in court June 16.

MERSIN

Opposition to Turkey’s first nuclear power reactor near the Mediterranean coastal city of Mersin has sharply increased after Fukushima.

On April 19, tens of thousands joined a human chain at thirty points along the coast highway from Mersin city to the Akkuyu reactor site about 90 miles west along the coast. The chain was uninterrupted for the first twelve miles out of the city, and for miles around other population centers and the village nearest the reactor site.

Then on May 31 the trial of 58 people for violating the Meetings and Demonstrations Act was finally concluded with their acquittal on all charges. The activists faced up to two years in prison for simply trying to deliver a 170,000-signature petition opposing the nuclear project to

the Turkish Parliament last summer.

Three women were taken into custody June 2 when they unfurled an anti-nuclear banner at a campaign rally for the Prime Minister in Mersin. They were released the next day.

On June 3, Greenpeace Turkey began a campout in Istanbul’s Taksim Square, vowing to stay put until Turkey cancels the project that nearly two in three Turks oppose, a rate that rises to more than four out of five near the site.

JAITAPUR

Since last October, when thousands of people overwhelmed police in a nonviolent satyagraha convergence on a threatened coastal village, local opposition to India’s six-reactor Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project (JNPP) has both deepened and fractured.

One protester is dead, shot by police April 18 following a provocative demonstration to halt boundary wall construction at the site that went awry; hundreds of activists across the Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra state have been arrested, some in their homes, and jailed sometimes for weeks on a variety of charges, some obviously trumped-up; and criminal proceedings are underway against two leaders of the nonviolent opposition for “willfully” breaching a court order to stay out of the Jaitapur villages.

The demonstration at which local fisherman Tabrez Sohekar was killed was led by the opposition political party Shiv Sena. Its local leader, Rajan Salvi, was arrested on charges of banditry, robbery, attempt to murder, rioting and damage to public property related to the protest.

Environmental organizations and leaders in the nonviolent movements opposing the project distanced themselves from what they saw as the opportunistic provocations of Shiv Sena. The party, known for its confrontational style, only came out against the JNPP in

December, after the breadth and depth of local opposition was undeniable. For a month after the shooting, construction at the site stopped, and plans were put off for a mass hunger strike beginning in May. Authorities now commonly tap organizers’ cell phones to disrupt the organized opposition.

A few days after the shooting, police used various legal and coercive tactics to prevent a planned three-day “From Tarapur to Jaitapur” anti-nuclear yatra (protest pilgrimage) from India’s first commercial reactor to the JNPP site. Orders were signed prohibiting the yatra from entering Ratnagiri, but organizers did not relent. Police allowed the April 23 opening rally to proceed, then arrested two of the speakers, former High Court Justice B.G. Kolse-Patil and activist Vaishali Patil. Later, police arrested 134 people for illegal assembly when they set off together on the yatra. Released that night, the walkers boarded two buses, but their drivers were intimidated by authorities and took them only part-way to that night’s destination. In small groups, they made it into Pen, where police broke up their rally the next morning, jailing 22 for violating the prohibitory orders while encircling the rest until late afternoon. The yatra ended on the third day when the orders were enforced in Mahad, at the boundary of Ratnagiri district.

On April 26, the 25th anniversary of Chernobyl, the Indian government prominently affirmed its plan to go ahead with the Jaitapur project.

On May 3, the Maharashtra government formally charged B.G. Kolse-Patil and Vaishali Patil, both leaders of the nonviolent opposition, with violating emergency orders not to speak at rallies in the threatened villages last November and December.

Twelve Convicted of Y-12 Trespass, cont.

continued from page 5

was sustained. Asked if she felt she was willful, she was cut off again. Finally, her attorney John Eldridge asked her how she felt in the courtroom. “I feel happy that I did what my conscience calls me to do. And I feel sad for the court restrictions on what we can tell you,” she said to the jury. “I took an oath to tell the truth —”.

The judge cut her off with a stern admonishment to her lawyer.

Under cross examination, prosecutor Jeff Theodore asked Lentsch if she knew she was breaking the law as she crossed the line. “I was obeying a higher law,” she said. When he asked if Lentsch had discussed her intentions with others, ten lawyers leaped to their feet to object. The judge sustained the objection, then quipped, “I thought someone had called a recess when everyone stood up.”

Then Bichsel took the stand and spoke of the kingdom of God. “We pray the Our Father,” he said, reciting the words, “and we say ‘Thy kingdom come,’ and we forget it is possible for the kingdom of heaven to come on earth.” The judge sustained an objection to a question about the Freedom Riders, but in answering the next question Bichsel moved quickly to the Freedom Riders and said they did not expect to end segregation overnight, but they thought others would follow. He quoted Martin Luther King, Jr.’s statement that the choice now is between nonviolence or nonexistence.

When he was cross-examined, many in court were astonished to see a U.S. prosecutor, who had worked hard to make sure the defendants were not allowed to speak of their faith or religious motivation, ask Fr. Bichsel if he was familiar with the Bible verse that spoke of plowshares. She asked if he could he quote it exactly. By the time she got another word in, Bichsel had quoted the verse and was halfway through the homily.

At the conclusion of Bichsel’s cross-examination, court adjourned for the day.

The verdict came Wednesday at the end of a long day in court. Proceedings began at 9:15 a.m., but the day started a little earlier for some. In response to the court’s refusal to allow Mary Dennis Lentsch to submit as evidence the sign she carried over the line on July 5 (which pointed out that continued weapons production at Y-12 violated international law, U.S. Nonproliferation Treaty obligations and, by virtue of the supremacy clause of the Constitution, U.S. law as well), Lentsch, Ardeth Platte and Carol Gilbert arrived at the courthouse an hour before court and stood gagged before the front door for forty-five minutes. Behind them, David Dwyer held a sign that read simply: The Truth, The WHOLE TRUTH?

Brad Lyttle led off the testimony and began with his life story. Despite the judge’s repeated urgings that he move with haste to something “relevant,” Lyttle calmly spoke of his life of resistance – of civil rights marches that led to jail, anti-nuclear and anti-Vietnam war demonstrations, the peace walk from San Francisco to Moscow and leafletting in the streets of Russia, Poland and Germany.

Lyttle spoke of studying political science and tried three times to submit as evidence papers he wrote on the probability of a nuclear cataclysm; each time the papers were declared irrelevant by the judge.

In cross-examination, the prosecutor managed to give Lyttle one more chance to talk about the danger of nuclear weapons. Trying to get Lyttle to agree that Y-12 needs tight security, Jeff Theodore asked him if the materials Y-12 houses were dangerous.

“That’s an understatement!” Lyttle declared. “They are catastrophically dangerous!”

But, argued the prosecutor, they have to keep them secure.

“Get rid of them!” Lyttle suggested. “Then we’ll really be secure!”

In closing, Lyttle said he had a responsibility as a citizen to bring the danger of nuclear weapons to the attention of all Americans. “They can destroy us totally at any moment,” he said.

Beth Rosdatter was next on the stand. Her attorney, Wayne Stanbaugh, presented her and she raised her hand for the oath. “Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?” asked the court officer. “I promise I’ll tell nothing but the truth,” said Rosdatter, “but I can’t swear it will be the whole truth.”

Then she told the jury her story and her goal as a philosophy and ethics instructor. “I think we’ve lost the ability to talk about things that really matter like the moral or political direction of our country,” she said.

In cross-examining Rosdatter, the prosecutor asked if Rosdatter taught her students to break the law. She said, “No, but I do teach about necessity, the idea that if someone is strangling their wife, whether it is trespass or not to go in to stop him.”

Trying to discredit Rosdatter’s comparable claim of necessity, the prosecutor asked several ways whether Rosdatter simply thought she was above the law, and Rosdatter answered no, each time. Finally, Rosdatter, constrained



The Y-12 defendants at their pre-trial Festival of Hope-Filled Resistance: Back row from left, Michael Walli, Steve Baggarly, Bradford Lyttle, Sr. Mary Dennis Lentsch, Beth Rosdatter, Sr. Carol Gilbert, Jean Gump, Sr. Ardeth Platte, Sr. Jackie Hudson. Front row from left, Dennis DuVall, Bonnie Urfer, Fr. Bill Bichsel (photo), David Corcoran (photo).

from elaborating on her reasoning, said, “You are asking questions that I have been told I can’t answer.”

She was questioned then about the rights of the other protesters, on the approved side of the fence. She began her reply by saying it’s not a matter of the First Amendment as much as it is about the Sixth..., when she stopped, because the judge was calling for a private conference in the corner with the attorneys. When they came out of their huddle, the judge reprimanded the prosecutor for asking questions Rosdatter wasn’t allowed to answer.

Rosdatter was thus stymied just as she’d begun to address the significance of Article 6 of the Constitution, which makes international treaties (such as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty) binding under U.S. law. It was the defendants’ position, prohibited from mention in the courtroom, that continuing nuclear weapons production at Y-12 is in direct violation of U.S. obligations under the treaty. What’s a citizen to do in the face of lawless state action that threatens all of humanity?

It was a question that Rosdatter didn’t have the chance to ask or answer.

Steve Baggarly followed. He spoke of 25 years of service as a Catholic Worker and of his two boys. He launched into two brief stories and began telling the story of a hibakusha (survivor of the atomic bombings). As the first sentence ended, the prosecutor was on his feet. “Objection,” he said and then, revealing his secret gift of clairvoyance, “I believe I can see where this is going.”

The judge decided to defer his ruling, and Baggarly continued, describing the inferno of Hiroshima — and the objection was sustained.

Baggarly went on to note Y-12’s bombs would turn the world to hell, noting the root word of terror is the same as deterrence. “We keep fear alive as long as we keep nuclear weapons.”

Baggarly addressed the charge against him, saying, “The no trespass law at Y-12 is one of a web of laws used to protect weapons of mass destruction. The laws and the courts defend weapons for doomsday. The law is in the service of death. My action at Y-12 was to willfully do good in the service of life.”

On cross examination, the prosecutor tried to spar with Baggarly, asking him if he planned to go to China to protest their nuclear weapons. “Disarmament begins at home,” he answered. Asked if it was unlikely that nuclear weapons would be abolished, Baggarly said, “People in Egypt didn’t think it was likely they would overthrow the leadership of their country.”

Dennis DuVall was last on the stand, and Robert Kurtz put him through the paces. DuVall told of traveling to New York for the Nonproliferation Treaty review conference and hearing nations say they wanted to limit nuclear weapons but that they couldn’t do it. Unlike Lentsch’s, DuVall’s sign was returned to him and put into evidence. The sign has a photo of Martin Luther King, Jr. with the

words Abolish Nuclear Weapons Now.

Each of the *pro se* defendants and the others’ court appointed attorneys made a closing statement.

Mike Whalen quoted Martin Luther King, Jr.’s speech about seeing the promised land. Did “Bix” think crossing the line would end nuclear weapons? No, but it’s a start. He recited the facts about the cost of the new Oak Ridge bomb plant and the line of contractors at the federal trough. “Bix saw it,” Whalen said. “He said, ‘Enough!’”

Brad Lyttle’s closing was concise — the danger is imminent and total, so our demonstration is warranted.

Wayne Stanbaugh, Rosdatter’s attorney, chided the government for suggesting the protesters were playing a game. “This is no game. This is serious. Look at these defendants. This is about their lives, and they took it very seriously, and they exercised their civic duty to be at Y-12 and to do what they did.”

Steve Baggarly asked what it means to be human in a world of extreme poverty where the military spends more than \$3 million per minute. “Every minute is important,” Baggarly said, “every minute we move toward or away from the kingdom of God. It is time to put up the sword and share bread,” he concluded.

The prosecutor cast aspersions on the defendants who did not testify, suggesting they were hiding. And she attempted to lump them with terrorists: “What territory are we getting into here?” she asked, “Do you believe there are people out there who want to harm America? How do you know their intentions?”

The jury was given its instructions, deliberated a little more than an hour (in time to be home for dinner), and returned a verdict of guilty for each of the twelve defendants. Seven of them: Bonnie Urfer, Ardeth Platte, Mike Walli, Carol Gilbert, Steve Baggarly, Jackie Hudson and Jean Gump told the court they had no intention of continuing with the terms of their supervised release until returning to Tennessee for sentencing. They asked to surrender on Thursday morning but instead were taken from court in the custody of federal marshals.

The court was asked to place a hold on Bichsel’s custody, so that he can avoid the stress of prison transport back and forth to Washington. Under his current sentence, he will be released to home confinement on June 24, and attorney Whalen also asked that he be allowed to remain in Tennessee for sentencing as soon after release as possible, if it can spare him extra travel.

Outside the courthouse that evening, a circle of voices rose in song — “Hold on, hold on, keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.”

On May 20, Urfer, Platte, Gilbert, Baggarly, Hudson and Gump were all transferred to the Irwin County Detention Center, a private prison in south Georgia with federal contracts. Walli was moved there on June 3.

Sentencing dates are set as each convict’s presentencing report is completed. Several have been set for different days in September.

For more information, contact the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, POB 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, 865-776-5050, orep@earthlink.net, www.orepa.org. Prisoner updates are also posted at DisarmNowPlowshares.wordpress.com.



Over Memorial Day weekend, Jackie Hudson suffered severe chest pain but received little to no adequate assessment in the private prison, and some ibuprofen. Persistent advocacy from attorneys, physicians and supporters contacting the jail, the court, and the U.S. Marshals finally resulted in an ambulance arriving at the jail Tuesday morning, May 31, to take her to a hospital for evaluation. This initial exam ruled out coronary problems as the source of Hudson’s pain. She was returned to the jail’s medical isolation cell.

Individually addressed letters of support should be sent to William Bichsel, Bonnie Urfer, Ardeth Platte, Michael Walli, Carol Gilbert, Steve Baggarly, Jackie Hudson, and Jean Gump at the addresses shown on page 3, Inside & Out. Please note that Hudson and Gump may be released shortly after publication on a promise to appear for sentencing.

Vanunu Renews Exit Ask

Excerpts from a letter internally exiled Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu sent May 5 to Eli Yishai, Minister of the Interior:

Recently, the Knesset passed a law authorizing the revocation of Israeli citizenship for those convicted of espionage and treason.

For 25 years I am waiting and demanding the restoration of my complete freedom. I am asking the state of Israel to revoke my citizenship.

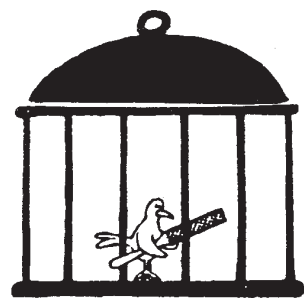
This wish for revocation of citizenship is neither new nor recent. Now, however, it is supported by the new Citizenship Revocation Law, passed on March 28, 2011.

I have no other citizenship, but I can easily get one, even during my enforced sojourn in Israel, and certainly if I leave the country.

After the treatment and “care” which I got from this country and its citizens, I cannot feel myself a wanted citizen here. In the Israeli media and on the Israeli streets I am called “the atomic spy” and “a traitor”, harassed and persecuted as an enemy of the state for 25 years.

I feel myself still imprisoned, still a prisoner of war and a hostage, held by the state and the government... I wish to exercise my right to the freedom of conscience and the freedom of choice, by choosing not to be a citizen of Israel...

I ask you to let me be free from Israel as our dislike is mutual.



Update Files

BIG RAPIDS, MICHIGAN: Two Michigan activists charged in last summer’s public pieing of Senator Carl Levin pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge in exchange for dismissal of felony “forcible” assault charges, which carried up to eight years in prison. While Max Kantar read a statement condemning Levin’s pro-war politics, Ahlam Mohsen pitched the pastry during a coffee-shop meet-up with the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. They will be sentenced June 20 in federal court in Grand Rapids, and face a maximum of one year in prison, up to 5 years probation, and up to a \$100,000 fine...

PENTAGON: Federal Magistrate Buchanan dismissed charges against Steve Wolford, Beth Brockman and Joan Wages, nabbed for leafletting the workaday warriors during an Atlantic Life Community demonstration on December 28. She said the government failed to prove its case...

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE: Jean Boucher, Dennis DuVall and John Heid were convicted in city court May 17 of trespassing at the local war base after Tucson’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day march on January 17. They walked into the base with letters for base personnel opposing depleted uranium munitions and armed drones, key ingredients in the base’s mission. They were each sentenced to time served, plus one year of unsupervised probation during which they may not return to the base, and \$200 in jail costs or 20 hours of community service for a non-profit, not excluding anti-war work...

LEONARD PELTIER: Two months after a biopsy, Peltier was finally informed that he does not have prostate cancer. His Defense Offense Committee wrote in early May that because symptoms persist, new tests have been conducted, and a diagnosis is long overdue. Peltier’s severe diabetes is a complicating factor, so the Committee and Peltier have asked supporters to continue contacting the Bureau of Prisons and request that Peltier be transferred to FCI-Oxford or FMC Rochester. Either facility can adequately accommodate his medical needs. Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 1st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20534, info@bop.gov, voice: 202-307-3198, fax: 202-514-6620...

WASHINGTON, D.C.: A charge of disorderly conduct against former CIA analyst Ray McGovern has been dismissed. McGovern stood silently with his back turned on Secretary of State Hilary Clinton in an anti-war protest on February 15, when she spoke at George Washington University. Police left him bruised and bloodied after forcing him out of the hall, handcuffing him twice and booking him at the station...

U.S.A.F. MILDENHALL: Lindis Percy, a persistent nonviolent opponent of U.S. military bases on U.K. soil, was finally tried April 5 and acquitted of violating the post-9/11 Serious Organized Crime and Police Act when

FUTURE ACTIONS

hiroshima/nagasaki

d.c.

Jonah House and the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Community will host a Hiroshima/Nagasaki Days Faith and Resistance Retreat in Washington, D.C., with nonviolent direct actions at the White House and Pentagon. Details pending. For more information, contact Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, 202-882-9649.

bangor

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action will commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with nonviolent direct action at Kitsap-Bangor Navy Base, homeport of Trident nuclear submarines. Details pending, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, www.gzcenter.org, email info@gzcenter.org, 360-930-8697.

livermore

Planning is underway for a Hiroshima Day commemoration at the Livermore nuclear weapons lab in California, with civil resistance planned for Nagasaki Day, August 9. For more info as plans develop, contact Tri-Valley CAREs at 925-443-7148 or visit trivalleycares.org.

dsei

This September, the world’s biggest arms fair returns to the conference center at London Docklands, England. Make no mistake; this is the big one – the nexus of 1,200 purveyors of capitalism, war and repression. Join the Day of Action against DSEi on Tuesday, September 13, and other actions all week. In previous years there have been street parties, Critical Mass bike rides, die-ins, mock sales of “arms”, legs and even a tank; splashing fake blood across the entrances, engaging with arms dealers on the trains and platforms, invading the car park and rail entrance, blocking the roads, locking on to the trains, tripod and boat blockades to stop equipment from arriving at the arms fair and more. Find out where the arms dealers’ dinner is taking place on September 15 and spoil their party! For more information, visit dsei.org.

nevada

A National Catholic Worker Gathering will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 7–9, 2011. Roundtable discussions, hikes, prayer, crafts, singing, opportunity for civil disobedience at the Nevada Test Site (nuclear weapons) and Creech Air Force Base (drone warfare). Hosted by the Las Vegas Catholic Worker at Christ the King Catholic Community. Confirmed attendance already from at least 100 Catholic Workers, families and friends in 27 states [NR editors’ note: including us!]. If you plan to attend, or for more information, please contact the Las Vegas Catholic Worker, 500 W. Van Buren Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106, 702-647-0728, mail@lcnv.org.

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stratcom

The Des Moines and Omaha Catholic Workers will sponsor their annual 3-1/2 day August 6-9 “shake and bake” vigil at the gates of Offutt Air Force Base, in Bellevue, Nebraska, home of the Strategic Nuclear (STRATCOM) and the U.S. Military Space Commands. Vigil concludes August 9 from 8–11 a.m. with a ceremony and line crossing. Evening programs to be announced; come for an hour or the whole time. Bring a bedroll for church floor space or call ahead for other hospitality. For more info contact Jerry Ebner at 402-502-5887 or email cwomaha@gmail.com.

lockheed-martin

Brandywine Peace Community will hold a Hiroshima Day commemoration and vigil, concluding with nonviolent civil disobedience beginning at noon on Saturday, August 6 at Lockheed Martin corporation on Goddard Boulevard, behind the King of Prussia Mall, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Call the Brandywine Peace Community, 610-544-1818, by July 25 if interested in participating in the Hiroshima Day civil disobedience.

sweden

Ofog, the Swedish anti-militarist network, invites international activists to this summer’s action camp against military combat training in Luleå, northern Sweden. 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. This year’s day of action aims to paint the arms pink. For more information, visit www.warstartshere.com/en and www.ofog.org or email info@ofog.org, phone +46 (0) 733 81 53 61.

olkiluoto

Join this summer’s blockade of Europe’s largest, most expensive, new nuclear power plant at Olkiluoto, Finland. Plan to be there by August 20. Full details about the encampment, nonviolent direct actions, accommodation, legal consequences, maps and other information will be found at olkiluotoblockade2011.wordpress.com/english.

hinkley point

On October 3, 2011 activists will nonviolently blockade the access to Hinkley Point nuclear power station in Somerset for one day.

While the blockade will be the key focus, there will be plenty of roles and activities for people who do not wish to risk arrest. So everyone who is anti-nuclear can come to express their opposition in many different ways. There will be a nonviolence training to prepare for the blockade. Information at stopnewnuclear.org.uk.

she took a walk inside the Suffolk, England air base in October 2009. The gate officer testified he was busy and didn’t see her slip in; she said he’d examined her ID and waved her through. Video evidence from only the crucial moments was oddly missing. At the end of the trial, the judge said the airman, “like any human being, reran the incident to make it look rather different.” Knowing he would be in “hot water, being human he may have blotted out this incident.” Furthermore, “anyone listening to Ms. Percy would believe her.” The charge was dismissed, and Percy was awarded costs...

CHICAGO: Charges were dropped for ten people arrested at the federal building January 11 in a solidarity action with the Witness Against Torture fast and direct actions in Washington, D.C....

ALDERMASTON: Three Christians who cut a new gate for disarmament workers through the fence at the British nuclear weapons complex last September were in Newbury Magistrates Court May 24, but had trouble finding a judge for the case until late in the day. Trial commenced, but did not conclude, and had to be continued until June 21. In another case going back to the Big Blockade of February, 2010, three people stood for trial in Newbury for trespassing through the Boilerhouse gate. They were charged under a special post–9/11 section protecting nuclear establishments, but the evidence showed that while they did in fact cross the line, the blockaders had had to weave their way through police, arms locked together, to get to a gate that was then opened for them. The judge held onto the technical question, and convicted Rae Bradford, Janet Fenton and Gillian Lawrence. After expressing concern that the legislation had been used to bring them to court, he sentenced them to three months conditional

continued on page 12

Pro se Defense, cont.

continued from page 2

ing notified. Resisting arrest charges are often dismissed after a showing that the legal definition of resisting in the statute doesn't include arguing with a police officer or passive non-cooperation, such as going limp.

C. CONSTITUTION. Local ordinances frequently conflict with generally accepted interpretations of the U.S. Constitution. Many contemporary judges will override local and state statutes and regulations if defendants present a clear and articulate defense appealing to the broad freedoms of religion, speech, press and public assembly guaranteed in the First Amendment.*

7. At my May 23, 2001 trial for illegal re-entry to Ft. Benning, the prosecutor presented seven witnesses against me. These testified about arrest and detention processes at Benning, and how I was processed on two occasions at their gymnasium processing center. However, they did not produce any witness to the date, time, place or circumstances of my individual arrest. I pointed this out to the judge at the close of the prosecution case and asked for acquittal on prosecution failure to present proof of the charge against me. I also made an eloquent generalized Constitutional defense based on freedom to assemble at a base that was then otherwise open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for every other kind of normal entry and activities that are not guaranteed or privileged by the Constitution.

Judge Faircloth complimented me on my wisdom and on the competence of my defense. Nonetheless, without any explanation of his reasoning, he still found me guilty and imposed the maximum prison sentence of six months. No defendant, whether *pro se* or represented by a lawyer, should ever naively assume that a judge will conscientiously follow the laws, Constitution, or accepted legal procedures of our judicial system. You may be convicted when you have committed no illegal act; you may be acquitted, for various reasons, even though you may have committed an act that may be illegal.

8. Anyone new to *pro se* defense can benefit greatly from discussing their case thoroughly with experienced *pro se* defendants or lawyers familiar with civil protest cases. (Sometimes discussions with lawyers who have no practical experience with such cases will be misleading rather than helpful.)

Do it, and learn. I'm usually available, and happy to

talk to other activists. Here is a rough count of my trial record over the last 34 years (since I first started representing myself and pleading not guilty in most nonviolent civil action cases): pled guilty, seven times; not guilty, 29 times; dismissed before trial on motion of prosecutor or judge, 12; acquitted, 8; convicted, 8; outstanding warrant, 1. Conviction rate in contested cases, 29%. Not Clarence Darrow, but not shabby either.

Karl Meyer, Nashville Greenlands, 2407 Heiman St.,
Nashville, TN 37208, 615-322-9523.

* “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

...Clamshell Call to Action! Responding to the Catastrophe at Fukushima. Veterans of New England's anti-nuclear Clamshell Alliance are calling on Clams to meet at the World Fellowship in Conway, New Hampshire on July 23 to plan and strategize and organize. The meeting will take place during the Clamshell Alliance reunion, July 22 – 24. For rooms, tenting and dining, the World Fellowship can accommodate up to 150 overnight, so reserve soon (www.worldfellowship.org) if you plan to stay over. Clams who cannot attend are encouraged to connect with other Clams, allies and concerned citizens, to hold meetings in their local and regional communities, organize nonviolent actions, demonstrations and educational events, send spokes to the July 23 meeting. For more information and to share your plans with other Clams, email info@clamshellalliance.org and visit clamshellalliance.org.

... **Radiating Posters** is a beautiful 194-page full-color book that tells the history of the anti-nuclear power movement through its posters from across the globe. Published by WISE Amsterdam and the Laka Foundation, and drawing on the Foundation's extensive and unique collection of posters as well as private collections from people all over the world. \$35 includes priority mail shipping from Nuclear Information and Resource Service, 6930 Carroll Ave. #340, Takoma Park, MD 20912, or order online via the NIRS Store at nirs.org. Outside the U.S., order via www.laka.org/radiatingposters.html.

Update Files, cont.

continued from page 11

discharge and £50 towards costs. Two co-defendants who were too ill to attend trial have since had their cases dismissed at the suggestion of the judge...

NEW YORK CITY: Nine people arrested last December at the Times Square military recruiting station were in court for trial April 8. After confirming from each of the officers who testified that the protesters had acted in an orderly or peaceful manner, the judge then asked each if it was acceptable to offer that the cases be adjourned contemplating dismissal. Hearing no objection, the offer was made and the defendants all accepted...

...Abalone Alliance Looks Forward – Families and friends are invited to a potluck picnic at noon on Sunday, August 7, at Brommer St. Park & 30th Ave., Santa Cruz, hosted by Abalone member group, Santa Cruz People for a Nuclear Free Future. Were you there at Diablo Canyon protesting the building of the nuclear power plant thirty plus years ago? Well then, it is time for a look back and a look forward! Special showing at 1 p.m. of David L. Brown's award winning documentary, *A Question of Power*, about the resistance actions at Diablo. \$10 suggested donation benefits the Resource Center for Nonviolence. For more information, contact Harvey at h.dosik@sbcglobal.net, 831-420-1567.

Cooking for Peace with Food Not Bombs – Cultivating Community, Reaping Revolution, written and illustrated by Keith McHenry. (2011, See Sharp Press; free review copy download at foodnotbombs.net or \$25 postpaid (*after Fall 2011 release*) from Food Not Bombs, POB 424, Arroyo Seco, NM 87514 USA; 364 pp, 8.5"x11") The fully-revised handbook features over 200 photos and illustrations, the 30 year history of the movement and logistics on how to start a local group, organize meetings, tours, gatherings and successful campaigns of nonviolent direct action, plus vegan recipes to provide meals for groups of 100 and families of six. Includes flyers to reprint and many other useful details to bring about "The Change We Knead."

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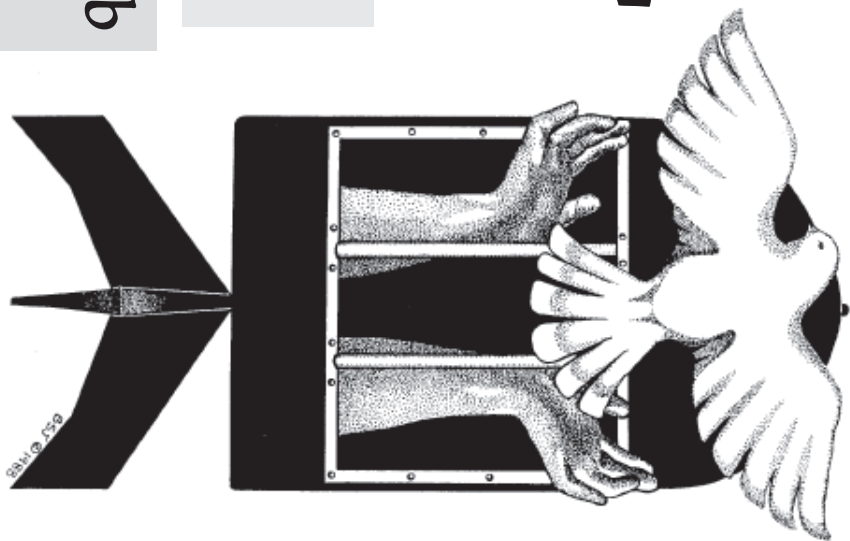
Global Resistance to Nuclear Power on the Rise

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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