

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 164

December 5, 2011

N-Waste Train Draws Record Resistance



Castor Schottern photo

Castor Schottern activists in Germany work together to stop the train carrying nuclear waste by removing gravel ballast from under the rails.

The 12th and last of the scheduled rail shipments of German nuclear reactor waste from a reprocessing center in France left the station a day earlier than expected in November. Authorities wanted to get the jump on tens of thousands of nuclear resisters assembling all along the possible routes from La Hague to the geologic grave site at Gorleben, in Germany's northern Wendland. Despite the head start, this shipment took longer than any other to reach its destination due to the largest such opposition protest ever mounted in France, and the second largest in 35 years of nuclear waste protest in Germany. France's failure to get German agreement to the expedited shipment also added to a delay at their border.

An echo of the past and inspiration for the present resistance to the shipments came from a prison in Frankfurt, where Franziska Wittig began serving an 80-day sentence October 14 for conviction of assault. She and two others had chained themselves to the tracks in November 2008, stopping the train at the French border for 12 hours. Wittig refused to pay an €800 fine.

Eleven massive Castor canisters on special rail cars made up the train that pulled out of Valognes, France, late on the afternoon of November 23. Already that morning, police using teargas and truncheons had cleared demonstrators from many places along the tracks, and during the day had faced down about 400 people moving

through the countryside towards the railroad. While the protest camp just south of Valognes was being kept under pressure, the train proceeded haltingly through the evening as people were cleared from the tracks and damaged rail bed was repaired.

By that night, the train was headed through Amiens to Reims, and police had arrested at least 16 people and sent a few to the hospital. All those detained or arrested were released on the same day, and at least five are being prosecuted: two for trespassing on the tracks, two for a pair of small axes found in their van when stopped and searched, and an elderly woman being prosecuted for collecting four drinks from a torched police catering van. Trials are set for January 31 and February 7, 2012. Criminal damage inquiries into sabotage along the tracks and the actual arson of the catering van may lead to further prosecutions.

Meanwhile, in Germany, thousands of people and hundreds of tractors and other farm implements were converging along the possible rail routes, particularly the last 25 miles between Lüneburg and Dannenberg. As the shipment left Valognes, that section was closed to passenger rail service, and Radio Free Wendland went on the air, broadcasting updates from the tracks and helping coordinate local support and resistance. A large variety of direct actions and blockades, public as well as unannounced activities, would unfold over the next few days in the region well known for its broad support of the Castor protests.

The next morning, the train was stopped in Rémilly, and there it remained until Germany was expecting it. Police massed on both sides of the French-German border as protesters speculated about which route would be taken. In the Wendland, after an evening rally in Metzingen, more than a thousand demonstrators moved past police onto the main road between Lüneburg and Dannenberg, blocking traffic. Police responded with chemical sprays and water cannon to retake the road, injuring 20.

The train crossed the border Friday morning and was briefly stopped in Neunkirchen for protesters to be cleared from the track. In the Wendland, arson of police vehicles and railway hardware was reported, and police searched vehicles traveling the area. That night, journalists were kept out and police again brought water cannons into

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Woman Arrested at Ft. Benning

Musicians sang out the names of those killed by graduates of the School of the Americas during the solemn funeral procession in front of the entrance to Fort Benning, Georgia. The thousands gathered responded to each name, calling "Presente!"

One Colorado woman was arrested November 20 at the annual vigil and demonstration to commemorate those killed by graduates of the notorious training institute and to call for its immediate closure. The U.S. Army School of the Americas, renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (SOA/WHINSEC) in 2001, has turned out some of Latin America's most notorious killers and continues to be implicated in human rights abuses today.

Organizers estimate about 5,000 people participated in the three-day event this year, the largest ongoing anti-militarization gathering in the country. Theresa Cusimano, a public interest advocate for over 20 years, spoke to the crowd before climbing over the fence at the gate.

"I'm ruined for life! Are you? When you witness injustice, it changes you," she said. "You can't function in the world the way you did before bearing witness."

Cusimano was arrested at Fort Benning in 2008 as part of a protest against the SOA/WHINSEC, and for that action she served two months in federal prison. This year, she posted bond and will return in January for trial in federal court.

For more information, contact soaw.org, 202-234-3440.



Off the Bus

HELEN OUT!

Nuclear disarmament activist Helen Woodson was released from federal prison on September 9, after nearly 27 years behind bars. 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. She is living in the Kansas City area, and wrote recently, "I'm healthier and more fit than at any time in the last 14 years, and intellectually, emotionally and spiritually, I'm very happy."

Ten Get Prison for Trespass at Tennessee N-Bomb Plant

(Thanks to Ralph Hutchison of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance for his reporting on the sentencings, incorporated into this story. Available sentencing statements and complete reports are collected on our blog at www.nukeresister.org/2011/09/)

The federal court in Knoxville, Tennessee was the venue for eleven separate hearings over eleven days in September, each for the purpose of sentencing a single defendant convicted of trespass at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge. In July, 2010, thirteen people from the Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future gathering crossed over or around a barbed wire fence marking federal property at the bomb plant. Standing in a circle just beyond the fence, they read a Declaration of Independence from Nuclear Weapons that condemned the production of nuclear weapons at Y-12 as a crime against humanity and asserted their right "to peacefully resist the nuclear threat; attacking as it does every core concept of human rights."

Illness prevented defendant David Corcoran from joining the group at their trial last May, and his trial will proceed sometime in the new year. Defendant Sister Jackie Hudson passed away on August 3. Hudson had been jailed for one month following her conviction when she became seriously ill. After serious neglect by a for-profit prison, Hudson was finally hospitalized and then released from custody. Back home in Washington state, she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma shortly before her death.

At the time of their sentencing, six of the defendants

were in custody, five since trial. All had refused to agree to return to court as a condition of release. Four remain behind bars today: Bonnie Urfer, Mike Walli, and Steve Baggarly, each serving the remainder of eight-month sentences imposed at their hearings on September 14, 19, and 20, respectively; and Fr. Bill Bichsel SJ, serving a three month sentence that began November 11 when he reported to a federal prison near his home in Tacoma, Washington.

Srs. Ardeth Plate OP and Carol Gilbert OP were both sentenced to time served on September 16, and released from custody.

Bradford Lyttle was sentenced September 20 to one month house arrest plus one year probation.

Sr. Mary Dennis Lentsch rescinded her release agreement and reported to prison on June 21. She was sentenced to time served on September 21 and also released from custody.

Beth Rosdatter and Dennis DuVall were the last to be sentenced, on September 21 and 22, and each was sentenced to one month in prison, no fine, and no probation. Both were immediately taken into custody and have since completed their sentences.

Jean Gump, who went to jail after trial before agreeing to conditions of release due to family concerns a month later, and Bichsel, who was already in custody during their trial, serving time for the Disarm Now Plowshares action, were the first to be sentenced on September 12.

Gump, an 84-year-old veteran of the 1986 Silo Plowshares nuclear missile disarmament action in Missouri, was spared a return trip to Tennessee from her home in Michigan that morning, and with the court's permission was represented by her attorney, Francis Lloyd.

Prosecutor Melissa Kirby, revealing a snide and vindictive facet that surfaced on occasion through the sentencing hearings, asserted that Gump's absence revealed a "lack of contrition," and that her actions at Y-12 put the safety of many people at risk as well as threatened our national security. She derided Gump's "presumptuous" attempt to "create her own sentence," by going to jail for a month, and even said she should be held accountable for the actions of supporters, including stilt-walking clowns in the courtyard of the courthouse complex. At that one, even Judge Bruce Guyton rolled his eyes, saying, "I don't recall Ms. Gump being disruptive during the proceedings. In fact, I don't believe she even testified." The state asked for a four month prison term plus five years supervised probation, but Guyton sentenced Gump to time served plus a \$500 fine and \$25 "special fee."

Despite his longer rap sheet and more recent felony conviction, at the afternoon sentencing of Bichsel the state asked that he get the same four months plus five years probation suggested for Gump.

In his statement to the court, Bichsel spoke of Martin Luther King, Jr., and quoted him at length. "We are called

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Resistance Reflections

Jack & Felice Cohen-Joppa, editors

We’ve been heartened to see the public outrage expressed as nonviolently as imaginable, given the spontaneous proliferation this fall of hundreds of Occupy manifestations across this country’s vast landscape. It has truly spread virally, each outbreak presenting a bit differently as this amazing social organism rapidly adapts to different hosts and expresses itself in new ways each time.

Naturally, we have paid attention to the thousands of arrests resulting from this nascent movement. As it happens, Occupy arrests in the Baked Apple (Tucson, our hometown), have totaled second only to those reported in the Big Apple, New York City. According to Occupy Tucson and the chroniclers at www.OccupyArrests.org, nearly 600 citations have been issued to date in Tucson for trespass after hours in downtown city parks.

There is no question that many of those involved across the country share some amount of disagreement with U.S. warmaking. Anti-war activists have been involved in many of the occupations.

The Brandywine Peace Community and other Philadelphia area peace groups have stood at Occupy Philly, “visibly making the connection between corporate

Y-12 Resisters, cont.

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to justice, judge,” he said. “All of us. You are, judge, we all are.”

He said that he approached the court with King’s hope of a moral universe bending toward justice.

“When we threaten other nations with nuclear weapons,” Bichsel said, “We can hardly say we are bent on peace, sisterhood and brotherhood. Nagasaki and Hiroshima have shown us the terrible destructive power of these bombs. We can do something as a nation instead of using our power to shove Afghans around. We can share with one another, enter into a dialogue.

“Myself, in this court of justice, I want today to recommit myself to justice, to nonviolence, to the love of Jesus, to work with others of different beliefs. I want to commit myself in conjunction with Jackie Hudson, my codefendant who died a short while ago, she is also a very moving spirit. ...

“I recommit myself in the spirit of Gandhi, of Martin Luther King, Jr., of Oscar Romero. I stand hoping to have the strength to carry out this commitment, even to death, in this courtroom of justice.”

Bichsel was sentenced to three months in prison, no fine and no probation.

Bonnie Urfer’s sentencing statement, written from the Ocilla County Jail, is featured on page 7. While Urfer sounded an alarm about the crimes of state, the judge was alarmed by Urfer’s crimes.

“The court finds you are a prolific criminal,” he said, noting her more than 50 convictions for trespass on federal property and other arrests of unknown disposition.

“You are not deterred by sentences, and you have regularly informed courts that you will not comply with terms of supervised release and your actions have validated that promise. You most likely will not stop. So the only way to insure you will not continue this behavior that has become your routine, if you will, is to separate you from the community.” He then sentenced Urfer to eight months, with credit for time served (4 months and 3 days), no probation, and no fine. The sentence was to serve as an adequate deterrence and a just punishment, Guyton said.

True to their Dominican Order’s call to be preachers, Carol Gilbert and Ardeth Platte each thoughtfully and passionately addressed the court at their September 16 sentencings. Gilbert began her elocution, delivered just before the judge handed down his sentence, with some clarifications for the court.

“We do not choose jail. We do choose nonviolent direct action. We do choose to try to uphold Article 6 of the United States Constitution which was not allowed in this courtroom. We do choose life over death. But we do not choose jail.”

Gilbert declared that Oak Ridge can not continue to refurbish and upgrade nuclear warheads and, at the same time, adhere to humanitarian law and the laws of war. She spoke of women she met in jail who had horror stories to tell of the damage done to their families, health, and the environment by the work at Y-12, disputing the court’s ruling that the work of Y-12 did not pose an imminent threat.

Her admonition continued. “This court has no understanding of the difference between civil disobedience and civil resistance. Civil disobedience means breaking a specific law. One example from our history is the African-American population who broke the racist Jim Crow municipal ordinances by sitting at lunch counters legally

dominance and the moneyed interests of the super rich, and the power and influence of war profiteers, like Lockheed Martin, where war and greed propel each through the U.S.’s permanent war economy and weapons industry.”

While the chant, “How do we end this deficit? End the war, tax the rich!” rises from some marches, it largely appears secondary to the movement’s most identifiable message: spotlighting social inequality due to corporate greed dominating society and government. Reading various Occupy group’s declarations, not all even mention U.S. militarism among their many condemnations of the inequitable and undemocratic way things are.

Perhaps this is also a function of bias in mainstream media reporting. But not even the most liberal polls have shown that all of the 99% oppose U.S. military aggression.

While military veterans have played a notable role in many of the Occupy encampments, our survey of more than 4,700 reported arrests in at least 68 different cities and towns turned up little evidence of anti-war - let alone anti-nuclear - sentiment among the motivations stated for risking arrest.

For this reason, we’ve decided at this time not to report all of these arrests in *the Nuclear Resister*,



prohibited from serving them. Civil resistance is upholding the laws... In many countries around the world and sometimes in this country people are acquitted for these nonviolent actions. Our Y-12 action on July 5, 2010 was an act of civil resistance.”

Gilbert was sentenced to time served, over four months, with no probation or fines.

Four hours later, Sr. Ardeth Platte addressed the court with the story of her own life of conscience and activism, titled “I Refuse to Be Silent.”

“During the 1980s and 1990s, under the tutelage of lawyers, we learned the laws of the United States applicable to nuclear weapons, war, and our own nonviolent actions,” Platte said, “and our duty and responsibility to stop them.

“Nuclear weapons inflict indiscriminate and uncontrollable mass destruction, violate fundamental rules and principles of humanitarian law, and threaten the existence of life itself.” She spoke of the specific work at Y-12, refurbishing the W76 warhead, as breaches of Article 6 of the Nonproliferation Treaty.

“So I ask you,” she said, “Is it our democratic right to stop wrong-doing? Is it legal to defy treaties? Is it legal to kill civilians? Is it legal to bomb countries with which no war has been declared? To torture? Is it legal to threaten with nuclear weapons?...

“My question is – where are the courts and judges? Will any of you be agents for change as were the courts in abolishing slavery, child labor, gaining civil rights, women’s voting, unionization, and other laws galore that had to be upheld and interpreted? It is an urgent time, a kairos moment, a key time in history – wherein abolition of nuclear weapons is law. Let all of us go home to feed the poor and serve God’s people! Never again bring to court nonviolent civil resisters at Y-12. Cases dismissed. Join the movement to stop weapons, war and killing! Prosecutors – bring forth the cases of contamination and radiation. Stop nuclear weapons and prosecute those breaking the law. As Jackie would say, “Let’s all take another step outside our comfort zone.” I trust and hope you will be the persons that will someday do it.”

But Guyton was not, not this time, and he sentenced Platte to time served, no probation or fine.

Mike Walli did not speak in court when he was brought from jail for sentencing September 19. His court-appointed attorney, Chris Irwin, reviewed for the judge a bit of Walli’s history; his service in Vietnam and the effects of that combat experience, his spiritual awakening and conversion to Christianity, and his dedication to a life of service in communities, feeding the hungry, painting,

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excepting those where we learn that an anti-war or anti-nuclear motivation is the driving motivation for the action. (Please let us know if that’s the case for you or people you know.) We’re glad the folks at OccupyArrests.org are keeping track, and trust that within the Occupy movement, if and when people are locked up, their situation will be publicized and the larger movement encouraged to support those behind bars.

where we’re at

We are certainly grateful. We received many donations large and small for the work of *the Nuclear Resister* and specifically for a new used car. Notes with your own travel and dust-storm anecdotes, maintenance and mechanical advice, and model suggestions were all appreciated!

A few days before this issue was due at the printer, Jack went to pick up the holiday cards being printed at our friend Dwight’s community-building union print shop, the Gloo Factory. (You can check out his wide array of bike stickers, bumper stickers, buttons and more at peacesupplies.org) After a stop at the credit union on the way home, the van wouldn’t start, and spent the weekend at the mechanic’s getting a broken fuel pump replaced - reminding us that it is indeed time to look for another car. Once this issue is mailed out (thanks to the friends who fill our living room and sit at our kitchen table to fold, label, stamp, stuff and staple), we will begin searching in earnest.

If you haven’t yet sent a contribution, it’s not too late - donations are still needed and welcome, both to continue publishing *the Nuclear Resister* and for purchase of a more efficient used car to replace the van. Thank you!

Throughout this issue, there are very powerful and eloquent court testimony and action statements. We hope you will be as moved and inspired by them as we are. We are particularly grateful for the sentencing statements made by Y-12 defendants in Judge Guyton’s Knoxville courtroom, and for those who continue to spend time in prison as a result of the action that capped the July 2010 gathering marking the 30th anniversaries of Nukewatch, *the Nuclear Resister* and the Plowshares Eight.

We hope your holiday season is filled with love and joy, and wish you all the best - plus more peace, more justice, more nonviolent resistance throughout the world - in the new year.

Thanks

Thanks to Jerry, David, Matt, Faith, Cindy, John, Paige, Charlotte, Eric and Katie for helping to mail the last issue, and to Joyce for folding and typing work for this 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

THE PROSECUTION OF BRADLEY MANNING TO BEGIN

Jeju Defenders Freed, Struggle Continues

Accused Wikileaks whistleblower Bradley Manning will finally get to court beginning December 16. The occasion is his Article 32 hearing, a military court martial pretrial proceeding. Defense attorney David Coombs has indicated he may call up to 50 witnesses over five days. Vigils and rallies are planned for the Fort Meade Main Gate, located between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland, on Friday, December 16, and Saturday, December 17, Manning’s 24th birthday. December 17 is also an International Day of Solidarity with Bradley, with scores of actions nationally and worldwide. For more information, visit www.bradleymanning.org.

Some of Manning’s supporters were in court last month. In March, during a demonstration against Manning’s treatment in solitary confinement at the

PELTIER MOVED

In September, Leonard Peltier was moved to the high security unit of the U.S. Penitentiary at Coleman, Florida, nearly 2,000 miles from his Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota. He is no longer in solitary and privileges have been restored ahead of schedule. Living conditions are reportedly an improvement from Lewisburg, and he is surrounded again by indigenous brothers.

During its annual conference in November in Portland, Oregon, the National Congress of American Indians unanimously passed a resolution in support of freedom for Leonard Peltier.

For more information, contact the LPDOC, POB 7488, Fargo, ND 58106, 701-235-2206, contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info



Letters of support for Peltier’s transfer to a prison within 500 miles of his family and Nation, ideally, to the medium security facility at Oxford, Wisconsin, should be sent to Dr. Thomas Kane, Acting Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 1st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20534, Fax: 202-514-6620.

Also, February 4 is the next International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier, and supporters are encouraged to demand his freedom with public demonstrations at federal court houses and U.S. embassies or consulates. For more information and to register your local action, visit www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/04FebSolidarity.htm.

Letters of support should also be sent to Leonard Peltier #89637-132, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

Quantico Marine Base in Triangle, Virginia, 33 people were charged with unlawful assembly and/or malicious obstruction of traffic.

Since the arrests, some defendants pled guilty and paid fines, one refused and spent a day in jail, and others had their charges dismissed. The dismissals resulted from an agreement that the defendants would give up their rights to a jury trial, and four of them would go forward in a bench trial. Jean Athey, Helen Gerhardt, and Max Obuszewski each faced a charge of malicious obstruction of traffic, and Ann Wright was charged with unlawful assembly. Wright’s charge was dismissed when the state failed to produce sufficient evidence, but the others were convicted and fined \$15 plus court costs of about \$177.



Letters of support should be sent to Bradley Manning 89289, JRCF, 830 Sabalu Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027.

Disarm Now Plowshares Update

Lynne Greenwald was released on September 26 after serving a six month sentence in SeaTac Federal Detention Center for her participation in the 2009 Disarm Now Plowshares action. Greenwald was initially released on the morning of September 12, earning two weeks off her sentence for good behavior. Following her release, she greeted well-wishers outside the prison and was interviewed briefly on videotape. As instructed, she then went directly to Irma Gary House – the halfway house for women that Greenwald had previously managed – and then to the Federal Progress House to receive orders for the remaining two weeks of her sentence on house arrest. While filling out paperwork at the Progress House, U.S. Marshals arrived and arrested Greenwald for allegedly violating her conditions of release. They transported her to a holding cell in Tacoma and then re-incarcerated her at the SeaTac Prison.

Upon learning of Greenwald’s arrest, supporters immediately contacted the U.S. Marshal’s office as well as attorneys working on Greenwald’s behalf. Attorney Blake Kremer learned that Greenwald was picked up on a probation violation based on the requirement that she go immediately to the halfway house. Evidently the Bureau of Prisons ordered Greenwald arrested for having the temerity to briefly talk to people gathered to celebrate her release.

As Greenwald was being processed out, she crossed paths with Disarm Now Plowshares codefendant Sr. Anne

Montgomery, who was reporting at the conclusion of her two months house arrest to have her ankle bracelet removed.

After her second release, Greenwald returned to her work ministering to other women released from prison and undergoing difficult transitions.

Codefendants Fr. Steve Kelly and Susan Crane are still serving their prison sentences, while Fr. Bill Bichsel is now again in the same prison as Kelly, serving his sentence for trespass at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Tennessee. However, they are in different areas of the prison – due to Kelly’s noncooperation with several aspects of incarceration, he is serving his time in the Special Handling Unit, or solitary confinement.

For more information, visit disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com.



Letters of support should be sent to Susan Crane 87783-011, FCI Dublin, 5701 8th St. – Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568; Stephen Kelly 00816-111, FDC SEATAC, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198; and William Bichsel 86275-020, FDC SEATAC, Federal Detention Center, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198.



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

Please check nukeresister.org/inside-out for current addresses before writing.

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Susan Crane 87783-011 (15 months – out 4/25/12)
FCI Dublin, 5701 8th St. – Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568.

Stephen Kelly 00816-111 (15 months – out 6/10/12)
FDC SEATAC, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198. (*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*)

Steve Baggarly 03611-036 (8 months – out 1/6/12)
FCI Morgantown, POB 1000, Morgantown, WV 26507.

William Bichsel 86275-020 (3 months – out 2/9/12)
FDC SEATAC, Federal Detention Center, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198.

Bonnie Urfer 04970-045 (8 months – out 1/6/12)
FMC Lexington, Satellite Camp, POB 14525, Lexington, KY 40512.

Michael Walli 92108-020 (8 months – out 1/6/12)
FCI Elkton, POB 10, Lisbon, OH 44432. (*Trespass at Y-12 nuclear weapons complex, 7/5/2010*)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132 (life)
USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521. (*Native American political prisoner*)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS

Franziska Wittig (80 days - in 10/14/11)
JVA Frankfurt III, Upper Kreuzäckerstr. 4, 60435 Frankfurt, Germany. (*Refused to pay fine for blocking nuclear waste train, 11/08*)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Helen Woodson, Max Kantar, Ahlam Mohsen, Mark Kenney, Michael Lyons, Carol Gilbert, Ardeth Platte, Elizabeth Ann Lentsch, Lynne Greenwald

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Ellen Grady (out 12/15)
c/o Syracuse Peace Council, 2031 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210. (*Disorderly conduct for die-in opposing drone warfare, Hancock Field, New York, 4/11*)

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. 11-3659
Lancaster County Prison, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199. (*Arrested at military recruiting office 8/1/11, awaiting trial*)

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*)

Catholic Workers' Global Resistance to 10 Years of Afghan War

In England, Australia, and the United States, Catholic Workers staged blockades to protest the tenth anniversary of the war and those nations' participation.

AUSTRALIA

From down under, Brisbane Catholic Worker Jim Dowling reports that on the afternoon of October 8 about 25 folks vigiled at the main gate of Brisbane's Enoggera Army Base, with signs and a ten meter banner reading "In the Name of God, Stop the Wars" on a side fence.

After half hour of prayer and song, a group of us picked up the large banner, and walked onto the road to block a small part of the war – the entrance to the Enoggera base. Five of us also carried pictures of Afghan children killed or traumatized by "our" side's bombing and shooting. We also each wore a blue scarf, the color used by the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers, while I carried a placard with "www.collateralmurder.com", directing folks to the video that exposed the U.S. policy of killing unarmed civilians, and put Bradley Manning behind bars for telling the truth. The five of us knelt in front of the banner armed with our weapons of truth, and prayed.

They were eventually arrested and held for several hours before being released pending trial on January 10, 2012. One man received an additional charge while in custody, dating back to his arrest during last summer's Talisman Sabre war games in Queensland.

For more information, email the Brisbane Catholic Worker at penangke@skymesh.com.au.



London Catholic Workers blockade #10 Downing Street, October 7, 2011

ENGLAND

British peace activists gathered outside the Prime Minister's home on Downing Street on the morning of October 7 in a protest organized by the London Catholic Worker. Red paint was poured on the pavement outside the gates to symbolize the blood of the 25,000 civilians and 2,500 soldiers who have been killed or wounded in the last decade. Six people then blockaded the entrance to Downing Street for an hour before they were arrested. Others read the names of war dead as they vigiled around a banner declaring "Mourn the Dead! Heal the Wounded! End the Wars!"

A statement presented by those arrested reads in part:

ST. FRANCIS INSPIRES WAR RESISTERS

OMAHA

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Ecumenical Peace Gathering in Assisi (October 4, 1986) and on the birthday of Gandhi, over 150 people converged at the main gate of Offutt Air Force Base, home of STRATCOM, the U.S. Strategic Command, or nuclear weapons command center. Calling themselves "Friends of Francis," most were Catholic religious sisters, joined by activists from across the region marking the 10th anniversary of the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

Their public prayer and action for peace was initiated by the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa. The gathering included prayers, singing and dancing. At the end of the service the group moved onto the drive leading to the main gate. Traffic was blocked while a statement was read, and three people crossed the property line. Retired teacher Marilyn Ryan, disabled veteran Gilbert Landolt, and teacher of nonviolence to the imprisoned, Marian Klostermann OSF, were immediately detained by base security. They were cited for trespass and released to await a court date.

In their statement, Klosterman is quoted, "As a Franciscan, I am committed to being an instrument of peace. I believe that war is insanity. To remain silent about it is to give my consent. So I come here today to say publicly that the preparation for war happening here at STRATCOM is a futile waste. It squanders the resources that belong to the most vulnerable among us. Today as we celebrate the birthday of Mahatmas Gandhi I know that nonviolent resistance changed the country of India. It can change ours. It is still a possibility. At one time St. Francis of Assisi thought that knighthood and fighting to defend his city were a noble cause. The experience of war was his conversion and taught him that only the peace that comes from God's love can truly transform. By the time of his death, Assisi had become a city of peace..."

For more information, contact Sr. Marian Klostermann, 563-583-9786, klostermannm@osfdbq.org.

TUCSON

In conjunction with international Keep Space for Peace Week, a dozen activists gathered outside of Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Arizona, on October 3 for their monthly vigil against war profiteering. Quaker and Catholic Worker John Heid, holding a sign paraphrasing St. Francis, "Make Us Instruments of Peace", walked toward the Raytheon gatehouse to communicate with workers about the panoply of weapons produced there, and particularly about his concerns regarding drone warfare.

Heid was stopped while nearing the gatehouse, arrested and jailed 12 hours before release on his own recognizance.

Earlier he stated, "Today, October 3rd, sandwiched between Gandhi's birthday and the feast of Francis of Assisi, I come to Raytheon with a plea: Make me an instrument of peace! I come with Gandhian nonviolence and a Franciscan spirit to urge Raytheon Corporation to use its genius, its imagination, its fiscal and scientific resources for the creation and manufacture of those

products that enhance life, not destroy it. I come with the knowledge that Raytheon Missile Systems is one of the world's leading manufacturers of unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) components and missiles. I come with the knowledge that U.S. drones are responsible for the deaths of thousands of civilians. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan estimates that 957 civilians were killed in their country alone last year. I urge Raytheon to make things that make for peace... Make us instruments of peace!"

Tucson City Judge Michael Lex found Heid guilty of trespass on November 29, and sentenced him to a \$250 fine or 25 hours of community service, which can include any legal protest. He was also sentenced to 12 months of unsupervised probation.

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

WAR TAX RESISTERS AT KANSAS CITY N-BOMB PLANT

The National War Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) held their national gathering in Kansas City over the first weekend of November. On Sunday, the resisters were among 60 people who demonstrated at the new Kansas City Plant, under construction on a former soybean field with the multi-billion dollar mission of producing the non-nuclear parts for a new generation of U.S. nuclear weapons.

Susan Miller, reporting on the event at nwtrcc.org, writes that:

Charles Carney, chair of the planning committee, along with other war tax resisters Kima Garrison of Portland, Oregon, Erica Weiland of Seattle, and Jason Rawn of Union, Maine, as well as Jim Hannah, of Independence, Missouri, faced arrest by crossing "the line" at the Plant on Sunday to witness that money should not be invested in planting death. Kima and Erica were released four hours after their arrest on \$100 bonds. Charles and Jim were released on signature bonds Monday. A court date, January 17, 2012, was set for the four resisters' trial. Jason was released on time served – 23 hours in custody on a forced fast due to no sensitivity at the jail to his gluten-free diet.

After his release, Charles commented on the "incredible witness of the NWTRCC leaders who" went the extra mile to support us in K.C. Kima, Jason, and Erica are active on the Administrative Committee and Working Groups of NWTRCC.

For more information, contact NWTRCC, P.O. Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215; 800-269-7464, www.nwtrcc.org.

Updating previous arrests reported at the site, nearly half of the 53 people charged with trespass at the Kansas City Plant during the Midwest Catholic Worker Resistance retreat last May were in court on September 28. Nine pled guilty and were sentenced to one year probation, 25 hours community service and court costs. Eighteen others faced trial, with six of the defendants

The war has been going on so long we have forgotten the reason it started. Was it to capture Bin Laden? To remove the Taliban? To bring peace and human rights to the people of Afghanistan? To make the world a safer place? All these reasons – and more – have been used to try to justify the death and destruction.

The reality of course is that war cannot bring peace, nor armed violence solve political problems. Just the opposite in fact. Ten years is much more than enough time to learn this lesson. Let us bury the dead, heal the wounded and end the war.

They have not yet been charged. For more information, visit londoncatholicworker.org.

NEVADA

Over 200 people from around North America came to Las Vegas October 7-9 for the international Catholic Worker gathering. On Sunday, they began their observance of the 10th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan with an interfaith service outside the main gate of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly named the Nevada Test Site), 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Representatives of the Western Shoshone Nation, whose territory was taken and laid waste by nearly one thousand nuclear weapon tests, were on hand to welcome the group and issue permits to enter the area in peace. Many of the 37 men and 22 women who then walked across the line carried only these permits as identification.

After being cited for trespass by Nye County sheriff's deputies and released on site, arrestees and their supporters reconvened at the Goddess Temple in Cactus Springs. The demonstration then moved a few miles further south on U.S. 95 into Indian Springs, home of Creech Air Force Base, the premier drone warfare and training base in the country.

Highway patrol and Clark County deputies were waiting as 19 people approached the locked south gate and blocked it, but made no effort to stop or arrest them. A dozen people, supporters and blockaders, then drove up to the main gate in town. Military police hustled to roll the large vehicle barriers closed as blockaders leapt from a van and walked briskly to block the gate. Only then, with all access blocked, were arrests made at the south gate. Deputies took 18 people into custody before the demonstration ended, and they were taken into Las Vegas for processing. They were cited and released by midnight on a range of charges including illegal assembly and jaywalking, with a December court date. It the largest anti-war demonstration and resistance action to date at Creech Air Force Base, and the largest number of arrests in at least six years at the Nevada Test Site.

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

testifying. Defendant Art Laffin delivered their closing statement, concluding with this challenge:

We ask: Where is the judicial system when it comes to confronting the criminal acts of our government? We urge all judges and those involved in the legal profession to follow the example of Judge Ulf Panzer and 21 other German judges who were arrested in 1987 for doing a nonviolent blockade at the U.S. military base in Mutlangen to stop the deployment of Pershing nuclear missiles.

"This is an historic moment. If real disarmament is to occur, it will happen because judges like you spoke out, and people from across the political spectrum took nonviolent action to petition our government to make this a reality.

Laffin writes that following conclusion of the trial, "... the judge dismissed charges against Gina Cook and Amy Nee as the city witnesses could not identify them. He then began by applauding us for our convictions, stating that this country is great because of people like us who stood for change. He also said that as a man of faith he admired the faith aspect of our testimony and witness. He then proceeded to find us guilty."

Sentencing followed the verdict: one year probation, one year stay away order from the plant, ten days suspended jail sentence and 50 hours community service. Greg Boertje-Obed and Eric Garbison told the judge why they would prefer jail over the sentence he pronounced and Greg appealed to him to speak out against nuclear weapons. They were both jailed for three days.

Fr. Carl Kabat OMI was in court October 18 for trial following his arrest for entering the site in protest on the Fourth of July. He was convicted of trespass and fined \$150 plus court costs that he will not pay.

For more information, contact Cherith Brook Catholic Worker, 816-241-8047 or visit cherithbrookkc.blogspot.com.

October 2011 Anti-War Actions in Washington

Before the call to Occupy Wall Street (OWS), there was the call from an ad-hoc group of nonviolent, anti-war direct action advocates calling itself Stop the Machine to occupy Washington, D.C. beginning on October 6, the tenth anniversary of the U.S. war in Afghanistan (October2011.org). As the Occupy Wall Street action grew and spawned scores of local Occupy protests, the confusion between the initiatives and actions of the October 2011 camp-out in Freedom Plaza, and the Occupy D.C. presence that began in McPherson Square on October 1, led to this clarification from the people based at McPherson Square:

We are not Stop the Machine and they are not Occupy D.C. Stop the Machine got organized months ago as primarily an anti-war protest with a focus on greed and corporate domination... Our focus is on the economy, corporate corruption of our political system, and the negative effects of corporate personhood as it exists after decisions such as Citizens United and the repeal of Glass-Steagall.

Nevertheless, people from both camps have supported actions of the other. In one of many actions, on October 8, hundreds of people marched from Freedom Plaza to the National Air and Space Museum on the Mall, where an exhibit of drone bombers is featured. Inside, a small group of Code Pink activists and veterans discreetly prepared to unfurl a large banner reading “No Drones - End Afghan War” from the mezzanine above the exhibit. Apparent miscommunication led to the banner dropping before the marchers had arrived at the museum, so security guards who swept up the banner and ejected the activists were on alert by the time marchers chanting “when drones fly, children die” ascended the steps and approached the entrance doors.

A young editorial assistant for the conservative American Spectator magazine and blog had infiltrated the Freedom Park encampment, and wrote that “for journalistic purposes,” he “kept charging forward” with a handful of others against security guards moving to clear the entryway and shut down the museum. Another man pushed a guard, who pushed back. In the ensuing commotion, guards shot pepper spray, striking more than a dozen people, including tourists. One woman was arrested for disorderly conduct and released a few hours later.

The next day, October 9, the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance led a delegation of about 25 people to the headquarters of the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Maryland. A letter had been sent seeking a meeting to discuss perceived illegal and unconstitutional activities by agency operatives. There being no reply, the group was making a personal delivery.

On their way in from the parking lot, some taped over the NSA sign with one of their own – Close the NSA. They were not well received, and as they passed the sign, the authorities converged and fourteen of the activists were arrested.

Each defendant received three citations – entering military property, disturbance on protected property, and failure to comply. All were released on site and told their court date is “to be determined.”

On October 11, activists from Freedom Plaza were arrested following demonstrations at two Senate office buildings. About 100 protesters filled the floor and spread out to multiple levels of balcony in the towering atrium of the Senate Hart Building. Banners were dropped and veterans hung an upside-down American flag over the railing as the air filled with the chant, “How do you fix the deficit? End the wars, tax the rich!” Six people were arrested and charged with unlawful conduct.

Minnesota Arms Merchant Evades Arrest, Skips State

At 8:00 a.m. on September 28, over 30 members of the weekly AlliantACTION vigil came to serve a “civil arrest warrant” on Alliant Techsystems (ATK) President and CEO Mark DeYoung. The warrant charged DeYoung with crimes against international and humanitarian law for the manufacture, sale and distribution of depleted uranium weapons. It was the Minnesotans’ last opportunity after fifteen years of vigils and multiple attempts to arrest DeYoung. On October 1, ATK moved its corporate office closer to the Pentagon trough in Arlington, Virginia.

The group was told Mr. DeYoung was unavailable, and to leave the property. They all refused and police were called. Eden Prairie police arrived but their order to disperse was also not heeded by a dozen vigilers.

Police eventually, slowly and respectfully arrested the twelve activists, two at a time, issued a citation and released them. They will request a jury trial at their next court appearance, December 7.

The arrests brought the total of nonviolent acts of civil disobedience to 733 at ATK’s corporate headquarters since 1996. For more information, visit alliantaction.org.

Over at the Senate Dirksen Building, four members of the October 2011 movement disrupted a Senate Finance Committee meeting on so-called free trade agreements. The four spoke out on behalf of human rights in Colombia, where union organizers and activists have faced brutal repression by a U.S.-backed regime.

Two days later, October 13, dozens of people camping out in Freedom Plaza packed the line to get into the House Armed Services Committee where Defense Secretary Leon Panetta was testifying. Only 15 people were allowed in and none were allowed to even quietly hold up small signs, as usually permitted in committee hearings. One by one, seven people who managed to get inside got up to protest the wars.

CODEPINK’s Alli McCracken, 22, held up a sign saying “Fund My Education, Not Your Wars.” “My generation only knows war and a bankrupt country. We deserve better,” she yelled, as she was yanked out and handcuffed by Capitol Police.

Also arrested was 21-year-old Iraq veteran Michael Patterson, who was sent — at the age of 18 — to be an interrogator in Iraq. “You are murdering people; I saw what you do to people in Iraq,” he shouted. “Then you refuse to even take care of our veterans when they return.”

The protesters who were left in the hallway and not allowed inside chanted, “We are the 99 percent and we don’t support these wars.”

McCracken was cited for assaulting the chairman, while the others were only ticketed for disrupting Congress.

The national memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was dedicated October 16 in Washington, D.C., and on that occasion Dr. Cornel West addressed the demonstrators in Freedom Plaza. His remarks tied together, as he said King would, the aims of the October2011 anti-war protest, and the burgeoning Occupy movement. “We want to make the intimate connection between corporate greed on Wall Street and corporate greed in the military-industrial complex, with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the dropping of the bombs on innocent folk... and the corporate greed in the prison-industrial complex...” West then led a march in honor of Dr. King to a sit-in on the steps of the Supreme Court, where he and 17 others were arrested for violating the prohibition on demonstrations there. All were held overnight in jail for their protest of high court support for such corporate rapaciousness.

On October 26, Veterans for Peace vice president Leah Bolger was arrested when she disrupted the joint congressional “Supercommittee” meeting on the budget. Video of the event shows one activist speaking out as the meeting convened, but then taking his seat. Later, Bolger, GREED KILLS spelled out on her t-shirt, addressed the committee from the front of the room, telling the lawmakers, “We would have enough money for housing and health care and everything that we want if we stopped spending our money on the military machine.” As police lead her out and cuffed her in the hall, she continued, “It’s very obvious. I speak for the 99% – end the wars and tax the rich.”

For more information, visit october2011.org and veteransforpeace.org.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Morgantown

by Steve Baggarly

The one thing which every jail and prison does more than anything else is counting people. We’re counted five times a day here. Three times we’re returned to our housing units to stand by our bunks and be counted, and they come through twice at night after lights out. We’re counted to the extent that when the announcement came over the intercom last night, “count time, back to your bunks for standing count” that one of the guys said, “Ok fellas, time to go to work”. In Tennessee and Georgia we were counted five or six times each day and always by two guards to ensure accuracy. They take great care lest even one of us be lost.

Ironically, I crossed the barbed wire fence at the Y-12 nuclear bomb plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee because I want to be counted. I want to be counted without mistake as against the nuclear weapons made there which can kill every child, woman and man on the planet several times over. I want to be counted as against the upgrading and “life extension” of every nuclear warhead in our stockpile and against the building of new bomb plants. I want to be counted as against the research, production, testing, proliferation, deployment, threat and use of nuclear weapons. I want to be counted as against depleted uranium munitions, nuclear power and the burgeoning collection of spent fuel rods and radioactive waste. I want to be counted as against the vaporizing, killing, burning, maiming, blinding, driving

DRONE RESISTERS CONVICTED, JAILED

After “many a sleepless night”, a town court judge in DeWitt, New York convicted 31 of the Hancock 38 Drone Resisters, and sent four to jail. Judge David Gideon’s verdict and sentencing came in a five-hour night court hearing December 1, after deliberating on their four-day trial held a month earlier in November.

Early in his decision, read from the bench, Gideon stated, “Many issues were raised that were not heretofore contemplated by this Court on a personal level; for which this Court personally acknowledges a new and different understanding, making the decision now before the Court that much more difficult.” After much consideration, he concluded that the defendants were guilty of both “obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic” and “refusing to comply with a lawful order of the police to disperse.”

The 38 came to the Air National Guard base at Hancock Field near Syracuse last April to protest the remote piloting from there of armed MQ-9 Reaper drones over Afghanistan. Authorities had already closed and blocked the base entrance, so they held a die-in leading to their arrest.

Before trial, charges against Jerry Berrigan, 92, were adjourned pending dismissal, and six other defendants had entered plea agreements.

Their trial was notable for the testimony of former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark on the criminality of U.S. drone warfare under international law, and the legitimacy and necessity of the nonviolent resistance to these crimes. Clark also testified at the Las Vegas trial of the Creech 14 drone resisters last year. As in Nevada, the judge in New York was evidently captivated by the testimony of Clark and the defendants, but rejected their legal arguments in his verdict.

The defendants each addressed the court and were sentenced individually. Danny Burns and Judy Bello were each sentenced to four days in jail plus a \$250 fine and \$125 surcharge. Brian Terrell was sentenced to ten days plus the same fine and surcharge, but with credit for time served, was expected out in five. Ellen Grady told the court that in light of the unjust verdict, she should be sent to jail for the max, which she was, for fifteen days. Some defendants appearing after Grady also asked for the max, but instead were fined \$250, assessed a \$125 surcharge, and given a one-year conditional discharge. Fourteen were also ordered to perform 20 or 25 hours community service.

Verdict and sentencing for five defendants unable to attend the December 1 hearing has been set for February 29, 2012.

For more information, contact the Upstate N.Y. Coalition to Ground the Drones & End the Wars, carol@peacecouncil.net, 315-472-5478, upstatedroneaction.org.

THE INSIDE LINE



mad and making orphans of any human being in nuclear (or conventional) war. I want to be counted as against the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and its corollary mutually assured destruction before it should happen rather than in the midst. I want the worlds’ children, all of whom are targeted by nuclear weapons, to have no doubt as to how to count me. I want to be counted for complete disarmament, unilateral if necessary. I want to be counted on the side of the God of life, who creates, loves and nurtures every living being.

And if it means being counted a fool, so be it. We’re all called to stand up and be counted, to live lives that count. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear but rather of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Tim. 1:7) I am counting on God to grow such a spirit in me.

[Steve Baggarly is serving an eight month sentence for trespass July 5, 2010 at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.]

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Grohnde

The call to “sit out” Germany’s Grohnde nuclear power plant (NPP) for a full 24 hours was clear:

“Despite all other announcements, we still live in the middle of the nuclear age. For the Grohnde NPP the atomic law is a guarantee for its continued operation and the dominance of the four huge electricity companies. Thus, the nuclear age will still accompany and threaten us. To accept the remaining NPP operation times until 2021/22 without resistance would mean to also accept their concomitants: beginning with the continuing production of non-disposable atomic waste up to the threat of new nuclear catastrophes. Thus, the anti-nuclear movement always and still demands the immediate closure of all nuclear facilities.”

Several hundred people arrived at the site on the morning of October 2. Supporters camped in a nearby field provided hot meals and hospitality for arriving blockaders. Late in the afternoon, climbers suspended a banner from an overpass on one entry road where dozens of others staged a sit-in. Another access road was blocked with people in comfortable chairs and a banner, “Grohnde AUSSitzen” (Sit Out Grohnde), and a third minor entry road blocked with hay bales. Blockaders had agreed to clear the road as needed for emergency vehicles, but refused to move when the night shift employees arrived. Police forced away some of the under-bridge blockaders, enough for a couple of worker’s cars to get through. One person was detained, accused of resisting police efforts.

Police backed off from using further force, and for the next shift change in the wee hours of morning, moved the hay bales blockade instead. A few more workers got through, but bales were replaced and removed again by police a few times before all the workers got in. Police briefly pursued but did not apprehend the bale bailers.

After daybreak, the blockades began to break up, but police waited for one notorious climber they’d identified as a leader to descend. She was taken to the police station and detained for fingerprinting until early afternoon.

For more information, visit the Nuclear Heritage Network at www.greenkids.de/europas-atomerbe

As the German blockade was ending, nearly 400 British activists and allies from Ireland, Belgium and Germany were beginning a nine-hour blockade of the Hinkley Point nuclear power plant in Somerset, where two new reactors are planned. Police made no blockade arrests.

N-Waste, Cont.

continued from page 1

Metzingen, injuring 18 and arresting four overnight. Nearby, neo-nazis attacked and destroyed an information point vigil at Dumstorf.

Meanwhile, the train moved slowly north through the country as police cleared one group of blockaders after another, arresting dozens. Near Fulda, four women climbers suspended themselves over the tracks but the train kept running, and they were arrested. Cécile Lecomte, activist and former French climbing champion, was held for several days.

On Saturday afternoon, more than 20,000 people were rallying in Dannenberg, where the Castors would be transferred to trucks for the final leg of their journey to the Gorleben depository. Along the tracks from Lüneburg, it was estimated at least 3,000 were involved in various actions, including 800 committed to removing ballast stones from the railbed. Roads were blocked to inhibit police movement.

Through the evening and overnight, the nuclear waste shipment was halted while small groups locked on under the rails to block the tracks in several places, and at least 2,000 had taken up squatting along stretches of the Lüneburg to Dannenberg line. Police used force to clear those who would not leave the tracks when ordered, but could not keep up with the pace of actions.

By midday Sunday, four people secured by an innovative pyramid-shaped lock-down device on the tracks at Hitzacker, ballast stones removed by hand from a 20-meter stretch of track, and hundreds still on the tracks at multiple points had kept the train en route for over 92 hours, and it would soon be the most-delayed of all the Castor shipments. Hundreds more demonstrators began assembling in Gorleben, to block the road into the waste repository.

That night, police at Platenlaase arrested a farmer and confiscated five tractors, which were then used in the attempt to clear roadblocks created by the resisters. Fourteen hours after the pyramid lock-down, police admitted defeat at removing the activists. After negotiations, the activists removed themselves and the train proceeded very slowly as police cleared hundreds more squatting on the tracks. By 4:30 a.m. Monday,

Kings Cliffe

A private firm’s plan to dump low-level radioactive waste in their East Midlands landfill met with nonviolent resistance on the morning of December 2. Three days before, Kings Cliffe Waste Watchers, with the backing of 98% of area residents who opposed the plan in a recent referendum, were given leave to appeal a British High Court ruling in favor of operator Augean. But the court refused to grant an order barring the waste until the appeal is concluded. Augean had earlier agreed to wait until the legal dispute was settled, but now said they’d go ahead, and could just dig it up again if the ruling was not in their favor.

About 25 people, members of Waste Watchers and Local Democracy in Action, arrived very early and blocked the landfill entrance before the workers got there. When staff arrived, police were summoned to clear the road. While some demonstrators moved to the side, four men were locked into concrete-filled barrels in front of the gate. Police spent some time breaking apart the devices before arresting the four and two other blockaders for trespassing.

For more information, visit www.kingscliffewastewatchers.co.uk

London

Said to be the world’s largest weapons bazaar, the Defense Systems and Equipment International (DSEi) exhibition is held every other year in London. A blockade, die-in and assorted other theatrical protests resulted in some protesters being ejected from the venue, with more formal protests resulting in several stalls selling banned torture equipment being shut down, as well as two Pakistani manufacturers peddling banned cluster bombs. The only arrest reported was that of Chris Cole, who wrote of his visit to London’s arms fair on September 13:

...[I] made my way up to the entrance of the fair. There were large glossy display boards all around extolling the virtues of various weapons systems and arms companies. The closer I got to the entrance the heavier the security was getting and it was clear I would not get into the fair itself. Weighing up my option I got out a spray can from my bag and quickly sprayed ‘DSEi Kills’ and ‘Stop the Arms Trade’ on two of the glossy arms displays before being quickly grabbed by the police.

I did not however, go quietly. I spoke loud and clearly to the long line of arms dealers shuffling slowing towards the entrance – urging them to reconsider their actions and speaking about the misery and death their morning’s work will surely bring. I run out of words pretty quick and end by asking them repeatedly to simply go home to their families and to think about what they were doing. All of them avoided eye contact. I spent a few hours in the cells and have been charged with criminal damage. I have a trial date of 16 January 2012.

For more information, contact Cole at chris@figtree.org.uk, www.figtree101.wordpress.com.

November 28, the train had arrived at Dannenberg.

While the Castors were loaded onto trucks Monday, more than 2,000 people were joining the road blockades along two possible truck routes, and police massed to remove them. When the trucks began moving Monday night, police, some on horseback, used increasing levels of force plus new water cannons to finally clear the road. Still, two activists managed to jump into the cab of the first of the trucks and delayed the convoy. In the end, the waste was delivered to the Gorleben dump after a 126 hour journey.

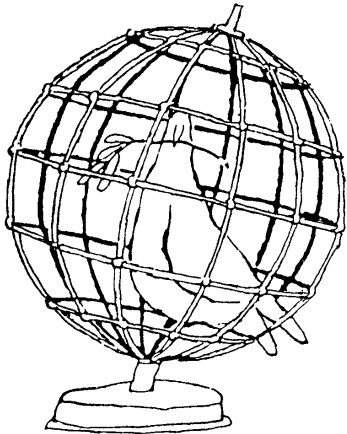
Health professionals reported by Monday night treating at least 355 people injured by police, including serious head wounds and a suspected back fracture from truncheonings.

The German anti-nuclear movement demonstrated its resolve to shut down the nuclear enterprise itself, even if the government should reverse its present policy to move away from nuclear power. In France, activists report a new, post-Fukushima momentum against the nuclear enterprise, even among residents of the North Cotentin peninsula where the nuclear fuel reprocessing plant is but one of several major nuclear installations long accepted by the locals.

For more information visit www.greenkids.de/europas-atomerbe.



Letters of support should be sent to Franziska Wittig, JVA Frankfurt III, Upper Kreuzäckerstr. 4, 60435 Frankfurt, Germany.



Jeju Defenders, cont.

continued from page 3

gate blocking access to the coast from the village. At least three dozen people were arrested and many jailed.

On September 29, the previously jailed Fr. Moon Jung-Hyun celebrated Catholic Mass at the new gate with Fr. Lee Young-Chan, SJ and Brother Park Do-Hyon, SJ. A flatbed truck arrived, blocking the bus that brought them. From a converted shipping container loaded on the truck, a platoon of police surprisingly emerged, and moved in to arrest the three, who were taken to jail.

Three days later, eleven university students and four union activists were jailed overnight, and another student hospitalized after scuffles with police when they climbed over the fence into the construction site. On October 5, nine more priests and a reporter who entered the site were arrested. Police took four other opposition leaders into custody November 8, including Brother Song and Sung-Hee Choi, who both spent time in jail earlier this year. Prompt international protest may have contributed to their release that night. A week later, base opponents won a temporary halt to the first blasting of the pristine coastal rocks.

For more information, visit www.savejejuisland.org and www.space4peace.blogspot.com

Y-12 Resisters, cont.

continued from page 2

mowing grass, assisting with prisoner reintegration, providing hospitality for the homeless, and more.

“This,” said Chris, “along with his acts of nonviolent civil disobedience, is Mike’s response to the horrific events he witnessed in war.”

The presentencing memorandum placed Walli in a higher category than any of the defendants to date, recommending a term of 6-12 months in prison. The judge declared a sentence of 8 months; no supervised release, no fine, and a \$25 special fee.

The next morning, Norfolk, Virginia Catholic Worker Steve Baggarly was brought from the jail to be sentenced. When asked by the judge if he had anything to say, Baggarly delivered a message that was part indictment of the bomb plant and part map of the path to hope. He brought the testimony of a Hiroshima survivor into the record, illustrating the true nature of a bomb using uranium enriched at Y-12.

The weapons being produced by the United States today have the power of thousands of Hiroshima bombs, Baggarly said, and he indicted the Congress, the White House, the courts and the American people for a conspiracy and daily rehearsal of the end of the world.

“If we do not repent of this idolatry,” Baggarly said, “we will not even have a chance to regret it.” He quoted Jimmy Carter’s assessment that a nuclear exchange would unleash the entire firepower of World War II every second. “Survivors,” Carter said, and Baggarly repeated, “will live in despair, in a world that has committed suicide.”

“To require children to live in a world threatened by nuclear weapons is an unspeakable evil,” the father of two told the court, “and the United States has a moral responsibility to make sure it never happens. If we have any hope for a nuclear weapons free future, the United States must lead, acting with the relentlessness of the Manhattan Project – a nuclear disarmament race.

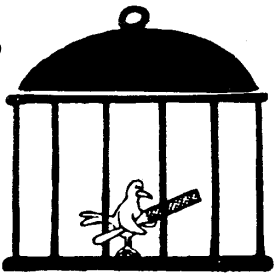
“We must depart from the gods of metal,” Baggarly said, “Depart from evil and seek good, and only then will we see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.”

Upon review by the judge, Baggarly’s record, like Walli’s, recommended a sentence of 6-12 months. He was also sentenced to eight months in prison, no fine and no probation.

Prior to Brad Lyttle’s sentencing that afternoon, the judge met with his assigned advisory counsel, who then met with Lyttle to convey the court’s willingness to spare the 83-year-old pacifist a jail sentence if he would only promise not to do it again. Lyttle would not.

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Update Files



DR. RAFIL DHAFIR: The jailed Iraqi-American physician and philanthropist will be re-sentenced on January 5, 2012 at 10 a.m. in the Federal Building in Syracuse, New York. Judge Mordue has granted Dhafir’s request to not be present, as he did not want to travel from prison in Indiana. A community leader and outspoken opponent of the 1991 U.S.-led war against Iraq, Dr. Dhafir’s Help the Needy charity directed more than \$1M in aid to Iraqi civilians during the era of U.S. sanctions, 1991-2003. He was arrested February 26, 2003, on the eve of the invasion of Iraq. Although repeatedly branded in public as a funder of terrorism, he was convicted of money laundering related to the charity and Medicare billing violations. Originally sentenced to nearly 22 years, the federal appeals court, when remanding the case to the trial judge for re-sentencing last year on technical grounds, suggested an even longer term might be in order. Additional letters in support of Dr. Dhafir are being solicited by his supporters. More information and instructions from his attorney Peter Goldberger for writing the most effective letter can be found at www.dhafirtrial.net. Notes of support should also be sent to Rafil Dhafir at the address on page 3, Inside & Out...

LOS ALAMOS: In October, the Father’s Day Five signed an agreement with the local court, pleading no contest to trespass and accepting a sentence of \$73 in court costs and 90 days good behavior in New Mexico’s Atomic City. The five defendants were cited in June as they offered prayers for peace at the site of the new nuclear weapons factory in the first stages of construction at the birthplace of The Bomb. The five members of Trinity Nuclear Abolition group were told they would face four days in jail should they fail to pay...

VERMONT YANKEE: After a dozen blockades and dismissed charges, six women from the Shut It Down affinity group have for the first time been arraigned on

charges resulting from nonviolent direct actions at the nuclear power plant. In September, Frances Crowe, 92, pled not guilty to criminal mischief during the June 30 blockade, and Betsy Corner pled not guilty to trespass. Marcia Gagliardi writes, “When Judge Suntag informed Crowe that she had been charged with unlawful mischief, she answered, ‘I was very serious. I want to warn people about the danger at Vermont Yankee, and I want to shut it down for good.’ Deputy State Attorney Brown requested that Crowe’s release from court custody include her signing a pledge not to return to the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant. Crowe refused to sign. ‘If Entergy will close Vermont Yankee for good, then I will not return,’ Crowe said. ‘It is up to Entergy now.’ Judge Suntag ascertained that a writ of no trespass citing Crowe had not been filed by Entergy, owner of Vermont Yankee. ‘Until then,’ he said, ‘it is up to Entergy, and you are free to go.’ Before pleading innocent, Crowe said, ‘I have been working against nuclear weapons and nuclear power since 1945, as they are both extremely dangerous. I am not guilty of mischievous behavior. I am deadly serious about nonviolently shutting down Vermont Yankee.’” At a hearing in October, four more women pled not guilty to trespass at the plant on August 30. All of their cases have since been continued until April 19, 2012...

BRITISH CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR: Michael Lyons was released from military prison November 9. The supporters of Veterans for Peace, London Catholic Worker and Peace News raised over £1000 to help his wife Lillian with the travel costs associated with visiting Lyons. A November 18 post to the Support Michael Lyons Facebook.com page says, “To sum up the support he has had, he has a new answer to the famous hypothetical question, What would be the one thing you would save if your house was on fire? Answer: The box of letters and cards of support received whist in prison!”...

PENTAGON: Five people arrested last August 9 at the Pentagon appeared in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia on October 21. Charges against Amber and Kevin Mason were dropped, following the U.S. Attorney’s practice in recent years not to prosecute first time arrestees at the Pentagon. Bill Frankel-Streit, Rosemary Thompson and Sr. Margaret McKenna entered guilty pleas and made inspiring statements about why they were compelled to act and risk arrest. U.S. Magistrate Jones then fined each of them \$250...

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE: Theo Kayser and MacGregor Eddy appeared in Santa Barbara Federal Court on November 17, to enter guilty pleas for their respective actions at the missile test launch center. Kayser (August 6 arrest) was fined \$250, while Eddy (July 27 arrest) was fined \$1000. Kayser stated he has no intention to pay his fine, while Eddy indicated she intends to pay hers. Four other people arrested at the main gate to the base last August are set to appear in federal court on December 15 or January 19. The next scheduled nuclear missile test launch is February 24. For updates, visit vandenbergproutest-macgregor.blogspot.com and vandenbergwitness.org...

WHITE HOUSE: Washington, D.C. prosecutors took different paths in two recent cases of stationary protest in front of the First Family’s home. Fifteen School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) activists arrested during a die-in last April were prepared for trial September 12, but the government was not, and informed the presiding judge that morning. Reportedly, U.S. Park Police were too busy after the XL Pipeline sit-ins and other protests around the Capitol to provide witnesses for trial. During the last week of October, 18 people, including World War II and Vietnam combat veteran members of Veterans for Peace, the Catholic Worker and other long-time peace activists, represented themselves before a D.C. Superior Court judge. They were arrested while demonstrating in front of the White House on the March 19 anniversary of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, and like the SOAW group, faced two charges: failure to obey and incommoding. While their argument for a First Amendment right to protest in front of the White House was permitted (though ultimately rejected) by the court, the court refused a motion seeking to allow expert testimony on the relevance of international law and the facts of U.S. war crimes in Iraq. The cost of war in human terms was evident in the personal stories of the veterans who testified. Vietnam veteran Chuck Heyn testified, “When I left Vietnam, I pledged to the guys I served with who did not come back that I would speak out against my country whenever my country decided to commit our troops to war based on lies.” Heyn and the others were convicted and fined \$50 plus \$100 in court fees. Defendant Bev Rice refused to pay the fine and was jailed for ten hours before being released...

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

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

...and more

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