

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 165

March 6, 2012

Jailed Korean Professor Fasting

Jeju Island Resistance Heats Up as Navy Prepares To Blast for Base

The Korean navy is set to begin blasting Gureombi in March, the unique volcanic rocks with fresh water springs on the south coast of Jeju Island. It's the latest, most destructive step taken in the construction of a provocative military port. Residents of Gangjeong, a village with over 400 years of cultural ties to Gureombi, have waged an epic struggle of nonviolent resistance to every step of the planned navy base for nearly five years. Coast access for the villagers has already been severely restricted by a new construction gate, and in recent weeks, huge coils of razor wire have been stretched along the coast to keep base resisters who swim or kayak around the gates from reoccupying the treasured landscape.

Every day sees many protest activities, and villagers and their supporters regularly risk arrest by blocking gates, locking down under stopped trucks, and climbing the fence, swimming and kayaking into the construction zone. Every night, a candlelight cultural celebration ensues as the people of Gangjeong renew their commitment by sharing news updates, honors, speeches, song, and dance.

Yang Yoon-Mo, a noted film critic and professor who fasted for 70 days while jailed last year for interfering with the business of base construction, is back in jail since January 30. He was on probation, and an 18-month suspended sentence from last summer was revoked. As promised, when he was transferred to Jeju Prison on February 6 he began refusing food until the base construction is canceled or he dies. He said, “If Gureombi lives, I live. If Gureombi dies, I die. Do not cry for me. Cry for the future generations who may not be able to feel the beauty of Gureombi.”

Scores of local residents have been enjoined from interfering with business, the charge most likely to result in prison time. Police, many brought in from the mainland by the score, and private security workers are a constant intimidating presence on the streets of the village. But prosecutors are reluctant to keep some of the resisters in jail, particularly dozens of Roman Catholic priests and nuns who have demonstrated the commitment of the Korean church to preserving peace by resisting the strategically provocative base.

On Christmas Day, 500 Catholics joined villagers for mass. The next day, when 15 people were blocking the gate, their number nearly doubled when priests joined them. Police arrested 27 people, many who fasted until released from jail. The next day, 12 priests arrested in prior weeks and months were in court to be indicted for obstructing business, and warned not to continue.

Another 29 people were arrested at the construction gate on January 10, including 18 nuns and a monk during a religious service and three teenage girls who were just dancing. They were charged with impeding the work and most held overnight. Six days later, Br. Park Do-Hyun climbed aboard a cement truck to prevent it from entering the village, and was arrested for the sixth time in a year. The next day, Fr. Lee Kang-Suh was arrested trying to talk to a cement truck driver.

On January 26, five people were arrested at sea in kayaks as they tried to stop work on a barge preparing for the blasting.

Yang Yoon-Mo was arrested with two others on January 30, when several construction trucks were prevented from entering the village and the three men crawled under them. Police this time avoided arresting Br. Park, who publicly proclaimed his willingness to be imprisoned for the cause before crawling under another truck.

In late February, Gangjeong hosted more than 30 international board members and activists of the Global Network to Stop Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space for their annual meeting. On February 24, ten internationals and six Koreans were arrested after crawling under the razor wire onto the Gureombi. That night's candlelight



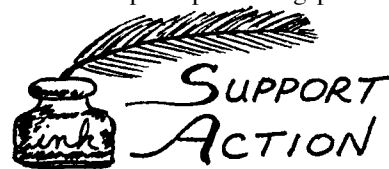
photo courtesy Save Jeju Island

Gangeong villagers and supporters took kayaks to sea on March 1 to disrupt dredging operations for the proposed naval base on Jeju, the Peace Island.

vigil took place at the police station, where five were still being held. When some blocked the prison entrance, police declared it an illegal protest, and arrested 20 more people. Most were released before midnight.

On March 1, swarms of police again surrounded resisters trying to get their kayaks into the water. Four were arrested after a day of tug-of-war with police and boats.

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



Letters of support can be sent to Yang Yoon-Mo (No. 220), Jeju Prison, 161 Ora-2 dong, Jeju City, Jeju, the Peace Island, Korea.

Letters of protest to Korean officials to stop base construction are also requested. For details, visit SaveJejuIsland.org and click on Support the Resistance.

The call is out for more international activists to go to Gangjeong and support the villagers. See Future Actions, page 7, for more information.

Bradley Manning Arraigned on 22 Counts

Imprisoned army whistleblower Bradley Manning, accused of releasing more than 700,000 classified documents to Wikileaks.org, will face a military court martial on 22 criminal charges including aiding the enemy. Pretrial motions will be heard in March, but Manning's court martial is not expected to begin until August, 2012 or later. Manning has been in custody since his arrest on May 29, 2010.

The outline of the legal case against Manning and hints about likely elements of his defense were revealed in December during a seven-day Article 32 hearing at Fort Meade, Maryland. In January, the investigating officer who presided at that hearing recommended that the case proceed to court martial, and on February 23, Manning was arraigned at Fort Meade.

Manning chose not to enter a plea yet, and his defense team, including two military and one civilian lawyer, has not yet decided whether to ask for a military jury or a bench trial.

The Article 32 hearing began on Friday, December 16, the day before Manning's 24th birthday. Just outside the gate of Ft. Meade, about 300 of his supporters held a vigil, rally and march, and another rally there on Saturday.

Representatives of the Bradley Manning Support Network were present throughout the legal proceedings,

Six Months for Fort Benning Trespass

Theresa Cusimano went to federal court in Columbus, Georgia in January, and stipulated to the fact of having climbed over the fence into Fort Benning, Georgia at the annual SOA Watch demonstration last November. From her statement to the court:

It seems we are in a bit of a stalemate. Our prisons are over-filled, and our courts underfunded. Yet, you, Stephen Hyles, allow this expensive stalemate to continue. You pretend we are here for trespass, wasting precious resources, ignoring talent and idealism that could be put to better use...

We are 300 prisoners of our conscience who have served more than 100 years in prison, collectively. We are supported by hundreds of thousands of protesters. Our legislative campaign with no real funding comes within ten votes of inviting accountability. Today you could choose justice, Judge Hyles... it's well within your reach.

The prosecutor asked for the maximum six-months in prison as a deterrent because a two-month sentence and fine for crossing the line in 2008 had not deterred her in November.

Cusimano was declared guilty. Before sentencing, Hyles asked her if crossing into Fort Benning was wrong and if she was deterred from doing it again. She declined to answer, and was sentenced to six months in prison. Federal marshals took her into custody and she is still being held at a county jail in Alabama.

For more information, visit www.soaw.org/about-us/pocs.



Letters of support can be sent to Theresa Cusimano 49903, Lee County Sheriff's Jail - Section D-6, 1900 Frederick Road Opelika, AL 36801-7212.

Cusimano has asked that supporters send messages to various TV shows, asking “that Father Roy be invited onto the Daily Show, and the Colbert Report. Don't stop until we get Roy's voice into the mainstream media, Hardball with Chris Matthews, Rachel Maddow, Keith Olbermann and the Sunday morning circuit. Don't let my civil action go to waste.”

and posted detailed daily reports at bradleymanning.org.

Manning's civilian attorney, David Coombs, spent much of the first day arguing for the investigating officer to recuse himself. Before the hearing, Lt. Colonel Paul Almanza had approved everyone on the simple list of 20 names proposed as government witnesses, including ten in common with the list presented by the defense. But out of 38 more defense witnesses requested, each with a paragraph explaining their importance to Manning's case, only two were approved (and later, two more).

Almanza also accepted into the record the unsworn statements of two government witnesses regarding how the revealed information had been classified and the potential harm it may have caused. Coombs cited a rule against unsworn statements and objected to other actions as biased, but Almanza refused to step aside.

Classification – specifically, over-classification – is a key issue for the defense, but Coombs, himself a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, would have no opportunity to challenge these statements under oath, and develop the argument that since their release by Wikileaks, the documents have brought no demonstrable harm to the United States or its citizens.

Throughout the remainder of the hearing, questioning
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THE
INSIDE
LINE

~ from Seattle



by William “Bix” Bichsel, SJ

As I rubbed my hand down the surface of my bony body, a thought came to me that I was sanding down my dry, itchy skin to be a parchment for writing/proclaiming the Gospel – the Good News.

My thoughts come out of living in a 24 hour lock-down, single cell in a federal prison for 30 days. During 19 of those days I fasted from solid food and drank only water and 2 small cartons of milk a day. During 29 of those days I did not sleep a wink at night and lay awake scratching and itching and tensing my muscles and stretching to get a position to sleep. No sleep came.

The first sleepless nights were spent thinking of projects. After my release I want to join Peter Roderick in transforming Tacoma Avenue into “Peace Pole Avenue.” I also plan to help Jose Mercado create a mural walk of peace and resistance on the walls and sides of buildings there. Planning a family reunion took up most of one night and another was spent pondering how to enlist youth in the work of abolishing nuclear weapons.

Within days it was apparent to me that sleeping at night was not possible. No matter how much anti-itch cortisone and anti-fungal cream I rubbed on my legs and body – the itching continued. After some days my world turned upside down. No sleep at night; very little during the day; liquid only nourishment; and yet I felt much sustained by the grace of God, the prayers of the community and the companionship of Brother Jesus.

My deepening resistance to the U.S. forces of death led to my decision of non-cooperation with the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) system. With this decision, I felt God’s joyful gift of freedom in which I hope to walk. A freedom that conspired with the long, itchy, sleepless nights and led me to ask: How do I proclaim the Gospel – the Good News – in this post-Christian, self-indulgent, nuclear age? What is the message of the Gospel today?

I choose the Gospel of Mark as my framework today because his Gospel is short and strongly oriented to discipleship in following Jesus. Other Gospels point to discipleship as well; but, Mark stresses this as the main, underlying theme. My thinking is influenced by Ched Myer’s social and political commentary on Mark’s Gospel in his book, Binding the Strong Man. We are in dire need of following Jesus in today’s world.

Mark’s Gospel begins with John the Baptist in the wilderness preaching repentance and proclaiming that one mightier than him will come. Jesus shows up and is baptized by John, and then is led, by the spirit, into the desert. After this, John is arrested and Jesus goes to Galilee to begin his ministry. He preaches, “The Kingdom of God is at hand... Repent and believe in the Gospel – the Good News.”

Jesus’ first and constant teaching is that the Kingdom of God is near – not down the road. It can happen now. “Believe the Gospel – the Good News.” Believe that every human being is precious and that, with care and compassion, the Earth’s bounty can provide what is necessary for a full human life for all. Believe that people with varying religious faith traditions and nationalities and ethnicities are meant not to be threatening, but to be

invitations to harmonious cooperation without weapons or violence.

The Gospel message that is most neglected is also the message that holds the most hope for humanity: nonviolence. We can hammer swords into plowshares; we can love one another; we are sons and daughters of a loving creator. These are some of the elements of the kingdom at hand, which Jesus proclaimed. Following his proclamation, Jesus admonishes, “Repent!” But, what does that mean today?

There was a time when Christians believed that repentance was about atoning for rule breaking, like missing Mass on Sunday or eating meat on Friday. Today’s Gospel calls us to repent for more serious offenses. There is no room for trivialities; we are destroying the earth that is home to all God’s worldly creations. We are killing each other.

Retaliation is neither natural nor justifiable and vengeance is incompatible with the forgiveness that is central to Christianity. The Kingdom Jesus speaks of cannot come into existence through violence or reliance on might making it right! Even when a great good – like the freedom of some people – is achieved through violence, the result adds to the unending cycle of violence. The myth of redemptive violence is simply violence concealed in lamb’s clothing.

The lamb’s clothing conceals those forces of death which hinder the Kingdom of God. Forces embodied in national policies that feed a perpetual culture of war and starve our people. The U.S., as the superpower, uses nuclear weapon superiority and military domination to control other nations and peoples to serve our “national interests.” Our weapon system is a sign of ultimate hopelessness that stands in opposition to the Kingdom where humans can live together and thrive.

The forces of death are like rivers of molten lava pouring down a mountainside and the flow is controlled by those with influence, wealth, and power. Corporations, their congressional puppets, and a few highly influential people wield this power in the U.S. They manipulate our government at every level and make a mockery of our justice system. Only the power of nonviolent resistance can challenge this oppressive status quo.

To repent is to confront the violence within us, to change our learned responses of violence. We are called to respond with conscience, intellect, and imagination – to work together for peaceful solutions. Repent and learn the way of nonviolence so that we can live together as a global community. Support the efforts of people of all faith traditions and ethnicities to live and thrive together. Place human need as the priority, and use profits to insure food and agricultural production for every global citizen. Encourage work and farm cooperatives as part of a national and global concentration on food and agricultural production. Open our collective human potential through free education for all. In such an age of cooperation, the gifts and talents of every human being can shine out in global splendor!

The Kingdom of God calls for healing and caring for every acre of God’s creation. The development of energy from solar, wind, tidal and geothermal sources other than oil, coal, and gas can bring about sustainable employment. The tremendous need for environmental healing and repair of the land, water, and atmosphere of our Earth requires workers. Labor unions can bring workers closer together to form relationships and to ensure the right of collective bargaining. Military training can be phased out and replaced by service corps volunteers who serve the nation in building infrastructure and responding to natural disasters.

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ENTERGY OCCUPIED!

It was an unseasonably warm morning December 12 when eleven women of the Shut It Down affinity group walked through an unlocked door into the offices of Entergy Corporation in Brattleboro, Vermont. They occupied an unused conference room, unrolled yellow crime scene tape across the table and, with a “human megaphone” nod to the Occupy movement, read aloud together their citizen’s arrest warrant for the board and officers of Entergy, operator of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon. They cited Entergy for “heedless disregard of public health, public safety, and the right of the citizenry to hear the truth.”

Brattleboro police and Windham County sheriff’s deputies were quickly on the scene but could not persuade the women to end their occupation. Sandra Boston, Anneke Corbett, Frances Crowe, Marcia Gagliardi, Ellen Graves, Jean Grossholtz, Susan Lantz, Hattie Nestel, Nina Swaim, Paki Wieland, and Cate Woolner were eventually escorted outside, issued a trespass citation, and released.

No additional charge was made against Nestel and

Swaim, who had spray-painted an admonition in the Entergy driveway before the offices were occupied: “Arrest Entergy/No More Radiation.”

Just the day before, on December 11, a judge had dismissed an unlawful mischief charge against Frances Crowe for painting on the nuclear plant’s driveway last summer.

In mid-January, the December trespass charges were also dismissed, but the women could be arrested for trespass without further warning should they re-enter the corporate office.

A few days later on the 19th, Shut It Down women dressed all in black and wearing white death masks engaged in a silent walking meditation in the driveway outside the Vermont Yankee gate. They mourned those who have died or suffer from radiation emissions. Soon most of the group, including Julia Bonafine, Boston, Corbett, Betsy Corner, Crowe, Nancy First, Gagliardi, Graves, Lantz, Nestel, Nelia Sargent, Swaim, Wieland,

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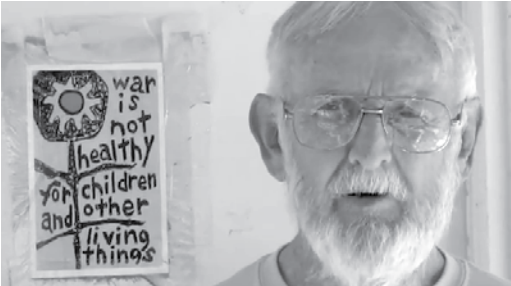
where we’re at

As March arrives, we’ve thinned the newly set peaches on the tree and our winter garden is yielding an abundance of leafy greens and peas - yes, we gave peas a chance! We are about a week late with this issue, slowed down a bit by Felice’s broken toe. Having no health insurance makes us glad it was nothing worse.... when will the U.S. stop spending money on nuclear weapons and war and provide health care for all?

There are more future actions than usual announced on page 7 - check them out. Our next issue (June 1) should be bursting at the seams!

In January, we said a grateful goodbye to the mini-van for getting us to so many demonstrations, trials, conferences, etc. over the years, and now have a Mazda3 hatchback - thank you so much for your donations! With the shrunken cargo space, we wondered if we’d need an extra trip to set up in a nearby park at the 30th annual Tucson Peace Fair. But we were pleasantly surprised to discover that with the middle seat folded down, the folding table, chairs, booth frame, cooler, signs and stacks of newsletters all fit. And it is getting almost twice the city gas mileage as the mini-van! We are looking forward to taking it on the road after this issue is in the mail, to the Pacific Life Community gathering and a March 12 demonstration at Vandenberg Air Force Base. We hope to see some of you there!

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa



Peter Ediger, Presente!
1926 - 2012

Poet, prophet, peacemaker, former Mennonite minister, father and grandfather. Peter and Jack were co-defendants for blocking the railroad tracks at Rocky Flats in 1978. Peter went on to work with Nevada Desert Experience and the Las Vegas Catholic Worker, and co-founded Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service. We will miss Peter’s powerful voice and gentle presence.

Thanks

Thanks to Sonia, Bill, Rosemary, Jim, Paige, John, Becky, Charlotte, Catherine, Kathleen, Ya Ching, Cathy, Faith, Rachel and Sarah for helping to mail the last issue, and Joyce for help proofreading this issue.

the Nuclear Resister

POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733
520-323-8697 nukeresister@igc.org ISSN #0883-9875

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

Bradley Manning, cont.

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from Coombs painted Manning as a bright, idealistic recruit with a “strong moral compass,” but also emotionally troubled as he awakened to his own gay gender identity within a “Don’t Ask – Don’t Tell” army. Manning had sought help from his sergeant, who observed how deeply distraught Manning had become by the spring of 2010, and even documented his concerns about the unstable private. But he did nothing to remove Manning from his sensitive assignment or get mental health assistance.

Meanwhile, socially isolated in a poorly supervised intelligence unit in Iraq, Manning had surprisingly broad access to documents erroneously or over-classified as secret, including evidence of possible war crimes.

BradleyManning.org reported that Coombs’ closing statement at the hearing mocked the government’s “Chicken Little” response to the Wikileaks revelations. “The sky has not fallen, is not falling, and will not fall.”

The documents are out there, he said, but they haven’t caused any harm. “If anything, it’s helped,” Coombs said. “Let’s give the government a reality check.” Let’s tell them, he said, that “sunlight is the best disinfectant.”

Observers report that Manning himself was engaged in the proceedings and with his defense team. After the hearing concluded, his Aunt Debra posted this message on the internet:

“I want you to know how much Bradley and his family appreciate the continuing support of so many, especially during the recent Article 32 hearing. I visited Bradley the day after Christmas – he is doing well and his spirits are high.”

For more information about Bradley Manning and how to support him, visit bradleymanning.org.



Letters of support should be addressed to Commander, HHC USAG; Attn: PFC Manning; 239 Sheridan Ave. Bldg 417; JBM-HH VA 22211.

Entergy Occupied, cont.

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and Woolner, blocked the road. They refused requests to move, so police took them into custody for a trip back to the station where they were released without a citation or court date.

Another Shut It Down delegation returned to the Brattleboro corporate office February 13. The nine death-masked women each wore a Shut It Down Valentine for Entergy as they processed for about twenty minutes in a silent circle in Entergy’s driveway. Every several seconds, one of the women struck a small gong to signify the death knell for Entergy, the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, and nuclear power everywhere.

Brattleboro police officers summoned by the Windham County sheriff and Entergy officials arrested the women one by one for unlawful trespass. Corbett, Crowe,

Lowry Contemplates Long Sentence

Norman Lowry has been in jail since August 1, when he returned to peacefully protest at a military recruiting office near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He’d been arrested there twice before in recent years, and served nearly 18 months behind bars. The former assistant chaplain at a local mission writes of his gratitude in being able to listen to and counsel other prisoners. He also wrote on January 12:

“Yesterday, upon going for trial, the prosecutor sought a continuance as they had failed to subpoena their witnesses. So much for ‘speedy’ trial!?! My trial is now to occur during the next cycle (2–4 months). The presiding judge used the occasion to attempt to convince me to give up my protestations, in order to receive RoR [release on own recognizance] bonding – pending trial. Upon receiving my reply: ‘I cannot in good conscience submit to what you are asking,’ the judge advised me that I am ‘pushing the envelope’ of the court’s patience with me; that I can expect more severe sentencing, if I continue my present course. My reply – ‘I will do as my conscience demands and will be honored to receive what you hand to me!’ More to come...”



It has been suggested to Lowry that his noncooperation, should it continue now and in the future, could result in additional punishment and a sentence toward the maximum 3-6 years in state guidelines. He is interested in the serious personal perspectives of those with any experience, regarding the “longer-term investments of imprisonment, as a ‘consequence of ignoring systemic offerings’ (if I would only relent and cease my chosen protests.)”

Letters of support should be sent to Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 11-3659, Lancaster County Prison, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199.

Dhafir Resentenced

Dr. Rafil Dhafir, the Iraqi-born New York cancer doctor whose charity to his native land through more than a decade of economic sanctions was perversely portrayed as terrorism and viciously prosecuted into a 22-year prison sentence, has been resentenced to the same extreme punishment. For health reasons, Dhafir elected not to travel from prison in Indiana to attend the February 3 hearing in Syracuse (postponed from January 5).

U.S. District Judge Norman Mordue heard defense attorney Peter Goldberger argue for a new sentence closer to the nine years Dhafir has already served since his highly publicized arrest just three weeks before the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Rejecting Goldberger’s legal argument for a shorter term, Mordue also disregarded 75 letters asking for clemency. These included testimonials from former patients and their families, as well as Nobel Laureate Mairead Maguire and United Nations diplomats Denis Halliday and Hans Von Sponeck, who both resigned after long, distinguished careers because they were unwilling to implement what they both considered a genocidal policy of sanctions against Iraq.

Dhafir’s total lack of repentance weighed heaviest for the judge, who told a courtroom overflowing with dozens of Dhafir’s supporters that “Acceptance of responsibility is the first step towards rehabilitation.”

In late December, just before resentencing was postponed, Dhafir was abruptly pulled from the highly restrictive Communications Management Unit at Terre Haute federal prison and placed into the general population there. It is hoped that he may now have contact visits with his family. Dhafir is interested to teach GED classes, but has no place to write but his bunk, delaying his correspondence. He was told he had been approved for hernia surgery but it has not been scheduled yet.

Katherine Hughes, coordinator of Dr. Dhafir Support Committee, recently summarized the injustice of his prosecution and the trial she sat through in a recommended essay at truth-out.org, “Anatomy of a ‘Terrorism’ Prosecution: Dr. Rafil Dhafir and the Help the Needy Muslim Charity Case.”

Meanwhile, federal prosecutors were told they’d taken too long prosecuting Seattle Dr. Bert Sacks. Sacks had been fined in 2002 for violating the same sanctions while on a 1998 humanitarian mission to Iraq. He refused the fine, sued the government and lost, and the Obama administration eventually sued to collect. Too late, said a judge, and he tossed the case out.

For more information, visit dhafirtrial.net.



The Dr. Dhafir Support Committee is seeking 100 people to contribute between \$35 and \$100 each for the cost of filing an appeal of the new sentence. These donations will NOT be tax-deductible. Checks can be made payable to “Peter Goldberger, Attorney” and earmarked for “Dhafir Appeal.” They should be sent to: Law Office of Peter Goldberger, 50 Rittenhouse Place, Ardmore, PA 19003-2276.

Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir at the address below, Inside & Out.

Inside & Out

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

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



- ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS**
- Yang Yoon-Mo** (No. 220)
Jeju Prison, 161 Ora-2 dong, Jeju City, Jeju, the Peace Island, Korea.
(Blocking construction trucks to interfere with businesses building navy port, Jeju Island, Korea, 1/30/12)
- Theresa Cusimano** 49903 (6 months - out 7/11/12)
Lee County Sheriff’s Jail - Section D-3, 1900 Frederick Road, Opelika, AL 36801-7212.
(Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)

- 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)
- 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)
- Bradley Manning** 89289 (awaiting court martial)
Commander, HHC USAG; Attn: PFC Manning; 239 Sheridan Ave. Bldg 417; JBM-HH VA 22211.
(Charged with disclosing military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes)
- PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Ellen Grady, Franziska Wittig, Michael Walli, Bonnie Urfer, Steve Baggarly, Fr. Bill Bichsel, Carl Steward**

OCCUPY THE WAR MAKERS

Among the hundreds of Occupy protests resulting in thousands of arrests nationwide related to economic justice, corporate domination of politics and the economy, and free speech, a handful were clearly initiated to oppose a war-related institution, or issue, or individual.

In New York City, hundreds of Occupy Wall Street (OWS) demonstrators went uptown on November 30 to rally against the Aerospace and Defense Finance Conference. Chanting “We are the 99 percent. War is not how we want our money spent,” 17 people blocked the entrance and were arrested. In court, 13 accepted ACDs (adjournment contemplating dismissal). Four entered not guilty pleas and have a March 5 court date.

In another action that targeted these architects of war and their bankers, two YesLab activists, in thrift-store suits and looking like they belonged, strolled past police perimeter barricades and began handing out fake agendas listing Pentagon presentations such as “Preemptive Elimination of Fetal Enemy Combatants” and “Neutralization of Peaceful Social Disorders Through Asphyxiation Expectorants.” Finally someone took notice of the ruse and had the pair arrested. They spent the night in jail, and Jen Waller writes that, “At my arraignment, the District Attorney said: ‘It’s not about what she did, but where she did it and who she did it to.’ I guess you can play a joke on people, so long at they’re not part of the world’s financial or military elite.” In court, Waller got an ACD, and one day community service. Charges against her partner were dismissed.

In December, as Congress debated the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and its provision for the indefinite detention even of U.S. citizens, Occupy and other groups risked arrest at protest in a few cities.

Occupy Wall Street’s three-month anniversary was celebrated in Portland, Oregon with a march along downtown sidewalks on December 17 that highlighted opposition to the NDAA. At least 50 police on bicycles accompanied about 70 marchers, and two men who took to the street and allegedly refused to return to the sidewalk were arrested for disorderly conduct, interfering with a police officer and resisting arrest.

Outside the White House, several days of demonstrations against the NDAA led to 11 arrests the evening of December 20, and seven more the next night.

Obama signed the NDAA on New Year’s Eve, and on January 3, a New York City flash mob of at least 200 people converged in Grand Central Terminal at the first rush hour of the new year to decry the “treasonous” act. Over the course of the 90-minute demonstration, three people were arrested.

Occupy Des Moines, with Veterans for Peace and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, went to the Obama for America office on Saturday, December 17, pitched their tents in front of the door and set up “the annex,” demanding the NDAA be vetoed, the military budget be cut by half and the U.S. military empire be dismantled. But the doors were locked so they moved

on to Iowa Democratic Party headquarters on Monday, where eight were arrested for trespass when they would not leave.

Momentum from this event led to Occupy the Caucuses, and protests at all the candidate’s offices, with opposition to the NDAA playing a role in some. Twelve were cited at Democratic campaign headquarters December 29. On Monday, January 2, after Obama signed the controversial bill, twelve people were arrested after a protest die-in in the lobby of the Des Moines hotel site of the Democratic campaign “war room.” Over a week of actions, Occupy the Caucuses resulted in 61 arrests.

Des Moines Catholic Workers Frank Cordaro and Eddie Bloomer, who carried the prominent anti-war banner to Occupy Des Moines and Occupy the Caucuses, were in court at the end of January. They were sent to jail for 30 and 14 days, respectively, for repeated arrests earlier in the Occupy Des Moines movement at the Iowa State Capitol “People’s Park” camp. Four others served five days each for their convictions.

In Independence, Missouri, members of Veterans for Peace greeted visitors to the Harry Truman Library on February 24 from a small designated “free speech” zone. Inside, former War Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was on the platform waiting to sell his new book, while outside, one sign set the stage: “TRUMAN PROSECUTED MEN JUST LIKE RUMSFELD AT NUREMBERG. HOW DARE HE BE ALLOWED TO SELL HIS LIES HERE.”

He’d just been introduced when a man stood and boomed: “Mic check!” and several voices repeated each call. “Mic check! Donald Rumsfeld Turn yourself in! For the war of aggression waged on Iraq and Afghanistan and for the deaths of our brothers and sisters in Iraq. Turn yourself in! For the deaths of our brothers and sisters in Kansas City. We have a list - of the fallen soldiers...”

But shouts and catcalls had quickly crescendoed, drowning the reading of names as library officials with the help of the audience began singling out several individuals to escort from the building.

“We’re just exercising our free speech,” protested one woman.

The shouts flew back at her, “Free speech outside!” “Go exercise somewhere else!” and then, “Long live Donald Rumsfeld!” to wild applause.

Outside, Afghanistan vet Mitch Green, who held a “Rumsfeld authorized torture” sign, and Iraq vet Lucky Garcia, with her sign, “Rumsfeld murdered my friends and ruined my life”, refused to go to the designated protest area and were arrested. Both were released pending an appearance March 21 in Independence municipal court. For more information, visit occupykc.net.

Arrests at Nuclear Missile Test

The latest nuclear missile provocation came in the dark, with an unbeastly roar that pierced the chilly coastal fog in the wee hours of February 25. A shimmering light rose above the clouds and arched over the Pacific Ocean, the incomparable threat to distant enemies reaffirmed.

Witnessing the latest midnight test flight of a first-strike Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile from the gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) was a group of nearly 100 demonstrators, the largest nuclear missile launch protest there in nearly 30 years.

Judy Talaugon, a descendant of the local Chumash people, blessed and welcomed the protesters. An elder from Micronesia, where the test missiles target Kwajalein Atoll, was accompanied by several of his children and others who had came to Vandenberg to plead with officials to stop the tests. He spoke of the harm done to their environment by the test range.

Fifteen members of the group crossed from the designated protest area onto base property, where they were arrested for trespassing.

Before their arrests, Daniel Ellsberg said, “They cannot be allowed to test these lightning rods of doomsday without arresting American citizens. We need to push this. It takes public pressure through education and public protest.”

Twenty-nine years ago, Ellsberg was also arrested at VAFB with hundreds of others who went into the back-country of the huge base to disrupt launch plans for another ICBM, the MX missile (which ultimately was not deployed, largely due to public pressure). Ellsberg continued by stating, “No one in this country should have their hands on the destruction of the world. We can’t trust these folks with the future of humanity.”

In addition to Ellsberg, others cited for trespass and released a few hours later were John Amidon, Leslie Angeline, Toby Blome, Brad Capshaw, Lynn Hamilton, Mark Kelso, Carolee Krieger, David Krieger, Webb Mealy, Cynthia Papermaster, Cindy Sheehan, Judy Talaugon, Nichola Torbett and Fr. Louie Vitale.

In court news, Fr. Louie Vitale was sentenced December 15 in federal court in Santa Barbara to one day in jail for each of two trespass convictions, to be served concurrently. This meant he was released from custody when court adjourned. A ten day sentence would have been too expensive for the system, the judge is reported to have said. In January, Jeff Dietrich, Theo Kayser and Jesse Lewis from the Los Angles Catholic Worker community were convicted and fined in the same court, but they will not be paying.

For more information, visit vandenbergwitniss.org and vandenbergrepote-macgregor.blogspot.com

Thanks to Jim Haber for his report on this action.

Fasting and Resisting a Decade of Torture at Guantanamo

In January, torture opponents and civil libertarians again gathered by the score in Washington, D.C. to call for an end to torture as U.S. policy and the closing of Guantanamo Bay prison camp on the 10th anniversary of its establishment.

About 50 people joined a ten-day fast leading up to the January 11 anniversary actions, and were joined in fasting by as many more across the country. The first days, fasters vigiled outside court and attended the jury trial of five Witness Against Torture activists arrested last summer. They were arrested for disorderly conduct after speaking out, one by one, from the Gallery of the House of Representatives, asking lawmakers to uphold the Constitution and reject permanent funding for Guantanamo. Just before the trial began, charges against nine of the 14 arrested were dismissed.

Superior Court Judge Gerald Fisher granted the prosecution *motion in limine* forbidding any mention of Guantanamo, indefinite detention, torture, Presidents Bush or Obama and their policies regarding Guantanamo, Bagram and other offshore prisons, and even the text of the statement they read from the Gallery - topics that “could possibly inflame the jury.” Speaking about these subjects, he said repeatedly, “is inappropriate for the purposes of this trial,” because he “does not want an improper politicization of the defendants’ charge.”

Witnesses could not identify one defendant, and her



photo courtesy Johnny Barber
Witness Against Torture vigilers assemble in front of the White House prior to their arrest, January 12, 1012.

charge was dismissed, but the other four were convicted. Mike Levinson was sentenced immediately to two days in jail, suspended, unsupervised probation, \$25 to the violent crime victim compensation fund, and a \$150 fine or community service. Levinson’s offer to pay the fine instead to charity was accepted. Brian Hynes, Judith Kelly and Carmen Trotta returned with supporters for their sentencing January 12. All three were sentenced to five days in jail, suspended, \$50 to the violent crime victim compensation fund, unsupervised probation, and 30 hours

of community service or \$300 to a charity of their choice.

Between the trial and sentencings, the fasters, dressed as Guantanamo prisoners in orange jumpsuits and occasionally black hoods, conducted a 92-hour vigil outside the White House, with one faster always present inside a barred cage mounted on a trailer.

On the January 11 anniversary, a coalition including Witness Against Torture created a procession of 700 people from the White House past the Capitol to the Supreme Court, led by a silent group of 171 in orange with black hoods, representing the number of prisoners known to remain at Guantanamo.

After court on the 12th, the fasters returned with the cage to the White House and assembled in the photo zone in front of the fence, risking arrest. With supporters nearby, each prisoner’s name was read aloud, followed by the group responding, “We remember you.”

National Park police eventually arrested 37 fasters, but all were cited and released in time to break their fast together with the others that evening. When they returned to court for arraignment a few weeks later, it was discovered that park police had not filed papers with the court, so the group will not be prosecuted.

For more information visit witnessstorture.org.

Police Maul Austin Mall Protest

Austin indy filmmaker Jeffry Zavala was documenting a peaceful Don't Buy War "freeze flash mob" at the Barton Creek Mall December 3 when mall security showed up with city police, who added brutality to the picture. His camera first moved among about a dozen members of CodePink Austin and allies from Veterans for Peace and Women in Black frozen in place in a mall filled with holiday shoppers. Many of the stilled activists held large shopping bags visibly marked with slogans such as DON'T BUY WAR, and WAR IS NOT A GAME, and WAR IS COSTLY, INVEST IN PEACE.

Shoppers were reacting favorably to the quiet but hard-to-miss presence when a handful of mall security guards and a very large Austin police officer entered the scene. As they began to question the older activists, a young, petite woman asked if she could hold one of the bags. The armed officer asked if the young woman was "part of this?", and when she replied, "I guess I am now," he grabbed her arm and tried to take the bag. She held on, and as he twisted her arm and pushed her through the displays of the shopping kiosks, trying to get her to let loose of the bag, she was thrown to the ground and struck, then pinned down and handcuffed.

The officer later claimed Nicole Mann was cuffed on one wrist only when she swung her arm and used the handcuff as a weapon to attack him. Mann was arrested and charged with trespass and assault on a public servant, and released to face a March 23 court date. It was later reported that three of her ribs were cracked in the encounter with the much larger policeman. Ryan Connell, who objected to her treatment as he followed police leading Mann away from the scene, was arrested for interfering with police duties. Both were later released on bond.

REMEMBERING THE INNOCENT

Over 60 people from the Atlantic and Southern Life Communities, and the New Jerusalem Community in Philadelphia, gathered in Washington, D.C. from December 27-30 for the annual Holy Innocents Faith and Resistance retreat.

On December 28, the day commemorating King Herod's Bethlehem infanticide, the community held an early morning witness outside the Pentagon metro entrance. Displaying a small mock drone warplane, 11 people staged a die-in to represent innocent children and numerous others who have been murdered by U.S. drone attacks in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen and elsewhere. They were arrested and charged with failure to obey a lawful order and released several hours later.

The next two days the community held a midday witness in front of the White House, including a die-in with a mock drone attack on innocents. No arrests were made, and the retreat concluded with a closing circle at the anti-nuclear/anti-war vigil site across from the White House that was started by the late William Thomas and where Conception has vigiled for the last thirty years.

All those arrested at the Pentagon were found guilty on February 17 of "failure to obey a lawful order" and fined \$100.

For more information, contact Art Laffin at artlaffin@hotmail.com.

Nuclear Resisters In & Out Of Prison

Y-12 RESISTERS

Four nuclear resisters were recently released from prison terms for trespass at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Steve Baggarly, Bonnie Urfer and Michael Walli all completed 8-month sentences on January 6, and have returned to their home communities.

Jesuit priest William "Bix" Bichsel was released from federal prison on February 9, after serving his three month sentence for the July 5, 2010 trespass at Y-12.

He'd been released to a half-way house in January, but wrote from prison about what happened next.

...I was rearrested one day after I was sent to a halfway house in Tacoma. That evening, Buddhist monks Senji and Gilberto and the peace walkers came by and drummed gently outside the house. I didn't know they were coming - but finally got a glimpse of them out of the dining room window. I was delighted to see them and blew them kisses - they were like angels appearing with songs of Peace and Joy.

The next morning the U.S. marshals came into the bedroom and handcuffed me and led me to the federal building and eventually back to SeaTac. I learned the charge: "unauthorized contact."

Celebrating Dr. King with Nonviolent Resistance to War

BANGOR

Leonard Eiger reports for Ground Zero:

On January 14, activists from a local peace group blocked entry to the main gate at the Navy's west coast Trident nuclear submarine base for nearly a half hour in an act of civil resistance to nuclear weapons.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action held a peaceful vigil and nonviolent direct action at the main gate to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Silverdale, Washington. Their protest declared that the U.S. government's continued deployment of the Trident nuclear weapons system as an instrument of foreign policy is in contravention of both U.S. and international laws.

The day planned in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. began in the morning at Ground Zero's community center, where participants learned about nuclear weapons effects (with an emphasis on the Trident system) and U.S. nuclear weapons policy. They also participated in nonviolence training and discussed the implications of the Occupy movement in relation to the movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

Later, the group maintained a peaceful vigil on the roadside outside the base entrance. Nine protesters entered the roadway carrying banners and blocked all inbound traffic lanes. One banner had a quote from Dr. King: "When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men." One side of the second banner read "Care for Sailors & Marines: Peaceful Jobs for All." The other side read "Enriching the Few at Everyone's Expense: Occupy Trident."

LOCKHEED MARTIN

"Saying 'no!' to the Top Gun of corporate America's 1% super rich" was the theme of the day on January 16, Martin Luther King Day, for more than 50 people who stood in protest outside Lockheed-Martin's complex at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

They held banners and signs and listened to the broadcast of excerpts from many of Dr. King's sermons and speeches. The demonstration was the Brandywine Peace Community's 34th consecutive Martin Luther King Day of Nonviolent Action. This year, seven people carrying large signs and pictures of Dr. King blocked the corporation's main driveway entrance. A bell tolled and the seven walked toward the building's main lobby intending to hold a King Day memorial for justice there. Carroll Clay, Joseph Clay, Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Walter Ebmeyer, Mary Jo McArthur, Sylvia Metzler, Rev. Patrick Sieber, OFM, and Robert Smith were stopped, arrested by Upper Merion police, and subsequently cited for disorderly conduct and released.

A statement written for the event said, "We stand with the Occupy movement in demanding economic justice and peace. Today, we stand before Lockheed Martin, the world's largest war profiteer and weapons corporation, remembering all the victims of war, all the casualties of social and environmental neglect, remembering and mourning all who suffer and die on the altar of corporate greed, empire, poverty, and violence. Today, here at Lockheed Martin, we honor and occupy the legacy and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and, from the Arab spring to the Occupy movement, the continuing struggle for justice and peace."

For more information, contact the Brandywine Peace Community, 610-544-1818, or visit www.brandywinepeace.com.

Arrested in the act were Louise Bollman, Larry Kerschner, Gabriel La Valle, Peggy Love, Jack Smith, Carlo Voli, Marion Ward, Robert Whitlock, and Alice Zillah. Arrestees' ages range from 33 to 73 years.

BANGOR TRIAL UPDATES

On January 4 and 5, a pair of trials for two groups of Ground Zero blockaders ended with a Kitsap County judge finding 11 people guilty of the traffic infraction of being a pedestrian in the roadway.

Judge Riehl was attentive and conciliatory as he limited the extent of the defendants' testimonies while allowing them to state their case, in which they spoke passionately, referring to precedents established by the Nuremburg Tribunal and humanitarian principles and law.

Defendant Tom Rogers, a retired Navy officer who commanded nuclear submarines during the Cold War, testified that he had been responsible for nuclear weapons during his career, and that our country's national security strategy based on the threat of nuclear annihilation is dangerous, militarily impractical, and unaffordable.

In his ruling Judge Riehl said that the defendants' compelling testimony "rings true," and that it has been "a long battle in this courtroom for people working on this issue," and remarked how defendant Anne Hall has been engaged in this struggle for 30 years. Although the judge believes "... the cause is just..." he said that he must "uphold the rule of law."

Accordingly, he found them guilty of the traffic infraction, fined them the maximum \$56, and mitigated that to \$25 each.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org

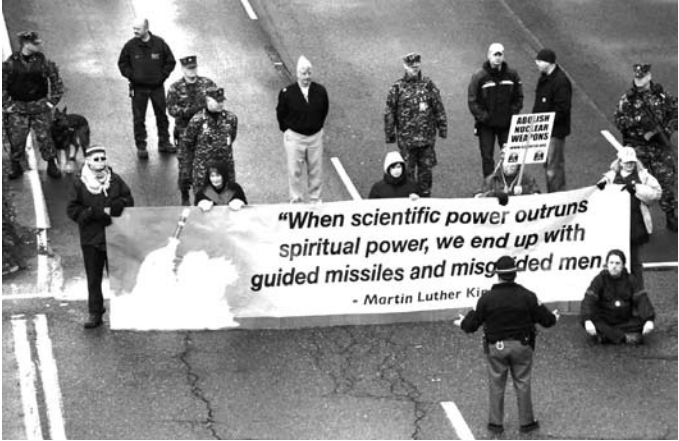
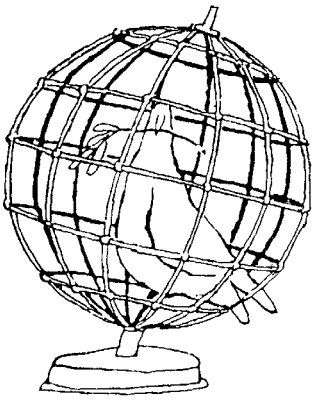


photo courtesy Leonard Eiger

Holding the wisdom of Dr. King in their hands and hearts, activists block the highway leading into the nuclear submarine base, January 14, 2012



Letters of support can be sent to Susan Crane 87783-011, FCI Dublin, 5701 8th St. - Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568; and Stephen Kelly 00816-111, FDC SEATAC, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198.



INTERNATIONAL NOTES

No Nuke Squatters Evicted

In the lead-up to a 24-hour Fukushima anniversary encirclement and blockade of England’s Hinkley Point nuclear power plant planned for March 10-11, three Stop Hinkley activists occupied “veteran” trees set to be cleared from the site for two new reactors, even before construction is approved. They were soon removed by police, but just as soon, the abandoned Langborough Farm residence, marked for destruction, was occupied to protect its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

EDL, owners of the proposed plant, sought a High Court injunction to evict the safe energy squatters and furthermore prohibit four named organizations from even approaching the site for their planned protest. The court granted EDL rights of possession to clear the squatters, but tossed out the plea to protect the French corporation from legitimate protest. At least 20 bailiffs and 10 police officers accomplished the eviction on the morning of February 29. Two men were arrested in the process, held overnight, and released on conditional discharge, in consideration of time served.

For more information, visit stopnewnuclear.org.uk.

Glasgow Peace Graffiti

(Thanks to Trident Ploughshares for this report)

Three women painted the windows of the army recruiting office in Glasgow, Scotland on March 1 in protest of the dishonest propaganda used to persuade young people to join up.

Barbara Dowling and Leonna O’Neill painted in large colorful letters “DON’T JOIN UP. DON’T BELIEVE THE LYING ADVERTS”, “GUNS, BOMBS, TANKS? NO THANKS” and “NO TO WAR” on the windows of the Queen Street office. Mary Millington handed out leaflets telling the story of a young man who joined the army to make his Mum feel proud and ended up being badly injured in Afghanistan.

When the police arrived, Dowling and O’Neill locked-on to each other and stood in the way to prevent the windows from being cleaned. All three women then sat down and after 90 minutes were cut free and arrested. They were charged with obstructing the police and vandalism.

Barbara Dowling said, “Becoming a soldier is

Update Files, cont.

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LOS ALAMOS: Five New Mexico nuclear abolitionists who pleaded no contest to trespass after a Father’s Day protest at the nuclear weapons lab were jailed for four days after sending this message to the local magistrate: “We the defendants... have changed our minds. Upon reflection, we have decided that each of us cannot in good conscience pay the Los Alamos Magistrate Court the \$73 in court fees... More precisely, we promise never to pay fees to your court for these reasons: The Los Alamos Magistrate Court has failed to uphold the U.S. Constitution and the Non-proliferation treaty ...[and] we must obey our consciences and reject unlawful courts. ...[and] Los Alamos National Laboratory is located on Tewa lands; Los Alamos Magistrate Court has no jurisdiction here.” Will Covert, Bobbie Sue Davis, Mitzi Kraft, Juan Montoya and Marcus Page-Collonge served their jail sentence together in late January, and each instead paid the \$73 to support the environmental justice activities of Tewa Women United, an inter-tribal women’s advocacy group in northern New Mexico...

GERMANY: In the last of the legal cases resulting from resistance to the 2008 nuclear waste shipments to the German dump at Gorleben, four activists who had suspended themselves from a bridge over the railroad tracks were sentenced February 14 in Postdam to fines of €100-150...

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE: Three people arrested after crossing the line at the nuclear command center

Ash Wednesday in London

Seven Catholic Workers, a Quaker, a doctor and a priest were detained and searched on Ash Wednesday, February 22, following the marking in charcoal and ashes of the Ministry of Defense building in Whitehall, London with anti-war slogans. About 140 people attended the annual event, organized in repentance and resistance to British nuclear weapons.

One participant said, “Ash Wednesday reminds us of the ash that nuclear weapons promises to reduce the world to. Lent is a season of repentance ‘turning around’ from our silence and complicity with these high crimes. The appropriate response continues to be nonviolent resistance to these high crimes and solidarity with our brothers in chains and before the courts for such resistance.

“We act in solidarity with Jesuit priests Bill Bichsel and Steve Kelly, and also Susan Crane and many others presently imprisoned in the U.S. for resistance to nuclear weapons. We are inspired by the resilience of Bradley Manning and the price he continues to pay for speaking truth to power, accused of exposing the war crimes of the empire.”

For more information, visit londoncatholicworker.org.



photo courtesy Mary Millington

Barbara Dowling and Leonna O’Neill taking a clear stand in front of an army recruiting office.

promoted as a great career but the glossy posters don’t mention the injuries, both physical and mental, suffered by so many, never mind the deaths. The suffering caused to civilians in the name of ‘fighting terrorism’ is nowhere to be seen either.”

All three women were released pending a date in Glasgow Sheriff Court on March 23. For more information, phone Mary Millington at 0141 554 1862.

Greenpeace Occupies French Nuclear Reactors

Greenpeace activists in France successfully infiltrated several reactor sites on December 5, 2011, even scaling the reactor containment building itself at Nogent-sur-Seine and unfurling a banner declaring that safe nuclear power does not exist.

“This nonviolent presence at the heart of the French nuclear installations proves their extreme vulnerability,” said a campaigner.

Six women and three men, ages 22 to 60, were apprehended inside the Nogent-sur-Seine site and charged with trespass, damage to public property, and for some, rejection of DNA sampling before being released. In court in January, prosecutors asked for suspended jail sentences, fines and a two-year order to stay away from the nuke. In February, the judge ruled that they had not been charged under the national defense law cited on the boundary signs, and tossed the case back to prosecutors for possible prosecution in a military court.

Also on December 5, two people who remained inside the nuclear plant site at Cruas for fourteen hours before being discovered were arrested and released to appear in court January 24. They were similarly charged, but the case was dismissed on procedural grounds.

For more information visit www.greenpeace.org/france.

Koodankulam Opponents Face Sedition Charges

Protest against the Koodankulam nuclear power project in southern India is escalating, as is the government response. Last fall the People’s Movement Against Nuclear Energy (PMANE) led a series of fasts and mass protests - including one where up to 10,000 people surrounded the plant and prevented shift changes for several days, and another when nearly 500 boats converged just off shore from the plant to protest its potential to reduce fishing grounds and stock. After the protest at sea, police registered over 3,000 criminal cases against participants, including sedition and other grave charges against PMANE coordinator S. P. Udayakumar and other leaders of the nuclear opposition.

In February, officials also accused PMANE of accepting money from foreign NGOs behind the protests, and even deported a German man over the accusation, despite PMANE opening its books to rebut the libel.

Russia is a partner in the Koodankulam project, which is currently undergoing final tests before nuclear operations begin.

The Inside Line, cont.

continued from page 2

The call of the Gospel is a deep call to conscience. Preach the Good News: “The Kingdom is at hand!” Venture out in faith that God will do what God promised, “Thy Kingdom come on Earth – as in Heaven.” Resist – by word and deed – the forces of death that undermine the foundation of the Kingdom. Some of these forces that grow in this climate of violence are: war, drone attacks, torture, nuclear weapons, weapon production, corporate control of government, institutionalized injustice, abortion, and the death penalty. Meanwhile, funds for basic needs like food, shelter, health care, employment and education disappear. The will to move our national resources away from death and toward life must begin in each of us.

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus first calls his disciples to follow him, and then he says, “Pick up the cross and follow me.” As we know, the cross led Jesus to the grave. The conclusion of Mark’s Gospel (Mk 16:1-8) finds women at the graveside, fearful and unable to speak. The angel in the tomb instructs them to tell Peter and disciples that Jesus has gone before them into Galilee and that’s where they will find him.

If we want to continue the story and preach the Gospel in our time, we must take over from Jesus in Galilee and embrace his spirit so that the Good News is proclaimed from our voices in this violent age.

[Fr. “Bix” Bichsel wrote this reflection over the course of two days during his 30-day stay in solitary confinement at the SeaTac Federal Detention Center, part of his sentence for trespass at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in July, 2010. He began writing on February 3, 2012, while fasting in solidarity with U.S. political prisoner Leonard Peltier, who marked 36 years in prison on February 6.]

FUTURE ACTIONS

vermont yankee

The State of Vermont had an agreement with Entergy Corporation that the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant would close on March 21, the day its original operating license expires. Entergy has reneged, the NRC has renewed the Fukushima-type reactor’s license, and a protracted legal battle is underway. Two 19-day peace walks began March 2 from nuclear power plants in Oyster Creek, New Jersey and Seabrook, New Hampshire, converging at Vermont Yankee on March 21. The coalition Safe & Green Campaign has declared “We, the citizens of Vermont and this region, are not going to sit idly by while Entergy continues to operate this old problem-ridden reactor against the will of both the Vermont legislature and the people. We are re-energized with the knowledge that the state will continue to fight this rogue corporation, and we are gearing up for nonviolent action to help insure Vermont Yankee is shut down!” Affinity groups are in formation and preparing for nonviolent action on Thursday, March 22: “OCCUPY ENTERGY HQ!” Meet on Brattleboro Common, 11 a.m. Participants risking arrest must be trained in nonviolence and part of an affinity group. For more information, contact Bob Bady, bobbady@gmail.com or visit safeandgreencampaign.org.

nevada test site



The 2012 Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada National Security Site (formerly the Nevada Test Site) will take place from March 31 – April 6, 2012. The 65 mile journey is a walking meditation, and an opportunity for civil resistance calling for an end to development, testing and use of new weapons of mass destruction at the Nevada Test Site and Creech Air Force Base. Most nights are spent camping with help from a Las Vegas support team. Other accommodations are also available. Part-time “pilgrims” are welcome. Please register early to help planning. Consider sponsoring a low-income walker. Suggested fundraising goal is \$200 per person. Any contribution makes a difference. For more information, contact Nevada Desert Experience, 1420 W. Bartlett Ave., Las Vegas NV 89106, 702-646-4814, info@NevadaDesertExperience.org.

brussels/nato

Vredesactie and Action pour la Paix are organizing a day of international nonviolent direct action on April 1 at NATO headquarters in Brussels, in advance of the NATO summit in Chicago. Genuine humanitarian intervention into NATO offices will convey a unified message opposing NATO’s tactical nuclear weapons and expanding role as an instrument for military intervention all over the world. For more information and registration visit bit.ly/NatoGameOver.

GOOD FRIDAY

lockheed-martin

Brandywine Peace Community is sponsoring “A Trail of Mourning & Truth” at Lockheed-Martin, April 4 – April 6, Good Friday Stations of Justice & Peace (April 4 being the anniversary of the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King). Occupy Lockheed Martin/Resist Today’s Crucifixion. For more information, contact Brandywine Peace Community at POB 81, Swarthmore, PA 19081, 610-544-1818, or visit www.brandywinepeace.com.

livermore lab

Occupy Good Friday, April 6, at Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory. Gather at Vasco and Patterson Pass Roads in Livermore, California, at 6:45 a.m. Worship at 7, followed by procession to the gate and acts of witness. Community gathering afterwards to share work and actions over light refreshments. Sponsored by the Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC and Livermore Conversion Project. For more info, call 510-655-1162 or 510-654-4983.

washington, d.c.

The Holy Week Faith And Resistance Retreat will be a time of prayer, reflection, community building and acts of nonviolent resistance focusing on the theme: “Put Away The Sword; Follow Jesus in Nonviolent Revolution.”

Held at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 1525 Newton St. NW, Washington, D.C., the retreat begins April 4 with a 6 p.m. dinner and a talk by Cathy Breen, from the Maryhouse Catholic Worker in NYC, about her recent visits to Syria and the Middle East. Concludes on Good Friday after midday nonviolent witness at the White House. For more information visit www.dccatholicworker.wordpress.com or contact Jonah House at disarmnow@verizon.net; or Art Laffin at artlaffin@hotmail.com.

soaw/washington, d.c.

The School of the Americas Watch April Days of Action begins Wednesday, April 11 through Friday, April 13 with a Direct Action Training Camp at the Wayside Center for Popular Education in nearby Faber, Virginia, and the Greenpeace climbing center outside of Washington, D.C. Over the weekend, April 14-15, a conference and strategy sessions for building the movement this election year will take place. Monday and Tuesday, April 16-17, will be spent engaged in lobbying, street theater and nonviolent direct action in Washington, D.C. Direct Action camp registration is \$150, deadline March 15. For complete information and registration, visit soaw.org/take-action/april, email info@soaw.org, or call 202-234-3440.

kansas city

Pace e Bene will lead a civil resistance workshop April 13-15 in Kansas City, MO. Nonviolent direct action – the Trifecta Resista – will ensue at noon April 15 against the nuclear weapons parts plant under construction in K.C.; against the imprisonment of Bradley Manning in Leavenworth, KS; and against drones at Whiteman Air Force Base near Warrensburg, MO. For info and to register, contact Jane Stoevers of KC Peace Planters, 913-206-4088, janepstoevers@yahoo.com.

camp williams/volk field

Nonviolent civil resistance to drone piloting and a proposed drone training facility near Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, will take place on Tuesday, April 24. Meet at the picnic area on County Road C a few blocks from the gate at 3:00 p.m. for silent procession to the gates of the base for the action. Opportunity available for those who are able to risk arrest, as well as those who want to be there in witness. For more information, contact Joy First at joyfirst5@gmail.com or 608-239-4327.



applied physics lab

Drone warfare research at the Applied Physics Lab of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, will be challenged with protest and possible civil resistance on May 8. The National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance is collecting signatures on a letter to the university president and director of the lab, asking for a meeting to “discuss the illegality of killing civilians and to discover the extent of drone research” at the institutions. For more information, contact Max at 410-366-1637 or mobuszewski@verizon.net.

chicago/nato summit

Challenge the war makers when the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has a major meeting in Chicago (the G8 meeting scheduled for the same time has been moved to Camp David). Voices for Creative Nonviolence (VCNV) will lead a march from Madison, Wisconsin to the NATO summit with its own proposed agenda: NATO will immediately end drone strikes, dismantle the NATO-ISAF armed mission in Afghanistan, end diplomatic and financial support for Hamid Karzai and the warlords in the National Assembly, then provide reparations to the Afghan people. At A Global Crossroads: Turn Against War will begin in Madison with a May Day rally May 1, passing through Milwaukee May 7-9, Racine May 12-13, and into Chicago May 18. In Chicago, VCNV will host a reunion for past volunteers and an Alternative Summit, May 18-21, with civil resistance on May 20 or 21. Plans are evolving, so for up-to-date information, visit www.vcnv.org/May2012, or contact Buddy Bell at 773-878-3815 or buddy@vcnv.org.

bangor

On Saturday, May 12, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action will hold its annual Mother’s Day Weekend Action at the Bangor Trident nuclear submarine base in Washington state. Details coming soon at gzcenter.org and nukeresister.org/future-actions.

faslane

June 9, 2012 will see the beginning of a 30-day campaign of direct actions against the Faslane Naval Base to commemorate 30 years of nuclear resistance at Faslane Peace Camp, near Helensburgh, Scotland. Campers are inviting local, national and international groups to take responsibility for a day of anti-nuclear activities, such as a march to the base, a demo at the gates, a blockade, a mass trespass, a die-in... get creative! If you are a small group or an individual and want to team up with others, they can help choreograph partnerships. Communal meals will be provided and there will be plenty of sleeping and camping spaces. For more information, please contact Faslane30@riseup.net or write to 30Days, Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, G84 8NN, United Kingdom.

smash edo

Since 2001, EDO/ITT’s products have been used to attack civilian populations in Afghanistan, Gaza, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia and Pakistan. Since 2004, residents of Brighton, England and thousands of supporters from around the world have demonstrated their rage at the factory through weekly noise demos, pickets, blockades, rooftop occupations, lobbying, street theatre, mass demonstrations and sabotage. The factory somehow clings on. The summer of 2012 is the time to come and take action! Smash EDO invites “you, your mates or your affinity group to come to the factory and express your outrage as creatively as you like. No action is too big or too small.” Smash EDO will provide accommodation, support and advice wherever necessary. Visit SmashEdo.org.uk, call the campaign at 07538093930 or email smashedo@riseup.net.

olkiluoto

Make plans now for the Olkiluoto Blockade Camp in Eurajoki, western Finland, August 6-13, 2012. The camp will bring together people from the anti-nuclear movements in Finland and internationally to discuss nuclear power projects, including uranium mining, and to share experiences, skills and tools for struggles against the nuclear energy industry and for encouraging truly sustainable, decentralized forms of energy. On August 11, Olkiluoto Blockade action day, people are invited to participate in civil disobedience and block the roads to the Olkiluoto nuclear power plant. For more information, contact olkiluotoblockade@riseup.net.

Jeju

The call is out for more international activists to go to Gangjeong to support the beleaguered villagers. Gangjeong recently hosted the annual meeting of the Global Network to Stop Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, and Bruce Gagnon, Global Network coordinator, is available to assist with introductions. Contact him at 207-443-9502 or globalnet@mindspring.com.

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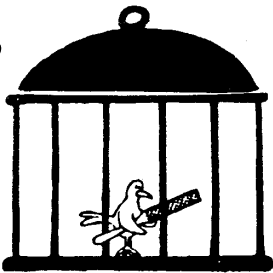
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Update Files



KANSAS CITY: Four people were in municipal court January 17 to answer charges of trespass last November at the construction site of the new nuclear weapons plant. Three entered guilty pleas: Jim Hannah, who was present in court, and Erica Weiland and Kima Garrison via affidavit by mail . Each was sentenced to 25 hours of community service in their home area. Charles Carney entered a plea of not guilty “by reason of sanity”. He repeated the plea at his February 21 trial, asking the judge how, as a psychiatric social worker, “can I work to stop the madness in people’s individual lives, while at the same time I sit idly by and watch society willfully plan an insanity on a colossal scale: that is, the insanity of a nuclear Holocaust?” Carney was answered with a guilty verdict and a sentence of 25 hours of community service...

HANCOCK FIELD: On February 29, the last five members of the Hancock 38 drone resisters were sentenced in DeWitt, New York Town Court. Judge David Gideon sentenced Kathy Kelly, Ann Wright, Martha Hennessy, Elliott Adams, and Jules Orkin to one year conditional discharge and fined each \$250. Previous fines totaling \$5,300 were withheld by 14 of the co-defendants and redirected to Voices for Creative Non-Violence (VCNV), which is sending the money to Afghan youth who are working for peace in Afghanistan...

CARL STEWARD: Non-public war tax resister Carl Steward has been released from a halfway house and will complete his two year sentence for failure to file and filing false tax returns on May 2 while on monitored home confinement in Asheville, North Carolina...

EDO/ITT: During Smash EDO’s Hammertime demonstration in 2010, two people were arrested for gluing themselves to the doors of the Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Brighton, England, over its investments in EDO/ITT’s war business and the bank’s loan services to the arms trade. Early February, they were found not guilty at Brighton Magistrates Court...

TRIDENT PLOUGHSHARES: Barbara Dowling and Janet Fenton were found guilty of a “quite serious, deliberate and flagrant act” on February 17. To wit: damaging the walls of a Scottish court “without reasonable excuse” in protest of an earlier trial which they regarded as unfair. In October 2010, Justice Ross refused to hear their defense for a blockade of Faslane naval base, home to Britain’s Trident nuclear weapon submarines. They would have argued that they had a right to disrupt the illegal work at Faslane under international humanitarian law. Immediately following that trial they spray-painted slogans on internal walls of the court indicating its failure to uphold international law. Sentence is deferred until March 19. Said Fenton, “I was instrumental in bringing the former President of the International Court of Justice to Scotland to talk to our lawyers and explain how Trident is illegal. Having a court that is not even willing to listen to a properly prepared legal defense based on that information is shocking...” Dowling said, “The proper reaction to moral wrong is indignation, outrage and action. This was not vandalism, it was political graffiti to let the general public know that their court does not uphold International Law.” Dowling’s refusal to pay a £500 fine for the original conviction also brought her to court January 25, where the Justice accepted that she couldn’t pay and imposed 90 hours of Supervised Attendance (community service) although Dowling said that she would not comply with it and it would be a waste of Social Work Department resources to try. She was told that if she does not cooperate she will be brought back to court and it could lead to a jail sentence (see Glasgow Graffiti, page 6)...

FRANCE: Six people were prosecuted in Cherbourg in February following efforts to block the nuclear waste train bound for Germany last fall. More than 100 police in riot gear greeted supporters at the courthouse, where one woman was found not guilty of being on the track; another man was found not guilty of being on the track but had refused to give his DNA for identification, for which he got a one month suspended prison sentence; and one woman was fined for stealing soft drinks. Three people who had not even participated in the action were stopped while driving near the protest camp and charged on the evidence of picnic knives, a wood ax and personal protection teargas spray found in the car. They were convicted and also sentenced to one month, suspended, and are appealing...

LONDON: Chris Cole and Fr. Martin Newell were formally charged with criminal damage at a December 9 hearing. Police decided to take no further action against four others arrested at #10 Downing Street last October 7, the 10th anniversary of the Afghanistan war. A preliminary court date of December 19 was set, and police then took Newell into custody on an outstanding warrant. The Catholic priest and London Catholic Worker community member was jailed for refusing to pay a fine for cutting a fence to enter Northwood, the British military headquarters, in 2008. From the dock Fr. Newell stated, “I work with refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan at the Catholic Worker. I am opposed to the wars we have been waging on these countries. I have nonviolently resisted these wars since they began. I’m refusing to pay this fine as a form of further noncooperation with these wars.” He was released 11 days later. Community members observed that the Crown’s effort at rehabilitation had failed dismally...

MORDECHAI VANUNU: The man who blew the whistle on Israel’s nuclear arsenal and spent 18 years alone in prison wrote to supporters in January, “I moved back to East Jerusalem. Renting a small apartment. Tel Aviv is not for me, only Freedom Now.” Israel’s Supreme Court has agreed to hear Vanunu’s petition to cancel his citizenship in July, 2012...

continued on page 6

ANNOUNCEMENT

...An **International Drone Summit** on Saturday, April 28 in Washington, D.C. will bring together drone-strike victims, human rights advocates, robotics technology experts, journalists and activists for a summit to inform the public about the widespread and rapidly expanding deployment of both killer and surveillance drones. Sponsored by CODEPINK, Reprieve (a British human rights advocacy group), and the Center for Constitutional Rights, the program will be structured as a strategy session for invited representatives, providing room to network, discuss and plan the development of advocacy efforts focused on drones and targeted killings. As remotely controlled warfare and spying race forward, it is also time to organize to end current abuses and to prevent the potentially widespread misuse both foreign and domestic. For more information and registration please visit codepink.org. Questions? Contact Drone Summit Organizer Ramah Kudaimi at rkudaimi@gmail.com.

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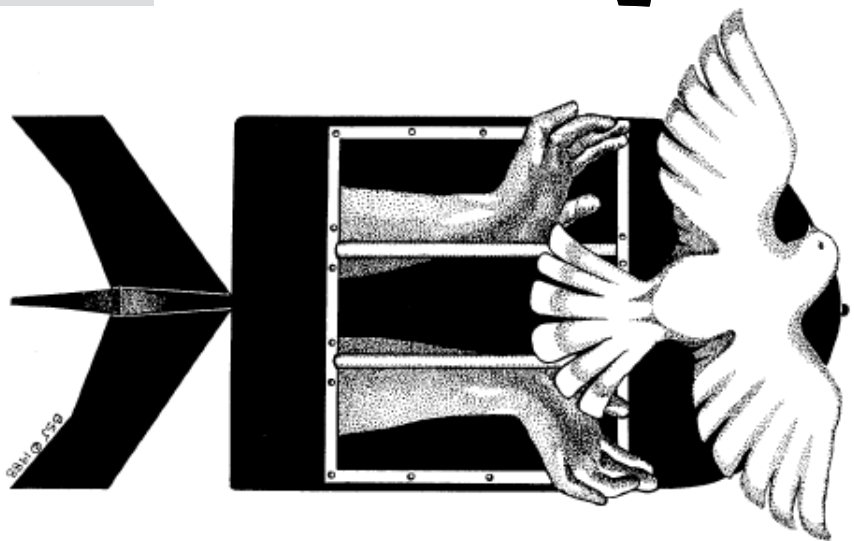
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520-323-8697
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