the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 166 June 5, 2012

Arrests in Three States to Close Vermont Yankee

The original 40-year operating license for the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant expired on March 21, but the reactor was not shut down.

With the Vermont state government having lost a battle in federal district court with plant owner Entergy Corporation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission over who has authority to permit reactor operations, frustrated citizens of the region took direct action.

At 10 a.m. on March 21, women of the Shut It Down affinity group once again chained the plant gate shut. It was the group's sixteenth civil resistance action at the plant or Entergy's Brattleboro office since 2005.

Shut It Downers issued a statement asserting that Vermont Yankee has "always been unethical," and that after license expiration, its operation is "now illegal." The women cited "spewed radiation into the land, air, and water" as grounds for shutting down the plant.

Sheriff's deputies from two counties and the Vernon city police were involved in the arrest of Anneke Corbett, Frances Crowe, Marcia Gagliardi, Ellen Graves, Connie Harvard, Hattie Nestel and Paki Wieland, all nearby residents in western Massachusetts. The women were charged with unlawful trespass and released on personal recognizance.

Their action was prelude to a big "retirement party" on Thursday, March 22 at Entergy's Vermont Yankee office in Brattleboro, and a trio of civil resistance actions organized by the Safe and Green Energy Alliance (SAGE). These led to nearly 150 arrests there and at corporate offices in White Plains, New York and New Orleans, Louisiana.

It was the largest single-day tally of arrests for opposing nuclear energy in the United States since October 14, 1989, when 475 people were cited for trespass after scaling the fence at the Seabrook nuclear power plant in New Hampshire.

About two thousand people attended a morning rally in Brattleboro town commons. During the rally, the affinity groups in New York and Louisiana called the organizers on cell phones once they got inside or just as the police were arriving to get them. Their solidarity calls were broadcast to the assembled New Englanders.

Following the colorful, 3.5 mile march to the Entergy office, successive waves of affinity groups crossed the line until 136 people had been arrested, cited for trespass. Several were released on site due to age or disability, but continued on page 6

NATO Meets Resistance at Home and Abroad



photo by Virginia Ma

A few of the people trying to occupy NATO headquarters in Belgium on April 1 managed to clear the fence before being arrested.

More than 800 Europeans from at least ten countries converged on April 1 at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) headquarters in Brussels. Five hundred people formed themselves into dozens of nonviolent humanitarian intervention teams, while the others rallied outside the gate.

In a mass act of civil disobedience, the intervention teams came from many directions to enter the NATO grounds and buildings. They intended to prevent a more serious crime, the preparation of war crimes. They were also drawing attention to the coming May 20-21 NATO summit in Chicago and sent the clear message that "We do not want a missile defense shield, We do not want NATO soldiers in Libya or Afghanistan, We do not want dangerous, useless and illegal nuclear weapons."

Across a stage of verdant pastures, woods and fallow fields, hundreds of police on foot plus dozens on horse-back were spread out, ready to intercept the activists. The intervention teams moved towards the fence at different times, in different places, but hundreds were eventually corralled and some were even chased and tackled.

They were handcuffed and gathered together to sit in rows with other prisoners before loading onto police buses. Only about 20 people made it over the fence,

where they were immediately arrested as well. The buses took 483 arrestees to a police holding area where they were booked and after a few hours were released. These administrative arrests do not usually result in charges being brought, as it would overwhelm their legal system.

For more information, visit www.vredesactie.be (click on the union jack for English).

Summit in Chicago

The demonstrations during NATO's summit in Chicago were overwhelmingly peaceful, punctuated only by the predictable clashes when overwhelming numbers of hyper-militarized police meet a relative handful of demonstrators who are willing to push back when provoked. Such situations led to the majority of more than 100 arrests reported over a week of protest, most for misdemeanors or infractions. More than a dozen people face more serious charges including felony assaults on police as a result of these incidents, and three remain jailed on high bail.

Additionally, the use of undercover informants who supplied verbal encouragement, alcohol, access to equipment and expertise is alleged to be the common link

continued on page 5

Three Years for War-Time Relief to Iraq

Shakir Hamoodi, Iraqi-born physicist, community leader, businessman and active opponent of U.S. wars on his native land, was sentenced May 16 to three years in federal prison for violating the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq from 1991 to 2003. The Columbia, Missouri father of five pled guilty in December 2009 to one count of violating the Iraq sanctions in effect at the time. Hamoodi never denied sending more than \$200,000 to family and friends still living in Iraq over a nine year period. He is to report to prison on August 28, after observing Ramadan.

Hamoodi was born into a large family in central Iraq, and studied there and in Scotland and France before he and his Iraqi-born wife moved to Columbia in 1985, where he studied and worked as an assistant research professor of nuclear engineering at the University of Missouri. After the sanctions and war began in 1990-1991, the couple pursued citizenship and made Columbia their home

After leaving the University, Hamoodi opened World Harvest Foods in 2004, an international grocery in

Columbia. The couple was active in the local Islamic community, and Hamoodi brought together community and religious leaders in public forums to promote tolerance. He also took part in peace demonstrations and told a local newspaper in 2003, "I've been opposed to sanctions, and I'm opposed to the United States' current foreign policy in the region. I sincerely do not find any justification for this."

In a highly publicized 2004 raid, the government shut down the Islamic American Relief Agency, an unrelated Columbia-based charity, for allegedly funding terrorism. Nearly two years later, the FBI met with Muslim community leaders concerned about racial profiling in the wake of this raid. Hamoodi attended this meeting. Three day later, his home was raided.

Hamoodi was nothing if not fully cooperative. He had not known his simple gifts to family and friends in Iraq were illegal at the time, and was shocked by his prosecution. As receipts, he showed prosecutors letters from Iraq, thanking him for his gifts and telling Hamoodi how they had helped. A team of federal prosecutors could

find no evidence that any of the gifts were diverted to other people or organizations.

The case lay dormant for years before a second team of prosecutors picked it up. In court they argued that the money, once in Iraq, could have been taxed by the government of Saddam Hussein. Under pressure, Hamoodi pleaded guilty to a single count, hoping for leniency. When he finally stood before U. S. District Judge Nanette Laughrey, he told her, "I made a mistake, and I am deeply sorry. All money sent was used by friends and family." While less than the four year sentence recommended by the government, the three year term shocked supporters.

The Hamoodi Family Benefit Trust (c/o Law Office, 1103 East Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201) has been established through his attorney to assist the family while Hamoodi is in prison, and an online petition is collecting signatures in support of Presidential commutation of his sentence. To sign the petition and contribute to the trust, visit www.helphamoodi.org.

Resistance Reflections

A Reflection on Coming Out of Prison: On Contradictions and Responsibility

Susan Crane, May 2012

Some excerpts. The full essay can be read at disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com

Prison Labor: The question of whether to work in prison, or to refuse to work, as any work is cooperation that makes the prison run.

The prison runs on prisoner labor. Women cook, clean, do electrical, plumbing and carpentry work, paint, repair machines, and landscape. Women teach, type, drive a forklift, and do all manner of things that need to be done. The prison is clean, neatness and cleanliness are valued, and I'm thankful for that.

At FCI Dublin, the prison labor that competed with the private sector was UNICOR. I made a decision that I would not work at UNICOR - many of the UNICOR contracts are directly with the military. But I did decide to work in a way that helps others: life is full of contradictions. I was able to stay occupied by teaching ESL, teaching clay sculpture and running the kiln, and participating in the music skills program. Also, I was part of the suicide prevention cadre, a group of women who accompanied women who were at risk of harming themselves. Working in the prison is a compromise that some of us don't make...

We tend to only think of individual crimes, not of

crimes that we as a collective are committing. This is true in regard to prisons, torture, war, environmental degradation... any section of the death-dealing culture that we are in.

The question for all of us is this: are we responsible for what our country is doing in our name? As individuals, are we allowed to murder other people? As individuals, are we allowed to build weapons of mass destruction and plan to kill our neighbors? And, what stops us from acting to end these death dealing actions of our nation? Family and financial obligations? Fear of losing our jobs, our good name, our economic situations, separation from family... and fear of the conditions in prison, fear of being sick in prison? Are these fears to determine our actions? Do we want to be making decisions based on fear or based on our conscience and faith? As Dan Berrigan tells us, we aren't going to have peace until we are willing to risk as much for peace as the warmakers are willing to risk for war.

We Must Raise The Level Of Our Resistance

Excerpted from Lynne Stewart's letter to the United National Anti-war Coalition (UNAC) conference that took place March 23-25, 2012 in Stamford, Connecticut.

Too many wars, too much death and destruction on both sides...

And our ever-present legacy of these wars? Go down to your local "shelter for the homeless" or state prison and count the veterans... Watch any sport on TV and the ads that sell the glamorous, patriotic life of the military are the best that big money can produce. It attracts, as it is meant to do, the kids this government means to "throw away" in the projects of the big cities, on the farms that can no longer compete, in mines of Appalachia, in the immigrant communities. And these sons and daughters of "someone else" die; they are maimed; they are driven mad, in faraway places where people hate them and the flag they operate under. And then they come home to haunt us.

All of that said, what to do? Can we afford to see these sons and daughters, the victims of a rapacious imperialism, and our brothers and sisters in the invaded/

occupied lands at home with children massacred drones, desolation and despair? Will the concept of this endless war (very profitable for the one percent!) see another generation fed into the meat grinder?

What to do?

We must raise the level of our resistance. As Dan Berrigan, who opposed war on religious and peaceful grounds said, we have to change the complexion of the jails and fill them with protesters. There are many creative ways to impede or halt the war machines; and I know the imaginative movement that spawned the concept of "occupy" can think of new ways, that do not involve going to Washington, hat in hand, to the very legislators who started these wars, continue them, and know the best way to be enriched and re-elected. They believe that we, the opposition, can always be stonewalled; that we are too comfortable and fearful of losing that comfort level - "at least I have a job" – to mount any real resistance.

And yet that is what must be done... Does it mean sacrifice?? Yes. Would you rather stay at home and skip it - probably; but we don't have that LUXURY. Too many ugly deaths do not allow us to be dropouts in the anti-war resistance! We must rise up and fight back on behalf of all the wasted lives of their wars!

Lynne Stewart, March 16, 2012

[Lynne Stewart is a now-disbarred civil rights and criminal defense attorney. In 2005, she was convicted of conspiracy and providing material support to terrorists for her public advocacy on behalf of her client convicted of terrorism offenses. She is serving a ten year prison sentence. Letters may be sent to Lynne Stewart 53504-054, FMC Carswell, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127.]

where we're at

We're glad to include in this issue the words of several political prisoners, including Lynne Stewart, Steve Kelly, S.J. and Susan Crane on this page, and Norm Lowry and Theresa Cusimano on pages 5 and 7. They provide us with a lot of food for thought about resistance to nuclear weapons and war, including the prison experience. We invite you to share your own thoughts and experiences with the Nuclear Resister about the issues raised, such as sacrifice, responsibility and noncooperation.

When we were finishing up the last issue, we had just thinned the tiny peaches on the tree outside the office window. Three months later, we're preparing a peach dessert to serve to the good folks who will help us to fold, stuff, label and stamp this issue for the mail. We are grateful for their support, and yours (we just can't thank you with peaches)!

Thanks to Meki, Doran, Kate, Jim, Sonia, Charlotte

and Sarah for helping to mail the last issue.

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Research Collection (1986 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection offered by the HMI Divis 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 antinuclear and anti-war resistance with the same emphasis on prisoner

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

from Seattle

Unrecognized political prisoner: A Year's Reflection

Or as Steve Baggarly of the Norfolk Catholic Worker wrote in a letter from jail: "If the SHU fits..."

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

Many folks, mostly activists, write to us with this first thought: "Oh, I could never do what you are doing", meaning either months or maybe years of prison or time in the hole (segregated housing unit – SHU). In one way of course it could be true of the infirm or very inexperienced. It's not necessarily true of the elders though.

One recent example is Rev. Bill (Bix) Bichsel, S.J., who is in his early 80's and was thrown in the SHU here at SEATAC for his noncooperation. I was closer in proximity than anyone else, yet it took mail from outside to help me understand that not only was he on my floor, under punishment for noncooperation, but that he was fasting, and his agitating to get medical rights and sufficient bedding had been successful, thanks to the support he has on the outside.

Regarding those who say no-can-do, I feel that some deeper reflection is warranted. If anyone reading this was convinced that the next thing they do could save the life of a friend, a loved one, they'd not hesitate (perhaps not even if it meant participating in a plowshares action). Yet there are some who are simply not convinced that such personal action, either indirectly or directly, could be connected with saving a life.

But I am convinced. Horribly so. Years ago, Phil Berrigan was asked after giving one of his sorely needed, scathing analyses of our demonic participation in omnicide by nukes, "Phil, do you have hope?!"

He replied, without missing a beat, "Got so much hope I can't stand it." Love casts out fear, as many uphold. It changes one's attitude to try.

As I told folks at the 30th anniversary gathering of Nukewatch, Plowshares and the Nuclear Resister held in Tennessee two years ago, recognized or not, we are political prisoners. No official is going to categorize us as such. For love of these people – bureaucrats, correctional officers, fellow prisoners - I must assert that status. This is a constructive way to engage, to interact, to love those many who are tied to institutions and computers, and thus alienated from our human project. The colonization of our mind is at stake. To my thinking, freedom seems more like a verb – if not exercised, it's abstract. One has to humanize whatever situation they find themselves in. This models personhood, and thus human dignity makes an appeal, heart to heart, psyche to psyche.



They run these places with things in themselves that are good: commissary, phone, visits, good-time credit. All meant for rehabilitation, enculturation, anticipating a prisoner's return to society. But woe is me, with all the consciousness of 5,000 plus nukes, armaments, and merchants of death being the number one business of U.S. based multi-national corporations. With all the resources at my disposal I can't communicate why I am a prisoner - not an inmate, but a prisoner of conscience.

So while held as prisoner: no work (what a luxury it would be to help pass the time); no drug/alcohol testing (easy but so off-the-point, plus I'm not going to participate in the degradation of a guard by failing to assert my humanity); no programming (I'm not here to fit back into society, it's not a resister's need). This is the third part of the action: jailhouse/prison resistance. The first is the preparation and plowshares action itself. Second, the courtroom – exposing it for being one of the most dangerous rooms of the Pentagon as the judiciary overrules the morality of defenses: Nuremberg, international law, necessity and prevention of crime – genocide.

Given the consequences, woe to me with all my resources and back-up in moral, material and personal support, if I don't complete the action in resistance all throughout.

Finally, I appeal to the ultimate court of justice, taking refuge in Dorothy Day's epistemological assessment, "Our problems stem from our acceptance of this filthy, rotten system."

I have heart for this because I feel, I know, I'm acting in concert with a community of resisters.

Stephen Kelly, S.J.

P.S. The Nuclear Resister, in its tracking, chronicling, supporting prisoners-of-conscience to nukes and war, deserves our material and constructive support. I'm not alone in saying I'm empowered by this newsletter, which serves as much more than a bulletin board or website. It is *us* – caring, taking pulse, hearing each other.

[Steve Kelly is due to be released from SEATAC Prison on June 21, after serving 15 months, most of them in the SHU, for the Disarm Now Plowshares action.]

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Jeju Defenders Undeterred As Blasting Begins

The relentless nonviolent resistance to construction of a provocative navy base continues on Jeju, the Korean Island of Peace, even as dynamite blasting begun in early March has destroyed parts of the Gureombi, the unique volcanic rock coastal area. One activist, Dr. Song Kang-Ho, remains in prison since April 1when he and others cut through razor wire to enter the construction zone. Nine were arrested that day and Song was seriously injured, requiring a trip to the hospital before he was jailed for

interfering with the business of port contractor Samsung.

Activists from religious communities, youth groups, unions and other NGOs from across Korea and around the globe continue to visit Gangjeong village, the farming and fishing community closest to the construction. Rain or shine, daily demonstrations including a ritual 100 Bows for Life and Peace take place in front of the massive construction gate.

blocked the gate to prevent the explosives from reaching continued on page 10 Peace Prísoner

With the first blasts imminent in early March, people

protested outside the nearby dynamite company and

Peace Prisoner Updates

Carlos (Carl) Steward was released from monitored home confinement, the last phase of a two-year prison sentence, on May 2. Steward was a non-public war tax refuser who pled guilty of failure to file and filing false returns. The activist and artist was already under investigation for not paying federal income taxes as a matter of conscience when coincidently he was brought into a video production project for the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) Until then, Steward had not known there was a national movement of people who shared his beliefs and had taken comparable action. While editing Death and Taxes, he was indicted by a grand jury and eventually made a plea agreement in February 2010. Steward said at the time, "There are real pitfalls of doing it the way I did it. Not being aware of war tax resistance is a detriment for people trying to do the right thing but not knowing how to do it. I also learned the importance of being transparent about your resistance. The film is very educational for people and shows a better method for doing what you're doing."

For more information about war tax resistance and the Death and Taxes film, contact NWTRCC, P.O. Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215, 1-800-269-7464.

Disarm Now Plowshares activist Susan Crane was released from federal prison in California on April 25. She served a 15-month sentence for cutting through fences to enter the nuclear weapons storage area at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor, Washington. Following her release, Crane wrote for the Disarm Now Plowshares blog, "At the moment I'm finished with part of the sentence: the 15 months in prison. The other part, a year of supervised release, was, according to the government, to begin on April 26. However, I told the court that I was not inclined to live under the constraints of a probation officer. It's unclear what will eventually happen. I expect I'll have a chance to talk to Judge Settle, who will revoke the supervised release and who could release me completely."

In April, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals denied the appeal of the five Disarm Now Plowshares defendants, agreeing with the trial court that the 1907 Hague Convention does not override federal laws against trespassing and "maliciously" destroying government property, the crimes for which the five were convicted.

Steve Kelly S.J., the last of the Disarm Now Plowshares to remain in prison, is due to be released on June 21. For more info visit disarmnowplowshares. wordpress.com.

Jail Time for Last ATK Resisters

Two Minnesota men will serve short jail terms beginning June 26, convicted of trespass during a demonstration last fall at Alliant Techsystems (ATK) in Eden Prairie. Steve Clemens will serve ten days, and David Harris two. Nine co-defendants were sentenced to between 32 and 68 hours community service. A twelfth defendant could not attend court due to hospitalization, and though he'd agreed to accept the verdict, his sentence was suspended.

At their mid-May trial, the defendants were frustrated when the court refused to allow into evidence the documents they carried on the day of their arrest: a Civil Arrest Warrant as well as a notebook entitled Employee Liabilities of Weapons Manufacturers Under International Law. When their testimonies spoke of international law, the prosecutor objected. Because the documents were not in front of the jury for their consideration, the prosecutor argued that they were not citing real laws, and the jury apparently agreed.

A few days after the action, ATK moved their corporate offices from Minnesota to northern Virginia,

closer to their main customer, the Pentagon.

On his blog, Mennonista, Clemens wrote about his preference for jail over community service:

Choosing jail is my offering to my new (and future) friends in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is a statement to them that I take seriously my desire to stand in solidarity with them in denouncing the scourge of depleted uranium and depleted consciences. Their knowledge that there are Americans willing to sit in jail (even if only for 10 days) out of concern for their well-being can hopefully help the healing needed between citizens of the U.S. empire and citizens of its new vassal states in the Middle East and southwest Asia. I go to jail in good conscience to stand in solidarity with my friends Sami, Hakim, Abdulai, Sammera, Faiz, Zuhair, President Akeel, Zahra and Sharbanoo, Dr. Ali, Hiba, Dr. Askouri and many others. I'll have time in jail to think about and pray for them. I'll have time to think about and pray for my own nation's leaders and corporate chieftains.

Bradley Manning's Court Martial Set

Accused Army whistleblower Bradley Manning's court martial is set to begin September 21. In a recent interview by Britain's Guardian newspaper with his aunt, who visits him frequently, Manning is reported to be in "good spirits, and quite optimistic about his case." He knows of the support he has around the world and is very appreciative.

Pre-trial hearings at Fort Meade in Maryland continue, with the next scheduled for June 7-8. Motions to dismiss 10 of the 22 counts will be heard. Subsequent hearings are tentatively scheduled for July 16-20, and August 27-31. Manning's lead attorney David Coombs encourages supporters to fill the courtroom.

Legal advocacy and media organizations have joined Manning's attorney in the struggle to keep the proceedings against Manning transparent by releasing documents and legal filings, with limited success. Even the pre-trial order describing what lawyers could or could not say about the case was a secret.

Coombs won permission to post some of his court filings, including one that says Manning has essentially been denied the opportunity to take part in his own defense. He has not seen thousands of documents handed over to the defense because no provision has been made for him to review them while he is in custody. Also at issue is whether damage assessments made by the government can be mentioned at trial. One argument in Manning's defense may be that the documents he allegedly leaked caused negligible harm to the United States.

For regular updates, support actions and information, visit bradleymanning.org.



While he is confined at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and taken to Fort Meade for hearings, letters of support should be sent to Commander, HHC USAG Attn: PFC Manning, 239 Sheridan Ave, Bldg 417, JBM-HH, VA 22211. His attorney confirms that all mail sent to this address will be routed to Manning, and that Manning has been receiving mail sent to him.

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

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

Dr. Song Kang-Ho (No. 611) Jeju Prison, 161 Ora-2 dong, Jeju City, Jeju, the Peace Island, Korea. (Interfering with businesses building navy port, Jeju Island, Korea, 4/1/12)



Theresa Cusimano 93611-020 (six months – out 7/11/12) FMC Carswell, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127.

(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 (1 to 7 years - in 8/1/11) Lancaster County Prison, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199. (Criminal trespass at military recruiting office 8/1/11)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Susan Crane, Yang Yoon-Mo Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22) FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN

(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Bradley Manning 89289

(awaiting court martial - in 5/10) 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)

Brian Jacob Church 2012-0519002
Jared Chase 2012-0519003
Brent Betterly 2012-0519001
Sebastian Senakiewicz 2012-0520030
Mark Neiweem 2012-0520023
Christopher French 2012-0522081
Raziel Azuara 2012-0521087
Yonte Harris 2012-0521086
P.O. Box 089002, Chicago, IL 60608.
(Held on bail and facing various felony charges following protest at the NATO summit in Chicago, May, 2012)

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Ground the Drones!

Voices of protest are being heard at the growing number of military bases around the country where the new "chair force" of remote control pilots and drone bombardiers have brought the global "war on terror" near enough for the warriors to be home for dinner.

Missouri

Whiteman Air Force Base was the final stop for the Midwest Trifecta Resista – a three-day gathering of about 50 peace activists. They first vigiled on April 14 outside Fort Leavenworth in support of whistleblower Bradley Manning, who has been imprisoned there between pretrial hearings at Fort Meade, Maryland. That afternoon they resisted construction of the new nuclear weapons plant in Kansas City (see story page 5), and on April 15, travelled to Whiteman to stand against drone warfare.

One hundred and seventy five black balloons were

released to represent the estimated 175 children killed by U.S. drones in Pakistan, and some people flew kites as the entire group walked about 40 yards up an entry road towards the main gate. At the lead were Ron Faust, Mark Kenney and Brian Terrell, who held up an indictment for war crimes that the group had prepared. Terrell told the first officer who met the group, "We want to go to the commander" to deliver the indictment.

"We can't allow you to do that," the officer answered.

"Our consciences won't allow us not to," Terrell replied.

As the three men were arrested, a bus pulled up to the gate and disgorged more than 30 military police in training, decked out in full suits of padded riot gear with helmets, face masks, truncheons and shields. They lined up in formation, three-deep across the road, and faced off with demonstrators. The scene became more absurd than frightening even as the soldiers began a choreographed advance, a few steps at a time, left foot always forward, to the rhythmic beat of their sticks on their

shields. Demonstrators backed up across the property line and continued to vigil until the three protesters were released about an hour later. They were charged with trespass and told that they'd be notified later of a court date.

For more information, contact Kansas City Peace Planters at kcnukeswatch@gmail.com

Wisconsin

A handful of activists have been vigiling against robotic warfare once a month outside Camp Williams/ Volk Field. Each month, a letter is sent to Col. Gary Ebben, commander, asking for a meeting about construction of an \$8 million drone training facility at the base, in addition to drone training already underway there.

Col. Ebben has never replied, so at their April 24 vigil, seven of the 33 people present tried to walk into the base to deliver their concerns in person.

Bonnie Block, Joyce Elwanger, Joy First, Libby Pappalardo, Mary Beth Schlagheck, Don Timmerman and Roberta Thurstin were met just inside the gate by the Juneau County Sheriff and his deputies, who first warned the group and then arrested them when they continued walking. They were taken to the county jail and released within a few hours, pending a June 6 court date.

For more information, contact Joy First at joyfirst5@gmail.com.

New York

Onondoga County Sheriff's deputies in New York used their vehicles to block a silent, single-file march along the shoulder of a road through suburban Syracuse on April 22. Some 60 members of the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones were on their way to protest at the main gate of Hancock Air Field when they were corralled into a parking lot by the police. Arrests began without warning for violating a Town of DeWitt ordinance requiring a permit to march. Police threatened an additional charge of resisting arrest for anyone who left the area.



photo by Robyn Haas/National Catholic Reporter Midwest resisters face off with conga-like dance line of military cops protecting drone warriors at

Whiteman Air Force Base, Knob Noster, Missouri, April 14.

Carol Baum of the Syracuse Peace Council picks up the story:

When I got to the lot, an angry police officer was announcing that we were all under arrest for marching without a permit. What was happening was confusing. Some people were handcuffed and placed into police cars; others were in the mobile booking van; some people (like me) were standing freely; some people were reading the indictment aloud.

However, throughout all this, people were talking with the police. Eventually the police said that clearly many of us were unaware that marching without a permit was breaking the law, and that those of us who wanted could leave our signs behind and walk back to our cars ... We gathered as a group and discussed our options, questions and concerns and people made their choices (or at least those who were still free to do so).

A handful of people who were in the police van were offered waivers to sign, basically saying that they didn't know that it was illegal to walk on the shoulder of the street with other people. If they signed, they were in effect unarrested. Two people agreed to have their arrests waived.

A few people were able to keep walking towards the base despite the police corralling us. Some made it to Hancock's main gate and were arrested there.

Not everyone participated in the Peace Walk – about 10 people parked on a nearby side street and went directly to the base. There, several people read the War Crimes Indictment aloud. At least seven people were arrested at the base, including our lawyer who was just standing there. Also, a number of parked cars were ticketed, the first time that has happened since we have been going to the base.

Some had their cameras or cellphones confiscated by their arresting officers, and the items had not been returned a month later. One man who lay down in the

road was taken into custody and arraigned on a charge of resisting arrest before posting \$250 bail. Arrestees were given 17 different court dates into June.

Six people who had not been on the walk did reach the gate of the base. Three women were arrested there as they read from the group's War Crimes Indictment. The Indictment charges everyone in the chain of command, from President Obama to drone operators. It calls attention to Article 6, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution and reads: ...we charge that the Air National Guard of the United States of America, headquartered at Hancock Air Field Air National Guard Base ... is maintaining and deploying the MQ-9 Reaper robotic aircraft ... Extrajudicial targeted killings such as the U.S. carries out by unmanned aircraft drones are intentional, premeditated, and deliberate use of lethal force in violation of U.S. and international human rights law..."

Ten days later, the Peace Outreach vigilers arrived for their twice-monthly presence opposite the gate. One of the vigilers, Ed Kinane, wrote about what happened at truth-

On May 2, 2012, several prowl cars pulled up, and sheriffs, citing an obscure and perhaps neverbefore-enforced DeWitt town ordinance, told us we could no longer demonstrate there without a permit. We engaged the sheriffs in a discussion about the First Amendment and their oath to defend and uphold the Constitution.

A sergeant told us that the base complained about our presence. He also told us - with a straight face - that in the town of DeWitt, any "assembly" of more than two persons requires a permit. Dick Keough and I were then arrested, handcuffed and charged with "assembling without a permit."

Compared to the terror of robotic killing, such stifling of dissent may seem like small potatoes, but it's a harbinger, and a slippery slope. Law enforcement and the courts, more and more, knuckle under to the military and violate the First Amendment rights of U.S. citizens. Presumably, our law enforcement and military personnel swear to uphold the Constitution. Such individuals may (or may not) serve and sacrifice with honor and courage; the sad irony is that some seem to think they do so to protect our freedoms.

For more info, visit blog.upstatedroneaction.org

Maryland

Officials on hand did all they could to avoid making arrests inside the office of the president of Johns Hopkins University. A delegation of nine activists with the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance had signed a letter to Ronald Daniels, asking to meet and discuss armed drone research at the university's Applied Physics Lab (APL). Their letter was not acknowledged, so around noon on May 8, the activists, each carrying photographs of drone attack victims, occupied his office to seek a meeting.

Told that Daniels was on a plane to Japan, they said they would be happy to meet with anyone who had policymaking authority to stop the drone research, including the director of the APL.

Instead, a parade of security officers, Baltimore city police and university officials visited through the afternoon and listened patiently. Some even engaged the

group in discussion of various social justice issues, but had no power to change the school's policy.

The demonstrators were told they were trespassing and must leave, but no move was made to arrest anyone, even when the office closed at 5:00 p.m.

After a final attempt to intimidate the group with threats of arrest had failed, Baltimore police departed the scene by 7:30 p.m. and university security guards seemed to be settling in for the night. The activists decided to read their letter aloud, then end the occupation. As they left the office, the head of security promised they would be arrested if they ever stepped foot on the campus again.

For more information, contact the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance, 325 East 25th St., Baltimore, MD, 21218, 410-366-1637.

HECKLING WAR CRIMINALS

Accused war criminal and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair was the commencement speaker to 400 graduates and guests at Colby College in Waterville, Maine on May 20. As he began to speak, four people took turns heckling, standing to shout out "Tony Blair is a war criminal!", "He should be arrested" and "He lied us into war in Iraq."

Each was removed and escorted from campus, but Lawrence Reichard was also charged with disorderly conduct, apparently for continuing to condemn Blair as police led him away. He was bailed out on \$250 bond, and will return to court August 21.

For more information, contact Reichard at Ireichard@gmail.com.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

from Lancaster County

Norman Edgar Lowry, Jr.'s statement at sentencing to Judge Louis Farina, May 21, 2012

DON'T CRY FOR ME . . .

"The only thing certain in times of great uncertainty is that people will behave with great strength or weakness, and with very little in between."

Amy Tan

Again today, it is my honor to invest a few moments with you, as you sentence me for my choice to trespass on property used by the United States military recruiters of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. As I sat, purposefully blocking their prime entryway, I was simply and pointedly saying my conscience-based and seemingly small "no" to our society's love of extreme violence, racism, bigotry and poverty-production. It is my everincreasing love for our creator and for my fellow man that fuels and drives my choices.

The court has asked me to consider that my choices to destroy military property or to trespass will not be further tolerated in my protests; that this time or next, I will receive the maximum allowable sentence, which is 3–7 years for my current offense. I have respectfully reminded the court that I cannot in good conscience agree to this request for consideration, as to do so would be to dishonor our creator and all of mankind. I have not and will not change my mind!

It seems quite absurd to me to think that I am being asked by a society that supposes itself to be free and peace-loving, to cease breaking laws that cover up and protect the obvious tyranny of unconstitutional wars, fought on the public credit card; unrestricted, worldwide usage of overwhelming force, overly excessive military spending; fiscal, military and political policies and sanctions that genocide mostly untold millions yearly; continued usage of nuclear weaponry and the nuclear threat; corrupt justice and prison systems, fueled by laws that demonize the blue collar offender (who commits 20% of U.S. crime, yet fills 80%+ of U.S. jail/prison beds) while purposefully ignoring the white collar offender (who commits 80%+ of U.S. crime, yet fills less than 20% of U.S. jail/prison beds); etc.

It has been my continuing honor to invest more than 80% of my time, since April 16, 2009, in the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania prison with those of whom I am most fond: the abused, marginalized, oppressed and unwanted. Prison is most assuredly a sewer and a privately constructed hell for those whom society would

THE INSIDE LINE



like to forget. For me, it has also been a place where I have received threats of beatings and death (from guards and their supervisors), for confronting unprovoked issues of violence, racism and bigotry against my fellow inmates. Interestingly enough, the warden, new assistant warden and representatives of both the Pennsylvania Prison Society and Justice and Mercy, Inc. (sent to me) have chosen not to question the 20–40 inmate witnesses to each event.

Often, including by the court, I have been told that I could achieve so much more on the outside of prison. Yet I have nothing to prove! "To say no to evil is perfect revolution." (Gandhi) Investing my life in prison, with those who are enslaved there (among the many more we enslave worldwide), makes more sense to me than investing my life with the slave-making/owning society outside of prison.

Our creator – my redeemer and life's great love – teaches that "the one desiring to be greatest will be the greatest servant; that the one desiring the most power will give all power away, as it is given!" I have purposefully chosen my lot in life; I am where I wish to be and with whom I most desire to be! I am an utterly fulfilled man, living out our creator's destiny for me! Don't cry for me ...

As I cannot in good conscience follow the governing authority of the land into sin, by ceasing to include purposeful acts of civil disobedience against tyranny-protecting laws and practices, in my protestations, I will gladly accept and max-out today's chosen sentence.

Our loving creator continues to plead with America for heart and life change! Barring this, his next attentiongetters will be fiscal collapse, massive civil unrest and utter destruction. Our creator always desires the best, yet will allow our choices to bring their consequences.

May you and your precious ones be greatly blessed!

[Norman Lowry has been jailed since his third arrest at the military recruiting office on August 1, 2011. He was sentenced to serve one to seven years in a Pennsylvania state prison.]

NATO Resistance, cont.

continued from page 1

behind at least five pre-emptive arrests on conspiracy and explosives charges of young men protesting NATO. The five also remain behind bars on bail ranging from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million.

Arrests began with the Catholic Workers' May 14 protest at Obama campaign headquarters, where eight people were arrested for trespass. Three were released that evening. Four others entered guilty pleas the next day and were sentenced to time served plus court costs. Chris Spicer pled not guilty and refused to post \$100 bond. In court nine days later, Spicer posted bond and will return for bench trial on July 11.

The next day, four people were arrested during an immigrant rights march that was coordinated during the NATO protests to build alliances among immigrants and activists in human rights, anti-war, labor, fair trade, and Occupy movements.

One of the four, Danny Johnson of Los Angeles, was charged with aggravated battery for punching an officer in the chest and obstructing traffic. He spent seven days in jail before the charges were simply dropped for lack of evidence. "An officer grabbed me as I was going though the crosswalk and told me I was under arrest," Johnson told the Chicago Sun-Times. While in jail, he and another Occupy activist held teach-ins for other prisoners.

Following a script familiar to the one that played out in 2008 leading up to the Republican National Convention in Minnesota, police raided the homes of activists on the eve of the event, rounded up suspects, and accused a few of plotting imminent terrorist attacks. The media picked up the prosecutor's handy meme of incendiary "Black Bloc" anarchists bent on destruction, with the predictable effect of distracting attention from the wideranging criticism of NATO and discouraging attendance at weekend marches billed as family-friendly.

Late at night on Wednesday, May 16, police broke down the door to enter a six-unit apartment building in the Bridgeport section of the city. Guns drawn, they ransacked four apartments in their search for suspects and evidence. One resident was tackled in his kitchen and others were handcuffed for hours while police searched.

"Pre-emptive raids like this are a hallmark of National Special Security Events," said Sarah Gelsomino of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and Chicago's People's Law Office, one of the team of lawyers dedicated to representing summit arrestees.

Another hallmark is the use of informants to foment the alleged violent plots. Eleven people were taken into custody in the apartments. But during processing, two people were separated from the others and never seen again.

Those arrested had been in custody for most of the day before police even acknowledged to attorneys that they were being held or where. Six were released by Friday, May 18 without charges, but police continue to hold three men from out of town who had been staying at the apartments. Brian Church, Jared Chase and Brent Betterly are charged with conspiracy to commit terrorism, providing material support for terrorism, and possession of an explosive incendiary device.

Bail was set at \$1.5 million each. Their next hearing is set for June 12. Betterly's bond on an unrelated outstanding criminal charge in Florida has been revoked.

The three men had been stopped by police the previous week, soon after arriving in Chicago. In a scene recorded on a cell phone and posted online, the police are heard threatening NATO protesters after the men they had stopped said they were part of Occupy Chicago.

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Sitting In The Way of War Gets 1-to-7 Years

A Pennsylvania man will spend seven years in state prison unless he promises never to block the entrance of any military recruiting office in the future.

Lancaster County Judge Louis Farina told Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. on May 21 that unless he would forswear his nonviolent protest, the court would be obliged to impose the maximum sentence for criminal trespass under Pennsylvania law for Lowry's third consecutive protest conviction at an Armed Forces Recruiting Station in Lancaster.

If only he would make such a promise, the judge implied, his sentence would be much lighter. Did he understand?, the court asked. Yes, Lowry answered. Will you make the pledge? No.

Asked if he had anything more to say before being sentenced, Lowry presented a written statement and was invited to read it. (His statement is printed as The Inside Line on this page.)

Norman Lowry, a grandfather who has worked as a chaplain in urban ministry to the homeless and destitute, was first arrested at the recruiting office one day in February, 2009, when he began calmly breaking windows on the recruiters' vehicles. He was arrested, charged with causing \$4,000 in damages, refused bail and served seven months in jail. Lowry then returned to the office in January, 2010, to try and talk the soldiers out of their jobs collecting human fodder. When he refused to leave, he was arrested. Lowry again refused to post bail, was convicted of trespass and violating probation, and served nearly 18 months in jail. Last August 1, he visited the recruiters again, blocked the door, and was arrested there for the third time.

Farina's sentence of one-to-seven years left Lowry the opportunity at any future parole hearing to win release with a promise not to block the entrance of any armed forces recruiting station. He gets credit for the 295 days time served since his arrest.



Letters of support may be sent to Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 11-3659, Lancaster County Prison, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199. However, transfer to a state prison could come at any time. Letters to Lowry sent c/o the Nuclear Resister will be forwarded when his transfer is confirmed.

The Trifecta Resista

A number of Kansas City groups worked together to coordinate a trio of demonstrations in Kansas and Missouri in April, calling it the Midwest Trifecta Resista.

The Trifecta began on the morning of April 14 outside Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where more than two dozen people held banners and offered leaflets in support of freedom for Bradley Manning, the accused Army whistleblower. Manning has been imprisoned at Fort Leavenworth, although at the time of the vigil he was in Fort Meade, Maryland for pretrial hearings.

That afternoon, more supporters joined the group for a demonstration in front of the new nuclear weapons parts production plant under construction on the south side of Kansas City, Missouri. The entire group walked across the property line together. Only after being warned of arrest did most of the group slowly step back to public property. Four people remained and were arrested: Mark Kenney, Lu Mountenay, Midge Potts and Henry Stoever. They were released on \$100 bonds a few hours later. In court on May 15, Mountenay and Kenney were convicted and sentenced to 20 hours of community service and six months probation. Potts and Stoever pled not guilty and will face trial August 17.

The Midwest Trifecta Resista concluded the next day at Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Missouri. The report of that action is on page 4.

For more information, visit www.peaceworkskc.org

NUKE'S NEIGHBORS DELIVER SHUT DOWN NOTICE

The Pilgrim nuclear power station, south of Boston, is another of General Electric's Mark 1 boiling water reactors notorious for catastrophic failure following the earthquake and tsunami at Fukushima, Japan. The Pilgrim plant is 40 years old, and the NRC had still not ruled on the application to renew its operating license on May 20 when concerned citizens marched on the plant.

The day before, a referendum in the nearest town of Plymouth joined nine other towns along the South Shore and Cape Cod to recently vote for the permanent closure of the reactor. Those who marched tried to deliver in person the community's demand to shut it down when the current license expires June 8, but no one at the closed gate would accept their letter. The ensuing six-hour sit-in ended with the arrest of seven men and seven women. They were released on their own recognizance and spent six hours in court the next day to plead not guilty. A pretrial hearing is set for July 11.

Five days later, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission recommended that its staff approve the Pilgrim plant's license renewal. Outgoing Commissioner Gregory Jazcko was the only dissenting vote.

For more information, visit capedownwinders.org, or email info@capedownwinders.org.



NATO Resistance, cont.

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Defense attorney Michael Deutsch called the case against the three "a Chicago police set-up... entrapment to the highest degree... this is a way to stir up prejudice against the people who are exercising their First Amendment rights."

On Thursday, police made two more arrests for explosives plots against NATO and Chicago's mayor. When the arrests and charges against Sebastian Senakiewicz and Mark Neiweem were announced on Sunday, police said they were separate schemes, unrelated to the Bridgeport raids. However, evidence soon emerged that the same suspected undercover infiltrators – "Mo" and "Gloves" – might be the missing arrestees from the Bridgeport raid who had encouraged and facilitated the actions of all five now charged with planning violence.

Neiweem is charged with solicitation and attempted possession of an incendiary device, and his bail set at \$500,000. Senakiewicz faces charges of false terrorist threats, with bail at \$750,000. Both have June 13 court dates.

The planned and spontaneous marches on Friday and Saturday involved thousands and were heavily policed. Among the handful arrested was Samuel Blantz, who pulled down part of a large NATO banner hanging from the Michigan Avenue bridgehouse. Blantz, a veteran and Occupier from Missouri, initially evaded police because fellow marchers pulled him from the grip of the police who'd grabbed him on his way down. Interviewed by the Chicago Tribune that night in Grant Park, he said "I did it for the sake of showing that we do not like NATO and their treason against us."

Blantz was later arrested and charged with criminal damage to property and aggravated battery on a police officer. He was jailed for ten days before bond was posted on \$10,000 bail. In another incident broadcast live Saturday night on CNN, a police van accelerated as it drove through a crowd of demonstrators, injuring and hospitalizing one man.

On Sunday, the major coalition march against NATO was also heavily policed. The estimated 15,000 marchers ended up several blocks away from where the military alliance leaders were meeting.

Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan led a moving closing ceremony. One by one, almost 40 men and women took the stage to denounce NATO and the U.S.-led wars and then return their military medals, throwing them away in the direction of the summit.

From the stage, organizers encouraged people to depart to the west, past the gauntlet of police and away from the summit. In the crowd, others shouted encouragement to go east, towards NATO and the police line. Perhaps 500 people advanced in that direction towards the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Cermak Road.

Tension rose in the intersection along the divide between police and protesters. The parade permit expired

at 5 p.m. Police by then had closed ranks and had the intersection mostly "kettled", or surrounded with narrowing exit paths along the sidewalk. Very soon, police wielding shields and long truncheons began pushing forward from the east to clear people from the street. Some swung their batons, striking any marchers who tried to advance.

Many in the crowd, some wearing masks, pushed back, trapping others in between with no safe way out. Skirmishes erupted and the few sticks and stones that flew from the crowd were quickly overwhelmed by the swinging clubs and stomping boots of advancing lines of police. Police plucked some perceived leaders or instigators from the crowd while appearing to target others for assault. Street medics on the scene treated at least ten people who were bashed and bloodied, suffering cuts, concussions, and broken teeth and bones. Police reported four injuries in their ranks.

The NLG reported that up to 60 people were arrested Sunday, and collected at least that many reports of police brutality. At least 20 people were detained and released overnight to the welcome of a few dozen supporters vigiling outside the jail. Most of those arrested were cited for violating city ordinances and either paid a fine or were given June court dates, and some were released without charges. About 20 were charged with misdemeanors.

Four other men were held on bail after weekend arrests following clashes with police. Christopher French is charged with felony battery of a cop and remains jailed on \$250,000 bail.

Raziel Azuara was arrested for allegedly throwing a paint-filled light bulb at police, and Yonte Harris allegedly got into a scuffle with an officer on a bicycle. Both are charged with aggravated battery to a police officer and are being held on \$150,000 and \$200,000 bond, respectively.

Stephen Salsmal was jailed on \$40,000 bail for felony battery of a cop, and was bonded out May 31.

On Monday, about 500 people joined Occupy Chicago to march on war profiteer Boeing Corporation's Chicago office. Anticipating the protest, Boeing had closed the office for the day. The march moved on to Obama's campaign headquarters, where two more arrests occurred.



Letters of support should be individually addressed to each prisoner and include their 11-digit ID #. Brian Jacob Church 2012-0519002; Jared Chase 2012-0519003; Brent Betterly 2012-0519001; Sebastian Senakiewicz 2012-0520030; Mark Neiweem 2012-0520023; Christopher French 2012-0522081; Raziel Azuara 2012-0521087; Yonte Harris 2012-0521086; all at P.O. Box 089002, Chicago, IL 60608.

Vermont Yankee, cont.

continued from page 1

most were released later from the police station. Among those arrested were Vermont state Sen. Phillip Baruth of Burlington and Frances Crowe, a 93-year-old member of the Shut it Down affinity group. When a reporter asked Crowe how many times she had been arrested in her lifetime, she replied, "Not enough!"

In New Orleans, seven well-dressed members of the Natural Guard affinity group visited Entergy's corporate office to demand a meeting with its CEO. While waiting in vain, they hung banners and taped off a "crime scene" inside. Police were eventually called in and arrested the group for trespass.

Vermont bookseller Nancy Braus said, "I come with the message from Vermont and from New England, that we stand united to oppose nuclear tyranny over our state's right to self determine a safe and green energy future. Our simple trespass is our statement of resistance to Entergy's corporate trespass with the continued illegal operation of this nuclear waste factory." Cited and released a few hours later on their own recognizance along with Braus were Jeff Brummer, Ben Chichester, Lynn Chong, Renny Cushing, Paul Gunter, Nelia Sargent and Kendra Ulrich.

The five members of the Green Mountain Delegation of SAGE who visited Entergy Nuclear's regional headquarters in White Plains also asked to meet company executives. They were all unavailable. The delegation had been kept waiting in the lobby for 15 minutes when the guard was called away. The five took the opportunity to take the stairs to the 12th floor office. Told to leave and get an escort back, but given no assurance they would not be kept waiting again, the group instead began to read from a list of demands. Among their demands was that Entergy cease its attack on Vermont's democratic process and honor agreements it signed with the state of Vermont to begin the decommissioning of the Fukushima style Mark I Boiling Water reactor immediately, pay reparations to all communities whose land and lives have been made toxic by the uranium fuel chain, pay the full costs of all legal proceedings past and present involving the state of Vermont, and revoke all statements claiming nuclear power to be clean, carbon-free or renewable.

Security guards came and were unsuccessful in persuading the group to leave, so police were summoned. Kate Damascus, Erik Gillard, Matthew Manning, Madeline Sharrow and Barry Wyman were arrested. In court, Gillard and Manning each paid a \$370 fine with the charge reduced from misdemeanor to violation. The other three each posted \$370 bail and returned to court in early May, when they were offered and accepted the same deal.

Entergy dismissed their complaint in New Orleans, and those charges were dropped. In Vermont, the state prosecutor also dropped 136 cases, telling the media, "By engaging in civil disobedience, these protesters violated Vermont's criminal laws in an effort to obtain access to, and then use, our criminal courts as a forum for discussions about nuclear power and the continued operation of Vermont Yankee. However, our limited resources, and those of the court, are stretched thin. Weighing the seriousness of the criminal offenses committed by the protesters against the time and means necessary to proceed with these cases has led me to decide against moving forward with these cases."

Nevertheless, the Shut it Down women continued to press their point. On April 24, just after Earth Day, costumed in hazmat suits and toting Geiger counter props, eight members of the group and three supporters leafletted during lunchtime in downtown Brattleboro. Their brochure asked "Can Fukushima Happen Here?"

They then moved on to nearby Vernon to block the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant gate by chaining themselves to it and stretching crime scene tape across the driveway.

"We were able to breach security at the power plant by getting through the second gate," said Hattie Nestel, one of those arrested. "It was the first time we were able to lock the gate shut from the inside."

Vernon police arrived within fifteen minutes to enforce the request of Entergy officials that the women leave the premises or be arrested for trespass. The eight women were transported to Vernon police headquarters, where they were booked and released. No court date was set.

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

April Days of Action

In April, a group of human rights defenders came together for the three-day School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) action training camp at the Wayside Center for Popular Education in Faber, Virginia. The camp was held to prepare for the April Days of Action in Washington, D.C.

From anti-oppression work to building puppets, from listening projects to climbing lessons and how to build blockades, the activists prepared to carry forward the movement to close the School of Assassins at Ft. Benning (formally known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation).

In Washington, SOAW founder Fr. Roy Bourgeois opened a day-long conference on April 14 that centered on four breakout sessions: The War on Drugs, The War on Terror, The War on Immigrants and Militarization.

Monday morning, April 16, was lobby training for the following day. At noon, the activists rallied in Upper Senate Park with signs, banners, a long giant dragon puppet and props created at the action camp. When their noisy, colorful parade began to march down Independence Avenue towards House office buildings, police moved in to block the way and prevent a mobile pedestrian occupation of the pavement.

Thirteen people who tried to proceed were arrested on the ironic charge of "blocking passage".

Becca Polk, one of the women arrested, wrote:

During the march around the Capitol, I was once again reminded of the false reality of democracy and safety that so many people in the U.S. live behind. Walking around as a tourist and being proud of the "freedoms that they buy with their tax dollars," many have no idea that their tax dollars are going towards suppressing and controlling the voices of the people. As we were protesting the increased militarization of Latin America, it was evident that demilitarization struggles are connected all across the world. We are seeing the enhancement of military technology that Eisenhower could have never imagined when he first warned us about the military industrial complex. This also means that equipment typically designated for the military is being passed onto the police that are patrolling our streets.

The amount of police surrounding us on the march and directing our every move, including how we walked along the sidewalk, showed that our first amendment rights are being pushed further and further into a tightly controlled parameter. This was evident as we turned the corner towards the buildings of the House of Representatives where many of our people were inside lobbying. The police blocked our march, not allowing us to continue down the designated route. To block our voices from being heard is blocking democracy. In one vote, I cannot express my deep indignation at the system's violent repression and greed that enables those in power to use force and control in an attempt to quell any form of resistance.



Becca Polk is taken into custody while parading down Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C., April 16, 2012.

I felt compelled to join my other compañeras to take back the streets, and bring the real voices of democracy. By disobeying unjust orders, I was taking a stand against the injustices, but also making the connection of people all across the globe that we are in one struggle, together in the fight against corporate greed, politicians' allegiance to the money and the militarization of our society to continue business as usual.

They were released several hours later. Six had posted a \$35 forfeiture bond, and seven of the group returned to be arraigned on May 8. Two pled out to 24 hours community service, while five face trial August 27.

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

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE UPDATE

Theresa Cusimano, now serving a six month sentence for trespass last fall at Fort Benning, has been moved to a federal prison to finish her sentence on July 11. On February 23, her cellmate at the Lee County (Alabama) Jail hung herself, and Cusimano was the one who cut her down. She writes of the experience for The Inside Line, on this page.



Letters of support should be sent to Theresa Cusimano 93611-020, FMC Carswell, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127

Moms Against Bombs

Moms Against Bombs was the theme of the annual Mother's Day vigil and nonviolent direct action at the Navy's west coast Trident nuclear submarine base. People began gathering Friday night at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, just over the back fence of Naval Base Kitsap Bangor in Silverdale, Washington. A day-long program began early Saturday morning, incorporating an introduction to nuclear weapons effects and U.S. nuclear policy, training for nonviolent action, and a vigil at the local Target store before assembling in the afternoon outside the base main gate.

There, a public reading of Julia Ward Howe's Mother's Day Proclamation of 1870 took place alongside the road. Four people walked into the roadway and unfurled a large banner reading "Give PEACE a chance. No, seriously" that stretched across all entrance lanes.

Elaine Hickman, Tom Rogers, Bert Sacks and Carlo Voli complied when asked by state patrol officers to leave the roadway, but were still cited for being a pedestrian in the roadway illegally.

Louise Bollman and Carlo Voli were in court March 23 to argue for dismissal or reduced sentence following their Martin Luther King Day arrests at the submarine base. After hearing their testimony, the judge reduced both of their fines.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org or contact media and outreach coordinator Leonard Eiger, 425-455-2190, subversivepeacemaking@gmail.com.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Lee County

by Theresa Cusimano

[from March 2 letter to the Nuclear Resister]

While in Opelika's jail my cellmate Alicia Witherspoon opted out of this world and hung herself. I wrote this in memory of her. THE INSIDE LINE



I wish I could have known Your weight was too heavy to carry, alone.

We wish we would have seen

the darkness that threatened the light

of your bright smile.

Your sisters felt the burden of your physical body

While your spirit was set free

As the birds began to sing

outside the window of D-3.

Friends should not betray us

Turning our weakness into "Conspiracy".

Mothers should not be separated from their loving families.

We pray that your journey into eternal life

Is kinder and more gentle

than your earthly strife.

[from a later letter to SOA Watch]

...In the United States, we spend our national treasury on all things military. After Reagan's rule, we declared war on the mentally ill. We cut public health care, privatized health care for those who can afford it and the rest can go to jail to get their prescription filled! Here the bi-polar, ADHD, teen moms, victims of domestic abuse and the terminally ill will receive daily medication, sleep on a cold steel bunk atop a two-inch high mat with a roof over their heads. As you may recall, I entered frustrated and disillusioned. This second time around certainly reminds me of my incredible privilege of being born into an upper middle class family. It reminds me why justice work is central to our existence. Sharing cannot be an option... it must be required if we are ever to pretend we are a merciful community of citizens.

Within this context, my cellmates offer me their underwear, their socks, their sheets when they notice my shaking won't go away. They share everything that they buy off the stores if anyone put \$10 or \$20 in their accounts. You can see in their eyes a desire to be loved and listened to. The cable T.V. is a luxury they enjoy in jail as they schedule their days at the pop culture of the

Kardashians, Locked Up, Mob Wives, the Bachelor and Sweet Home Alabama. Things get really exciting when horror movies or "A Thousand Ways to Die" comes on. I've not yet seen their ability to absorb violence challenged. The words hardy, resilient, survivors were created in our collective vocabulary because of them. I sit in awe.

So I wake up and thank God that mine is NOT a life sentence, and write my silly little letters to legislators begging them to stop exporting our culture of violence. I feel ridiculously insignificant as I observe all of this around me. But my presence seems to provide entertainment... as if I am E.T. instead of T.C. I'm convinced my purpose for being here was to hold my cellmate gently as she died and pray over her. It makes me wonder how we, as a society, might more gently hold the living..."

[Theresa Cusimano is serving a six month sentence for trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, to demand closure of the School of the Americas/WHINSEC. She was recently moved to a federal prison in Texas to complete her sentence.]

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Christian Holy Week rituals portray the suffering and death of Jesus at the hands of the Roman state, followed by Christ's resurrection. They have long provided an allegorical context for nonviolent resistance to nuclear weapons and war.

Coast to Coast, Christian Resisters Observe Good Friday

Lockheed Martín Valley Forge

For the Brandywine Peace
Community, the traditional Good Friday
observance of the Stations of the Cross
has, over four decades, become "Stations
of Justice & Peace", including nonviolent
direct action at Lockheed Martin's
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania facility.
As the world's largest war profiteer,
Lockheed Martin is the "Top Gun of the
1%" in the eyes of the activists, who
seek to "remember and mourn humanity
crucified today while claiming our cross
of Jesus Christ today as a counter symbol
of nonviolent resistance and hope."

At each of the Stations of Peace & Justice this year, on April 6, a cross was planted in the ground with Lockheed Martin logos at the crucifixion nail points. The stop at each station was marked by a reading or song, or audio broadcast of an excerpt of a sermon by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bob Smith writes: "At the 10th station – Jesus Dies on The Cross – our large bell of peace was rung as we stood in silence. As Adagio for Strings was broadcast, eleven of those gathered began standing with crosses in the main driveway entrance to Lockheed Martin. Behind us stood a line of Upper Merion police and Lockheed security guards. We had decided that instead of immediately walking up to the 'security' line, we would try to dispel a notion that our intention was 'to simply get arrested.' So instead of immediately walking up the Lockheed drive, a group representative approached the security line and loudly announced that if we were allowed (even escorted) up to the company's main doorway entrance, some distance from the driveway entrance, and allowed a short, ten minute Good Friday and Passover prayer, we would leave the property forthwith.

"Lockheed Martin security chief would have none of it, even as our representative pressed our proposal repeatedly – at one point even asking that the general manager be called. The Lockheed security chief wouldn't hear it, saying that she 'couldn't do anything', except prevent us from bringing our prayer to the site and ordering arrests as all eleven people in the drive crossed onto 'company property' began moving toward the security line. Carroll Clay, Joseph Clay, Gene Cleaver, Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Annie Geers, Mary Jo McArthur, Tom Mullian, Mary Ellen Norpel, Fran Sheldon, Father Patrick Sieber, OFM and Robert M. Smith were cited for disorderly conduct and released from the Upper Merion police station."

For more information, visit BrandywinePeace.com or call 610-544-1818.

Groton Naval Submaríne Base

Five people were arrested Good Friday after blocking the closed gate of the Naval Submarine Base in New London, Connecticut. At the conclusion of the annual Stations of the Cross peace demonstration, Jacqueline Allen-Doucot, her son Ammon Allen-Doucot, Brian Kavanagh, Stephen Kobasa and Cal Robertson carried a banner into the road, and were arrested for obstruction when they refused to leave. They were cited and released on their promise to appear in court, where they were convicted and sentenced to community service. Kavanagh, Robertson and Jackie Allen-Doucot had the completion of their sentence acknowledged by the court on May 8; Ammon Allen-Doucot and Kobasa expect the same resolution when they go to court on June 19. For more information, contact Jackie Allen-Doucot at doucot@sbcglobal.net.



photo © Karl Mondon/Contra Costa Tir

Cops and Christians face off at the gate of the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory, April 6, 2012.

Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab

The Good Friday protest tradition at the Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory brought about 150 people out to the California facility that morning. Following prayer and song, they marched to the main gate, where 34 people were arrested after blocking it for about two hours. They were cited and released. For more information, contact the Ecumenical Peace Institute, 510-655-1162 or visit www.epicalc.org.

Marquette University

Don Timmerman of the Milwaukee Casa Maria Catholic Worker community was arrested for trespassing on Good Friday at Gesu Church on the Marquette University campus in Milwaukee. "[I] was trying to explain to those entering the church that we as Christians must practice the nonviolence shown to us by Christ during His passion and not promote and encourage our young to train for and fight in wars. Gesu is the Jesuit parish connected with Marquette University, which sponsors the ROTC and promotes the U.S. military and its wars." Timmerman has a May 30 court date. For more information, contact Timmerman at don2roberta@yahoo.com.

Nevada Test Site & Creech Air Force Base

This spring, the Nevada Desert Experience's Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas concluded with a Good Friday Nuclear Stations of the Cross liturgy at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), where facilities are still kept ready for full-scale nuclear weapons tests to resume. On April 6, ten people crossed the line at the Mercury gate – Miki Tracy, Rev. Felicia Parazaider, Fr. Louie Vitale, Laura-Marie Taylor, John Amidon, Theo Kayser, Erik Johnson, Dennis Duvall, Charlie Smith and Robert Majors. They were arrested and cited for trespass, then released with no court date.

Two days prior, the Sacred Peace Walk had stopped at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, where drone warriors learn their skills and carry out remote control assassinations. Four people sought to serve an indictment charging the base commander with extrajudicial killings, violation of due process and wars of aggression in the killing of innocent civilians by drone crews at Creech. Dennis DuVall, Robert Majors, Felicia Parazaider and Fr. Louie Vitale were rebuffed at the gate, and when they did not leave they were arrested for trespass, cited and released.

All later received notices in the mail that their charges were dismissed. It was also confirmed that prosecutors

have dismissed all charges against 18 people arrested last October for blocking entrance to the base.

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

Lockheed Martín Sunnyvale

At Lockheed Martin's sprawling Sunnyvale, California facility, about 35 people responded to the Pacific Life Community's call for a Good Friday occupation. A letter read at the gate explained their presence:

"We come here today to stand or kneel in humility, looking outward from this corporate/ military facility, asking for forgiveness for the harm caused by obsessive reliance on warmaking for profit. We hold 'Crime Scene' tape as a symbol, recognizing a growing resistance

in this country to the manufacture and deployment of a nuclear weapons system, the Trident D5, which is among the world's most horrifying means of mass destruction. Its cost, with other weapons in our corporate-Pentagon alliance, sucks the life out of an economy that is failing the citizens of this country. For its producers and for all who are tacitly complicit, we pray for both forgiveness and conversion."

Police arrested five people who tried to deliver the letter to workers in Lockheed Martin's military space program and the Navy's Strategic Systems program at the site. Carol Broulette, Peggy Coleman, Ed Ehmke, Mary Jane Parrine and Rush Rehm were taken to the Sunnyvale police station and released pending arraignment. For more information, visit wevigil.org.

Pentagon

About 50 people, including a group from Loras College, Iowa, took part in the Atlantic Life Community's annual Holy Week Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C. on April 4-6. New York Catholic Worker Cathy Breen gave an opening night presentation on her work with Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria. The next day, the retreat community vigiled at the Israeli embassy and presented an appeal to the Israeli government not to bomb Iran.

On Good Friday, the community engaged in public witness both at the Pentagon and the White House. At 7 a.m., a "contemporary crucifixion" tableau was created in a newly designated protest zone near the Pentagon metro entrance. Each of ten crucified victims, wearing black robes, took turns with arms outstretched on a cross. Simultaneously, on the sidewalk leading to the Pentagon metro entrance, eleven people prayed in silence around a cross that had the inscription "Victims of War." One sign they held read "Put Away the Sword," and the other held the names of the 17 Afghan civilians who were massacred by a U.S. soldier on March 11.

Chris Spicer tried to deliver a letter to Secretary of Defense Panetta but was stopped by police. After the third warning to leave the sidewalk or be arrested, Pentagon police arrested all. Along with Spicer, Bill Frankel-Streit, Nancy Gowen, Brian Hynes, Art Laffin, Amber Mason, Kevin Mason, Sr. Margaret McKenna, Taylor Reese, Helen Schietinger and Rosemary Thompson were charged with "failure to comply with a lawful order" and released. At noon, the crucifixion tableau was repeated outside the White House as hundreds of tourists looked on, but no arrests were made. The Pentagon charges were dismissed on the eve of their first court date.

For more information, contact Art Laffin at Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, artlaffin@hotmail.com, 202-882-9649.

Pacific Life Community Blocks Vandenberg Gate



Members of the Pacific Life Community blockade main gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base, March 12, 2012. (pictured, 1-r: Ed Ehmke, Mary Jane Parrine, Juliette Twomey-Spohn, Betsy Lamb and Fr. Louis Vitale)

Thirteen people from the Pacific Life Community were arrested on Monday, March 12, as they knelt hand-in-hand, blocking the roadway to the main gate at Vandenberg Air Force Base on the California coast. The nonviolent direct action was the culmination of a three-day retreat in nearby Santa Barbara, where over 50 people from various faith-based groups on the West Coast gathered to pray, study and reflect upon the consequences of U.S. imperial policy around the Pacific Rim. Among those suffering those consequences are the people of the Marshall Islands, target of recent and ongoing intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests launched from Vandenberg. In the 1950s, U.S. authorities displaced the native population of the islands so that it could be used for nuclear missile target practice that has contaminated the water and land of the Kwajalein Atoll with nuclear radiation.

The retreat also heard from Dennis Apel about the continuing nonviolent resistance on Jeju Island off the coast of South Korea, where the U.S. is behind South Korea's construction of a naval base strategically situated for future actions against China. Apel and the Guadalupe Catholic Worker community he is a member of vigil for peace each month at Vandenberg, and he had just returned from a two-week solidarity journey to Gangjeong village, the heart of the Jeju resistance.

Those arrested included members of the Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Tacoma and Guadalupe Catholic Worker communities, as well as members of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and Nevada Desert Experience, among others. Dennis Apel, Rebecca Casas, Dennis DuVall, Ed Ehmke, Jim Haber, Theo Kayser, Betsy Lamb, David Omondi, Mary Jane Parrine, Juliette Twomey-Spohn, Fr. Louis Vitale, Mike Wisniewski and John Yevtich were all taken into custody, cited for trespass and released a short time later at Ryon Park in nearby

While no court date has been set for these defendants, 11 of 15 people arrested while protesting a scheduled February 25 missile test launch were arraigned in federal court in Santa Barbara on May 17. All entered pleas of not guilty, and were set for a bench trial on October 17. The remaining four defendants will be arraigned June 21.

For more information, visit pacificlifecommunity. wordpress.com, vandenbergwitness.org, and vandenbergprotest-macgregor.blogspot.com.

TWO CALIFORNIA ANTI-WAR **ACTIVISTS IN COURT**

In separate cases, prosecutors have pursued two California residents known for their anti-war agitation.

CINDY SHEEHAN

Cindy Sheehan, driven into public peace activism by the killing of her soldier son Casey in Iraq in 2004, stopped paying federal taxes in 2005. The IRS came after her for nonpayment of what they estimated to be \$105,000 in taxes due for 2005-2006.

In an open letter to the IRS last fall, Sheehan and her sister (who is not in court now) wrote:

IRS Agent, can you imagine in your Revenuer's heart the agony we felt when we realized that we had funded the murder of our own dear Casey? As our awareness grew, so did our disgust with our complicity in this system as the body count for totally innocent civilians rose. We now feel that for at least 30 years of taxpaying perfidy, we funded the murders and torture of millions! The only way we could live with ourselves was to stop being accessories to our government's war crimes and crimes against humanity.

After two recent meetings with IRS agents where she reiterated her steadfast refusal to pay for reasons of conscience, Sheehan was called to federal court in Sacramento on April 19.

Prosecutors sought an order compelling Sheehan to answer questions about her income and assets. After hearing from both sides, Federal Magistrate John Moulds looked directly at Sheehan and said, "It strikes me as a civilized way to protest uncivilized acts." He encouraged both sides to keep talking, and put off any decision on the government's motion until at least June 4.

Outside the courthouse, Sheehan thanked her supporters and attorney, Dennis Cunningham, while reaffirming that "No matter if the government says I owe a penny or \$100,000, I'm not paying one penny to them."

For more information about war tax resistance, contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, P.O. Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215, 1-800-269-7464; and visit Sheehan's blog at cindysheehanssoapbox.com.

CARLOS MONTES

Carlos Montes, active from the Chicano Moratorium against the Vietnam War through the formation of Latinos Against War to oppose the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, was named in search warrants when FBI agents raided the homes of anti-war and international solidarity activists in Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois in September, 2010. Twenty-three activists were subsequently subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury in Chicago, and all refused to answer questions. In response, Carlos Montes co-founded the Committee to Stop FBI Repression and established its website, stopfbi.net.

Then in May 2011, FBI agents, guns drawn, smashed through the door as he slept and ransacked Carlos Montes' Los Angeles area home. They seized his computer, cell phone, data disks, photos and papers. Montes was arrested and immediately questioned about the midwest raids. He was charged with one ostensibly unrelated firearms violation, and released on bail the next morning. Soon, he was indicted on six felonies under California firearms law. He and his supporters view the prosecution as politically motivated, and the result of his over 40 years of political activism for peace and social justice.

Authorities charged that Montes' registered purchase of a firearm and ammunition in 2009 violated laws on felons owning firearms, and cited a 1969 protestrelated conviction that prosecutors say was a felony. Montes countered, and documents confirm, that the 1969

Y-I2 Resister Sentenced

More than twenty months after his arrest at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, David Corcoran was sentenced in federal court in Chicago on March 21. He was the last of 13 convicted of trespass in federal court for crossing the line on July 5, 2010. The arrests, plus 23 more on the state side of the line, came at the conclusion of the Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future gathering that celebrated the 30th anniversaries of the Nuclear Resister, Nukewatch and the Plowshares Eight

Corcoran's trial and sentencing had been postponed due to his poor health, and most of his co-defendants had already served from one to eight months in jails and

Over fifty letters of support were submitted to Judge Amy St. Eve, and three dozen friends were present to hear Corcoran thank the court officials and address her

Judge, I want to reiterate that when I committed an infraction of civilian law twice before, I was protesting with thousands of others the U.S. sponsored School of the Americas, which trains Latin American soldiers to torture, rape, assassinate, murder and massacre their own innocent civilians - men, women, and children.

But in this incident I was protesting against the evil of nuclear weapons that contaminate the whole earth and corrupt the people who use them or threaten to use them. Running through the very field where the 13 of us gathered to pray, is a creek that is so contaminated with nuclear byproducts that it is posted with signs warning people not to eat the fish that might be caught there.

...The support letters submitted to you, testify not so much to my integrity, as to the cloud of witnesses that stood with us in that field. They are also opposed to nuclear weapons that continue to contaminate our moral resolve. Your sentence effects all of them as well.

I do wish to clarify the statement I made to you in the letter I sent you and is included in the presentence investigation report where I said I stand here before you sinful and sorrowful. I am sinful and I am sorrowful for the existence of nuclear weapons but not sorrowful for protesting against them. The evil is not that I broke an unjust law but the evil is that of nuclear weapons which threaten the continuance of all life here on earth.

I stand for peace, Judge. That's what my life is all about.

"Mr. Corcoran," the judge replied, "you have to learn that you cannot enter government property to protest." She sentenced him to 150 hours of community service and two years probation, plus a \$1,000 fine.

Corcoran wrote to supporters:

Just because I got my wrist slapped and the judge in effect said, "Now David, you be a good boy and we will forget about this", we will not forget. We will not let injustice continue to be perpetrated without being challenged. All of us must keep our "eyes on the prize", which is saving the earth, elimination of the evil of nuclear weapons. It is my hope that each of you will be an apostle of peace and go out from this experience to do whatever you can to bring order to the chaos in our land, no matter what personal sacrifice it costs you. That's what Lent is all about."

For a complete report on the gathering, court and jail consequences, visit nukeresister.org/?p=417.

conviction was not a felony and thus has no bearing on Montes' right to own or purchase legal firearms.

Two of the charges were dismissed in March, prior to Montes original trial date of May 15. On that day, over 100 supporters rallied outside Los Angeles Superior Court and then packed the courtroom. At the last minute, the trial was postponed until June 20.

The local and national Committees Against FBI Repression escalated their campaign to flood the prosecutor's office with the demand to drop all charges. Calls and letters poured in, and media coverage, including a recent feature story in The Guardian (U.K.), added to the public pressure.

It worked. On June 5, the Los Angeles Committee to Stop FBI Repression declared victory. The prosecutor reached out to resolve the case before trial, proposing to drop three additional felonies, if Montes pled out to one count of perjury. This proposal included no jail time, three years of probation and community service. Under advice from supporters, friends and his attorney, Montes decided to move forward and accept the proposal.

For more information, visit stopfbi.net and stopfbila.net.



INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Jeju, cont.

continued from page 3

the coast. Four people were arrested there on March 6, the same day the Jeju governor and leaders of local ruling and opposition parties appealed for the blasting not to begin.

Their plea was ignored and the explosive excavations began March 7. Over the next several days, scores of people were arrested trying to get onto the threatened Gureombi by land and by sea. Following their arrest March 9, Fr. Kim Jeong Wook and Rev. Lee Jeong-Hoon were jailed for taking down the fence so others could get onto the rocks, joining Professor Yang Yoon-Mo, who had been in custody since February 6.

Two international supporters were arrested and deported. Angie Zelter from Britain had stood beside the Gangjeong villagers for a month, and Benjamin Monnet from France for over a year.

Professor Yang, a noted Korean film critic who survived an extended fast while in prison for the struggle last year, was fasting again this time and began refusing even water and salt when he learned the destruction had begun. On March 15, with his health seriously deteriorating, Yang was persuaded by the concerned residents of Gangjeong to resume eating a thin gruel. He walked out of prison on bail on March 20, and was greeted by the mayor of Gangjeong and dozens of other supporters. On May 11, Prof. Yang was sentenced to two years probation.

In late March, activists began a sit-in outside the island's government building, demanding the governor use his authority to stop the blasting. Police moved in and dragged away their tents, injuring a woman still inside one of the tents. The vigil resumed without tents.

The navy and central government have convinced some island leaders that they are building a "beautiful tourism port for mixed civilian-military dual-use", and cite a poll of island residents showing a slim majority in favor of such a dual-use project because of the projected tourist business. But port opponents have demonstrated that the site cannot be configured to safely accommodate two large vessels at one time. Still, the fantasy of increased tourism kept the governor from taking action.

The protest came to Seoul on March 29 with a die-in outside Samsung's corporate offices. Activists dressed all in white portrayed the Gureombi, then poured red paint over themselves to represent the destruction of the treasured landscape. Six were arrested.

The atmosphere in Gangjeong grew tense as April 3 approached, the 64th anniversary of an historic massacre of thousands of islanders by forces from the then-new South Korean military government. On March 31, police targeted and jailed Lim Ho-Young, village media team leader.

On April 1, police used pepperspray for the first time as about 500 workers of the Korean Trade Union Confederation marched on the port. Thirty people who got onto the rocks were removed, and nine were arrested for violating previous orders to stay away. On April 3, the court took action against one of them, ordering imprisonment of Dr. Song Kang-Ho, leader of the Save Our Seas group.

Rev. Lee Jeong Hoon and Fr. Kim Jeong Wook were released from prison on April 5 and allowed to serve the remainder of their sentences under house arrest. The Korean Association of Christians released the following statement:

"While we welcome the release of these two men of God from imprisonment, the Korean Association of Christians will continue to do everything in its power to resist the unjust construction of the naval base in Jeju, and to protest the undemocratic, heavy-handed and oppressive measures taken by the government against peaceful men and women. We will continue to hold daily protests, peace masses and prayers at the planned construction site until the government abandons this project, which threatens to forfeit our freedom, our culture and our right to self-determination. We appeal to the world community for solidarity and support."

The next day, Good Friday, many priests participated

Koodankulam

The incompatibility of democracy and the nuclear power enterprise is on stark display in the popular struggle to stop the imminent start-up of the Koodankulam

nuclear power plant on the southern tip of India. Four villages around the plant and their supporters have responded to months of what is essentially martial law with a defiant nonviolence, gathering together in prohibited numbers for a series of public fasts, blockades and general strikes to press their demands.

The reactors are due to be loaded with nuclear fuel and turned on by late August.



Residents block the road into the Koodankulam nuclear power plant in southern India.

On March 16, Tamil Nadu state's Chief Minister Jayalaithaa gave the project her go-ahead, despite that the government and industry have not conducted any emergency preparation drills or evacuation exercises, a violation of international standards.

The People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy (PMANE) responded with a public open-ended fast by 15 members.

A special Section 144 of law was imposed on the area, restricting public assembly, free movement and commerce between the villages. Violators were charged with "making war on the Indian state" and other ridiculous offenses. Police who poured into the area and set up checkpoints to enforce the prohibitions were defied by thousands who converged on a church in Idinthakarai to support the fasters.

The months-long blockade at the power plant was cleared on March 19, and more than 200 people were arrested and jailed. Professional workers returned to the plant to resume preparations for start-up.

in a Stations of the Cross procession, and some demonstrators moved out onto the field of tetrapods – massive concrete forms used to inhibit wave erosion. While Fr. Moon Kyu-Hyun climbed up to ask police to be less aggressive with protesters, an officer accidently pushed him and Fr. Moon fell into the pile, breaking several bones. Worshippers and demonstrators watching from the ground gasped in horror, fearing he'd been killed in the fall. He surprised even doctors by recovering enough to walk out of the hospital two weeks later, smiling.

In April, Fr. Moon was named as the first Korean to be awarded the acclaimed Gwangju Human Rights Award, established in 2000 to commemorate the people's uprising in Gwangju on May 18, 1980.

On April 7, Lim Ho-Young was released from prison, leaving Dr. Song the only remaining prisoner.

By late April, the toll of two months of intense activity brought the need to re-organize the struggle and renew communication between village and activist representatives. Police from outside the community and private security forces had become more brutal over time. Court orders affecting villagers and activists prohibited all but one-person protests within the village.

On May 10, the Jeju local court sentenced activist Mr. Kim Jong-II and villager Ms. Kim Mi-Ryang to three years probation, and two years probation to activists Mr. Go Yu-Gi and Mr. Hong Ki-Ryong. They were arrested last September but bailed out shortly after.

In mid-May, villagers and activists joined for "1,000 life and peace bows" on each of three days in front of the island government hall. Police scuffled with some, trying to prevent their traditional protest. On May 18, the last day and the anniversary of the Gwangju uprising, plainclothes police forced men, elder women and children from the yard in front of the building and roughly arrested four women who refused to leave. Others continued their bows at the feet of a police line.

By now, it became clear that the island governor had abandoned the fiction of a dual-use port, accepting a

A few days later, ethnic Tamil groups rallied in support of the protests at the coastal city of Tirunelveli, then defied the prohibitory order and marched towards

the closed town of Idinthakarai. Police stopped them, arresting 665 people including 44 women who were also held in custody.

The hunger strike ended ten days later with the intervention of a mediator and the government's promise that some 6,800 police complaints against villagers for sedition and 56,000 false cases filed in the first quarter of 2012 would be dismissed.

A month later,

the charges still stood and other promises had not been kept. An earthquake off the coast of India punctuated the coastal villagers doubt about seaside reactors. On May 1, about 35 men resumed the fast and were soon joined by more than 300 others, mostly women.

Section 144 was again imposed in the area, yet 7,000 people converged to join the strikers. This hunger strike was suspended on May 15 following a call from a former high court chief judge. Amnesty International has taken up the cause of the three PMANE leaders under greatest threat of prosecution for sedition, and a fact-finding team led by the retired judge has since called for the charges to be dropped.

In a show of popular support, thousands of people from neighboring villages surrendered their voter ID cards with these words: "We are surrendering our freedom and democratic rights at the altar of a few hundred megawatts of destructive nuclear power."

military-only port as long as two cruise vessels could also get in and out. Designation as a military-only port would enable the establishment of a military protection zone around the base, further repressing the local opposition. On May 24, to protest their loss of confidence in the island governor, five leaders, including Gangjeong's mayor Kang Dong-Kyun and Jung Young-Hee, chair of the women's committee, shaved their heads in protest of the governor's dubious decision. Jung Young-Hee said, "My hair will be long again but once the naval base enters the village, it would be very hard to restore." They demanded the governor's resignation.

Beyond the destruction of Gureombi, the broader impact that a major navy base will bring to the nearest village becomes apparent by degree. At the end of May, villagers stormed a presentation by the Navy about the seizure of 24 village acres for military family housing because there had been no advance notice of the event. The presentation was cancelled.

A cement truck trying to enter the base during a protest by Catholic priests on May 26 was stopped, and one man climbed atop it with a "no naval base" flag. He remained for eight hours while police clashed with others on the ground. During the daily 100 bows demonstration on June 4, when police and private security again violently obstructed the expression of faith, a woman pastor who blocked a construction truck was arrested and held for several hours.

For more information, regular updates and weekly summaries in English posted by an international media team, visit the public "No Naval Base on Jeju!" page at Facebook.com.



Letters of support should be sent to Dr. Song Kang-Ho (No. 611), Jeju Prison, 161 Ora-2 dong, Jeju City, Jeju, the Peace Island, Korea.

Hinkley Point

Nearly 1,000 people converged on the Hinkley Point nuclear power plant in Somerset, England for the weekend of March 10-11. They marked one year since the nuclear catastrophe at Fukushima, and demanded that the United Kingdom abandon its plans for new nuclear power plants at Hinkley Point and up to seven other sites. A rally and "surround the power station" action Saturday was followed by a 24-hour blockade of the plant entrance.

Demonstrators also toured the land that would soon be cleared for construction of the second reactor. Allegedly inaccurate signs marking the land were removed, while other signs were defaced and a double fence erected around an old barn where a protest squat was recently evicted was torn down. Police took a hands-off approach, even as most of the 100 blockaders stayed in place through the night. The only arrest came late Sunday afternoon of one person for allegedly stealing a sign.

While the buildings and some copses and hedgerows have since been cleared, excavation of massive earthworks was put off in May until at least 2013, as investors flee the nuclear "new build." For more information, visit stopnewnuclear.org.uk.

EDO/ITT

The first protest of a Summer of Resistance at the Brighton, England arms factory EDO/ITT was the May Day Bad Noise Demo outside the factory gate. Schnews, Brighton's cheeky weekly direct action news sheet reports:

"The Bad Noise demo started around midday with around 25-35 people – all equipped with banners and anything that might cause a racket (well, no missiles obviously). All kinds of instruments were given a thorough bashing but any hint of musical harmony was promptly smashed by several kitchen utensils banging on anything metallic. Young and old were present, tea was served and anyone inside or near the factory was left in no doubt about the level of disgust felt directed against Brighton's favourite arms dealers.

"Fifteen minutes before it ended one copper left his van and started bullying a girl half his age who was ringing a cow bell. She was arrested under section 5 claiming that her conduct was alarming in some unknown (and probably unknowable) way.'

For more information, see the Future Action on this page, and visit SmashEdo.org.uk.

Le Bugey, France

One of the ways that nonviolent direct action succeeds is by creating a clear image that quickly and elegantly communicates the essence of the crisis at hand. Picture the integrated lunch-counter sit-in, or the hammer striking

Greenpeace-France again illustrated the lax security at nuclear power plants on the morning of May 2 by flying a paraglider through forbidden airspace over the Le Bugey nuclear power plant, between Lyon and Geneva. A supporter on the ground filmed the mock attack as the pilot dropped a smoke bomb on the reactor containment building, and the issue of French nuclear energy policy wafted into the last days of the contested Presidential campaign. The pilot made a hard landing beside the reactor buildings and was quickly arrested for flying over a protected area. A supporter on the ground, who assured authorities that Greenpeace was responsible, was also arrested for helping. Both were released that evening and summoned to criminal court on October 17.

Another activist was reportedly arrested at different site in southern France after entering by the truck entrance and hiding for an hour within a "surveillance zone." Greenpeace reminded the French public that their actions are always nonviolent, but that the next unexpected visitors to these sites may not be.

For more info, visit www.greenpeace.org/france/fr/

SAAB Microwave

On the evening of May 27, a service of Holy Communion was held on the grounds of the military company SAAB Microwave in Sweden.

As part of the celebration of the Christian day of Pentecost, participants planted a native vine. While helping the others over a security fence, police arrested usher Per Herngren, Pastor Leif Herngren, and parishioner Claesgöran Johnson. They were taken into custody and released 45 minutes later. Police later declined to press charges.

"Inspired by the prophet Micah, we choose to plant vine and fig trees as a part of Pentecost. The prophets of the Bible as well as those of today choose shocking methods to show how we can live together with justice and solidarity. To start to live the kingdom of God, here and now, at the places where violence and oppression prevails...

The service was concluded without further arrests. For more information, visit ickevald.net/plogbill/pingst.htm or contact Per Herngren at perherngren@gmail.com.

FUTURE ACTIONS

hiroshima/nagasaki



bangor

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action will host their annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorative vigil and nonviolent action August 3-6, 2012, at the Center, 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, Washington. For details, visit gzcenter.org or call 360-930-8697.

los alamos

Occupy Santa Fe, Pax Christi, Veterans for Peace-Santa Fe, Nuclear Watch New Mexico and others, organizing as Nuke Free Now, are hosting three days of events leading up to Hiroshima Day. Speakers and films will be in Santa Fe on Saturday, August 4; a rally and march to Los Alamos National Laboratory on Sunday; and a march and action on Hiroshima Day organized by UnOccupy Albuquerque. For more information, visit nukefreenow.org or write to POB 22485, Santa Fe, NM 87502.

livermore

Tri-Valley Cares and other organizations will commemorate the 67th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Sunday, August 5. The program begins promptly at 4 p.m. because 4:15 p.m. August 5 outside the Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory in Livermore, California, will be 8:15 a.m. on August 6 in Hiroshima, Japan, the exact minute the first nuclear weapon was used in war. For more information, visit www.trivalleycares.org or call 925-443-7148.

[Editors' note: at press time, some details for annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki memorial events that usually include civil resistance actions had not been publicized for some venues, but the contact details are given to find the information once it is available.]

pentagon

The annual Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C. is sponsored by the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker community and Jonah House. These retreats operate on the praxis of reflection/action/reflection. Inspirational and informational presentations lead to public witness, prepared by the community that gathers, at the White House, Pentagon, and other sites in Washington, D.C. The presentation and the action are evaluated and the community moves to the next stage of retreat. Schedule will be posted at dccatholicworker.wordpress.com.

lockheed/martin

Brandywine Peace Community holds an annual Hiroshima Day commemoration and vigil, concluding with nonviolent civil disobedience at Lockheed Martin corporation on Goddard Boulevard, behind the King of Prussia Mall, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com or call 610-544-1818.

nevada test site

The Nevada Desert Experience hosts an annual August Desert Witness at the Nevada National Security Site (formerly known as the Nevada Nuclear Test Site) For more information about this year's day-long events, visit www. nevadadesertexperience.org or contact info@NevadaDesertExperience.org, 702-646-4814.

ground the drones

A call has come from several quarters for nationally coordinated, regional actions of protest and nonviolent civil resistance against the use of drones for military and extrajudicial killing. Suggested dates for action include during Keep Space for Peace week, October 6-13; Gandhi's birthday, October 2; and September 21, the United Nations International Day of Peace. Action plans will be posted at nukeresister.org/future-actions as they are announced.

hinkley point

An international call is out to Reclaim Hinkley all day Monday, October 8, from 00:00 to 23:30. Join in an act of mass civil disobedience by trespass onto the proposed site of Hinkley C nuclear power station in Somerset, England. EDF Energy is already trashing fragile Somerset countryside (see story, page 10) in preparation for the Hinkley C nuclear power station – even though it hasn't got planning permission to start building. "When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty." For more information, visit stopnewnuclear.org.uk.

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! Fun, frolics, vegan feasts and brushes with the law are all guaranteed! However, P.S. THIS IS NOT A PARTY. The sole intention of this campaign is to resurrect an anti-nuclear campaign that has long been waning at a time when it is most essential in connection to the Scottish Independence debate, Trident replacement and a potential for nuclear decommissioning in the U.K. 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 Faslane 30@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. For the Summer of Resistance, 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. A mass action is set for July 16. For more information, visit SmashEdo.org.uk, call the campaign at 07538093930 or email smashedo@riseup.net.

olkiluoto

Make plans now for the third annual 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.

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DUMBARTON SHERIFF COURT: Barbara Dowling was sent to jail March 19 on a three-month sentence for the "quite serious, deliberate and flagrant act" of political graffiti on the walls of the court back in 2010. She and co-defendant Janet Fenton had just been denied a defense under international law for their protest against the Trident nuclear submarines based nearby at Faslane, so they spraypainted "This court does not uphold international law" outside the courtroom. Fenton was sentenced to perform 120 hours community service, and with credits, Dowling was released from Greenock Prison on May 3...

ROCKHAMPTON TIGER PLOUGHSHARES:

Two men charged with willful damage for openly sabotaging an Australian attack helicopter during joint U.S.-Australian war games in Queensland last summer were in court May 10. Bryan Law, who peddled his tricycle across a runway to smite the deadly weapon with a garden mattock, is representing himself. His case was bound over until May 24 for the court to consider all of the evidence. Graeme Dunstan, who helped cut a fence gate's lock to clear the way for Law, was cleared for trial in Rockhampton District Court at a date to be announced. Neither man has entered his plea for the action neither regrets. "It (the helicopter) is a death machine which will otherwise be deployed to Afghanistan and used to kill some of the poorest people on earth who have dared to resist an invasion of the armies of some of the richest peoples on earth," Dunstan said...

LONDON: Catholic Workers Fr. Martin Newell and Chris Cole were convicted April 21 of causing criminal damage when they poured red paint over the gates and pavement of the Prime Minister's Downing Street residence on the tenth anniversary of the Afghanistan war. They were ordered to pay £360 court costs and compensation, but were not fined. The court also declined the Crown's application for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) against both men, which would have forbid them from entering Whitehall and the surrounding

areas for ten years and from being in possession of paint, bolt cutters, chalk and charcoal. The judge found no evidence that the multiple anti-war convictions cited by the Crown had caused anyone the necessary "harassment, alarm or distress" warranting an ASBO...

GALLIPOLI BARRACKS: Five Christian activists were convicted March 5 in a Brisbane, Australia magistrate's court of disobeying a police direction. Last October, on the tenth anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan, the group knelt in the road, blocking traffic at the base where most of the Australian soldiers involved still ship out to that war. A second charge of being a public nuisance was dismissed. Cully Palmer, Christel Palmer, Andy Pain and Sean O'Reilly were fined from \$125-\$500 each, and Jim Dowling was sentenced to three weeks in prison, suspended for eight months on condition of his not re-offending..

NORTHWOOD: Like co-defendant Maya Evans one month earlier, Gabriel Carlyle served seven days in jail beginning March 21 for refusing to pay £355 in fines resulting from a 2009 die-in at the British military headquarters, mourning NATO's victims in Afghanistan. Before going to court, Carlyle wrote: "The recent massacre of 16 Afghan civilians – including 9 children – by U.S. soldier Robert Bales is just the tip of the iceberg of NATO killings in Afghanistan, most of which – unlike Bales' attack - have not been carried out by "rogue" individuals but by soldiers following orders. Most Afghans – and most Britons – back peace talks to end the war, but this option has long been blocked by the U.S., with British support. In the wake of the Taliban's 'game-changing' announcement that it will open a political office in Qatar, there is now a crucial window of opportunity for those of us who want to see peace in Afghanistan to force the U.S. to the negotiating table and end the bloodshed." With standard credits applied to a 14-day sentence, Carlyle was released March 27...

ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE HEARING: CODE-

PINK organizer Alli McCrackin went to court to answer a charge of assaulting the chairman when she interrupted the testimony of War Secretary Leon Panetta last October. Her name was not even in the system...

OCCUPY WALL STREET: One of the 17 people arrested at the Aerospace and Defense Finance Conference is going to trial on June 14. Two of the four who pleaded not guilty had their charges dismissed on motions, and one pled to a lesser charge...

DSEI ARMS FAIR: Chris Cole was on trial May 10 in Westminster (London) Magistrates Court, defending his "Stop the Arms Trade" graffiti at the entrance to the Defense and Security Equipment International event last September. An expert testified in Cole's defense that there have been specific breaches of British arms export control legislation at every DSEI fair since 2005. The magistrate reserved judgment to reflect on the arguments until May

SUPER COMMITTEE HEARING: Retired Navy Commander Leah Bolger pled guilty on April 12 to one count of unlawful conduct – disruption of Congress. She was arrested last October after interrupting the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction with the message that ending the wars and taxing the rich will solve the budget crisis. Bolger told the judge, "I have come to understand what millions of Americans already know – that the actual majority will of the people is of little concern to those in power. We can demonstrate and petition and write letters until we are blue in the face, but those actions are virtually worthless, as we can't compete. Our voice is drowned out by the power of the money coming from the lobbyists and corporate interests. Money equals speech." District of Columbia Superior Court Judge Nash expressed sympathy with Bolger's criticism of the government. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended, nine months probation, a \$50 assessment to a crime victims' fund, and 20 hours community service. Despite a request from prosecutors, the judge did not bar Bolger from Capitol Hill...

MENWITH HILL: In her seventh appearance in court on the charge, and at the end of a three day trial, a magistrate ruled that Lindis Percy had no case to answer and dismissed a charge of "willfully obstructing three Ministry of Defense Police officers in the execution of their duty." The magistrate chastised the prosecutor's "wholly, wholly unacceptable" behavior of failing to respond to court directives regarding disclosure of evidence throughout a series of hearings since Percy's arrest last August outside the Yorkshire satellite spy base operated by the U.S. National Security Agency. Percy defended herself, and after nine prosecution witnesses, the magistrate harshly criticized officers who on the stand exhibited selective memory, inconsistencies among their testimonies, and a marked failure to document the incident. Even the arresting officer said it was "puzzling" to her that the prosecutor had not introduced surveillance video that would be "most helpful" to the case. Percy was awarded costs for the pointless prosecution...

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