

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 169

March 17, 2013

Six Months for Drone Resisters Jailed, Defy Court Ft. Benning Line-Crossing

A Georgia man was jailed on March 13 to serve a maximum six month sentence for trespass at Fort Benning last November at the 22nd annual School of the Americas Watch protest. Robert “Nashua” Chantal was dressed as a sad clown with the words “Study War No More” written all over his clothes and face when he climbed the fence to protest foreign military training at the base.

Following a summary conviction, Chantal addressed the federal court in Columbus, Georgia, describing the abuses tied to Latin American military trained at the academy notorious for its alumni assassins. He pleaded for federal magistrate Stephen Hyles to help the movement to close the institution now renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. In the face of hundreds of accounts of human rights violations at the hands of graduates, “Where is the justice?” Chantal asked.

Hyles imposed the sentence, and Chantal was immediately taken into custody. Supporters rose in song as he was led from court. Bailiffs quickly cleared the room and escorted them out of the courthouse. Chantal phoned a supporter that night from the Lee County Jail in Opelika, Alabama, where he will stay until assigned to a federal prison. Chantal previously served a three month prison sentence for trespass at Ft. Benning in 2004.

For more information, visit soaw.org.



Letters of support should be sent to Robert Chantal, #5340, Lee County Sheriff’s Jail, P.O. Box 2407, Opelika, AL 36804. If Chantal has been moved and your letter is returned, it should be re-sent c/o SOA Watch, POB 4566, Washington, DC 20017.

TEN DAYS, NOT FOR NOTHING

Theo Kayser was in federal court in Santa Barbara, California on February 21. Kayser entered a plea of guilty to trespass for his backcountry action at Vandenberg Air Force Base on October 22. He was sentenced to 10 days in prison. A member of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker community, Kayser went to turn himself in the next day at the Los Angeles federal building, but the marshals did not have his paperwork and asked him to come back the following Monday.

In court, Kayser took issue with the police description of his arrest.

It says and I quote “Kayser was asked what he was doing on Vandenberg AFB. Kayser stated ‘nothing.’” I would just like to say that this was not my response because “nothing” is precisely the opposite of what I was doing. “Nothing” is what far too many people of good will do. While schools loose funding and people sleep on the streets of this country, billions of dollars are spent on preparations for nuclear war and most people do “nothing”. While ICBMs are tested at Vandenberg AFB, polluting the water of the Marshall Islands with depleted uranium and the coast of California with exhaust from rocket fuel, most people do “nothing.” I was not doing “nothing” because I did nothing for too long and I can do nothing no more.

After turning myself in to military police I spent the next 10 hours on the base. During that time I spoke with a number of men employed there and I assure you I did not talk with them about “nothing”. I talked about this country’s illegal and immoral preparations for nuclear warfare and I talked about my firm belief that it is the responsibility of each and every one of us in this country to oppose these preparations for what could ultimately lead to the destruction of this planet. This sort of opposition is,



photo by Upstate Drone Action

Upstate Drone Action blocks the gate at Hancock Field in DeWitt, New York, February 13.

Members of Upstate Drone Action, defying a court order of protection for the base commander, returned to Hancock Field outside of Syracuse, New York for another “Gandhian Wave” of nonviolent direct action on Ash Wednesday, February 13. Nine people were arrested by DeWitt town police and Onondaga County sheriffs as they again sought to deliver a Citizen’s War Crimes Indictment to the base command and personnel there involved in the deployment of Reaper armed drones over Afghanistan.

Commander Col. Earl A. Evans once again requested and received from the Dewitt Town Court an order of protection against the nonviolent activists. The ramifications of the order, now served on 20 nonviolent citizens, are not clear. But the statement the nine brought with them was transparent:

“We come to Hancock Airfield, home of the National

in fact, what I was doing at Vandenberg AFB that night. I was attempting to disrupt the preparations for war that go on at this base with the only tools I have at my disposal – my body and my prayers.

My presence did not go unnoticed (as I am sure my prayers did not) and for at least some time the Air Force had to respond to what they considered a threat to their security. I was no threat to any of the airmen I encountered, as my actions were completely nonviolent and my demeanor nothing less than polite. I know my enemy is not those men and women who participate in the U.S. war machine but rather the machine itself. I know that they are not bad people but merely suffer from what can only be described as paralyzed conscience, and that given the chance (and perhaps just a little hope) they too would stop doing “nothing” and help create a world where the taking of and preparations for the taking of innocent life is not accepted because in the event of nuclear war it will be all peoples, including military personnel, who will become victims. Exactly 50 years before that night this past October, during what is referred to as the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world was brought to the brink of this very sort of destruction. I can only say that we have not yet learned our lesson and that there has been far too much “nothing” during those 50 years...

Two others arrested during the backcountry action in October were in the same court on January 17. Rebecca Casas and Fr. Louis Vitale both had ban and bar letters in effect at the time. Casas found her trespass charge had been dismissed, but Vitale faced a second charge for crossing the line at the main gate on November 15 in protest of a nuclear missile test launch. While that charge was dismissed, he will be prosecuted for violating the ban and bar letter on October 22. He returns to court March 21.

For more information, visit vandenbergwitness.org.

Reaper Drone Maintenance and Training center, this Ash Wednesday – to remember the victims of our drone strikes and to ask God’s forgiveness for the killing of other human beings, most especially children ... and the forgiveness of the people we daily terrorize with these drones.”

All were released that day, with Mary Anne Grady being held until almost midnight for violating the previous protective order.

In December and January, five people with multiple arrests at Hancock Field served 15-day jail sentences. They were among eleven people convicted of trespass at a December 13 bench trial in DeWitt Town Court, after a blockade of the base last June. Ed Kinane and James Ricks went straight to jail; Clare Grady, her sister Ellen Grady (also arrested on Ash Wednesday), and Rae Kramer walked twelve miles with supporters from Hancock Field to the Jamesville Correctional Center on January 11, where they turned themselves in to do their time.

Two more groups of drone resisters await trial in New York, 10 for an action at Hancock on October 5, and 17 for another on October 25. See page 7 for a future action at Hancock.

For more information, visit upstatedroneaction.org.

CodePink Persistence Prods Congress

CodePink’s persistent disruption of the high profile Senate Intelligence Committee hearing February 7 on John Brennan’s nomination to be the Director of Central Intelligence succeeded to finally push the drone debate out of the shadows and into the media spotlight. From the moment the nominee entered the room for the hearing, which was broadcast live on C-Span, he was repeatedly challenged by a series of “pinked” protests.

Recently back from a peace delegation to Pakistan, and holding a sign that read “Drones Create Enemies,” Alli McCracken told the room, “John Brennan has blood on his hands. He terrorizes children and families throughout the world. My generation has been at war for half my life. We deserve better!”

Toby Blome held up bloodied hands and a rag doll representing children killed in drone strikes. “John Brennan is responsible for the death of many innocent people and should not be rewarded for these crimes,” said Blome. “It is our responsibility to speak up and reject him, even if our elected representatives will not.”

One by one, Capitol police arrested and escorted eight people out of the room. More were prepared to continue the action when Committee Chair Sen. Diane Feinstein, in her desperation, cleared the room and ordered that anyone associated with Code Pink be prohibited from re-entering. Charged with disrupting Congress and later released were David Barrows, Toby Blome, JoAnne Lingle, Alli McCracken, Joan Nicholson, Eve Tetaz, Jonathan Tucker and Ann Wright.

The committee put off its confirmation of Brennan for more than a week, including the filibuster by Sen. Rand Paul that extracted the begrudging acknowledgement from the White House that U.S. citizens on U.S. soil who are not engaged in “combat” will not be the target of armed drone strikes.

In court on March 7, seven were told to stay away from a Senate office building and had their cases continued until April 10. No papers had been filed against Eve Tetaz.

For more information, visit droneswatch.org.

Post-Prison Reflections

Following his release from prison on January 3, Jeju naval base protester Kim Bok-Chul was interviewed for Gangjeong Village Story. These are some of his words from that interview.

I was imprisoned for a long time, 202 days, on false charges. During that time I didn’t get any payment as I was put on a 6 month leave of absence without pay from work. During the second month of imprisonment I requested bail but it was dismissed, saying I was a flight risk and also might seek revenge. I needed medical care for asthma and pulmonary emphysema but I couldn’t get the proper treatment in prison. My oldest son entered mandatory military service in September of 2012, but I couldn’t see him. My daughter needed my help to enter college. My youngest child, 7 years old, also needs a father’s care but I couldn’t do anything for 202 days.

There are about 250 prisoners on trial in Jeju Prison. Each of us is given only one set of clothes so we can’t really wash them often. According to regulations, two sets of clothes should be provided but I was told that I would get two sets later, only after appealing and petitioning.

PRISONER UPDATES

RAFIL DHAFIR

The U.S. Second Circuit Court in New York heard twenty minutes of oral arguments on February 4 on the final appeal in the case against Dr. Rafil Dhafir. Attorney Peter Goldberger argued that the sentencing guidelines used in Dhafir’s case were in error, and for guidelines that would mitigate the 22-year sentence being served by the Iraqi-born oncologist.

Dhafir, a naturalized citizen and community leader in upstate New York, was arrested and jailed without bond ten years ago in the run-up to the second U.S. invasion of Iraq. His outspoken opposition to U.S. policy on Iraq and his war-time charity to the people of his native land led to repeated public slurs after his arrest that he was funding terrorism. But the terror accusations were a forbidden subject at his trial, where he was convicted of violating the 1991-2003 economic sanctions against Iraq. In a demonstration of prosecutorial strategy for criminalizing Muslim charities, Dhafir was also convicted for dozens of Medicare billing errors that were uncovered after his office records were seized, then individually charged as fraud and added to his indictment.

In a surprisingly swift decision, the court notified Dhafir just six days later that his appeal had been denied without comment.

The Dr. Dhafir Support Committee has now turned its attention away from legal remedies and is developing a political campaign for his freedom. As part of that evolving effort, a documentary film about Dhafir’s case is in production. For more information, visit dhafirtrial.net.



Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir 11921-052, FMC Devens, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 879, Ayer, MA 01432.

SHAKIR HAMOODI

Shakir Hamoodi, an Iraqi-American whose peace advocacy at home in Columbia, Missouri, and charity sent abroad to family in Iraq during the era of the sanctions led to conviction and a three-year prison sentence, was not among the 17 felons pardoned by President Obama on March 1. His family remains hopeful, and is still soliciting signatures on a petition to the President at helphamoodi.org.



If you are in Columbia, Missouri you can support the Hamoodi family by shopping at World Harvest Foods, the import business Shakir Hamoodi established after leaving a nuclear physics research post at the University of Missouri.

At helphamoodi.org, his family makes this request of letter writers: “If you decide to write to Dr. Hamoodi or the warden, please be respectful in all your communications. Dr. Hamoodi is a peace-loving, intelligent, humanitarian individual, and does not condone any forms of hate speech or disrespect directed towards anyone. Please keep in mind that you may not get a reply from Dr. Hamoodi in the near future (or at all). Your letters and support are greatly appreciated.” Letters should be sent to Shakir Hamoodi 21901-045, Federal Prison Camp, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048.

Twice a week, prisoners can purchase goods but there are not many options and most are made in China. Jeju Prison is an old building with no heating system in the rooms of prisoners on trial, so it is very cold in the winter. According to regulations, the prison should provide hot water for bathing more than once a week but they only gave us hot water once a week, so even healthy people easily get worse health the longer they stay there. The Judiciary makes people’s self-defense weak by first putting them in prison during their trial, rather than helping people prepare for their trials without detention. I hope that the facilities and environment for prisoners can improve so that they can at least have a minimally human life. I appealed and petitioned to the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, the Ministry of Justice and the Board of Audits and Inspections. I checked the Administrative Procedures Guide Board of Corrections, but not many guidelines were kept. In the future I will do my best to petition and appeal for the improvement of prisoners’ rights.

I desperately oppose the building of a war base on Jeju, the Peace Island. I will keep fighting until the naval base construction plan goes back to square one.

NORMAN LOWRY

Norman Lowry’s third visit to a military recruiting office with a challenging message against war and the culture of violence landed him a one-to-seven-year prison sentence last May. He has embraced the maximum by refusing to promise he would not repeat that act of conscience.

Lowry recently wrote that, “I am in a four month, intentional quiet time; working toward achieving a more workable dialog with my basically apathetic peers...” He asks for input on approaching this dilemma, and further for “perspectives on saying ‘no’ to systemic inequities [seen in prison] – from folks more experienced than I.”

A book of Lowry’s prison letters has been published. See Resistance Reading Roundup, page 8, for details.



Letter of support should be sent to Norman Lowry, KN 9758, SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Rd., Dallas, PA 18612.

LEONARD PELTIER

In February, Leonard Peltier marked 37 years behind bars. The Native American activist was wrongfully convicted in the 1975 deaths of two FBI agents during a state of siege by the agency on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. Not without coincidence, the gunfight that also left one Indian man dead occurred on the very day corrupt tribal leaders were secretly signing away traditional mineral rights, including to uranium under reservation lands in the Black Hills.

In a telephone interview from prison with journalist Amy Goodman, broadcast to a press conference in New York City in December, Peltier was asked if he had a message for President Obama.

“Well, I just hope he can, you know, stop the wars that are going on in this world, stop killing all those people getting killed, give the Black Hills back to my people, and turn me loose.”

Peltier expressed little hope for a Presidential commutation of his sentence, but did say his supporters are working on his release to house arrest. Peltier’s health is precarious, with prostate problems and diabetes and its complications of greatest concern.



A memo to supporters from the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee on February 28 said, “What is needed is to keep up the pressure [demanding Peltier’s freedom] on the White House comment line and with your individual Senators and Representatives.”

The memo went on to say, “You should know that there is a lot of work being done by the committee and though it is not yet public, it will soon be. One of our ongoing efforts has been with Amnesty International [AI]. We will be making an announcement soon about a new international letter-writing campaign we have coordinated with AI London. AI members and chapters world-wide will be encouraged to write letters to President Obama expressing their support and concern for Leonard’s plight and calling for his freedom...”

For more information, and to contribute to the work of Peltier’s Defense Offense Committee, visit www.whoisleonardpeltier.info. Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Coleman I, U.S. Penitentiary, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

I love very much the defenders of Gangjeong who have been together with me to save Gureombi. I feel honored that I was with them during this struggle. We love Gureombi! No Naval Base!

where we’re at

Three weeks ago it snowed in Tucson, and this week we topped out at 93°. The peas shoots look shocked and the lettuce ponders bolting. Where did winter go so quickly?

We enjoyed family time over the holidays, including our daughter visiting from Panama, where she lives and teaches music. Sinus infections then laid us low for too long a time but we’re back up to speed, if still a little behind with this issue.

We went to Washington state earlier this month for the Pacific Life Community’s annual retreat, and enjoyed the company of friends old and new. Before the retreat began, we were able to watch the installation of muralist Jose Mercado’s latest panel, a portrait of Gandhi, on the impressively decorated exterior of Jean’s House of Prayer, part of the Tacoma Catholic Worker and Fr. Bix Bichsel’s residence. Later we saw two bald eagles perched above the retreat center in Gig Harbor. The gathering concluded with an action at the Trident nuclear sub base at Bangor, where Felice and 19 others were arrested while blocking the road leading into the base (see the story on page 4).

Last week we attended the Tucson Festival of Books, a stellar event close to home where Jack was happy to meet and thank Kristen Iversen, author of the critically acclaimed memoir, *Full Body Burden, Growing Up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats*, where Jack also grew up and cut his activist teeth in the late 1970s. We highly recommend this book in addition to those listed in the Resistance Reading Roundup on page 8.

As we finish up this issue, word came about a probable delay in the scheduled May 7 trial for Megan, Greg and Michael, the Transform Now Plowshares (see the story on page 5). Whenever the trial happens, we are hoping that one or both of us will be able to attend. It also remains to be seen whether Felice will have to return to Tacoma for court. If you have unused frequent flyer miles you’d like to donate to help with this travel, please let us know – thanks!

Felice & Jack

Thanks

Thanks to Catherine, Charlotte, Roger, Frank, Paige, Steve, Jim and Polly for their help with mailing the last issue.

the Nuclear Resister

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

YOU CAN HELP!

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

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Collection (1986 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by the ProQuest Company, 789 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor, MI 48106 or online at proquest.com.

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

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

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

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

CAPE DOWNWINDERS RETURN!

The Plymouth County, Massachusetts court room was filled with Pilgrim 14 supporters for a pretrial hearing on March 13. Eleven defendants were prepared to mount a vigorous necessity defense at trial a few days later. They were arrested last May trying to deliver a letter requesting that Entergy Corporation withdraw their relicensing application for the Pilgrim nuclear power plant. When the prosecutor dismissed the charges, about 50 people left the courthouse and went directly to the main gate of the Pilgrim reactors to protest again.

The lack of any security at the gate allowed them all to march several hundred yards onto Entergy property and get very near the reactor building before anyone noticed. When police finally came, five people remained on the site and were arrested for criminal trespass: Ben Almada, Susan Carpenter, Elaine Dickinson, Paul Rifkin and Michael Risch. Carpenter, Rifkin and Risch were among those whose charges had just been dismissed. Rifkin stated, “They can dismiss the case, but they can not dismiss the issue.” They were cited and released.

For more information, visit capedownwinders.org

Fines Paid, Shut It Down Women Shut It Down Again

About fifty supporters celebrated with the women of the Shut It Down affinity group January 31 as they paid off more than \$3000 in fines levied after their conviction for blocking the gate of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant last summer. Donations from more than 60 people and groups in four states fully covered their first court judgment after a score or more blockades and arrests in recent years.

Hattie Nestel, one of the six women convicted and fined in November, exhorted the exuberant crowd in Brattleboro to join the affinity group in its ongoing civil resistance to the nuclear power plant.

“The governor hasn’t shut Vermont Yankee down,” she said. “The legislature hasn’t done it. Bernie Sanders hasn’t done it. We have to do it. We have to keep going there with our locks and chains until they shut Vermont Yankee down for good.”



photo by Marcia Gagliardi

Shut-It-Downers block the entrance to Entergy headquarters in Brattleboro, Vermont, January 31

With that, at least twenty people adjourned from the rally to parade through downtown as Nestel led a constant refrain through a bullhorn: “Shut Down Vermont Yankee now!”

When they arrived at Entergy headquarters, fourteen Shut-It-Downers blocked the main entrance. They held banners reading “Entergy Equals Fukushima” and “Vermont Yankee Poisons All.” A Brattleboro police detachment summoned by Entergy officials arrested the women and released them at the scene.

Charged with trespass are Anneke Corbett,

Frances Crowe, Nancy First, Marcia Gagliardi, Ellen Graves, Patricia Greene, Connie Harvard, Susan Lantz, Priscilla Lynch, Ulrike Moltke, Hattie Nestel, Linda Pon Owens, Nina Swaim and Paki Wieland. For more information, contact Marcia Gagliardi, haley.antique@verizon.net.

Military Refusers at Home & Abroad

A plea agreement has been reached between military prosecutors and Iraq war resister Kimberly Rivera. Although details must remain sealed for now, it can be said that the agreement avoids a dishonorable discharge and sets a cap on a potential jail sentence. The public Army refuser who lived in Canada with her family from 2007 until last September rather than return to war will be in court April 29. If the commander at Fort Carson, Colorado accepts the plea agreement, she will be sentenced at that time. If the agreement is rejected, Rivera will face court martial that day. While at Fort Carson, Rivera has not been held in custody.

Supporters in Canada are prepared to send two members of Parliament to testify on her behalf. Amnesty International has joined the call for letters of support on behalf of Rivera, demanding that she be released unconditionally as a conscientious objector. Letters of support should be addressed to Major General Joseph Anderson, Commanding General 4th ID, and sent by April 15 in care of her attorney James M. Branum, POB 721016, Oklahoma City, OK 73172.

A handful of other public U.S. military refusers have also faced court recently. Like Rivera, the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) in Canada denied Jules Tindungan asylum. On February 1, the federal court

of Canada ordered a new hearing because the IRB had failed to consider compelling evidence, including the case of Kimberly Rivera, that Tindungan faces differential punishment in the United States because while in Canada he has publicly spoken out against U.S. military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tindungan remains in Canada, as does war resister Rodney Watson, who has been living in the sanctuary of a Vancouver church since September, 2009 to avoid a deportation order.

Micah Turner was a U.S. Army sergeant on leave from Afghanistan and his fourth tour of duty when he went AWOL last September. “After four combat tours, I realized that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were not for the causes that had been stated.”

He spoke out publicly against the wars in Washington, D.C. and at Occupy Wall Street, and on Sunday, October 7 tried to turn himself in at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn. He was told no one was available to take him into custody and to come back the next day. The next day, he was again turned away due to the federal Columbus Day holiday.

Turner then took to the road with other Occupy activists for a couple of months. He spent Christmas with

his family in Nevada, where Reno police arrested him on December 28. Turner was held for three weeks in the Washoe County Jail before being escorted by military police on a commercial flight back to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Assigned to the headquarters element of his unit, he was demoted and sentenced to 45 days of extra duty for going AWOL. Turner has said he appreciates the letters on his behalf that helped get him moved from jail to Fort Bragg, and reports he has been treated well and fairly by his command. Pending approval by the base commander, his discharge is expected soon after completing his sentence later this month.

In Germany, a Munich administrative court in January suspended proceedings on soldier André Shepherd’s appeal of being denied asylum. Instead, the court has requested a preliminary ruling from the European Court of Justice because Shepherd’s original application relied on a European Union directive intended to protect those who evade a war or other activities that violate international law and can expect persecution, as Shepherd can if he is returned to the United States.

More information about these cases can be found online at couragetoresist.org and resisters.ca.

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

Leonard Peltier 89637-132 (life)
USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.
(Native American political prisoner framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands)

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Robert Chantal 5340 (six months – in 3/13/13)
Lee County Sheriff’s Jail, P.O. Box 2407, Opelika, AL 36804; or c/o SOA Watch, POB 4566, Washington, DC 20017.
(Convicted of trespass at the “School of the Americas”, Ft. Benning, Georgia, 11/12)

Brian Terrell 06125-026 (six months – out 5/27)
FPC Yankton, POB 700, Yankton, SD 57078.
(Convicted of trespass at drone protest, Whiteman AFB, Missouri, 4/15/12)

Shakir Hamoodi 21901-045
USP Leavenworth, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 60648.
(Plea agreement to one count of violating 1991-2003 U.S. sanctions by providing personal charity for family and friends living in Iraq)

Norman Edgar Lowry, Jr. KN 9758
(one to seven years – in 8/1/11)
SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Rd., Dallas, PA 18612.
(Repeated trespass at military recruiting office, 8/1/11)

Bradley Manning 89289
(Awaiting court martial 6/13)
Commander, HHC USAG; Attn: PFC Manning; 239 Sheridan Ave. Bldg 417; JBM-HH VA 22211.
(Facing espionage charges after pleading guilty to lesser offenses related to disclosing military video and documentary evidence of U.S. war crimes)

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052
(22 years – out 4/26/22)
Unit HB, Federal Medical Center Devens, POB 879, Ayer, MA 01432.
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Mr. Yang Yoon-Mo, Prisoner No. 301 (18 months – in 2/1/13)
161 Jeju Prison, Ora-2 dong, Jeju City, Jeju Island, South Korea 690-162.
(Obstruction of business of military port contractors, Jeju, South Korea)

Brian Jacob Church 2012-0519002
Jared Chase 2012-0519003
Brent Betterly 2012-0519001
Mark Neiweem 2012-0520023
P.O. Box 089002, Chicago, IL 60608.
(Held on high bail and facing various felony charges following protest at the NATO summit in Chicago, May 2012)

Sebastian Senakiewicz M32870 (four years)
10930 Lawrence Road, Sumner, IL 62466.
(Polish national pled guilty to one count of falsely making a terrorist threat leading up to NATO summit in Chicago, May 2012)

**PREVIOUSLY LISTED,
RECENTLY RELEASED: Xavieramma,
Sundari, Selvi, Mr. Kim Bok-Chul,
Rev. Jeong Yeon-Gil, Mr. Park Suk-Jim,
Mr. Park Seung-Ho, Fr. Lee Young-Chan**

DR. KING’S LEGACY OF NONVIOLENT ACTION

BANGOR

Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy of nonviolence and his public opposition to war and nuclear weapons were celebrated by about 50 people at Washington state’s Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action on Saturday, January 19. In the morning, a video illustrating King’s 1967 “Beyond Vietnam” sermon with images from the war in Vietnam was screened and discussed. Gilberto Perez, now a monk of the Japanese Buddhist Nipponzan-Myōhōji order, shared his story of growing up Afro-Cuban-American in Harlem.

That afternoon, the group walked to the nearby main gate of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The base is home port to the Pacific fleet of Trident nuclear missile launching submarines, and its Strategic Weapons Facility is believed to store the largest concentration of thermonuclear warheads in the American arsenal.

A large contingent of Navy security waited on the other side of the boundary line. The state patrol had been notified but was notably absent, and only a lone sheriff’s deputy was on hand, observing from the nearby overpass.

After assembling along the roadside, eleven people carried a large banner across the road to stop incoming traffic. The banner quoted Dr. King: “When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men.”

In the absence of the state patrol, the vinyl barricade remained in place for half an hour. The blockaders were joined by four more who tried to stop traffic from diverting to the outgoing lanes with another banner that read “Abolish Nuclear Weapons.”

A state patrol officer finally came on the scene, got out of his cruiser, and respectfully asked that people remove themselves from the roadway. A well-choreographed die-in ensued across the road, symbolizing the effect of a nuclear blast. Eight of the participants fell to the ground on the Navy side of the line. Naval security who had been observing from a few feet back quickly moved to arrest them.

Mary Gleysteen, Lynne Greenwald, Rodney Herold, Thomas Hodges, Constance Mears, Taylor Niemy, Michael Siptroth and Carlo Voli were taken into custody, questioned and processed on base. All were released with a citation for “suspected trespass” and the expectation of a summons to federal court.

Outside the line, two others left the roadway when asked by the state patrol. Before she got up, Alice Zillah asked if she was going to be arrested.

“No,” said the officer.

Was he just going to cite her?

“No,” he answered again.

Zillah told him that she had expected to be cited, and he replied that he’d take care of that if she would first just move off the roadway. She complied, and he gathered up the banners and brought them to the side of the road. Soon thereafter, he got in his car and drove away, having issued no citations.

That was not the case back on October 2, when a Kitsap County sheriff accosted two men leafleting at another gate in commemoration of Gandhi’s birthday. They were greeting motorists from between a pair of double yellow lines in the middle of the roadway. The deputy wasn’t warning them, he was ordering them to the side of the road where he issued each a ticket for being a pedestrian in the road. Rodney Brunelle and Glen Milner are contesting the tickets.

In Kitsap County Court on December 11, Marion Ward appeared for mitigation of a fine. She told the court her own story as the daughter of an admiral and for 20 years the wife of a Polaris nuclear submarine commander. Now a Quaker, she concluded,

“I stood in the road on August 6, 2012 in front of the gate at the Bangor Submarine Base in a symbolic gesture to say ‘no’ to these weapons of mass destruction that are located in my state. I believe they are illegal under international law and that I must act on my conscience under the Nuremberg Principles. And, I believe there is a higher standard that is the moral law for which we are all accountable.”

Her fine was reduced to \$25. For more information, visit gzcenter.org.



Pacific Life Community Blocks Bangor Gate

The Pacific Life Community’s annual retreat, this year in Washington state, concluded with nonviolent direct action at the Trident nuclear submarine base on March 4. About 40 participants walked the half mile from the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action to the main gate of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The state patrol and sheriff had several carloads of officers on hand to greet the protesters, and for the first time in the memory of Ground Zero veterans, military police had automatic rifles on display and two dogs with their handlers on duty.

While others vigiled along the shoulder, six resisters entered the roadway with Ground Zero’s large banner quoting Dr. King about guided missiles and misguided men. They stretched across the road to block the entrance to the base. Some also knelt in prayer.

All six left the road when ordered, and were escorted to the median where they were briefly detained and issued citations for “walking on roadway where prohibited.”

Meanwhile, another fourteen protesters walked onto the roadway near the boundary line, carrying signs and a large banner reading “Nuclear Free Pacific Now.” All crossed the blue line onto the base, and again, some knelt in prayer. Naval security personnel arrested the protesters and drove them to a facility on the base for processing.

They were cited for trespass, and released a short time later without a court date.

The resisters each carried a letter addressed to the Bangor base commander. It stated that the “Trident II D-5 missiles with their W76 or W88 [thermonuclear] warheads are illegal under international law and hence are also illegal per the Constitution of the United States.” Naval security personnel declined to accept the letters.

Those cited for federal trespass were Bill Bichsel, SJ, Ted Bracknan, Felice Cohen-Joppa, Susan Crane, Ed Ehmke, Jim Haber, Ann Havill, Rodney Herold, Tensie Hernandez, Betsy Lamb, Denny Moore, Mary Jane Parrine, Louis Vitale OFM and Jerry Zawada OFM.

Cited by the state patrol were Clancy Dunigan, Leonard Eiger, Tom Karlin, Cliff Kirchmer, Marcus Page-Collonge and George Rodkey.

Fr. Bill Bichsel said of the Pacific Life Community’s work, “We refuse to accept nuclear weapons as our security. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to create a nonviolent world. We are the future and the kingdom that we have been waiting for.”

For more information, visit pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com.

Marquette Arrests Peace Vigiler

The presence of ROTC classes at the Catholic educational institutions has long been controversial. Critics ask what *would* Jesus do? Train soldiers?

In Milwaukee, some opponents of military training at Marquette University have formed a base community, Breaking the Silence, that “seeks to practice our values and beliefs in everyday life and to break, by nonviolent action, the code of silence that has developed in our militaristic society.” One of their actions since 2009 has been weekly Lenten prayer vigils at Marquette University. Their signs and prayers challenge Marquette to leave ROTC behind.

LOCKHEED-MARTIN

On Monday, January 21, more than fifty people stood with banners and signs in front of the King of Prussia, Pennsylvania complex of the world’s largest war profiteer, Lockheed Martin. As they arrived, amplified excerpts of many of Dr. King’s sermons and speeches were loudly broadcast. A program of chants, responsive readings, songs and the solemn ringing of a peace bell concluded with King’s booming voice, this time with the words from his Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence speech at Riverside Church, April 4, 1967.

Echoing his call to resist “the evil triplets of American society: racism, extreme materialism, and militarism”, nine people carrying signs befitting the day walked up the driveway entrance toward the company’s main lobby entrance. Lockheed Martin security and Upper Merion police, seeming surprised by the direction of the war resisters, bolted from the warmth of their cars to stop the activists from preceding any further. The nine were all arrested, taken to the Upper Merion police station, cited for disorderly conduct and released. They are Theresa Camerota, Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Beth Friedlan, Mary Jo McArthur, Tom Mullian, Rev. Dave Reppert, Fr. Paul Sheldon, Patrick Sieber OFM, and Robert M. Smith.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com

At the March 6 vigil, Bob Graf was served with a letter from the university administration barring him from the campus, and threatening arrest for trespass if he was found there.

One week later, Graf parked by Gesu Church and walked to the library. He planned to do some research in the Catholic Worker archives housed there before joining the 4 p.m. prayer vigil. Several police cars were parked outside the library, an odd sight even if it wasn’t also spring break and the campus nearly empty. In his trench coat, hat and glasses, Graf slipped past university security guards and into the building, but discovered his library card would not release the turnstile into the stacks. When he handed his card to the librarians, one of them summoned security. Graf was told to leave campus or be arrested. He wrote:

“As I was walking to my car two Milwaukee police officers in the squad car stopped me on the sidewalk and said I was under arrest. I guess security had changed its mind and got me out of the library before calling police and having me arrested. I was taken to a local Marquette/Police substation and held for an hour before I was given a ticket for trespassing. While waiting I read some more about the new Pope on my iPhone and was impressed. The police officer asked me questions about where my car was parked, its color and make, making me afraid that my car would be towed away. He said no but that my car parked behind Gesu Church was also trespassing on Marquette property.

“Finally at 4 p.m. I was given a ticket for trespassing, released and walked back to the car ... When I got to the car there was a ticket on it that read ‘Known trespasser Not allowed on campus.’ I guess what the police officer had said about my car being banned was true.”

For more information and a history of 40 years of resistance to military training at Marquette, visit Graf’s blog, nonviolentcow.org.

Sabotage Charge for Transform Now Plowshares

In December, federal prosecutors dropped a trespass charge but added sabotage to the indictment of the Transform Now Plowshares, three nuclear disarmament activists arrested at the inner sanctum of the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee last summer. Greg Boertje-Obed, Sr. Megan Rice and Michael Walli are now accused of damaging national defense materials (18 USC 2152, 2155), damage to the structure of the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, and damage in excess of \$1,000.

Responding to the new charges, the group said in part:

The Government threatened to charge us with the more serious crime of sabotage if we did not plead guilty. We chose to exercise our constitutional right to a jury trial and refused to bow down to their threats. So the government has added serious new charges, which expose us to an additional twenty years in prison for our peacemaking actions.

We remain convinced that making and refurbishing nuclear weapons at Y-12 is both illegal under U.S. and international law and it is also immoral. Ultimately we are required to follow the law of love and our consciences.

All are free on their own recognizance. In pre-trial proceedings, the federal court denied a motion to dismiss the charges. Their trial may be postponed from the current May 7 date due to the retirement of the original judge.

For updates about the trial date and other information, visit transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com.

Remembering the Innocent Victims of Empire

Davis Monthan Air Force Base

In Tucson, about a dozen people gathered at the main gate of Davis Monthan Air Force Base on December 28, to commemorate and grieve the contemporary slaughter of innocents. The base is home to an Arizona Air National Guard unit that remotely pilots Predator drones on combat missions overseas. John Heid carried the names of 178 child victims of drone strikes onto the base. He was taken into custody for trespass when he refused to leave, then

Pentagon

More than 50 people from the Atlantic Life and Southern Life Communities gathered after Christmas in Washington, D.C. for the annual Holy Innocents Faith and Resistance retreat. Most of them were at the Pentagon on Friday morning, December 28. As they processed to a designated protest zone near the Metro entrance, the group stopped twice to offer a Litany of Victims, remembering all children who are victims of violence today, from Newtown, to the Gaza victims of Israeli bombings, to the victims of U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan and elsewhere, to the victims of U.S. warmaking in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Most of the activists assembled in the protest zone while six who were risking arrest remained on the Pentagon sidewalk. As five of them held a die-in representing massacred victims, Patrick O'Neill read the Litany of Victims again. He was arrested by Pentagon police along with Bill Frankel-Streit, Mary Grace, Brian Hynes, Kevin Mason and Eve Tetaz. They were taken to the new Pentagon police center (formerly the Pentagon daycare center), where they were processed and then released. They were charged with "failure to obey a lawful order" and given an April 5 court date in U.S. District Court, Alexandria, Virginia.

For more information, contact Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, 202-882-9649 or visit DCcatholicworker.wordpress.com.

Offutt Air Force Base

Catholic Workers from five states, veterans and friends made up the fifteen people in parkas who came to commemorate the slaughter of the innocents at the gate of Offutt Air Force Base outside Omaha, Nebraska on December 28. The U.S. Strategic Command targets all U.S. nuclear weapons from Offutt.

Jerry Ebner was blessed by the group and then walked across the line. He was detained by base security and issued a ban and bar letter before being released. A federal court summons is anticipated but has not been delivered.

For more information, contact Jerry Ebner at jerryebner07@gmail.com.

Bradley Manning Takes the Stand, Explains Motive

For the first time since he was arrested and jailed more than 1,000 days earlier for disclosing classified documents and video about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the conduct of diplomatic affairs, Army private Bradley Manning spoke about his motives before a military court February 28. Manning admitted to the unprecedented release of restricted military and State Department records. He also describes the crisis of conscience and his ultimate faith in an informed citizenry that drove his actions. He emphasized that he alone was responsible for his actions, and was not prodded by WikiLeaks to share the secrets.

After he began uploading the documents, Manning said, "I felt I had accomplished something that allowed me to have a clear conscience based upon what I had seen and what I had read about and knew were happening in both Iraq and Afghanistan every day."

His testimony was surreptitiously recorded and released to the public a few days later, allowing people outside the courtroom to hear Manning's voice for the first time. The government also later released a redacted official transcript of his testimony. Both are available via bradleymanning.org, his support website.

Prior to the recent hearings, the military judge had accepted the terms of Manning's limited guilty plea. Without any plea bargain, Manning has acknowledged guilt on eight counts of revealing classified documents, but maintains his innocence on 14 more charges, including the most serious ones of espionage and aiding the enemy. The government nevertheless is proceeding with prosecution on all counts.

In other pre-trial decisions, Manning was awarded a 112-day reduction in any potential sentence due to the abusive treatment in solitary confinement he suffered at Quantico marine barracks during the early months of his imprisonment. A motion to dismiss all charges for failure to provide Manning with a speedy trial was denied.

held for more than 12 hours before release. A bench trial is set for April 15 in city court.

For more information, contact Heid at jefhsparrow@yahoo.com.

Action Statement, December 28, 2012 Davis Monthan Air Force Base

*I saw men, women and children die during that time.
I never thought I'd kill that many people.
In fact I thought I couldn't kill anyone at all.*

— former drone operator Brandon Bryant

The U.S. carried out 333 drone strikes in Afghanistan in 2012 alone – more than the entire number of drone attacks in Pakistan over the past eight years combined.

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is the staging site for the 214th Reconnaissance Group of the Arizona Air National Guard, a Predator drone unit. Personnel of the 214th have conducted more than 3,000 sorties since 2007 and provided more than 55,000 flying hours of combat mission support from Tucson.

The U.S. military has begun to use the term "harvest" to describe the killing done in this push-button combat of drone warfare. Recently the Bureau of Investigative Journalism in Britain documented 178 children among over 900 civilians killed by U.S. drones in Pakistan and Yemen alone.

Why is there such an aversion to acknowledging the human cost? Our drones are harvesting their children. These revelations are too much to bear sitting still.

"They had their whole lives ahead of them, birthdays, graduations, weddings, kids of their own." Thus said President Obama at the memorial service for the 20 children killed in a Connecticut school two weeks ago. The president added: "We're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this."

Today, December 28th, on the Commemoration of the slaughter of Holy Innocents, we embrace President Obama's exhortation on behalf of the children by coming to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to call for a change of heart, of policy and practice. Cease drone operations immediately on behalf of the children and all victims of this warfare, including U.S. drone pilots who are increasingly being diagnosed with post traumatic stress syndrome. Our plea is for an end to all warfare. May we pursue peace by peaceful means.

John Heid

In a split decision regarding Manning's potential testimony, the military will have to prove that Manning knew he was "dealing with the enemy" in passing information to WikiLeaks. The defense will be allowed to show that he selected certain cables or types of cables to prove he knew which information would not cause harm to U.S. national security if made public.



bradleymanning.org photo

In early December, Manning's attorney David Coombs made his only public remarks about the case before an audience of supporters in Washington, D.C. Coombs was effusive in speaking of his own appreciation, and Manning's as well, for the strength of public support shown by thousands of individual donations to his legal defense and the packed courtroom whenever hearings have been held at Ft. Meade. He said that at least once a day, he refreshes his resolve by viewing some of the hundreds of photos and personal messages at iam.bradleymanning.org.



The start of Manning's court martial has been postponed again, and is now set to begin Monday, June 3, and run for six weeks. Supporters will mobilize ahead of the court martial on Saturday, June 1, gathering at 1 p.m. at Reece Road and US 175, Fort Meade, Maryland for a 2 p.m. march and 3 p.m. rally. People are also encouraged to organize support rallies in their own communities. Contact bradleymanning.org if interested.

Letters of support should be sent to Bradley Manning 89289, Commander, HHC USAG; Attn: PFC Manning; 239 Sheridan Ave. Bldg 417; JBM-HH VA 22211.

D.C. DRONE DIE-IN

While hundreds of thousands of people came to celebrate the second inauguration of Barack Obama, peace and justice activists instead marched down 16th Street in Washington, D.C. that morning to protest many of his policies, including the use of killer drones.

In a demonstration organized by the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance, large model drones circled a group of marchers while ten people engaged in a theatrical die-in, simulating a drone strike. While initially the police placed Max Obuszewski under arrest and moved the others off the street, a decision was later made to release all without charges.

For more information about upcoming nonviolent resistance to drone warfare, see Future Actions, page 7.

Koodankulam, cont.

continued from page 6

and trade. Bus service has been cut off, but many fear arrest if they leave the area because hundreds of cases involving thousands of named and unnamed residents have been filed by police. Water and power supply is poor. Telephones and internet are monitored.

Women have emerged from traditional roles to take critical leadership and sustain the resistance as a community, while men have entered the kitchen and cared for children as needed. Three women leaders jailed since September – Selvi, Sundari and Xavieramma from Idinthakara – were finally released on bail in mid-December. They had to sign in at a distant police station for several weeks, and have now returned home. A group of six men jailed since September under the colonial-era Goondas Act were exonerated in February and freed. Still, a few men reportedly remain jailed. Most recently, Thaengaai Ganesan, age 55, named in 83 cases related to the struggle, was picked up by police at the Koodankulam bazaar on March 15. He was remanded to court custody until March 29.

Accusations of foreign financial backing for the anti-nuclear resistance continue to stymie expressions of moral support from letter writers and visiting internationals. But the resistance at Koodankulam has inspired the popular struggle at Jaitapur, on India's west coast, where France is India's partner on a new six-reactor project. Thousands of people were held by police in early January after they surrounded the construction site, intending to prevent contractors from working, as the Koodankulam resisters have done.

Updates on the anti-nuclear movement in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere in India can be found at www.countercurrents.org and www.dianuke.org.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Jeju

The popular nonviolent resistance opposing military port construction on Jeju Island, South Korea is facing stepped-up repression. In December, conservative pro-port candidate Park Geun-Hye was elected President. Some villagers in Gangjeong, the spiritual and logistics center of base opposition, were prevented from voting due to their criminal record. Following Ms. Park's election, countless more surveillance cameras are in use, and police are more aggressively taking video and still close-ups of demonstrators. Prosecutors and the courts have been moving more rapidly on the hundreds of court cases still outstanding, imposing larger fines and jail sentences. Base construction continues around the clock, but only after police daily push, pull and drag people away to allow convoys of construction materials to pass by. Artists, farmers, merchants, priests in prayer, people performing hundreds of ritual bows – no one involved is exempt from the abuse.

An international team of activist journalists informs and nurtures growing international support by publishing a blog (savejejunow.org) and monthly newsletter in English (Gangjeong Village Story). While unable to report on every arrest or police complaint, their work provides this summary of recent trials, sentences, and prisoner status.

Presently only Mr. Yang Yoon-Mo is in Jeju Prison. A noted film critic and prominent opponent of the naval base project, Yang was taken to prison from court on his birthday, February 1, at the conclusion of his appeal of previous probation sentences. It is his fourth imprisonment during the anti-base campaign, making him the most frequently imprisoned protester of the struggle.

It is unusual that a court would overrule a previous decision and impose a harsher sentence on appeal, but this is what Judge Oh Hyun-Gyu did. On charges of obstruction of business and other charges from a number of dates, he overruled two previous suspended sentence/probation rulings and sent Yang to prison for 18 months. Yang is the first person related to the struggle to get a full prison sentence as a final judgment.

Judge Oh further insulted the Jeju native by calling him a flight risk who, “cannot find his will of self-examination even during the repeated process of arrests, imprisonments, and releases.” Yang, who moved to Gangjeong and joined the struggle in earnest in 2008, has placed his own fate with the fate of Gureombi, the unique coastal volcanic rock that is the sacred cultural heritage of Gangjeong village, and is being destroyed by base construction.

As he has before, Yang began to fast when he was taken to jail, proclaiming his innocence and refusing to accept his imprisonment. He has said he wants to write a critique not with words but with his life for the remainder of his life. His fast continues.

PRISONER UPDATES

On December 12, Rev. Jeong Yeon-Gil and Mr. Park Suk-Jin were released on bail after 98 days in Jeju Prison. On the opening day of the World Conservation Congress (WCC) meeting in Jeju, September 6, they and three others climbed up and occupied a caisson floating dock in Hwasoon Port. Samsung, one of the main sponsors of the WCC, makes the 8,800 ton caissons in Hwasoon and brings them to Gangjeong for the base construction.

Osaka

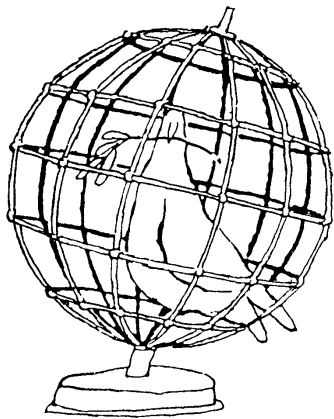
On December 9, 2012, Osaka police arrested Professor Masaki Shimoji and charged him with violation of the “railway services act”, forcible obstruction of business and trespass.

Almost 2 months earlier, on October 17, Shimoji was part of a delegation that gathered on the footpath of the Osaka railway station. In groups of two and three, they walked through the station towards the city office to lodge their opposition to a plan to spread radioactive contamination by incinerating and burying imported earthquake debris. Shimoji was released from jail on December 28. Five other people in Osaka were also arrested, detained and charged for expressing their opposition to the burning of radioactive debris.

He wrote from jail on December 12:

Why did the police arrest me, going so far as lying in the arrest warrant? The reason is because I opposed the restart of nuclear power plants and have participated in a citizens’ movement opposing the spread of radiation. In particular, I have severely criticized the wrongful conduct by the police which I encountered during my activities. I have done nothing wrong.

Currently, Japan where we live as well as the entire world are in a critical situation. Fukushima nuclear accident is not over, and if the spent-fuel pool in reactor 4 collapses, it is not too much to say that it could lead to a massive disaster which could end not only Japan but the rest of the world. Radioactive contamination has not been properly dealt with at all, and the contamination is being spread through the circulation of food and other goods. In the midst of this situation, the government lies about “insufficient electricity” to try to continue using nuclear power plants. This is nothing but insanity.



Fr. Lee Young-Chan was released from prison on bail after 63 days on December 26, and Kim Bok-Chul was let go after 202 days on January 3. Both were still on trial, and on February 6, Kim Bok-Chul was given ten months imprisonment, suspended to three years probation.

Park Seung-Ho, who was arrested near the communal restaurant in the village during the September WCC meeting, was released on bail on February 5 after 144 days in prison. He had been arrested for not responding to a police call, but activists know the police had targeted him for a long time for his struggles against unjust government policies.

Because many recent sentences include suspended jail time and probation, and activists face multiple charges while continuing to resist, future probation violation and imprisonment loom over them.

At least 20 people sentenced to suspended jail time and fines up to approximately \$3,500 are appealing the sentences. These include Mr. Park Jong-Hoon, sentenced to 10 months, suspended to two years probation for crawling beneath a cement mixer truck that was entering the base construction zone. Also, Rev. Kim Hong-Soul was sentenced to one year imprisonment suspended to two years probation and ~\$100 fine, charged with damaging the temporary construction walls surrounding the site while attempting to enter Gureombi Rock with a group of ministers.

Long-time international supporter Paco Booyah was convicted December 21 of obstructing business last summer when he took a break from video documentation and briefly sat down with Catholic priests conducting their daily blockade mass. The first international to be prosecuted, he was given probation and a suspended sentence in February.

Fr. Moon Jeong-Hyun, who suffered fractures and other serious injuries in a fall in March, 2012 while trying to intervene between coast guard police and activists, was sentenced on January 9 to four years in prison, suspended.

Through January and mid-February alone, about another 100 people have been on trial. Many people have more than two cases on trial concurrently. Since the start of the struggle in 2007 until February of 2013, the total amount of fines for anti-base protest is approximately \$450,000 in addition to damage compensation fees of approximately \$30,000. A total of about 700 arrests have been made with 500 indictments and 22 people imprisoned.

On February 15, five Protestant pastors were sentenced to one year in prison, suspended to two years probation for protests against the blasting of Gureombi last spring.

Faslane

In the early hours of February 3, peace activists Sylvia Boyes and Mary Millington were arrested attempting to enter Faslane, the home port in Scotland of the United Kingdom’s Trident nuclear submarines. After cutting the fence and spraypainting slogans they were cited for criminal damage and then released.

Their actions came a week after Prime Minister David Cameron pledged to increase war spending, including massive investment in nuclear weapons. The Ministry of Defence also admitted that millions of pounds worth of investment on nuclear submarines had already been made before a parliamentary decision on the issue of replacing the four-sub Trident fleet is to be taken.

Boyes, a veteran peace activist and member of Trident Ploughshares said, “When the government of my country fails in its democratic duty to disseminate the necessary information to initiate real debate on nuclear weapons how can I continue not to act? The building work and development for the Trident replacement at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment continues unabated despite the government saying no decision is to be made until the next Parliament in 2015. We here in the U.K. must face up to our role in the silent acceptance of the proliferation of weapons of mass murder and mass destruction.

“I remain convinced that all nuclear weapons are weapons of mass murder and mass destruction and are therefore illegal under international laws of war. This is not a one off action but one of many to create a climate of opinion to enable the government to take part in real disarmament negotiations. My banner ‘Nuclear Disarmament – If not now, when?’ is asking that question for us all to answer.”

For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org.

On February 4, Jeju Island governor Woo Keun Min had came out in support of the navy base, and declared he would ask the central government to pardon those being prosecuted in the struggle against the base.

For more information, visit savejejunow.org.



Visitors report that Yang Yoon-Mo is weak from fasting, and is taking supplements. He said that he is getting many support letters from Korea and around the world, and while he lacks enough energy to reply to all, he is very thankful for the support. Letters of support should be sent to Mr. Yang Yoon-Mo, Prisoner No. 301, 161 Jeju Prison, Ora-2 dong, Jeju City, Jeju Island, South Korea 690-162.

In the face of mountains of fines for those in the Gangjeong struggle, supporters have been volunteering to raise money to cover the fines through grassroots projects. “Although these efforts are small, people’s support for each other is a candle of hope, helping to break through our common difficulties of the struggle,” they write. Contact gangeongintl@gmail.com if you would like to be a Gangjeong Friend and contribute to payment of fines incurred by the villagers.

Koodankulam

The first reactor has still not been started up at Koodankulam, India. The ongoing nonviolent opposition of the majority of villagers in the vicinity of the Russian-built nuclear power plant continues to dog the project, with the date for start-up now given as sometime in April. But the project has perhaps greater technical problems that only aggravate the concerns of opponents. In January the government announced “permission” for a second full-systems test to be run on the first unit. Critics question why a second test is needed, unless the plant failed the first one. Piecing together government and industry statements, activists believe faulty valves from a corrupt Russian contractor may be at the root of the delay. A further defect recently revealed is that the concrete containment vessels were cut through to install missing power supply cables and then resealed, an unplanned breach perhaps unprecedented in the industry.

On December 10, Human Rights Day, hundreds of fishing boats again demonstrated the strength of the People’s Movement Against Nuclear Energy by surrounding the Koodankulam nuclear power plant from the sea. Police surrounded Idinthakarai, the center of the resistance and closest town to the reactors on the southern coast of Tamil Nadu state, but were ineffective to stop the protest. Anti-nuclear protesters blocked roads in other Tamil Nadu cities in support.

Only the day before, police had arrested seven young men who left Idinthakarai to visit a friend’s new poultry farm a few miles away. All were interrogated until past midnight, and two were held longer.

It was just another indignity endured by people immersed in what seems increasingly to be a struggle for their future as generations tied to the sea and shore. The state of siege in the area and intensity of the struggle, now approaching 600 days, have taken a toll on the local economy. Constant police activity and demonstrations disrupt fishing

continued on page 5

Toronto

A Canadian veteran of World War II is being prosecuted for violating the Statistics Act, which mandates participation in the national census. Audrey Tobias, 88, told Statistics Canada employees who came to her door that she was proud of her country but ashamed of the prime minister and his cabinet for signing an \$81 million contract with the number one global war merchant, Lockheed Martin, to process the census data.

A member of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms, Tobias told a *Toronto Star* reporter, “If they fine me, I won’t pay it.” She’d rather go to jail than collaborate with the foreign war merchant. A trial is not expected until summer.

Menwith Hill

Lindis Percy, coordinator of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases, returned to picket outside USAF Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, England on January 21, the occasion of Barack Obama’s inauguration for a second term as President. She carried her usual upside-down U.S. flag, this time inscribed with the words “Now Then ... Second and Only Chance Obama.”

Percy was arrested under provisions of Britain’s Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (SOCPA) and taken to Harrogate police station. Under the act, bail conditions were imposed even though she has yet to be charged. The crown has six months to decide on prosecution. Percy was released pending a March court date. At the weekly Tuesday vigil outside the Menwith Hill gate the next day, Percy was told by the Royal Air Force Liaison Officer that she was “persona non grata”, but no other action was taken. Menwith Hill hosts more than two dozen surveillance and satellite receiving dishes for U.S. military and spy agencies.

For more information, visit www.caab.org.uk.

NATO 3 CONTEST TERROR CHARGES

Attorneys for three of the NATO 5 defendants in Chicago have filed a motion challenging the constitutionality of the Illinois terrorism law behind their prosecution. The post-9/11 statute has only been used once before, and the motion claims that “the vague nature of the terms ‘coerce’, ‘intimidate’ and ‘significant portion of the civilian population’ allows for the arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement of the law.” A ruling on the motion may not come until nearer to the scheduled September trial. Meanwhile, Brent Betterly, Jared Chase and Brian Church, swept up in an informant-fueled alleged firebomb plot just before the NATO summit last May, remain in the Cook County Jail on \$1.5 million bond each.

Mark Neiweem, indicted separately and jailed without bond for solicitation of incendiary devices from undercover agents, is also at the same jail while awaiting trial.

The fifth of the defendants, Sebastian “Sabi” Senakiewicz, wrote to *the Nuclear Resister* in December to tell of the wrench thrown into his plea agreement as reported at that time.

“Thank you dearly for your support for us, the ‘NATO 5’ ... On November 9 I was transported from Crook County Jail, Chicago, Illinois, to Stateville Correctional Center in Joliet, Illinois. While at Stateville, I found out that I am not eligible for boot camp because of my immigration hold. You already know that I am a native to Poland.

“For three days after my arrival at Stateville I was left in the dark about what would happen to me since I wasn’t going to boot camp anymore. On my third day there I received a sentence calculations sheet. That sheet read that I’m sentenced to four years in prison at 100% with no possibility of good behavior credits, no school credits, and no work release! That day the world around me went DARK! All hope was gone!

“On November 20 I was moved to Lawrence Correctional Center in Sumner, Illinois.”

Two court hearings addressing the discrepancy have been held since then, but each ended with another continuance, prolonging the confusion about his sentence.

The support website nato5support.wordpress.com provides more information and explains the connection between the five cases:

“These cases are linked by a common thread – undercover Chicago police officers who targeted and entrapped the activists because of their politics. They are also part of a broader pattern of state repression against political activists, in which charging activists as terrorists is one of many strategies being used to silence dissent

FUTURE ACTIONS

More future actions and event details can be found at nukeresister.org/future-actions

nevada test site

The 2013 Sacred Peace Walk will step off March 23 from Las Vegas, Nevada, and conclude 65 miles later on Good Friday, March 29. The walking meditation also offers opportunity for civil resistance calling for an end to the development, testing and use of robotic weapons from Creech Air Force Base, and refined nuclear weapons at the Nevada Test Site. For more information, call the Nevada Desert Experience at 702-646-4814, or visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

livermore

The annual ecumenical Good Friday service outside the Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory will begin with music at 6:45 a.m. on March 29 at Vasco and Patterson Pass Roads, Livermore, California. Worship begins at 7:00 a.m., followed by a procession to the gate, Stations of the Cross and nonviolent acts of witness. Afterwards, there will be a sharing gathering and light refreshments at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. Sponsored by Ecumenical Peace Institute and Livermore Conversion Project. For more information, call 510-655-1162 or 510-654-4983.

washington, d.c.

The Holy Week Faith and Resistance Retreat will be a time of prayer, reflection and several nonviolent actions focusing on the theme: “Put Away The Sword.” Held at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 1525 Newton St. NW (at 16th St.), Washington, D.C., the retreat begins March 27 with a 6 p.m. dinner and concludes on Good Friday after a midday nonviolent witness at the White House. For more information contact Jonah House, disarmnow@verizon.net, 410-233-6238; and the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, DCcatholicworker.wordpress.com, 202-882-9649.

lockheed-martin

Brandywine Peace Community hosts a Good Friday Stations of Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Resistance at Lockheed Martin, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania (behind the King of Prussia Mall). Lockheed Martin is the world’s #1 war profiteer, U.S.’s #1 military contractor and nuclear weapons producer, and a chief manufacturer of drone warfare technology. For details and questions regarding the nonviolent civil resistance/civil disobedience, call the Brandywine Peace Community, 610-544-1818.

faslane

A weekend of protest and action urging Scotland to SCRAP TRIDENT and lead the way to a nuclear free world begins with a demonstration in Glasgow on Saturday, April 13. On Sunday there will be a training in Glasgow for nonviolent direct action, and on Monday, April 15, a big blockade to shut down the Trident nuclear submarine base at Faslane. For more information, visit scraptrident.org.

burghfield

Trident Ploughshares and Action AWE (Atomic Weapons Eradication) invite all peace loving people to join the Burghfield Disarmament Camp, August 26 – September 7, 2013. While Britain prepares to replace its Trident nuclear weapons system without Parliamentary debate, join disarmament advocates for skill-sharing sessions on action planning and practice, how to run legal support, how to facilitate effectively and make decisions by consensus and using spokes-councils, radical music and song and much more. On September 2, European anti-militarist groups will join in to share their experiences and also take part in a joint international action. The campaign invites concerned citizens to organise and participate in creative demonstrations and nonviolent protests throughout the next two years, and exert pressure on British elected representatives in the run up to the 2015 general election. For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org and actionawe.org.

and dismantle activist communities. Other recent cases in which activists have been targeted include the Cleveland 4, the Green Scare cases, and the Pacific Northwest Grand Jury resisters.”



Letters of support should be individually addressed and sent to Brian Jacob Church 2012-0519002, Jared Chase 2012-0519003, Brent Betterly 2012-0519001, and Mark Neiweem 2012-0520023, all at P.O. Box 089002, Chicago, IL 60608; and to Sebastian Senakiewicz M32870, 10930 Lawrence Road, Sumner, IL 62466.

national anti-drone days of action



A coalition of peace and justice groups, the Network to Stop Drone Surveillance and Warfare (NSDSW), has made a call for national protests against drones in April, 2013. Demonstrations and nonviolent direct action are being coordinated via the blog nodronesnetwork.blogspot.com, and will address manufacturers, drone research and training and drone operating bases. More information is also available at droneswatch.org.

san diego

Drone Diego Coordinating Committee invites organizations and individuals to come to San Diego on April 4-7 for nonviolent action workshops, street theater and more, to kick off the month of actions at General Atomics and Northrup Grumman, both major drone makers. For more information, contact the San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice at 619-263-9301 or sdcpj.org.

hancock field

Upstate Drone Action is hosting Resisting Drones, Global War and Empire: A Convergence to Action! April 26-28 in Syracuse, New York. Join Kathy Kelly, David Swanson, Chris Hedges, Col. Ann Wright and more for meals, presentations, networking, schmoozing, music and nonviolent direct action at Hancock Field. Visit upstatedroneaction.org or call the Syracuse Peace Council at 315-472-5478 for details.

beale afb

Occupy Beale AFB is planning a two day protest and encampment April 29–30 to resist drone warfare and illegal surveillance. Nonviolent direct action is planned at the Global Hawk surveillance drone Air Force base near Yuba City, California. Visit occupybealeafb.org or contact Toby at 510-215-5974 for more information.

australia

Nonviolent protest and resistance are anticipated to confront the Exercise Talisman Sabre 2013 war games in Queensland, July 15 to August 5. Meet May 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fitzroy Room at Rockhampton City Library for the first planning meeting, and visit www.rockytigerploughshares.com.au for updates.

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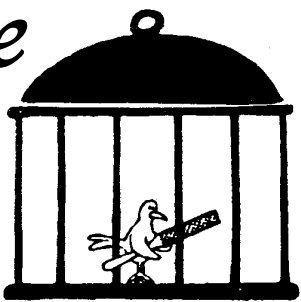
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Update Files



CINDY SHEEHAN: In February, the IRS wrote to war tax resister Cindy Sheehan that “after further review the Internal Revenue Service has decided to withdraw the summons served on November 11, 2011.” A federal court summons was also withdrawn...

LOS ALAMOS: Six people arrested last Hiroshima Day at the Los Alamos National Laboratory were in municipal court January 9. Their judge for a bench trial was formerly the chief of police in Los Alamos. Each of the six testified and a video of the protest and their arrest was screened. Three dozen demonstrators had occupied the main intersection during morning rush hour for more than 15 minutes before police began asking them to leave or face arrest. Benjamin “Summer” Abbott, Catherine “Wind” Euler, Pam Gilchrist, Janet Greenwald, Barbara Grothus and Cathie Sullivan were found not guilty of trespass but convicted of obstructing traffic and disobeying a police officer. Each was fined a total of \$342. They informed the court they will not pay...

HINKLEY POINT: Four people who blocked workers’ access to Great Britain’s Hinkley Point nuclear complex for nearly 4 hours in November pleaded guilty to obstruction of the highway at Taunton Magistrates Court on December 19. The four were each given 12 months conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 expenses...

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE: At a January 8 hearing in federal court in Sacramento, California, the Beale Nine drone warfare opponents were reduced to Five after the prosecutor moved to dismiss the trespass charges against Barry Binks, Toby Blome, MacGregor Eddy and Fr. Louis Vitale. A magistrate will hear the trial of Sharon Delgado, David Hartsough, Janet Hartsough, Jane Kesselman and Shirley Osgood on April 15. Charges against the four may have been dropped because they were all arrested at the October 30 protest at a different, less well-marked gate than the five facing trial...

EDO-MBM: British prosecutors, citing “no realistic prospect of conviction,” have dismissed charges against four people arrested last July 16 as they sought to carry out a citizens’ weapons inspection of the Brighton arms firm. It’s the latest in a series of victories for SmashEDO activists, who have campaigned since 2004 against the manufacture of military aircraft weapons components at the factory, such as the entire mechanical and electrical interface system for Raytheon Enhanced Paveway II bombs in recent use by French warplanes over Mali...

BUFFALO, NEW YORK: Calling the police misconduct in the case “repugnant to this court’s sense of justice,” on December 20 city court judge Joseph Fiorella finally threw out all the criminal charges against Nate Buckley, following a 2011 anti-war demonstration. Buckley was unlawfully arrested in April of that year for trespassing in a public space, then gratuitously peppersprayed while in custody and additionally charged with resisting arrest and obstructing justice. A subsequent set of suspect charges filed last fall in the wake of a parking violation has also since been dismissed...

Resistance Reading Round-up

Oral historian Rosalie Riegle had recorded more material than a single publisher could accommodate. As a result, two books recently released by different publishers complement each other nicely as important contributions to the movements for peace and a nuclear free future. ***Doing Time for Peace: Resistance, Family & Community*** (© 2013, 384 pages 7”x10”, \$29.95 paper from vanderbiltuniversitypress.com, 800-627-7377; ISBN 978-0-8265-1872-9) brings together more than 75 voices on the impact arrest and imprisonment for peace activism has had on their families and communities. Many of the interviewees are Catholic Workers. In ***Crossing the Line: Nonviolent Resisters Speak out for Peace*** (©2013, 378 pages 6”x9”, \$44 paperback from wipfandstock.com, 541-344-1528; ISBN 978-1-61097-683-1), Riegle brings together a slightly smaller collection of narrators, from World War II conscientious objectors to contemporary activists, each addressing their experience behind bars.

Hungry for Peace: How you can help end poverty and war with Food Not Bombs (©2012, 180 pages

BEAVERTON, OREGON: Following a two day trial, three men were found not guilty of trespass at a military recruiting center last April during a Bradley Manning support demonstration...

SWEDEN: Following his conviction two weeks earlier, Swedish peace campaigner Martin Smedjeback was sentenced on January 30 to 14 days in jail. In July, 2011 during an international peace camp, Smedjeback and Annika Spalde entered Air Force Base F21 in Luleå, northern Sweden. Inside they painted the runway pink. Spalde, who had already served a 14 day sentence for an earlier action the same week, did not get any further sentence. Smedjeback, who will serve his sentence later this spring, said, “A prison sentence is a small burden compared to the suffering of those exposed to the wars prepared for here. Sweden is an accomplice to wars by offering military exercise areas for foreign armies and through our arms exports.”...

8.5x11”, read free online at foodnotbombs.net or \$12.00 from publisher seesharppress.com; ISBN 978-1-937276-06-5) tells the history of Food Not Bombs, its anti-nuclear roots and the political repression of free food across the globe. This revised and updated guide to starting your own Food Not Bombs group also includes over 100 photos and illustrations; ready-to-be-copied flyers; information on consensus process; how to deal with police harassment and infiltrators; how to obtain free food (*not* by dumpster diving); and dozens of tasty vegan recipes for groups of 100 and groups of six.

In December, friends of Norman Lowry published the e-book, ***Conscience Behind Bars – the Prison Letters of Norman Lowry***, available as a free download or printed edition (\$5.00, 96 pages) at lulu.com. From Dennis Rivers’ introduction: “Ther==e is no single right way to live the life of conscience in a war-making culture, but seeing the life of conscience lived boldly, in the example of Norman Lowry, will, I believe, help each of us to be truer to the best that is within us.”

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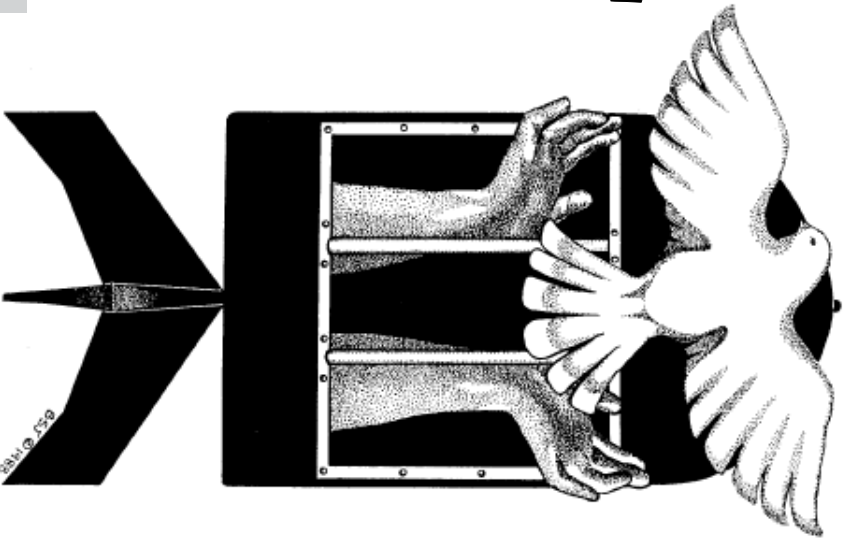
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