June 5, 2013

Transform Now Plowshares Convicted, Jailed

Thanks to Patrick O’Neill and Chrissy Neith for their trial reports incorporated into this story. More trial reports are collected at makeresister.org.

Three people who entered the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex at Oak Ridge, Tennessee last summer in a bold action for nuclear disarmament have been convicted by a jury of sabotage and felony damage to government property. Sr. Megan Rice, Greg Boertje-Obed and Michael Walli were convicted on Monday after a three day trial. Prosecutors argued successfully that their crime fell under the definition of a "federal crime of terrorism" and as a crime of violence to which Congress mandated that pre-sentence release cannot be granted upon conviction of a violent crime. While federal sentencing guidelines will likely mean less, the charges can still carry a maximum 35 years for each defendant when they return to court for sentencing on September 23.

Because they acted with a vision of transformative change, the group took the name Transform Now Plowshares, continuing a three-decades-long tradition of biblically inspired direct action. Before dawn last July 28, the trio cut through four fences to arrive just outside the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, the largest storehouse of bomb-grade uranium in the world. They marked the building with blood, painted declaration messages on the wall and hung banners. Symbolic of beginning to transform swords into plowshares, they also hammered a few chips of concrete from the building’s foundation before being seen by security guards and arrested.

More than 100 supporters from Tennessee and around the country attended the three day trial. Members of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance provided generous hospitality for out-of-towners. Shared meals each evening of the trial were joyous occasions where the defendants shared freely yet never showed a concern about the outcome of their trials. On Sunday, May 5, a strong and spirited community embraced the defendants at OREPA’s weekly Y-12 vigil and an evening Festival of Hope before the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any domestic political party. While in Canada I tried to live my life as best I could. In the coming years, I formed a new family (with my extended family. I wanted my children to grow up with particular attention to a secret shipment of special nuclear materials that had to be diverted from Y-12 until such security was re-established.

Although neither presented nor qualified as an expert witness in matters of national defense, he extolled the U.S. strategy of nuclear deterrence, dryly explaining that deterrence failed that of each defendant in court on April 29 to plead guilty to two counts of bad conduct discharge and loss of pay allowances. Rivera only serve nine under the plea agreement, plus demotion, and was sentenced to fifteen months in prison but will represent by attorney James Branum.

Two U.S. soldiers who took refuge in Canada when they refused to wage war any more are now in military prisons. Sealed plea agreements limited the maximum possible prison sentence at the court martials of Justin Colby and Kimberly Rivera, who were both stationed at Fort Carson pending court martial. Rivera pleaded guilty on March 22 to one count of desertion and was sentenced in Canada in prison but will only serve nine under the plea agreement, plus demotion, bad conduct discharge and loss of pay allowances. Rivera was in court on April 29 to plead guilty to two counts of desertion, and was sentenced to fourteen months in prison plus a bad conduct discharge but will serve ten months. Her fifth child is due in December, before her expected release date.

Justin Colby

Justin Colby enlisted in May, 2003. First deployed to Korea, he learned about the Iraq War and quickly developed serious doubts about U.S. involvement. When orders came for Iraq, he studied more, until by the time his unit was ready to cross the border from Kuwait, “I explained to my first sergeant that I did not think I could participate in offensive operations against a country that never attacked us. I asked to apply for conscientious objector status.”

His sergeant punished and intimidated Colby, threatening he’d be labeled a “domestic terrorist.” He crossed the border as ordered.

Returning to the U.S. after one year, Colby’s life rapidly changed and then quickly deteriorated into a custody battle for his newborn son from his meth-addicted wife. One week away from a successful conclusion to that battle, he was ordered into training for a second deployment to Iraq. His command was unsympathetic with his plight. In extreme distress, he went AWOL rather than return to Iraq. He fled to Canada, regretfully abandoning the quest for his son. Child Protective Services eventually removed his son from the mother’s custody, but Colby could not gain custody due to his legal status with the Army.

“While in Canada I tried to live my life as best I could. In the coming years, I formed a new family (with my Canadian common-law spouse, I had two new children). I always grieved the circumstances of why I had to leave, but I felt betrayed by the Army. I had felt that I had been required to put my own moral concerns aside to deploy the first time (doing this out of a sense of obligation to my oath and to my comrades), but when I later faced a terrible family crisis, the Army abandoned me.

“By the summer of 2012 I made the decision to return to the U.S. I was not deported. But I made the decision to come back anyway because I wanted to take responsibility for my actions and not be separated from my extended family. I wanted my children to grow up knowing to see their grandparents and their aunts and uncles in the United States.”

Further updates will be posted at freejustincolby.org.

Colby will later have the opportunity to request clemency from the commanding general of Fort Carson. His attorney is asking supporters to write letters to the general asking that Colby be given an early release from prison so he can be back with his family. They ask that all letters be respectful.

Please send all letters to: Maj. General Paul J. LaCamera, Public Affairs Office, 1450 Alder Rd., Box 339536, JBLM, WA 98433-9536. Letters of support should be sent to COLBY, Justin, 1450 Alder Rd., Box 339536, JBLM, WA 98433-9536. Kimberly Rivera

Kimberly Rivera was an outspoken war resister while living with her growing family in Canada, where they took refuge in 2007 on the eve of her second deployment to Iraq. When asylum was denied and she was ordered to leave last fall, her argument that she would face punishment upon return was dismissed by the Canadian government. She was arrested and jailed as soon as she crossed the border last September, then turned over to the army and assigned to Fort Carson pending court martial. Her husband Mario and their four children crossed the border later, and are living in the U.S. now.

As asked by the judge at her court martial how long she had intended to remain away from the army, Rivera answered, “As long as I possibly could, sir… I intended to quit my job permanently.” Although she told a chaplain in
Dear Friends of Jonah House,

We are in a spirit of CELEBRATION! June 1, 2013 marks 40 years since the original Jonah House community began in Berkeley, June 1, 2014 also marks 18 years since the community moved, as a whole, from the Park Ave. row-house to St. Peter’s Cemetery and the monthly vigil moved to a narrow right-of-way along Scarboro Road, the eastern perimeter of the Y-12 site. Further, in the winter of 2013-14, the eastern perimeter of the Y-12 was erection this winter of a temporary fence that only came to light in the light of the fact that this was an act of nonviolent civil disobedience intended to awaken the conscience of the nation, and no evidence was presented that it was an act of terrorism meant to harm anyone. Without making it the focus of the letter, you could mention that the action was carried out with the clear understanding of the illegality and immorality of nuclear weapons, and intent to uphold higher laws. Examples of disobedience intended to awaken the conscience of the nation and no evidence was presented that it was an act of terrorism meant to harm anyone. Without making it the focus of the letter, you could mention that the action was carried out with the clear understanding of the illegality and immorality of nuclear weapons, and intent to uphold higher laws.

Dr. Ocilla GA 31774. A full return address must be on the inside of the envelope. No staples, paper clips or oversized envelopes. Magazines and books must be sent directly from the publisher, and all subscriptions are subject to change. For more information, visit transformnowplowshares.com. 250-323-6867

We note with sadness the recent deaths of three long-time peace and anti-nuclear activists and supporters of the Nuclear Resister – June from California, Dorothy CW from the United Kingdom, and Reina Australia - each with numerous arrests for nonviolent civil resistance actions. We are grateful for their activism, their commitment, their lives. We are much more secure now. The people of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Dr. Richard P. Feynman in his saffron robe, chanting for peace. The Nuclear Resister www.transformnow.com

In his closing, Quigley did not try to dispute the charge of terrorism. He defended the action as a response to a government decision to send American nuclear weapons to New Zealand, and to provide support to the judge for a sentencing decision that takes into account the nature of their action and their nonviolent behavior. We are in a spirit of CELEBRATION! June 1, 2013 marks 40 years since the original Jonah House community began in Berkeley, June 1, 2014 also marks 18 years since the community moved, as a whole, from the Park Ave. row-house to St. Peter’s Cemetery and the monthly vigil moved to a narrow right-of-way along Scarboro Road, the eastern perimeter of the Y-12 site. Further, in the winter of 2013-14, the eastern perimeter of the Y-12 was erection this winter of a temporary fence that only came to light in the light of the fact that this was an act of nonviolent civil disobedience intended to awaken the conscience of the nation, and no evidence was presented that it was an act of terrorism meant to harm anyone. Without making it the focus of the letter, you could mention that the action was carried out with the clear understanding of the illegality and immorality of nuclear weapons, and intent to uphold higher laws. Examples of disobedience intended to awaken the conscience of the nation and no evidence was presented that it was an act of terrorism meant to harm anyone. Without making it the focus of the letter, you could mention that the action was carried out with the clear understanding of the illegality and immorality of nuclear weapons, and intent to uphold higher laws.

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Second NATO Defendant Takes Plea Deal

Another of the NATO 5 defendants has struck a non-cooperating plea deal. After 329 days in the Cook County Jail, Mark Neiweem pleaded guilty on April 11 to violating probation from a previous, unrelated conviction, and to felony solicitation and attempted possession of an explosive or incendiary device. While facing consecutive sentences if convicted at trial, Neiweem’s agreement led to concurrent terms of three years. With credit for time served and other reductions for good behavior, Neiweem hopes to be released from state prison in November.

Bradley Manning, cont.

continued from page 1
burden to remove that “reason to believe” requirement. Another ruling allows the government to present classified testimony from secret witnesses to prove the charge of aiding the enemy.

Following the release of a surreptitious recording of Manning’s testimony in February, the media are protected from bringing any electronic devices into the courtroom. Together with the fact that trial transcripts are not made public, this restriction adversely affects public awareness and understanding of the trial. The military has made clear that media access is a privilege, not a right.

The trial begins just as this issue of the Nuclear Resister goes to press. A full report will appear in the next issue. Daily coverage of the court martial and suggested support actions for Bradley Manning can be found at bradleymanning.org.

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 33931
(Native American political prisoner framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous threats including uranium mining on sacred lands)

Liu Yuandong (in 2/23/13) Tianhe District Detention Centre, Guangzhou, China (address unavailable). (Detained after taking part in a protest against North Korea’s nuclear tests)

MILITARY REFUSERS

Kimberly Rivera (ten months – in 4/29/13) NAVCONBRIG Miramar, P.O. Box 452136, San Diego, CA 92136. (Army conscientious objector court martialed on return from refuge in Canada, pled guilty to two counts of desertion)

Justin Raymond Colby (nine months – in 3/23/13) COLBY, Justin, 1450 Alder Rd., Box 339536, JBLM, WA 98433-9536. (Army conscientious objector, pled guilty to desertion)

Yangs Yoo-n Ho Prisoner No. 301 (18 months – in 2/1) (Obstruction of business of military port contractors, Jeju, South Korea)

Kim Young-Jae Prisoner No. 435 ( Arrested on April 12 while standing in front of a truck, on the road leading into the site of a naval base under construction on Jeju Island, South Korea. Two days later, he was issued a warrant and taken to jail.)

Lee Jong-Hwa Prisoner No. 125 ( Arrested on April 28 while blocking a truck on the road leading into the site of a naval base under construction on Jeju Island, South Korea)

Park Suk-Jin Prisoner No. 199 ( Arrested May 7 for violating bail conditions after occupying naval base construction equipment in Hwasoon Port, 9/6/12) Four men listed above all at: Jeju Prison, 161, Ora-2-dong, Jeju-si, Jeju-do, Korea.

Brian Jacob Church 2012-0519003 (Arraigned July 6 for “proving false written statements” at the NATO summit in Chicago, 5/20/12) Brent Betterly 2012-0519001 (Arraigned July 6 for “proving false written statements” at the NATO summit in Chicago, 5/20/12) P.O. Box 089002, Chicago, IL 60608; and to Mark Neiweem M36200, P.O. Box 112, Joliet, IL 60434. SabiSenakiewicz cannot receive most mail in his assigned program.

Legal defense and commissary support funds are still urgently needed. Checks or money orders with “7th Day Baptists Support PFC Manning” written on them should be sent to: 8th Day Center for Justice, 205 W. Monroe St. Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60606 or donate online at www.wepay.com/contributions/nato-5-defense.

Support Action

Letters of support should be sent individually to Bradley Manning, 98299, Commander, HHC USAG; Attn: PFC Manning; 239 Sheridan Ave. Bldg 417; JBM-HH VA 22211.

PROVIOUSLY LISTED,
RECENTLY RELEASED: Brian Terrell

Letters of support should be sent individually to Brian Jacob Church 2012-0519002; Jared Chase 2012-0519003; and Brent Betterly 2012-0519001; all at P.O. Box 089002, Chicago, IL 60608; and to Mark Neiweem M36200, P.O. Box 112, Joliet, IL 60434. SabiSenakiewicz cannot receive most mail in his assigned program.

Download ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS Robert Chantal 92461-020 (six months – out 9/11/13) FCI Jesup, Federal Correctional Institution, 2515 South, Jesup, GA 31545. (Convicted of trespass at Ft. Benning, GA in protest to close the School of the Americas, 11/18/12)

Shakir Hamoodi 21901-045 (three years – out 4/17/15) USP Leavenworth, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048. (Plea agreement to one count of violating 1990s 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)

Rafid Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years – out 4/26/22) U.S. Navy 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)

Bradley Manning 09209 (in 5/10) Command, HHC USAG; Attn: PFC Manning; 239 Sheridan Ave. Bldg 417; JBM-HH VA 22211. (Court martial for espionage for disclosing military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes began 6/3)

Letters of support for Bradley Manning can be found at bradleymanning.org.

Let’s go old school. Pen to Paper. These letters will be sent to: 8th Day Center for Justice, 205 W. Monroe St. Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60606; and to Mark Neiweem M36200, P.O. Box 112, Joliet, IL 60434. SabiSenakiewicz cannot receive most mail in his assigned program.

Inside & Out
Served since Good Friday, he was released from prison in Tacoma, Washington. He was taken to a private prison in Pahrump, Nevada used as following his June, 2012 release from prison for the Diseral warrant for his promised failure to report for parole arrest by Sunnyvale police. Two of the six refused to cross and peace sign flag, blocking the entrance. Six were arrested by Sunnyvale police. Two of the six refused to sign release papers and were jailed in Santa Clara County pending court the next day. Larry Purcell was released April 3 on time served.

As he anticipated, Fr. Steve Kelly was held on a federal warrant for his promised failure to report for parole following his June 2012 release from prison for the Diseral warrant for his promised failure to report for parole arrest by Sunnyvale police. Two of the six refused to sign release papers and were jailed in Santa Clara County pending court the next day. Larry Purcell was released April 3 on time served. As he anticipated, Fr. Steve Kelly was held on a federal warrant for his promised failure to report for parole following his June 2012 release from prison for the Diseral warrant for his promised failure to report for parole arrest by Sunnyvale police. Two of the six refused to sign release papers and were jailed in Santa Clara County pending court the next day. Larry Purcell was released April 3 on time served.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.

Lockheed Martin/ King of Prussia

During the March 29 Good Friday peace vigil at Lock-heed Martin’s facility in Sunnyvale, California (where the Trident submarine’s D-5 nuclear missiles are made), some of those present went into the roadway carrying a cross and peace sign flag, blocking the entrance. Six were arrested by Sunnyvale police. Two of the six refused to sign release papers and were jailed in Santa Clara County pending court the next day. Larry Purcell was released April 3 on time served.

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Pentagon

Forty people took part in the annual Holy Week Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C. from March 27–29, sponsored by Jonah House and the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker. Among their public peace witnesses at the Israeli embassy, the White House and Pentagon, arrests took place at the Pentagon on Good Friday morning. The community processed quietly into the protest zone, where Sr. Margaret McKenna and Art Laffin went onto the Pentagon sidewalk. While Laffin held up a cross with the inscription “2013 – Suffering Humanity”, McKenna laid prostrate on the ground while they prayed in adoration of the cross. Both were arrested by Pentagon police as the community sang, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?”

Laffin and McKenna were arrested for failure to comply and released with a May 17 court date. The prosecutor called later to let them know the charge had been dismissed, saving the two a trip to court.

For more information, visit dcatholicworker.wordpress.com.

Nevada Test Site

On Good Friday, the Nevada Desert Experience’s annual Sacred Peace Walk concluded after 20 participants from eight states were arrested at the entrance of the historic nuclear weapons system proving ground 65 miles from Las Vegas. The 20 were cited for trespass and released at the site.

For more information, visit nevadasdesertexperience.org.

London

On February 13, Ash Wednesday, over 100 people went to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to call and pray for repentance from the sin of the possession and threat of use of Trident, the British nuclear weapons system of mass destruction. As part of the liturgy, five Catholic Workers marked the walls of the MoD with blessed charcoal. There were no arrests.

The witness continued on the Monday of Holy Week, when one of the five, Fr. Martin Newell, returned to mark the walls again. He was arrested, charged and released on bail. On returning to Whitelhall on Maundy Thursday to walk the Stations of the Cross of Nonviolent Love, Newell was arrested for breach of bail conditions and jailed for two days.

In court April 10, Newell pleaded not guilty while agreeing that he had written on the MoD walls as described. He was found guilty and given a conditional discharge, plus costs and compensation of £205. He has no intention of paying.

For more information, visit londoncatholicworker.org.

Livermore

In a departure from practice in recent years, many of 37 arrested during this year’s Good Friday protest at the nuclear weapons laboratory in Livermore, California report being summoned to appear in court by July 2. It has been years since such prosecutions have gone forward against those arrested at the annual liturgy and nonviolent action now sponsored by Ecumenical Peace Institute/ CALC and Livermore Conversion Project.

About 100 people took part in the 31st annual sunrise worship that featured liturgical dance. The Stations of the Cross were observed during a brief procession to the lab’s gate. Those who were arrested, facing a line of police. They were arrested and cited for obstructing a roadway, then released.

Carolyn Scarr, one of those arrested, told a San Jose Mercury News reporter, “We still want the lab to know that we’re watching, and to stop all nuclear weapons.”

Mother’s Day at Bangor Sub Base

About 50 activists marking Mother’s Day early on Saturday, May 11, carried signs and banners half a mile from Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action to the Kitap-Bangor Naval Sub Base, the U.S. Coast home port for the U.S. nuclear submarine fleet.

Bernie Meyer of Tacoma was accents and handcuffed by military personnel after crossing the blue line marking the boundary at the base gate. Meyer, 75, began reciting Julia Ward Howe’s “Battle Hymn of the Republic” in honor of her mother, before being escorted to a military van for processing on possible federal trespass charges.

Two other people were cited by Washington State Patrol for being a “pedestrian in the roadway,” while Sacks and Mona Lee, both of Seattle, carried an anti-nuclear banner into the entrance road, but did not cross the blue boundary marker. All three were released soon thereafter.

UPDATES

Both state and federal arrests were also made in March, when the Pacific Life Community held their annual retreat. Three of the state defendants were in Kitsap district court May 7 to offer statements in mitigation of their fine for walking on the road where prohibited. Leonard Eiger, Tom Karlin and Cliff Kirchmer each addressed the court, together speaking out against the immorality and illegality of the continuing threat to use nuclear weapons, as well as the tremendous human and economic cost of their continued development and deployment.

Judge Steven Olsen listened attentively, complimented the men on their activism, and drew down their fines to the minimum $25 each.

Many of the fourteen arrested on the federal side of the blue line have received ban and bar letters. Seven of those, including people with previous Bangor or other federal trespass convictions, were summoned to federal court in Tacoma on June 5 to face trespass charges. All entered not guilty pleas and have an October 21 court date.

George Rodkey and Rodney Brunelle contested their charge of pedestrian on a roadway for a leafletting arrest at Bangor last October but lost, and paid a $25 fine each. Mary Gleysteen was similarly ticketed while leafletting at Bangor last October but lost, and paid a $25 fine each. Two other people were cited by Washington State Patrol for being a “pedestrian in the roadway,” and two for jaywalking. They were booked into the Anderson County Jail in Whitehall on Maundy Thursday.

For more information, visit groundzero CENTER.org.

Plowshares, cont.

continued from page 2

crossed the intersection, police pulled the two men aside and arrested them for “impeding traffic” (sic) or jaywalking. They were booked into the Anderson County Jail and not released before 4:30 AM. The May 5 vigil celebrated the inaugural mile of the Transform Now Plowshares, drawing a larger crowd than usual. Police sought out Larry Coleman to serve a summons to appear in court May 13, when he was assigned a July 13 court date.

For more information, visit orep.org.
Drones! Drones! Drones! Drones!

Drone Action Month & More

An activist decorates the gateway into the new RAF Waddington peace garden, June 3, 2013.

RAF Waddington

The first British peace activists to be arrested protesting drone war also had their homes raided and computers seized while they were held in custody overnight. Susan Clarkson, Chris Cole, Henrietta Cullinan, Keith Hebden, Martin Newell and Penny Walker have been charged with intent to trespass and cause criminal damage at RAF Waddington. They have a July 4 preliminary hearing.

On June 3, the fifth anniversary of the first British drone attack, they cut a fence at the high-security base near Lincoln. Just inside, they hung banners and planted a vine and a fig tree, creating “a gateway and peace garden”, in order to make a way for perpetrators of peace to do their civic and moral duty and disarm these drones, explained Walker.

They all felt moved to act after British drones first became operational from British soil on April 25, and the government confirmed that British drones controlled from RAF Waddington had already made their first kill in Afghanistan.

Cole, an anti-drone campaigner from Oxford said, “To build real peace and security in our world we need to breech the silence and secrecy that surrounds remote warfare and expose the impact of the drone wars on global peace and security as well as the lives of ordinary Afghans.

Beale AFB

In California’s central valley, drone warfare resisters stopped hundreds of cars from entering Beale Air Force Base on the morning of May 2. Five activists held a long banner with images of drone victims and the words “Stop Killer Drones” across two lanes of traffic for more than an hour. Supporters held other banners along the road, and spoke with drivers arrested from entering the base. Beale is the fleet headquarters for the Global Hawk surveillance drone, an unarmed accomplice to the armed Predator and Reaper models. They attempted to deliver a letter condemning drone warfare to the base commander.

Police eventually arrested the five, who were issued federal trespass citations and released. Five people arrested during protests at Beale last October have had their federal trespass trial postponed until August 12. For more information, visit occupybealeafb.org.

Greech AFB

In Nevada, drone war resisters delivered an indictment as part of a blockade of Creech Air Force Base. The document charged the base commander Col. James Hecker and entire chain of command—from the President down to the entire drone crew—with extrajudicial killings, violation of the laws of war, and of innocent civilians by the civilians of drones controlled by Creech personnel.

The grim reaper, on hand for the event, held a model drone aloft, symbolically executing seven protesters who fell in the road, victims of a drone attack. Las Vegas metro police received the indictment and turned it over to base security before arresting the eight for failure to disperse. The action came on the morning of March 28 during the annual Sacred Peace Walk between Las Vegas and the nuclear weapons test site at Mercury. They were arrested and taken to Las Vegas, charged with failure to disperse and processed and released.

For more information, visit nevadasertexperience.org.

Volfiek

Five people were arrested on May 28 as they walked into U.S. Field #2 compound. Wisconsin women have been charged with war crimes indictment in hand for the commander. The

Week of Blockades at Vermont Yankee

Unrelenting, women of the Shut It Down affinity group returned day after day for a week in April to block the gate of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. The actions began on Monday, April 15, when Hattie Nestel and Priscilla Lynch were arrested as they covered the drums with blood, paint and Hymn to the Earth while singing the words, “I smell a rat.” They wanted to bring attention to new reports of rats having twice been to blame for a dangerous loss of coolant in the spent fuel pool at Fukushima.

“It wouldn’t take an earthquake or a tsunami to wreak havoc with onsite power. A rat could do it,” said Nestel.

Tuesday, Nestel and two more women stretched their “indefinite hunger strike” by not eating for the remainder of the week. “We have more important things to do than come get you,” the police chief told them, but to no avail. The women were arraigned before a judge on a citation of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Letter from Birmingham Jail, echoing his sentiment, “I am here because injustice is here.”

Wednesday, three more women blocked the road until arrested. One held a sign reading, “If you could see radiation, you would shut VY down now.”

Two more women stood in the way on Thursday, holding signs quoting Gregory Jackso, retired chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who recently said: “All 104 nuclear power reactors now in operation in the United States have the same safety problem that cannot be fixed and they should be replaced with newer technology …” Continuing to put band-aid on band-aid is not going to fix the cancer.

Nestel returned with three more women from the group on Friday. Their blockade highlighted the danger posed by the spent fuel pool at Vermont Yankee.

The waves of resistance ended on Monday, Earth Day, with a blockade by five women who had all been arrested the previous week.

Citations were only issued after the first action, and those charges were dismissed before they came to court.

PILGRIM NUKES OPPOSITION GROWS

Ten Cape Downwinders were arrested a third time at the gate of the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts on May 21. They were again trying to deliver their letter demanding the plant shut down “due to lessons learned from the Fukushima disaster,” and indicting owner Entergy Corporation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for “criminal negligence for endangering the health and safety of all living things in New England.”

More than 100 people joined the Rally at the Reactor, boosted by voters and town meetings in 14 Cape Cod towns this spring calling for the aging nuke’s retirement. Many were chanting “6000 plus evacuated, evacuation Plan ‘Kim East.’” In the event of a major radiation release at the Fukushima-type reactor, two bridges just twelve miles south of the reactor construct the evacuation route of Cape Cod.

The rally ended with chants of “Move the plant, not the people!” as ten Cape Cod residents passed through the gate with their letter. Police were waiting to arrest them for trespass. They were arrested in Plymouth court and released.

The next day, five people arrested at Pilgrim last March 13 were back in court. One pled out, and the remaining four were joined with the ten new defendants for a July 19 pre-trial hearing.

For more information, visit capeadowndwiners.org.
Belarus

Following is only a partial account of recent developments in a dynamic situation. Many more stories are told regularly at savejejunow.org, an English-language website.

The pace of construction for the naval base on Jeju Island, Korea, picked up again this spring in advance of the typhoon season. Along with it, a new round of repression was unleashed against the affected villagers of Gangjeong and their allies, who struggle nonviolently to preserve Jeju as the Peace Island.

A new police chief responsible for suppressing the protests dispatched over 500 police to Gangjeong on April 25 to support the 24/7 construction schedule.

They were there to forcibly dismantle the sit-in tents, maintained by the villagers along the road near the construction gate. The shelters were used to ensure illegal clastonization activity and environmental contamination of the once-pristine coast, and were also a center of protest.

On the morning of May 10, hundreds of police forced the crowd of naval base occupants out of the way. The mayor of Gangjeong and three other men had chained themselves to the steel pole frames inside the tents. The mayor was nearly choked to death when police dragged the tent down before unchaining him. He and the other men were then arrested and jailed for one or two days before the construction works continued.

Among those in the clashes was village native Kim Mi-Lyang. She was knocked over by a litter and fell nearly 20', sustaining serious injuries and requiring hospitalization.

In the days before the tents came down, police had arrested several of the more persistent activists who are daily pushed and carried out of the road. An informal shelter was used to ensure that the construction gate was closed, and the number of police and protesters increased as the days went on.

Police and registered journalists were released without charges.

Ten days later, journalists Dmitry Halko and (for a second time) Alexander Yavmen were arrested while videotaping the Chernobyl Day anti-nuclear march there. Police deleted the audio then documents police commands.

Fr. Moon Kyu-Hyun is carried away by police while sitting in front of the Jeju naval base construction gate, waiting to demand the money be spent instead on victims of the April 26, 1986 reactor meltdown.

Nuclear weapons home port, Faslane could be shut down

The demonstration at the main gate of Faslane submarine base on Gare Loch, northwest of Glasgow, highlighted the day of the March 2013 anniversary, 250 people delivered email letters to prisoners with the information of support.

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Amnesty International issued an urgent Action in April calling for letters to the following authorities demanding Liu Yuandong’s immediate release, ensuring that he is not ill-treated or tortured, and that he has immediate access to family, legal representation of his choice, and medical attention.

Please send appeals to: Director, Tianhe District

It’s Tax Day in the U.S.A., but around the world April 15 is the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. As Britain’s fleet of four nuclear missile submarines. The demonstration at the main gate of Faslane submarine base on Gare Loch, northwest of Glasgow, highlighted the day of the March 2013 anniversary, 250 people delivered email letters to prisoners with the information of support.

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**Solidarity With Guantanamo Prisoners**

Responding to reports that more than 100 men held in the U.S. extralegal prison at Guantanamo Bay are on a hunger strike to protest their indefinite detention, with many being force-fed, a series of protests and support fasts have begun in the United States.

On April 22, twelve people with Witness Against Torture, some costumed as prisoners in orange jumpsuits and black hoods, were arrested following a die-in on the steps of the federal courthouse on Foley Square, New York City.

CodePink co-founder Diane Wilson began a hunger strike in solidarity with the Guantanamo detainees on May 1. Wilson locked herself to the White House fence during a demonstration on May 10. Police removed the lock and arrested her. Wilson has since been joined by others around the country adopting open-ended or relay fasting.

May 17 was the 100th day of the Guantanamo hunger strike. A large noon-time vigil was held on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House to bring the hunger strikers’ urgent plea for justice to President Obama.

A moving remembrance of the prisoners being held at Guantanamo, 166 caravans were placed on a 30-foot “Close Guantanamo” banner that lay across the streetfront in front of the White House as the name of each prisoner was read.

After the vigil, fourteen people walked onto the White House sidewalk in the “protest postcard” area and unfurled a large sign remembering the prisoners - No Torture, No Guantanamo.”

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Police arrested 47 people who blocked all three gates, some of whom were students. At times of high pressure people are being taken away. They were processed at police stations in Glasgow and Greenock: photographed, fingerprinted and DNA samples taken.

The 31-year-old Faslane Peace Camp, a string of decorated caravans and shacks in a layby just down the road from base gates, was at risk of folding this spring for lack of committed support. Current resident-organizers suggest that they may need to merge with another camp.

Despite a final May 6 verdict from the Supreme Court of India in favor of operating the Koodankulam nuclear power plant south of Tamil Nadu, the reactors have still not been started. Villagers in the epicenter of the protest, Idinthakarai, were unanimous in their vote to continue their struggle against the nuclear power plant, which they consider a threat.

Despite the final verdict, Idinthakarai residents are determined to continue their struggle against nuclear power. The protest has been going on for almost a decade and villagers have regularly demonstrated against the proposed power plant.

The movement against the Koodankulam plant continues to inspire nonviolent resistance to other such mega-projects in India. In the north of Tamil Nadu, police arrested more than 100 protesters in March and jailed 129 on various charges over protests against the Kalpakkam nuclear power plant near Chennai. Area residents say these access closures to local benefits for education and electricity have not been met.

Updates on the anti-nuclear movement in India can be found at www.countrystories.org and www.diananke.org.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

**kansas city**

**nuclear weapons plant**

Join Fr. Carl Kabat, OMI and his Oblate Provincial Fr. Bill Antone for a Celebration of Life and nonviolent action against nuclear weapons production on Saturday and Sunday, July 6-7 at the former Lutheran Church in Kansas City.

**BUSH AND CHENEY BUSTED!**

While four former Presidents and the current one were celebrating the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Library in Dallas, police outside were arresting Bush Jr. and his Veep, Dick Cheney. The big-headed puppets, already dressed in prison stripes and bound in chains, were being escorted ahead of 200 soda jugs containing demands accounting for their war crimes.

Police directed the march to a bridge leading towards the library on the campus of Southern Methodist University, but officers near the bridge blocked their way.

The march stopped, and police grabbed for the men under the masks, throwing off their paper-mâché heads in a brief scuffle. Dennis Truittor Jr. and Iraq veteran Gary Elsegton were taken into custody and charged with defying police orders and walking in the roadway. A few minutes later, photographer Bill Perry was arrested on the same charges. Police accosted him as he used the nearby crosswalk and he asked, “When did the rules change?” All three were later released.

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June 5, 2013

**THE NUCLEAR RESISTER**
SWEDEN: Martin Smedjebake served a two-week prison sentence at Sörbyn penitentiary, where the vegan helped care for the prison’s 45-cow dairy herd. Smedjebake was convicted of trespass at Air Force Base F21 in Luleå during a 2011 international peace camp...

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE: Brian Terrell was released from a federal prison camp on May 24, after serving a six-month sentence for trespass at the Missouri drone warfare outpost. From June 8–23, Terrell will join a 200-mile walk across Iowa, Covering Ground to Ground the Drones, and speak in towns along the way about the issue of drones and his experience. Details at vcnv.org...

FORT BENNING/SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS: Nashua Chantal was moved from a county jail in Alabama to the federal prison at Jesup, Georgia in early May. He expects to complete a six-month sentence for trespassing on September 11, his second prison sentence for such protest. Chantal most recently climbed the fence into the base that trains Latin American military last November, during the annual School of the Americas Watch demonstration...

WEST POINT, NEW YORK: Six people were sentenced on March 19 to eight hours community service (washing Highland Falls police and ambulance vehicles), and $125 court costs for disorderly conduct in December 2009, when President Obama announced his plan to escalate the war in Afghanistan before an audience at the U.S. Military Academy. Bev Rice from Manhattan told the court she could not in good conscience pay the fee nor the fine.

NASHUA CHANTAL: On September 11, his second prison sentence for such protest, Chantal most recently climbed the fence into the base that trains Latin American military last November, during the annual School of the Americas Watch demonstration...

MENWITH HILL: Lindis Percy had been on bail pending a decision by the Crown whether to prosecute her walk-in protest at the North Yorkshire U.S. spy satellite base last January, on the occasion of Barack Obama’s second inauguration. Due to report again to Harrogate police on May 1, she was informed the day before that no further action would be taken, as her prosecution was “not in the public interest.” Percy, joint coordinator of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases, writes, “If it’s not ‘in the public interest’ to bring a case against me, wouldn’t that apply to anyone else, too? I think it is very much ‘in the public interest’ to go in and see what they are doing and take a walk in the Yorkshire Dales.”

FRANCE: Appellate courts in northwest France recently delivered final verdicts in cases of resistance to both nuclear waste transport by rail in November, 2011, and controversial construction of large high-voltage power lines to carry planned new nuclear electricity across the rural countryside, in the spring of 2012. On March 18, a photographer stopped while documenting the 2011 railroad blockades was acquitted of possessing tear gas grenades, but convicted and fined €500 for possessing another weapon – the popular Opinel wooden folding knife in his possession. Two activists were acquitted on March 20 of a separate weapons offense when the court ruled that woodcutting tools found in their car did not count as weapons. Two days later another conviction was upheld in the case of a man charged with violence against a public authority he bumped while trying to move his car from a police line protest site. Several more cases are set for appeal decisions this summer...

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY: In May, Bob Graf pled not guilty to trespass and will go to trial on July 15 in Milwaukee. The Catholic university has barred Graf following his persistent peaceful protest of military training and public witness direct action. For more information, visit www.farm.catholicworker.biz, or call 209-728-8271.

Iraq War Resisters, cont. continued from page 1

Iraq she could not take a life if required to, she was never informed about the option of conscientious objection. Rivera was held at the El Paso County Jail in Colorado Springs for nine days before being moved to the Navy Consolidated Brig at Miramar, California.

For more information, visit Canada’s War Resisters Support Campaign at resisters.ca and FreeKimberlyRivera.org.

Letters of support should be sent to Kimberly Rivera, NAVCONBRIG Miramar, P.O. Box 452136, San Diego, CA 92145-2136. There are strict rules on what can be included in letters. Please do not include anything but the paper you yourself have used to write. She receives her mail but cannot reply to anyone beyond a short list of approved correspondents.

Contributions to support the Rivera family may be made online via www.courageforestis.org.