

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 170

June 5, 2013

Transform Now Plowshares Convicted, Jailed

Thanks to Patrick O'Neill and Chrissy Nesbit for their trial reports incorporated into this story. More trial reports are collected at nukeresister.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 jailed on May 8 after a three day trial. Prosecutors argued successfully that their crime fell under the definition of a “federal crime of terrorism” and a crime of violence, and Congress has mandated that pre-sentence release cannot be granted upon conviction of a violent crime. While federal sentencing guidelines will likely mean less, the charges carry a maximum 35 years in prison 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 disarmament 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 for their likely plight. 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

trial began the next day.

The jury was selected on Monday afternoon, and the government began its case on Tuesday, May 7. The sabotage charge required the government prove that the defendants acted with intent to injure the national defense. Their first witness was the Y-12 site manager for the private company created to oversee all U.S. nuclear weapons operations. Steve Erhart testified about the significant disruption caused by the breach of security, with particular attention to a secret shipment of special nuclear materials that had to be diverted from Y-12 until site 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 requires the existence of a credible threat. He claimed that the action of the defendants had cast doubt on the security of U.S. nuclear weapons, and thus weakened their deterrent value. Walli’s defense attorney Bill Quigley questioned Erhart about the evident security lapses as well as the devastating effects of nuclear war.

Other prosecution witnesses included the arresting officers. The first responder was fired for not treating the intruders as armed assailants, but he had arrested protesters staging comparable demonstrations when he worked at the Rocky Flats plutonium plant 30 years earlier, and testified, “I knew what I had.” Another manager calculated the cost to repair the property damage, while the FBI agent played audio tapes of the jailed defendants’ telephone conversations with supporters as evidence they had done what they intended by breaching security and, the government alleged, injuring the national defense.

Sr. Megan Rice, 82, was the first defendant to testify. In response to questions from her attorney Francis Lloyd, Rice explained that the group “prayed together many months” as they prepared for their Y-12 action. “We were filled with love for and compassion for the people who had to work at this very dangerous facility.” She said that

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Court Martial Begins for Bradley Manning



Courtroom sketch by Clark Stoeckley/The Bradley Manning Support Network
The government presents its case while defense attorney David Coombs and Bradley Manning listen.

After having spent the past three years in prison, some of that time in solitary confinement, the court martial of PFC Bradley Manning finally began in Ft. Meade, Maryland on June 3. A thousand supporters rallied outside the Fort on Saturday, June 1, with many more also protesting in dozens of cities and towns across the country and around the world throughout the first week of June to call for freedom for the Wikileaks whistleblower.

Manning denies aiding the enemy, but has already admitted to exposing U.S. war crimes and duplicitous international diplomacy in hundreds of thousands of classified documents, diplomatic cables and videos released via wikileaks.org.

One recent pre-trial ruling requires the government to prove espionage by showing that Manning had “reason to believe [the disclosed documents] could be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation.” Prosecutors had wanted to lower their

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IRAQ WAR RESISTERS STILL BEING JAILED

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 after returning from Canada last year. Both are represented by attorney James Branum.

Colby pled guilty on March 22 to one count of desertion and was sentenced to fifteen months 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 getting 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, 1626 Ellis St. Ste. 200, Bldg.118, Fort Carson, CO 80913, USA. Please also send copies of the letters to Justin Colby’s civilian attorney: James M. Branum, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 721016, Oklahoma City, OK 73172.

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 refuser 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.

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

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Resistance Reflections

May 2013

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 its life together in Baltimore. June 1, 2013 also marks 18 years since the community moved, as a whole, from the Park Ave. row-house to St. Peter’s Cemetery and the house that peacemakers from all over the world helped to build. This summer Jonah House Community of Resistance will have new members to continue peace-making and caretaking the cemetery. Amy and Ted Nee-Walker with Amber and Kevin Mason will be here forming a new part of the beloved community. Amy and Ted come to Jonah House from Mary House Catholic Worker in New York and Amber and Kevin from Dorothy Day Catholic Worker in Washington, D.C.

Through all these years we have known deep gratitude to all who lent assistance to us spiritually and in

the building of this wonderful center for retreats, prayer, gatherings, labor sessions and community-building. The first day of autumn, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013, we will host an Open House to celebrate the years past and those to come. Please come if at all possible. Be part of making his/her story a reality. We have selected this date as a time for you to meet the new members (they will, by then, be moved in and begun getting their new home in order).

Also, during the open house, you will be invited to visit the house next door – the former caretaker’s cottage at 1303 Moreland Ave. where Liz, Carol and Ardeth will begin separate community living and more active ministry. In our new elder status, we will be available when needed to enkindle a smooth transition. But mostly, we will be getting out of their way as much and as soon as possible.

We came to you in the early 1990’s for monetary and personal assistance to begin this new venture and build the new Jonah House on this land. It has been a profound

and fruitful time; we’ve grown food – for our own use and to share with needy people in our neighborhood; we’ve directed retreats for college students during their breaks, for adults during seasons of faith and conscience, for people considering nonviolent direct actions. We’ve continued to prepare for and direct the Faith and Resistance retreats with Dorothy Day CW and the Atlantic Life Community, and we prize both our daily and our weekly study and prayer circles; we’ve developed these 22 acres into a place of beauty and peace in a struggling neighborhood.

Thank you for all the years during which your fidelity has brought light to the darkness and your loving encouragement has been a profound support for all who have been part of Jonah House in the past. We trust that you will continue to be with us all in the same way in the future.

Prayers and love,
Liz McAlister, Carol Gilbert, Ardeth Platte

Transform Now Plowshares, cont.

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their intention was not injury to the national defense, but a transformation to bring healing to an injured planet and the numbed conscience of workers in the nuclear weapons industry.

Asked during cross-examination if she wanted to disarm Y-12, she replied, “With all my heart. Every moment is an imminent threat to the life of this planet, which is sacred.”

Security cameras revealed that when first approached by a security officer, Rice had held her hands together and bowed towards him. She said that in her growing awareness of other spiritual practices, she had come to respect the Buddhist precept of compassion for all beings, as expressed by such bows. When court adjourned on Tuesday afternoon, Rice was still on the witness stand, right next to the door to the jury room. As the jury filed out, Rice turned with her hands held together, and bowed deeply to each juror as they passed by.

When he took the witness stand to testify on Wednesday, Michael Walli said, “I’m Catholic and I know that Jesus Christ and the Blessed Mother do not have an arsenal of any kind.” “I was employed as a terrorist for the United States Government,” the Vietnam-era Army combat veteran remarked. “Since Dorothy Day, the great prophet” and Martin Luther King Jr. both “condemned nuclear weapons,” Walli said he was merely following in their footsteps by acting at “the criminal site Y-12.”

Implying that their interest might only be in disarming the United States, each defendant was also asked by prosecutors if they had ever gone to other nations to protest their nuclear weapons.

“I am an indigent person,” Walli said. “I bloom where I am planted.”

Boertje-Obed responded, “No, because I was born in this country and feel a responsibility to this country.”

On the witness stand, Boertje-Obed, who also served in the U.S. Army, said the fact that the trio made it to the HEUMF building “was very clearly a miracle. There’s no other way that I could explain it.”

Retired Col. Ann Wright took the stand as a defense expert witness on government security. In reviewing the security lapses at Y-12, which only came to light in the aftermath of the disarmament action, she told the court, “We are much more secure now. The people of Oak Ridge are much more secure now.”

In his closing statement, Boertje-Obed said, “Nuclear weapons are instruments of terror and killing. Our actions were promoting real security – justice among all the nations.”

In his closing, Quigley did not try to dispute the charge of property damage. But he offered the jury the opportunity to bring law and justice in alignment by recognizing the honorable intention of the defendants, and acquitting them of sabotage. The jury returned in less than three hours with their guilty verdict. Supporters in the courtroom sang “Vine and Fig Tree” as the prisoners were led away.

For more information, visit transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com and orepa.org, or contact the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), POB 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.



Letters of support should be individually addressed with their ID number and sent to Gregory Boertje-Obed 22090, Michael Walli 4444, and Megan Rice 22100, all at the Irwin County Detention Center, 132 Cotton

Dr., Ocilla GA 31774. A full return address must be on the outside of the envelope. No staples, paper clips or oversized envelopes. Magazines and books must be sent directly from the publisher or bookseller.

Their support committee invites letters of support to the judge, Honorable Amul R. Thapar, United States District Judge, U.S. District Court, 35 W. Fifth St., Covington, KY 41011. Letter writers are asked to please consider that, “Our purpose with these letters is not to reargue the case, nor is it to condemn nuclear weapons production – the judge is not engaging those issues at this time. Our purpose is to address the legal system’s distortion of the nonviolent action of the TNP resisters and to provide support to the judge for a sentencing decision that takes into account the nature of their action and their nonviolent behavior throughout their action.”

- Some suggested guidelines:
- Invite Judge Thapar to think about sentencing in 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.
 - Encourage him to consider downward departures from the high guidelines for the charges, and to use his discretion at sentencing to bring more justice into the situation; and remind him of the intentions of the three nonviolent activists: to follow the words of the prophet Isaiah to beat swords into plowshares, and build a safer and more secure world for all.

Please also send a copy of your letter to Professor Bill Quigley, Loyola Law Clinic, 7214 St. Charles Ave., Campus Box 902, New Orleans, LA 70118, or email quigley77@gmail.com with “letter to Judge Thapar” in the subject line. A copy to orepa@earthlink.net will also be appreciated.

Y-12 NEW ARRESTS

Among the visible reactions to the security breach at Y-12 was erection this winter of a temporary fence along Scarboro Road, the eastern perimeter of the Y-12 reservation. The hasty project and a more expensive permanent fence coming soon also block access to a grassy area by the gate. For more than two decades the patch and adjacent gravel parking were the recognized free speech area for weekly vigils of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA) and other demonstrations. OREPA’s request for an injunction to stop the infringement of long-exercised rights was rejected, and the monthly vigil moved to a narrow right-of-way across the street. Oak Ridge police, previously neutral and cooperative while policing OREPA’s presence, have also adopted a more aggressive attitude.

At the March 3 vigil, before the fence was announced, Larry Coleman inadvertently stepped over the blue line while reading signs posted at the entrance before returning to the group. Twenty minutes later he was taken into custody and detained for two hours while police waited for word from Y-12 about how to respond. He was eventually released, and his case referred to the district attorney.

OREPA’s April 6 Action for Disarmament was the first to face the new barrier. Demonstrators paraded from a nearby park to the vigil site, led by Larry Coleman and Gtydshu Utsumi, a Buddhist monk of the Nipponzan Myohoji order in his saffron robe, chanting for peace. They waited for the light to change, but when they

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PRESENTE!

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, Mary Jo from Pennsylvania, Bryan from Australia - each with numerous arrests for nonviolent civil resistance actions. We are grateful for their activism, their commitment, their lives.



June Thompson
(1926-2013)



Mary Jo McArthur
(1947-2013)



Bryan Law
(1954-2013)

Thanks

Thank you to Kate, Doran, Meki, Paige, Jim, Charlotte and Jerri for helping to mail the last issue.

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

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One-year subscriptions are US\$25 in the United States, US\$30 to Canada, and US\$35 overseas. Payment can only be accepted in US currency or checks drawn on US institutions. All subscriptions are sent via First Class or Airmail.

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

Letters 4 Leonard

In April, federal prison authorities turned down Leonard Peltier’s request for transfer from federal prison in Florida to one closer to his home and family in the Dakotas. He was told to re-apply in two years.



At this time, President Obama is the sole person with the power to grant Peltier his freedom. In prayer to the 4 Directions, the Leonard Peltier Defense–Offense Committees (LPDOC) of the U.S. and Canada have joined together on a new campaign to fight for the freedom of Leonard Peltier. They write:

We are asking for something special. We want you to HAND-write a letter or postcard, putting your voice, your prayer, your demand in physical evidence form. The Electric petition medium has not proven very successful for Leonard, and in some ways seems easier to ignore. Let’s go old school. Pen to Paper. These letters will be held in repository until 2014, when they will be hand-delivered in a visual and physical representation of our demands, through a very special LPDOC event... It is our belief that the sheer quantity of physical evidence representing our demand cannot be ignored... We call to ALL peoples in ALL 4 Directions to hand-write your demand. Be a part of the Fight 4 Freedom – put your pen to paper, have a letter writing party!

Send your letters to: Letters 4 Leonard, P.O. Box 4444, Trego, MT, 59934. Visit www.Letters4Leonard.com for more information.

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 totaling 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.

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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 prohibited 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.



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.

Another target of the undercover operation, Sebastian Senakiewicz, took a non-cooperating plea deal in November 2012 and expects to be deported to his native Poland after completing a prison term this summer.

In March, attorneys for the remaining NATO 3 group of defendants – Brent Betterly, Jared Chase and Brian Church – gave oral arguments on the defense motion to dismiss the four state terrorism charges (out of a total of 11 against each man) as unconstitutional. Ruling on March 27, Judge Thaddeus Wilson said that the statute itself is not unconstitutionally vague. Whether it has been applied in an unconstitutional manner in this case is something the judge would reconsider later, when he has more evidence to consider. The NATO 3 are scheduled to begin trial on September 16, 2013, with bi-weekly status conferences and motions hearings scheduled through the summer.

The charges in all five cases were induced by interactions with undercover Chicago police officers who infiltrated activist groups in the lead up to last May’s NATO military alliance summit in the city. For more information, visit nato5support.wordpress.com.



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. Sabi Senakiewicz cannot receive most mail in his assigned program.

Legal defense and commissary support funds are still urgently needed. Checks or money orders with “8th Day Center/Nato 5 Defense Fund” in the memo line 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/donations/nato-5-defense.

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

Gregory Boertje-Obed 22090 (in 5/8/13)
Megan Rice 22100 (in 5/8/13)
Michael Walli 4444 (in 5/8/13)
Irwin County Detention Center, 132 Cotton Drive, Ocilla GA 31774.
(*Transform Now Plowshares action group jailed pending sentencing 9/23/13, following conviction for sabotage and depredation of government property at Y-12 nuclear weapons complex, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 7/28/2012*)

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*)

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 92145-2136.
(*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*)



ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Robert Chantal 92461-020
(six months – out 9/11/13)
FCI Jesup, Federal Correctional Institution, 2680 301 South, Jesup, GA 31599.
(*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 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*)

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*)

Bradley Manning 89289
(in 5/10)
Commander, HHC USAG; Attn: PFC Manning; 239 Sheridan Ave. Bldg 417; JBM-HH VA 22211.
(*Court martial for espionage after disclosing military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes began 6/3*)

Yang Yoon-Mo 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 2012-0519002
Jared Chase 2012-0519003
Brent Betterly 2012-0519001
P.O. Box 089002, Chicago, IL 60608.
(*NATO 3, held on high bail and facing Illinois felony terrorism charges following protest at the NATO summit in Chicago, May 2012*)

Mark Neiweem M36200
(three years – in 5/12)
P.O. Box 112, Joliet, IL 60434.
(*Pled guilty to solicitation and attempted possession of an explosive or incendiary device due to undercover police provocation of protests at NATO summit in Chicago, 5/2012*)

Sebastian Senakiewicz M32870
(four months)
Cannot receive mail at boot camp; will be deported after completing sentence.
(*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: Brian Terrell

Good Friday Liturgies of Resistance

Lockheed Martin/ King of Prussia

This year’s Good Friday Stations of Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Resistance to Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania emphasized the #1 global arms merchant’s role in the new era of robotic warfare. At the 12th station – Jesus dies on the cross – the tolling of a bell accompanied a period of silence and the reading of names – all civilians, mostly children – of drone strikes victims in Pakistan. A group of people then walked into the crosswalk of the company’s wide main driveway entrance with crosses, signs and a long banner reading “Lockheed Martin – War & Weapons – Christ Crucified” and stood as the names continued to be read.

When they turned to walk up to the door they were stopped and arrested, then transported to the Upper Merion police station where they were released on a charge of disorderly conduct.

This year’s liturgy was dedicated to the memory of Mary Jo McArthur, who passed away peacefully a few days earlier. It was the first time in more than three decades that her name was not among those arrested at the Brandywine Peace Community’s long-running peace witness.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.

Lockheed Martin/ Sunnyvale

During the March 29 Good Friday peace vigil at Lockheed 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 week. 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 Disarm Now Plowshares action. Kelly waived an extradition hearing and was handed over to federal custody. Marshals moved him to a county jail in Oakland. From there, Kelly was taken to a private prison in Pahrump, Nevada used as a transit hub for federal prisoners, and then to the federal prison in Tacoma, Washington.

At his parole violation hearing May 20, Kelly was sentenced to two more months in prison. With credit for time served since Good Friday, he was released from prison again on May 24.

For more information, visit wevigil.org.

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 cited 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 dccatholicworker.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 proving ground 65 miles from Las Vegas. The 20 were cited for trespass and released at the site.

For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.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 Whitehall 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 people 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 west gate. Those risking arrest sat down across the road, 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 we want an end to 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 Kitsap-Bangor naval base, the West Coast home port for the U.S. nuclear submarine fleet.

Bernie Meyer of Tacoma was accosted 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 Mother’s Day Proclamation in honor of his 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.” Bert Sacks and Mona Lee, both of Seattle, carried an anti-nuclear banner into the entry 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 base-bound traffic on March 25, and will plead for mitigation on July 5.

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action at 360-930-8697 or info@gzcenter.org.

Plowshares, cont.

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crossed the intersection, police pulled the two men aside and arrested them for “impending traffic” (sic) or jaywalking. They were booked into the Anderson County Jail and not released on bail until 10 p.m. The May 5 vigil celebrated the imminent trial 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 orepa.org.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~from Jeju Island

THE INSIDE LINE



Two weeks after he was arrested and jailed, Kim Young-Jae wrote to someone in the village. These are translated excerpts:

I guess that many people were embarrassed by my arrest and imprisonment. However I am fine, different from your concern about me.

It is because I have been preparing for this, expecting my imprisonment long time ago.

During the investigation process, I felt that they had really decided their mind to arrest me. That is why I am more concerning about the peace keepers in Gangjeong.

I strongly feel that they want to arrest and imprison peacekeepers, so that they remove the power for the opposition movement against the Jeju naval base construction. Please particularly heed them.

When I was in the field in Gangjeong, I could not see very well. However, a little distant from it, I become to realize the things that I could not think before.

I become to see how this opposition movement against the Jeju naval base has continuity and meaning in the history of democracy, peace, and unification movements that have been heartbreaking and continuous for tens of years in Korea; and how I am and which position I stand on in those movements. It is becoming really precious time...

Even though I am confined in a small single room, my heart is freer and happier than any other time.

There could be no regret since I have acted according to my consciousness and faith.

Tomorrow (April 26), there is a trial on the case of climbing up to the caisson dock in Hwasoon on last September 6. (* Mr. Kim Young-Jae was one of the five activists on the day.)

I will see welcome faces. I wait for tomorrow.

Please tell all the peace keepers that I miss them so much. Please tell them not to be shrunken, not to be exhausted but fight with happiness.

Kim Young-Jae

P.S. Please say my special hello to the village uncles. I love them.

[Kim Young-Jae was jailed in April, two days after blocking a truck at the naval base construction site on Jeju Island, South Korea.]

Drones Away!

The popular movement against armed drone aircraft gained momentum through the spring. Military bases, industries and universities involved in the business of remotely piloted warplanes were the targets of protest across the United States, as were a couple of bases in England.

Washington, D.C.

Just before a March 20 Senate judicial committee hearing on drones began, Code-Pink national coordinator Alli McCracken approached drone lobbyist Michael Toscano at the witness table, asking him, “How does it feel to profit from killer drones?” She was promptly arrested. Toscano later asked that euphemisms other than “drone” be used, because it “carried with it a hostile connotation.”

At a landmark Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights hearing about drone warfare policy on April 23, Tighe Barry made sure to ask the question no one else had: What about the children and innocent civilians killed by drone strikes? He was hustled out and arrested for disorderly conduct.

CodePink co-founder Medea Benjamin, who got President Obama’s attention when he gave a major policy speech on May 23, was, amazingly, not arrested after finally being escorted from the hall by the Secret Service.

Hancock Field

Upstate Drone Action hosted a weekend Convergence to Action: Resisting Drones, Global War and Empire, April 26–28 in Syracuse, New York. After hundreds attended a community center event Friday and a series of educational plenaries and workshops on Saturday, Sunday morning a smaller group prepared for nonviolent direct action.

Sunday afternoon, nearly 300 people marched in solemn mock funeral procession along East Molloy Road to the gate of Hancock Field, the New York Air National Guard base where armed Reaper MQ-9 drones are remotely piloted and making war in Afghanistan. When the group delivering a war crimes indictment was denied entry to the base they staged a die-in, covering themselves in red-stained sheets across the roadway. Members of Veterans for Peace read aloud the names of drone strike victims as police began to make arrests.

Thirty-one people from nine eastern states and the District of Columbia were arrested, handcuffed and loaded on a bus. They spent another 10 hours in cuffs on that bus and in another parked outside the DeWitt Town Court before everyone had been processed and arraigned. After hours in restraints and much negotiation, the arrestees were eventually given small cups of water and escorted to bathroom breaks in handcuffs.

Three different judges set bails ranging from \$500 – \$3,500, totalling \$34,000. A few were released on their promise to appear, while others refused to post bail immediately. All but three were bailed out by Monday night, and those three were out by Tuesday night.

Everyone was issued a new restraining order requested by the base commander, and charged variously with disorderly conduct, loitering trespass, and/or obstructing governmental administration. Some were also charged with violating an earlier restraining order.

It is unusual, if not unprecedented, to grant such an order of protection to the commander of a base subject to protest, and town authorities reportedly suggested the action last year to stem a rising tide of civil resistance. Four people filed suit against two town judges who have granted the orders. They said they don’t even know the base commander, so he cannot claim to be a victim needing court protection. A state appeals court in June rejected their argument and upheld the order of protection.

The most recent trial for civil resistance at Hancock took place in DeWitt Town Court on April 18, for five Upstate Drone Action resisters who blocked the entrance last October 5. At a March 20 pre-trial they had refused to plead guilty and pay a fine. Judge Robert Jokl told them then that if convicted, they should expect to begin jail sentences immediately.

Instead, Jim Clune, Brian Hynes, Ed Kinane, Julianne Oldfield and Mark Scibilia-Carver were convicted of trespass but called back for sentencing on April 24. (A sixth defendant, Martha Hennessy, was acquitted in absentia.) The men were each sentenced to 15 days in jail and \$125 court fee, while Oldfield was conditionally discharged upon completing 50 hours of community service and paying the \$125 fee. The four men were in jail through the weekend convergence and action, and with good time, they were released on May 3.

For more information, visit upstatedroneaction.org.



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 warfare 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 in court.

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 other people 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 breach 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 prevented 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.

Creech AFB

In Nevada, drone war resisters delivered an indictment as part of a blockade of Creech Air Force Base. The document charged the commander Col. James Hecker and entire chain of command – from the President down to every drone crew – with extrajudicial killings, violation of due process, wars of aggression, and for the killings of innocent civilians by the use 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 released pending a June court date.

For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

Volk Field

Five women were arrested on May 28 as they walked into Volk Field in Camp Douglas, Wisconsin with a 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 driveway with spray-painted, stenciled images of rats, and the words, “I smell a rat.” They wanted to bring attention to recent news of rats having twice been to blame for a dangerous loss of on-site electricity 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 “Entergy Equals Fukushima” banner across the driveway. “We have more important things to do than come get you,” the police chief told them, but to no avail. The women were acting on the 50th anniversary of publication 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 Jaczko, retired chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who recently said: “All 104 nuclear power reactors now in operation in the United States have a 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 problem.”

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 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 NUKE 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 Fukushima”, 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 wore t-shirts proclaiming “Evacuation Plan – Swim East.” In the event of a major radiation release at the Fukushima-type reactor, two bridges just twelve miles south of the reactor constrict the evacuation 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 arraigned 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 capedownwinders.org.

women, motivated in part by the 25 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren between them, are all members of the Wisconsin Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars. The group has held a monthly vigil at Volk Field since December 2011. Volk Field is where Air National Guard crews are trained in operation of the Shadow drone, used for reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition and battle damage assessment.

Instead of meeting the commander, the women were immediately handcuffed and ticketed for disorderly conduct and trespassing. They were released a few hours later, and informed the next day that the charges were not filed.

For more information, visit nodroneswisconsin.blogspot.com.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Belarus

Compiled from reports by Norwegian NGO Bellona, greenbelarus.info, Belorussian Association of Journalists and Reporters Without Borders.

This year’s official Chernobyl March 2013 anniversary commemoration in Minsk, Belarus was disrupted by police action against anti-nuclear activists, reporters and some of the estimated 2,000 people who took to the streets on Friday evening, April 26.

The march is the only street demonstration about ecology issues still permitted by authorities. The government’s commitment to a new Russian-built nuclear reactor near the Lithuanian border at Ostrovets was apparently behind its reaction to the event. But even police-state tactics could not silence the anti-nuclear message of the march and rally that followed.

Repression began days in advance. Activist Olga Karach got a summons to be in court on the anniversary, while opposition political activists Vladimir Yermenko and Pavel Vinogradov were both arrested the night before and detained.

The day of the march, Nikolai Ulasevich, a scheduled speaker and head of the group Ostrovets Nuclear Power Plant is a Crime, was stopped by traffic police on his way to Minsk. They told him he might be driving a stolen car. It took three hours for police to confirm it was his own. Meanwhile, the march and rally came and went.

Four other Minsk organizers were stopped on their way downtown, suspected of burglary on account of large bags they were carrying to the car. For three hours, police held them and their car, now filled with suspect bags of anti-nuclear literature, banners and signs for the occasion, until everything was over. One of those held observed later that even though their demands are not provocative, the government does not want the annual Chernobyl march to go beyond “habitual, politicized protest activity.”

Among the nationalist and political party placards and flags dominating the visuals on the march, the only anti-nuclear signs and banners were those smuggled in by individual activists.

Tatyana Novikova, a lead organizer of Chernobyl March 2013 and also a scheduled speaker, watched as police surrounded the apartment near the start of the march where she was staying.

“I had two options,” she told Bellona. “Either go out and be detained or remain in the apartment.” Police only left as everyone else was going home from the rally.

Marchers damned the new Russian-built reactor as a second Chernobyl. They adopted a resolution at the rally to demand the money be spent instead on victims of the April 26, 1986 reactor meltdown.

Police also targeted a dozen or more anarchists and journalists for arrest and detention during the march and afterwards. Radio Racyja reporters Alexander Yarashevich and Henadz Barbarych were taken into custody and served three days in jail for allegedly disobeying police commands.

Oksana Rudovich and Irina Arahuskaya, reporting for the independent Nasha Niva, were filming police as they beat a demonstrator. The audio then documents police assaulting the reporters. At a local police station their equipment and memory cards were inspected before the journalists were released without charges.

In the city of Ostrovets, Alexander Barazenko and Anastasya Yavmen were arrested while videotaping the Chernobyl Day anti-nuclear march there. Police deleted the video and released them after three hours in custody.

Ten days later, journalists Dmitry Halko and (for a second time) Alexander Yarashevich were arrested while working in a crowd of activists and politicians, gathered to greet released arrestees near the detention center. Despite conflicting indictments, they were convicted of resisting police and hooliganism and sentenced to 12 and 10 days, respectively. Hours before his second arrest, Yarashevich had filed an appeal of his first conviction.

England

Early in the morning of March 19, the tenth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, Smash Edo campaigners arrived at the EDO MBM factory in Brighton, England. Behind a banner reading “Ten Years Later the Iraq War is Still a War Crime”, three of them affixed themselves to the gates using bicycle d-locks and superglue. EDO MBM is one of a group of companies which has supplied Paveway bombs for use in Iraq and Afghanistan. They were all removed after six hours, and two were arrested.

For more information, visit smashedo.org.uk.

Jeju Island, Korea

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 800 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 monitor illegal construction 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 opponents 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 court dismissed their arrest warrants.

Among those injured in the clashes was village native Kim Mi-Lyang. She was knocked over a ledge by police 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



Fr. Moon Kyu-Hyun is carried away by police while sitting in front of the Jeju naval base construction gate.

daily pushed and carried out of the road. An informal agreement by police not to interrupt the daily Catholic mass held near the gate was broken, so the priests moved the mass into the road directly in front of the gate. Scores of police on hand either stopped traffic until mass was over, or simply lifted the nuns and priests as they sat in their chairs, carried them out of the road, and kept them surrounded until the trucks could roll in and out.

The courts and jails were occupied this spring as well, with the cases outnumbering lawyers available for the resisters.

Park Sung-Soo, a videographer of the struggle who has also documented human rights abuses there since 2011, refused to pay a fine of about \$1,300 and was jailed March 25. The fine came from his arrest for trespass during a personal protest of sexual harassment by naval base personnel of two women reporters. His refusal to pay was in solidarity with the many women activists facing thousands of dollars in fines for their protests. Unpaid fines could lead to more prison sentences in the future. Park was unexpectedly released on April 1 when an anonymous donor heard of his story and paid his fine.

The fasting prisoner Prof. Yang Yoon-Mo had a special contact visit with Fr. Mun Jeong-hyon and eight representatives of SPARK (Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea). He was persuaded to break his fast on March 25, after 52 days. In a letter dictated to supporters, Yang said, “As I think that many people suffer from my fast, I don’t want to bring them suffering any more.”

Mr. Bae Gi-Chul was arrested sitting in front of a truck at the gate on April 8, and charged with obstructing

business. He was released the next day. On April 12, Gangjeong peace activist Mr. Kim Young-Jae was also arrested blocking a truck. The court approved the warrant against Kim, and he remains in jail.

Ms. Lee Jin-Hee, a representative of the Jeju branch of the Korean Federation for Environment Movement, was arrested in front of the naval base project construction gate on April 16, and later released.

On April 28, Mr. Lee Jong-Hwa was arrested while sitting in front of the gate. Lee is one of the activists who made 100 bows in front of the gate every morning at 7 a.m. He remains in jail on a court warrant, refusing bail and encouraging supporters to continue the daily ritual of bows.

In court on April 30, nine people were convicted of obstructing business in 2011 and sentenced to suspended four and six month sentences, plus probation.

Mr. Park Suk-Jin was arrested and jailed on May 7. He’d been released on bail last December after 98 days in prison, but violated a condition of his release. Not allowed to stay in Gangjeong for more than three days without court permission, Park had been there for five days when he was arrested.

Most recently, Mr. Kim Jong-Il, a SPARK representative from Seoul, was jailed from May 15 to 23 for nine days of labor in lieu of paying a fine. He’d been arrested with 33 others who held a press conference at a base-related ceremony in December 2010, and fined for violating the law on rallies and protests.



Letters of support should be individually addressed and sent to Yang Yoon-Mo Prisoner No. 301, Kim Young-Jae Prisoner No. 435, Lee Jong-Hwa Prisoner No. 125, and Park Suk-Jin Prisoner No. 199, all at Jeju Prison, 161, Ora-2 dong, Jeju-si, Jeju-do, Korea. You may also send your letters through email to the gangjeongintl@gmail.com. The Village International team will collect and deliver email letters to prisoners with the information of your name (or nick name), state, and country (no specific address needed).

China

A leading democracy activist in the Chinese city of Guangzhou is reportedly in police custody awaiting trial after he joined in a public protest of North Korea’s latest nuclear weapons test. Liu Yuandong and about 15 other people held banners in the city on February 23. Police arrested nine, including Liu, while the others escaped. He was jailed for 15 days and the others for 7-10 days for violation of the law on assemblies and demonstrations.

On April 3 authorities notified his family that Liu had been arrested and jailed again for embezzling funds from his bio-tech company, but his wife did not receive a formal arrest notice. Friends say it’s a bogus charge, and an excuse to prosecute him. Because of how the others report being treated while in custody, there is concern Liu may be tortured. In early June, friends reported he was still in pre-trial custody.



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 People’s Procuratorate, Liu Zhimin Jianchazhang, Guangzhoushi Tianhequ Remin Jianchayuan, 19 Longkou West Road, Tianhequ, Guangzhoushi 510630, People’s Republic of China.

And copies to: Premier Li Keqiang Zhongli, The State Council General Office, 2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu Beijingshi 100017, People’s Republic of China.

Scotland

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 part of more than 100 events tied to the day, 250 people rallied in Scotland for nuclear disarmament and to Scrap Trident, 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 Scottish opposition to Trident in advance of the 2015 referendum on Scottish independence. As Britain’s nuclear weapons home port, Faslane could be shut down by a nuclear-free and independent Scotland.

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Solidarity With Guantanamo Prisoners

Responding to reports that more than 100 men held in the extralegal U.S. 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.

In a moving remembrance of the prisoners being held at Guantanamo, 166 carnations were placed on a 30 foot-long “Close Guantanamo” banner that lay on the street 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 “picture postcard” area and unfurled a huge banner: “Immoral, Illegal, Ineffective – No Torture, No Guantanamo.” Others held signs memorializing nine men who have already died at Guantanamo since 2006. This witness lasted over an hour before the group was arrested by Park Police and charged with disobeying a lawful order.

For more information about the prisoners of war at Guantanamo and supporting the hunger strikers, visit witnessstorture.org.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES, cont.

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Police arrested 47 people who blocked all three gates, some with their arms in tube locks that had to be cut away. They were processed at police stations in Glasgow and Greenock: photographed, fingerprinted and DNA samples taken before being released.

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 broadcast their need in April, and they now report,

... many individuals, including past and present residents, travel[ed] from all over the UK to offer their time and support to keep the camp running. It has been widely agreed that it would be a bad move to close the camp at this crucial time in Scottish politics, what with the Trident replacement programme and the introduction of the new astute class submarine. We have created a stronger group of residents and a wider network of support for the camp ... and we have exciting plans for the immediate and long term future.

For more information visit scraptrident.org and faslanepeacecamp.wordpress.com.

India

Despite a final May 6 verdict from the Supreme Court of India in favor of operating the Koodankulam nuclear power plant in southern 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 protest, and all along the coast, fishermen continue periodic strikes, refusing to take to sea to demonstrate their support for the epic struggle.

“We can’t give up our struggle against the nuclear power plant,” formerly jailed activist Sundari told *The Times of India*. “We have not staged our protest for the last 630 days expecting courts or governments to support us.”

A May 27 letter from the women and children of Idinthakarai reveals the depth of their opposition.

We realize more than ever that our struggle is not against nuclear energy alone. Our demand is to be allowed to pursue a life style based on truth, justice and hard work. Our adherence to this has made us raise crucial questions about democracy and governance, about the way decisions are being taken in our country and how the well being of the marginalized are neglected and trampled upon.

In April, a march from Kanyakumari to Koodankulam was halted by police, who arrested 146 men, women and children to stop the procession. In addition to stopping the



BUSH AND CHENEY BUSTED!

While four former Presidents and the current one were inside 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 solemn marchers demanding accountability 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 papier-mâché heads in a brief scuffle. Dennis Trainor Jr. and Iraq veteran Gary Egelston 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.

nuclear power project, the protest demanded dismissal of thousands of court cases pending against demonstrators.

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 650 peaceful demonstrators in March and jailed 129 on various charges over protests against the Kalpakkam nuclear power plant near Chennai. Area residents say promises of local benefits for education and electricity have not been met.

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

Australia

Australian war resister Bryan Law was found dead in his Rockhampton apartment on April 8. Law recently moved to Rockhampton from Cairns, Queensland to prepare for his Rocky Tiger Ploughshares trial and resistance to the Talisman–Sabre joint U.S.–Australian war games this summer. The 58-year-old Law was in poor health, with diabetes and emergency open-heart bypass surgery in 2008.

Trial is set to proceed on August 19 for co-defendant Graeme Dunstan, who joined Law for the July 2011 direct disarmament action. Law’s publicly announced intent to disarm his country’s war machine was carried out in broad daylight when Dunstan helped Law cut the lock on a perimeter fence at Rockhampton Airport. Despite his ailments, Law rode his large custom tricycle across the tarmac to the Tiger helicopter gunship parked there, dismounted, and struck it with his garden mattock, puncturing the fuselage.

Law was buried in Cairns on April 12. Two days later in Brisbane, with less than 24 hours notice, 20 people came to honor his memory with a protest outside the first open house in ten years at Enoggera army base. A large picture of Bryan and a 30’ banner pleading, “In the Name of God Stop the Wars” greeted thousands as they entered the base. Pedestrians also walked past two men kneeling close to the gate, barefoot in the black hoods and orange jumpsuits symbolic of Guantanamo detainees.

There they stayed for 90 minutes before police asked them to move on. As they were not blocking anyone and seemed to be on public property, Culley Palmer and Greg Rolles declined and were arrested. Palmer, recently home from a peace delegation in Afghanistan, did not stand when ordered and was dragged into custody by handcuffs behind his back, his feet scraping the pavement. Both men were released a few hours later. In court, they pled guilty and were sentenced to community service.

FUTURE ACTIONS

More future actions and event details can be found at nukeresister.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 13–14. Meet Saturday at Linwood United Church, 3151 Olive St., Kansas City, Missouri for nonviolent action orientation at 3 p.m., followed by a potluck meal at 5 p.m. and Festival of Hope at 6:30 p.m. Gather 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning at the Church parking lot for prayer, then caravan to the plant. Some will join Kabat and Antone as they cross the property line at the new nuclear weapons parts factory at 10 a.m. Lodging will be provided – bring sleeping bags. Those who wish to post bail (bring \$100-\$250) will most likely be released that day but will need to return to K.C. for court. For more information contact Jane Stoever at janepestoever@yahoo.com, 913-206-4088.

hiroshima-nagasaki days

büchel afb

Bring your instrument for disarmament to Büchel Air Force Base, Germany, August 5-12 for the Rhythm Beats Bombs nonviolent action camp and 24-hour blockade/ musical event. NATO plans to modernize its (made in the U.S.A.) nuclear weapons and build new bunkers at the base, but the German Bundestag voted in 2010 to kick The Bombs out, including the last 20 or so now deployed at Büchel, and the government is wavering. For more information, visit www.atomwaffenfrei.de (German).

washington, d.c.

Jonah House and Dorothy Day Catholic Worker will host evening reflection on August 5 followed by nonviolent witness in Washington, D.C. on August 6. This year there will be no retreat; instead, people will gather again on August 9 for nonviolent witness. For details contact Jonah House at 410-233-6238 or the Catholic Worker at 202-882-9649 or email Art Laffin, artlaffin@hotmail.com.

livermore

Livermore Conversion Project, Ecumenical Peace Institute and others will hold the annual public commemoration of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki beginning at 7 a.m. on August 6 at the corner of Vasco Road and Patterson Pass Road in Livermore, California (the northwest corner of Livermore nuclear weapons lab). Following the program at approximately 8:15 a.m., participants will be invited to march a short distance to the Livermore Lab west gate. Those who choose will nonviolently risk arrest. Others will conduct a legal witness and support. For more information, contact Tri-Valley CAREs at 925-443-7148.

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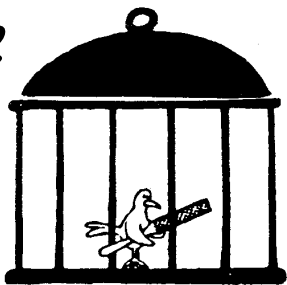
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Update Files



SWEDEN: Martin Smedjeback served a two-week prison sentence at Sörbyn penitentiary, where the vegan helped care for the prison’s 45-cow dairy herd. Smedjeback 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 perform the service. She was sentenced to ten days and released unexpectedly after three. “The Orange County Jail was the newest and cleanest jail I’ve ever been in,” writes Rice, 75. “Most of the staff, especially in the medical department, were civil to the inmates.” Nonetheless, “The meals looked disgusting ... [t]he jail cell was very cold and the beddings thin”...

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE: Catholic Worker Jerry Ebner was summoned to federal court on April 22 to answer a charge of trespass during a demonstration at the U.S. nuclear command base last December. At a subsequent hearing on May 3, Ebner pled guilty and was ordered to return for sentencing on July 25. Friends and supporters are invited to join Ebner at 9 a.m. in Judge Thomas Thalken’s court room in the Federal Courthouse in Omaha, Nebraska. There is a long history of prison sentences for such trespass, including for Ebner...

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 power 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 there, and arrested him when he went to use the library...

DAVIS–MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE: John Heid was convicted of trespass in Tucson city court on April 15. He told Judge Tom Berning, “I didn’t come with criminal intent. I came with the intent to challenge criminality,” when he entered the base last December 28 where Arizona National Guard crews pilot killer drones waging war overseas. He was sentenced to time served, for the day spent in jail following his arrest...

ANNOUNCEMENT

...**A Faith, Farming & Resistance Retreat** is set for October 12–13 at Earth Abides Catholic Worker Farm in Sheep Ranch, California. Come enjoy the lifestyle of direct action and off-grid living in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Discuss the integrated lifestyle of nonviolence through seed-saving, gardening, anarchoprimitivist energy and public witness direct action. For more information, visit www.farm.catholicworker.biz, or call 209-728-8271.

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.courageto resist.org.

the Nuclear

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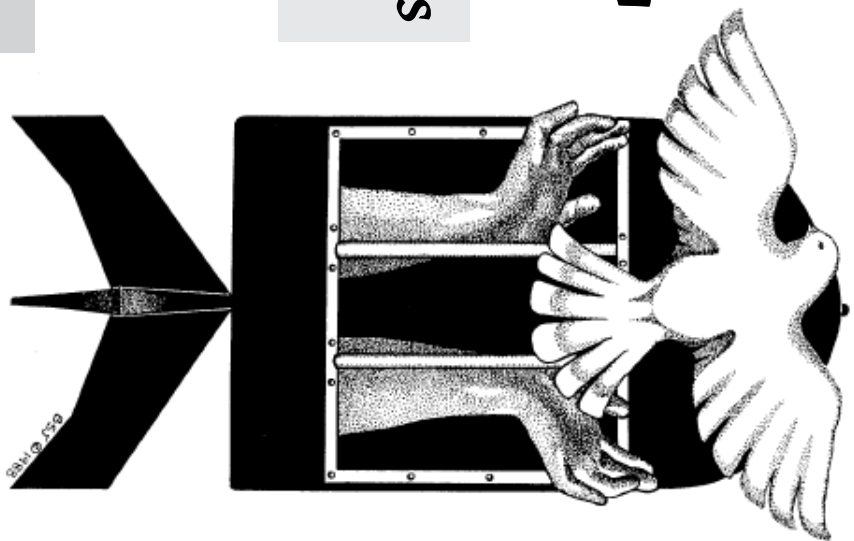
Transform Now Plowshares
Convicted, Jailed

Iraq War Resisters
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