

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 171

September 2, 2013

Chelsea Manning Convicted and Sentenced to 35 Years in Prison

More than three years after the arrest and torturous imprisonment of PFC Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning for revealing thousands of classified State Department cables and war incident reports from Iraq and Afghanistan via WikiLeaks, the 25-year-old army enlistee was convicted of 20 separate offenses at court martial this summer. On August 21, the military judge, Col. Denise Lind, sentenced the former intelligence analyst to serve 35 years in a military prison. Manning’s pay and allowances were forfeited, rank was reduced to Private E-1 and the whistleblower is to be dishonorably discharged upon completion of her sentence.

In the first major break from quiet decorum in the compact military courtroom, supporters called out, “We’ll keep fighting for you, Bradley!” as Manning was hustled out by guards.

Opening the Door to a Nuclear-Free World

As veteran nuclear resister Fr. Carl Kabat planned his third annual summer resistance action at the new Kansas City nuclear weapons factory, he invited his provincial superior in the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Fr. Bill Antone, to join him. Kabat dubbed it the 85% Action, after the 85% of specialized non-nuclear components for every new or upgraded U.S. nuclear weapon that will be manufactured there. He then invited others to join them, and on Saturday, July 13 about 80 people gathered for song and prayer at the entry road.



Fr. Carl Kabat is among the first led away by police after crossing the line at the new Kansas City factory for nuclear weapons components.

While the assembled sang “Open the Door”, a song written for the action, 24 people stepped through a doorway created for the occasion. A banner hanging on the door invited all to “Open the door to a nuclear-weapons-free world,” the rallying call of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Then they crossed the line into the factory property and were arrested.

Joining Kabat and Antone under arrest were a Jesuit, a Franciscan, and a woman priest; plus Catholic sisters and brothers, several Catholic Workers from communities across the midwest, and some local activists. Several people were held in jail overnight, and Frank Cordaro from Des Moines was not released until Monday, because he had not paid fines from earlier arrests at the factory site. He was released after promising to return for a visit with a judge about this contempt of court.

Some of those arrested were in court August 26, when four people pled guilty and were ordered to do community service. Others have court appearances in September and October, and will ask to have their cases joined for a trial in the fall.

In June, prosecutors moved to dismiss trespass cases against Henry Stoeve and Midge Potter, who were hoping for a jury trial after their April, 2012 resistance action at the plant site.

For more information, visit www.peaceworkskc.org.

At a press conference after the sentencing, lead defense attorney David Coombs read a statement from Manning, reprinted on page 2, The Inside Line.

In a subsequent statement read in part on national television the next morning, Manning wrote:

I want to thank everybody who has supported me over the last three years. Throughout this long ordeal, your letters of support and encouragement have helped keep me strong. I am forever indebted to those who wrote to me, made a donation to my defense fund, or came to watch a portion of the trial. I would especially like to thank Courage to Resist and the Bradley Manning Support Network for their tireless efforts in raising awareness for my case and providing for my legal representation.

As I transition into this next phase of my life, I want everyone to know the real me. I am Chelsea Manning. I am a female. Given the way that I feel, and have felt since childhood, I want to begin hormone therapy as soon as possible. I hope that you will support me in this transition. I also request that, starting today, you refer to me by my new name and use the feminine pronoun (except in official mail to the confinement facility). I look forward to receiving letters from supporters and having the opportunity to write back.

Thank you,
Chelsea E. Manning

In the absence of evidence that Manning had specific intent to aid the enemy, the court had found her not guilty of the only charge carrying a possible sentence of life in prison. She was also acquitted on one charge of disclosing video of an air strike that killed civilians in Afghanistan, because the file and download dates found on her computer did not match the video released by WikiLeaks. Convictions included six violations of the Espionage Act, five counts of stealing government property and one violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

Her legal defense team, led by David Coombs, is already preparing appeals, though they may not be heard until 2014 or 2015. For now, she will be eligible to seek parole after serving ten years, so after more than three years in pre-trial custody, with 112 days credit for time in the “cruel and degrading” conditions of solitary confinement at Quantico marine barracks, and maximum good time credits in the military system, Manning could be free after less than seven more years of imprisonment.

The Court Martial

The merits phase of the court martial began hearing evidence on the 22 charges on June 3 at Fort Meade, Maryland. All consideration of Manning’s motive and alleged damages was reserved for the second, sentencing phase.

The government dropped one count before trial, accepting Manning’s February guilty plea to a lesser-included charge. In February, Manning had offered a “naked plea” to ten lesser-included offenses, admitting to exceeding authorized access, wrongly storing classified information, and several incidents of unauthorized possession and delivery of information that “the possessor has reason to believe could be used to the injury of the United States or the advantage of any foreign nation”. She did not admit to larceny of over \$1,000 of government property, “wanton publication”, or aiding the enemy charges.

Pretrial rulings allowed the government to present dozens of secret witnesses testifying in closed court about classified evidence. Commenting to reporters immediately after Manning was sentenced, Coombs said, “Every day we were in closed session I left thinking, ‘I don’t know why we were in closed session.’”

Coombs’ opening statement characterized Manning as an atypical soldier, whose custom dog tag was engraved “Humanist”, reflecting her equally deep concern for the safety of her unit and the lives of innocent Iraqis in their war-torn country. Distressed by her repeated observation of American soldiers disregarding Iraqi lives, Manning was motivated to relieve herself of that burden by sharing information with the public. She wanted the public to observe the true conduct of war and superpower diplomacy, the better to judge their value for a democratic society.

TRESPASS AT NUCLEAR COMMAND CENTER

Six Months in Prison

Jerry Ebner was sentenced this summer to the maximum six months in federal prison for simply crossing the line at Offutt Air Force Base last December 28. The base near Omaha, Nebraska is home to the U.S. Strategic Command, where officers and consultants constantly plan and prepare for global thermonuclear war. Ebner turned himself in at the federal prison medical center in Lexington, Kentucky on September 2.

A self-described “ordinary Catholic Christian who takes my faith in the radical, nonviolent Jesus of Nazareth pretty seriously,” Ebner addressed “some scattered thoughts” to U.S. Magistrate Thomas Thalken, also a Catholic, before he was sentenced on July 25.

Because his arrest occurred on the Catholic liturgical holiday commemorating Herod’s slaughter of the “Holy Innocents” (Matthew 2:13-18), Ebner asked in court if anyone still heard Rachel, “crying out loud in Iraq, Vietnam, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Germany, Afghanistan, Palestine, and many other places of violence and death”?

I have heard this cry. I have tried not to at times. It haunts me. I prefer distractions. But her crying helps me to wake up and be alert and aware of the military violence of my own country, the U.S. Empire.

The U.S. is the largest military empire in the world. And it is the one I am most concerned about because I am an American. I am a taxpayer. I am responsible for this Empire’s growth. I have paid for these wars, weapons and violence with my paycheck. I am complicit. Rachel continues to cry. I continue to do penance for our War Crimes.

I do that by taking a risk, risking ridicule and dismissiveness in court and sometimes going to jail, as penance for my sin. That is who I am. And this is what I do.

Ebner then challenged the judge on several points, concluding that,

PERHAPS: You might think that your only task is to narrowly uphold the U.S. Code of Law in this petty little case and to put your own Christian Faith and Conscience aside. I hope that is a PERHAPS NOT.

On another note: I am incorrigible. I am not sorry for what I have done. I will do it again at some time. I can only be punished. I expect a prison sentence from you today. I have been in prison before, over 3 years. I am honored to go again. I cannot be deterred...”



Letters of support should be sent to Gerald Ebner 24467-045, Lexington Federal Medical Center, POB 14500, Lexington, KY 40512. Help with donations to his commissary account is welcome. As with all contributions to a federal prisoner’s account, a postal money order payable to his full name and ID# must be sent to Federal Bureau of Prisons, Gerald A. Ebner 24467-045, POB 47401, Des Moines, IA 50947-0001.

Military prosecutors opened their case oxymoronically, alternately characterizing Manning as a narcissist seeking to “gain the notoriety he craved” while she also took means to conceal her downloading activity and identity as the source of the disclosures. The government also said they would show that Manning harvested and leaked information indiscriminately, and did so at the direction of WikiLeaks.

Government witnesses were meticulously cross-examined by Manning’s lead attorney, ever focused on defending the more serious allegations while not contesting testimony about the lesser-included charges that Manning had already admitted.

Proving she aided the enemy required evidence that Manning knew that giving classified information to WikiLeaks was tantamount to giving it directly to Al Qaeda. But no testimony about Manning’s training showed that she would have known this. Analysts were

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THE INSIDE LINE



~ from Ft. Meade

by Chelsea Manning
August 21, 2013

The decisions that I made in 2010 were made out of a concern for my country and the world that we live in. Since the tragic events of 9/11, our country has been at war. We’ve been at war with an enemy that chooses not to meet us on any traditional battlefield, and due to this fact we’ve had to alter our methods of combating the risks posed to us and our way of life.

I initially agreed with these methods and chose to volunteer to help defend my country. It was not until I was in Iraq and reading secret military reports on a daily basis that I started to question the morality of what we were doing. It was at this time I realized in our efforts to meet this risk posed to us by the enemy, we have forgotten our humanity. We consciously elected to devalue human life both in Iraq and Afghanistan. When we engaged those that we perceived were the enemy, we sometimes killed innocent civilians. Whenever we killed innocent civilians, instead of accepting responsibility for our conduct, we elected to hide behind the veil of national security and classified information in order to avoid any public accountability.

In our zeal to kill the enemy, we internally debated the definition of torture. We held individuals at Guantanamo for years without due process. We inexplicably turned a blind eye to torture and executions by the Iraqi government. And we stomached countless other acts in the name of our war on terror.

Patriotism is often the cry extolled when morally questionable acts are advocated by those in power. When these cries of patriotism drown out any logically based dissention, it is usually an American soldier that is ordered to carry out some ill-conceived mission.

Our nation has had similar dark moments for the virtues of democracy — the Trail of Tears, the Dred Scott decision, McCarthyism, and the Japanese-American internment camps — to name a few. I am confident that many of the actions since 9/11 will one day be viewed in a similar light.

As the late Howard Zinn once said, “There is not a flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people.”

I understand that my actions violated the law, and I regret if my actions hurt anyone or harmed the United States. It was never my intention to hurt anyone. I only wanted to help people. When I chose to disclose classified information, I did so out of a love for my country and a sense of duty to others.

If you deny my request for a pardon, I will serve my time knowing that sometimes you have to pay a heavy price to live in a free society. I will gladly pay that price if it means we could have a country that is truly conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all women and men are created equal.

[Chelsea (formerly PFC Bradley) Manning was recently court martialed and sentenced to 35 years in prison for revealing war crimes and other information to the public.]

Manning Convicted, cont.

continued from page 1

taught that terrorists would troll many social media sites for intelligence information, but several witnesses could not single out WikiLeaks or any other particular site as known sources.

With the defense’s focused cross-examination and dozens of stipulations to particular testimony, the trial progressed more rapidly than anticipated. Some days were in recess until scheduled witnesses were available, while other days were mostly taken up in closed sessions.

The defense solicited testimony from some government witnesses about the over-classification of many of the documents Manning released, supporting its contention that there were fewer true secrets divulged than alleged. Statements from high government officials were also submitted for consideration by the judge. All admitted minimal or no damage to “sensitive intelligence sources and methods” from the disclosures of the State department cables, war logs, combat videos and Guantanamo detainee files attributed to Manning.

Coombs’ cross-examination of the government’s forensic witnesses confirmed that Manning had not visited anti-American or terrorist websites. It also backed Manning’s contention that she took no directions in her chats with aliases presumed to be WikiLeaks’ founder Julian Assange.

The Iraq War logs released by WikiLeaks were shown not to be indiscriminate harvests of intelligence, but rather the product of an assignment Manning was given to compile incident data and analyze it for patterns of violence.

The government rested its case on July 2, and the defense began presenting its case on July 8. First, the defense moved to dismiss charges of aiding the enemy, larceny, violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, and the charge that Manning “stole” the U.S. Forces in Iraq Global Address List, to which she had had legitimate access. Judge Lind gave the government three days to respond and then proceeded with the trial.

David Coombs opened his defense of Chelsea Manning by playing the entire unedited “Collateral Murder” video. The crew pleading for permission to fire narrates the gun-sight video from an Apache helicopter, and when they get it, the gunners chase and shoot down Iraqi civilians and Reuters journalists. Manning had already pled guilty to releasing the now notorious footage and testified in February to the impact viewing it had on

the decisions she made in the winter and spring of 2010. A transcription of the chilling dialog was verified and entered into evidence.

Three Army colleagues of Manning took the stand, testifying about the work environment in Iraq and the skills Manning possessed for the job. Another witness verified transcripts of internet chats she had with Manning in 2009 that revealed a civic-minded, intellectually engaged 21-year-old who believed she could do good as an Army intelligence analyst, where she could “apply what I learn to provide more information to my officers and commanders, and hopefully save lives.” Manning told her that she was “more concerned about making sure that everyone – soldiers, marines, contractors, even the local nationals – get home to their families.”

Col. Morris Davis (ret.), a former chief prosecutor at Guantanamo, testified that the Detainee Assessment Briefs Manning shared contained no useful intelligence for an adversary and he had personally verified that they held no more information than was already publicly available.

Two more witnesses qualified as military security and classification experts both testified that their review of the released war logs and state department cables found much of the information was already in the public domain.

The final witness for Manning was Harvard law professor Yochai Benkler, the most widely cited scholar of WikiLeaks, journalism in the digital age, and what he has coined the Networked Fourth Estate. His testimony aimed at the heart of the government’s argument that giving the information to WikiLeaks was simply an indirect route to aiding the enemy. Even the major media, lax about covering much of Manning’s ordeal, perked up when they recognized that if Manning was convicted of aiding the enemy simply for telling secrets via WikiLeaks, it would inhibit all sources from sharing inside information and implicate news organizations in aiding the enemy if they told such secrets.

Ruling on July 18, the judge refused to dismiss any of the charges, being obliged to review the sufficiency of the information in a light most favorable to the prosecution.

The next day, Judge Lind also granted a prosecution motion to change the charge sheet against Manning to allege she stole “portions” of databases, and not the entire databases. Lind rejected the defense argument that this

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where we’re at

We’ve been out on Tucson’s hot pavement many times this summer, with scores of others calling for Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning’s freedom, remembering the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and protesting drones, war profiteering and more during monthly vigils at Raytheon Missile Systems and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Now, in the last, still sizzling days of August, as we wrap up this issue of the newsletter we hear thunder in the distance, and hope for rain at the end of a rather uneventful monsoon season. As we write hopeful stories of resistance to war, nuclear weapons and nuclear power, we also hear drumbeats of war in the distance, and fervently hope that Tomahawk cruise, HARM and JSOW missiles made at Raytheon’s Tucson missile factory will not soon be terrorizing and killing people in Syria.

There is profit to be made not just from killing people in wars but also from locking them in cages. It is worth mentioning some recent good news from the Federal Communications Commission for prisoners and their families, including nearly two million children with one or both parents behind bars. The FCC finally voted on August 9 on a decade-old petition by family members of prisoners to immediately cap the cost of interstate phone calls from prison at 25¢/minute, so that the cost of a 15-minute phone call will not exceed \$3.75. Also, the FCC prohibited added fees to connect the call, to use a calling card, or for deaf prisoners using relay services. Commonly, 15-minute calls from jail have cost up to \$25 with taxes and fees, making this a significant ruling.

A second regulatory process has been initiated to address intrastate prison phone rates affecting more county jails and state prison systems. For more information, visit the Campaign for Prison Phone Justice at phonejustice.org.

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa, coordinators

Gordon Maham ~ Presente!

January 1917 - July 2013

Conscientious objector, pacifist, nuclear resister

A civil engineer, early in life he helped build the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex, quit when he realized his role in making The Bomb, and served three years in prison as a post-war conscientious objector. Years later, Gordon was arrested multiple times for protesting at Y-12 and elsewhere.



photo © Connie Springer

Thanks

Thanks to David, Sonia, John, Catherine, Keith, Cindy, Faith, Charlotte, Gretchen and Paige 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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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

SUPPORT ACTIONS NEEDED NOW

Transform Now Plowshares

Sentencing for Greg Boertje-Obed, Sr. Megan Rice and Michael Walli – the three Transform Now Plowshares (TNP) disarmament activists convicted of sabotage and felony damage to government property after breaching security at Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Tennessee in 2012 – has been postponed to September 30, and is likely to be postponed again.

The judge has still not ruled on the defense motion for acquittal on the sabotage charge because the government had not proven each and every element of the charge, particularly the defendants’ intent to injure the national defense. If he rejects the motion, the defense will move for a new trial.

The three defendants, who await sentencing in a private prison in Georgia, face a possible 35 years in prison.

For more information, visit transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com/.



Letters of support should be individually addressed to the three with their ID number and sent to them at the address below.

Postponement of their sentencing gives supporters more time to write to their judge, Honorable Amul R. Thapar, United States District Judge, U.S. District Court, 35 W. Fifth St., Covington, KY 41011.

Regarding such letters, they are not asking for mercy nor trying to argue the case again. Instead, “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.” 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.

Please also send a copy of your letter to their attorney, Prof. 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 orep@earthlink.net will also be appreciated.

Conscientious Objectors

Two conscientious objectors now jailed for desertion, Justin Colby for nine months and Kimberly Rivera for ten, are seeking reduction in sentence from their commanding officer. Both are parents of young children, and Rivera is pregnant with her fifth, due in December before she completes her sentence.

For more information about their individual cases, visit freejustincolby.org and FreeKimberlyRivera.org.



Respectful individual letters for Colby and Rivera, requesting reduction of sentence in consideration of their family responsibilities, and in Rivera’s case, so she can also nurse her new infant, should be addressed to their commanding officer, Maj. General Paul J. LaCamera, Public Affairs Office, 1626 Ellis St. Ste. 200, Bldg.118, Fort Carson, CO 80913.

Please also send copies of the letters to the civilian attorney representing both Colby and Rivera: James M. Branum, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 721016, Oklahoma City, OK 73172.

Letters of support should be sent to the two at the addresses below.

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. Some of Colby’s mail has been refused and returned to sender, and neither prisoner may be able to reply. Contributions to support the Rivera family may be made online via www.couragetoresist.org.

Manning Supporters Arrested



photo by Mike Wisniewski

The Los Angeles Catholic Worker had a solidarity action for Pvt. Chelsea Manning on August 28 at the downtown federal building. Community members David Omondi, Barbara Robinson and Jeff Dietrich chained and handcuffed themselves together and attempted to block the main entrance. They were arrested and charged with two misdemeanors: failure to disperse and blocking an entrance. They were released an hour later with an October 2 court date.

For more information, visit www.lacatholicworker.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.



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.
(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)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Gerald Ebner 24467-045
(six months - in 9/2/13)
Lexington Federal Medical Center, POB 14500,
Lexington, KY 40512.
(Trespass at nuclear command center, Offutt
AFB, 12/28/12)
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 held
for sentencing following conviction of sabo-
tage and depredation of government property
at Y-12 nuclear weapons complex, Oak Ridge,
Tennessee, 7/28/12)
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)

PVT Bradley Manning 89289
(35 years – in 5/10)
1000 N. Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth,
KS 66027-2304.
(Whistleblower convicted on espionage and
other charges for release of military video
and documents showing evidence of U.S.
war crimes. To ensure delivery, any card or
envelope must be addressed to Bradley, not
Chelsea Manning.)
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 4/12/13 and jailed two days later
for standing in front of a truck headed into
the naval base construction zone on Jeju
Island, South Korea)
Song Kang-Ho Prisoner No. 409
Park Do-Hyun Prisoner No. 535
(Arrested at sea while inspecting environmen-
tally damaging construction violations at site
of naval base on Jeju, 7/1/13)
Park Yong-Sung Prisoner No. 305
(40 days – in 8/21/13)
(Trespass and obstruction of business during
naval base construction on Jeju, 2/12)
Five 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 pos-
session of an explosive or incendiary device
due to undercover police provocation of pro-
tests at NATO summit in Chicago, 5/2012)
PREVIOUSLY LISTED,
RECENTLY RELEASED: Lee Jong-Hwa,
Park Suk-Jin, Sebastian Senakiewicz

Hiroshima & Nagasaki Remembered

Each year across the world, thousands of people commemorate the anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 6 and 9, at an uncounted number of ceremonies, candlelight vigils, memorial services and other public actions. On the 68th year of The Bomb, nonviolent nuclear abolitionists were also arrested during demonstrations at five nuclear weapons-related sites and one aging nuclear power reactor in the U.S.

Pentagon

Early on August 6, about 20 people processed to the Pentagon with banners and photos of the victims and devastation in Hiroshima. Participants in the Atlantic Life Community’s annual Faith and Resistance retreat then demonstrated in the designated zone outside the south Metro entrance as Pentagon employees streamed into work. Many of the demonstrators also wore sackcloth and ashes, ancient biblical symbols of repentance. After a time of this confined protest, Bill Frankel-Streit, Nancy Gowen and Art Laffin walked out to the busy sidewalk. There they knelt in prayer despite orders from Pentagon police to return to the designated protest area. After the second police warning to leave, they continued to pray and were subsequently arrested and released several hours later. They are charged with disobeying a lawful order and have an October 4 trial date.

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

Vandenberg Air Force Base

Six people from the Los Angeles Catholic Worker community, including two summer interns, were arrested on August 9, the anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing. They carried a large banner reading “Hiroshima – Never Again” into Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. About 50 yards into the west coast ballistic missile test and interceptor base they faced a line of military police who gave them two minutes to leave or face arrest. Mac Loftin, Rebecca Casas, Barbara Robinson, Karan Benton, Jeff Dietrich and Mike Wisniewski did not leave, and were cited for trespass. The group was released about 90 minutes later at Ryon Park in nearby Lompoc.

Supremes Take Vandenberg Case

The government has appealed in the case of U.S. vs. John Dennis Apel, after the Catholic Worker’s nuclear weapons protest conviction was overturned in the Ninth



Photo by Jed Poole

Circuit Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments in December in the long-standing dispute over where and when protest is permitted along the U.S. Highway 1 easement as it passes through Vandenberg by the main gate. For more information, visit vandenbergwitness.org.

Fasting and Resistance in Solidarity with Guantanamo Prisoners

The protest hunger strike by Guantanamo prisoners passed 200 days in length August 26, with at least 33 men now being tortured via throat tube force-feeding. Activists with Witness Against Torture, Veterans for Peace, Code-Pink and other prisoner advocates are engaged in both extended and rolling solidarity fasts. Lately these fasts have also expressed public solidarity with California state prisoners engaged in hunger strikes against the practice of long-term solitary confinement and related issues. A court recently approved compulsory sedation and intravenous feeding of hunger-striking California prisoners.

A demonstration at the White House on June 26, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, resulted in 22 arrests. Former army medic Diane Wilson, dressed like the prisoners in an orange jumpsuit and on day 57 of a water-only solidarity fast, brought a lively response when she climbed the fence and walked a few steps towards the Presidential mansion. Secret service agents with attack dogs and automatic weapons quickly subdued her, and she was held overnight.

The others were arrested when they refused to leave the sidewalk immediately in front of the White House. They stayed put, reading the names of the 86 prisoners who have been cleared for release yet remain imprisoned at Guantanamo. They were released with citations and a July 16 court date. Elliot Adams, on day 41 of his solidarity hunger strike, was arrested as he tried to chain himself to the fence, but was released without being cited.

Wilson was released after a court appearance the next day, and then ended her fast. She returns for trial September 5.

Livermore

At the Livermore, California nuclear weapons lab, the annual Hiroshima Day demonstration drew 250 people to a 7 a.m. rally. Nagasaki survivor Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka told of his exposure to nuclear fallout as an infant, and of losing his mother, sister and brother to radiation poisoning.

“Those who survived owe it to the dead,” Hanaoka concluded. “You are all survivors; it is the responsibility of you and I to make sure we leave the world safe, peaceful and nuclear-free.”

Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg also addressed the crowd. After a procession to the west gate, he joined 30 more people for a die-in blockade. Using chalk, others outlined the bodies where they lay to create a lingering image of death, reminiscent of shadows cast by people incinerated in the Hiroshima blast.

“It’s hard for me to believe that the crime (Hiroshima) will not be repeated,” said Ellsberg, as reported in the San Jose Mercury News. “We shouldn’t be letting it go on without our protests. This won’t happen without it being over our bodies.”

Police removed 31 people from the road and released them with citations.

In July, prosecutors vacated disturbing the peace protest charges for 37 people arrested last April during the annual Good Friday liturgy and direct action at Livermore.

For more information, visit www.trivalleycares.org.

Vermont Yankee

“Vermont Yankee is more deadly than Hiroshima,” proclaimed the banner that eight women of the Shut It Down Affinity Group used to block forty carloads of Entergy Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant workers from reporting to their 5 p.m. shift on August 6. The women had vigiled legally for one hour as workers exited the day shift before they moved into the entry road. After another half an hour, police arrested Anneke Corbett, Frances Crowe, Marcia Gagliardi, Ellen Graves, Susan Lantz, Ulrike von Moltke, Hattie Nestel and Linda Pon Owen, transporting them away from the gate but then releasing them without charges, pending further review.

It was the third of monthly blockades this summer by the unrelenting affinity group of women, mostly elders, known for their colorfully hand-painted and tie-dyed Shut Down Vermont Yankee t-shirts.

On June 12, they demonstrated at Entergy’s corporate offices in Brattleboro, just up the river from the nuclear plant.

With a banner declaring “Fuel Rods = Catastrophe”, eight women blocked the entrance and were arrested. Priscilla Lynch and Paki Wieland were cited for disorderly conduct, along with the aforementioned Corbett, Crowe, Gagliardi, Graves, Lantz and Owens. They were released with a court date but when they showed up, no charges had been filed.

The July 15 blockade of night-shift workers going into the plant again led to the arrest of eight women. This time it was Julia Bonafine and Connie Harvard, along with Corbett, Gagliardi, Graves, Moltke, Nestel and Owens. The women were taken to the Vernon police station, booked and released with no charges assigned.

Vindication of the women’s unflagging commitment – and the work of many other activists – came on August 27, when Entergy announced their decision to shut down the Vermont Yankee reactor at the end of its current fuel cycle, in late 2014. The Shut It Down Affinity Group issued this statement in response, “We are continuing our once a month actions to Shut Down Vermont Yankee NOW! We do not want to stand by and give them their 16 months for them to use up their fuel. We deem it too dangerous.”

For more information, contact Marcia Gagliardi at haley.antique@verizon.net.

Lockheed Martin

At Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, the annual Hiroshima Day commemoration included music, litany, bell-tolling and a ceremony of memory and hope with incense, water and ashes. Six people tried to deliver photos of the aftermath of the two atomic bombings to management of the global war-goods supplier.

Annie Geers, Paul Sheldon, Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Robert M. Smith, Tom Mullian and Fr. Patrick Sieber, OFM were arrested, given disorderly conduct citations and released.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.

Bangor

Peace activists symbolically closed the U.S. Navy’s west coast Trident submarine base on Sunday, August 11.

Activists with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action held a peaceful afternoon vigil and nonviolent direct action at the Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor Main Gate, the culmination of a weekend of commemorative events at the Center. The base, just 20 miles from Seattle, Washington, is the home of eight ballistic missile-launching submarines, representing the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

Vigilers lined the roadside with signs and banners calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. After half an hour, three participants walked onto the roadway holding a banner reading “Give Peace a Chance. No, Seriously.” Washington State Patrol officers escorted the resisters under arrest to the median.

After a few minutes, a second group blocked the roadway with a banner. Theirs read, “Create a Peaceful World. Abolish Nuclear Weapons.” They were also escorted to the median where they joined the others being cited for walking on the roadway.

A short while later a final group stretched a banner across the entrance lanes. It read, “We Can All Live Without Trident.” State Patrol officers escorted away these last four nuclear resisters, for a total of ten who were cited and released at the scene.

Those cited were Catherine Clemens, Robert Clemens, Susan Corbin, Anne Hall, Dave Hall, Mack Johnson,

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Manning, cont.

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substantially changed the larceny charges, unfairly so because the defense had rested its case against the original charges and cannot recall witnesses.

Closing arguments began on July 25. Lead prosecutor Major Ashden Fein painted Manning as having “utter disregard for this country... no allegiance to any country,” an attitude he identified as the view of an anarchist. Manning was not a whistleblower, and was not naïve, he said, but was a hacker and a traitor. Fein repeated the contradiction he framed at the outset, that Manning sought both attention and anonymity.

The next day, Coombs closed the defense case with a thorough dissection of the government’s theories about Manning’s actions and the alleged damage caused. Was Manning a traitor, he asked in conclusion? “[O]r is he a young, naïve, good-intentioned soldier who had human life, in his humanist beliefs, center to his decision?...”

On July 30, Lind announced the guilty verdict in a brief court session.

The Sentencing

The sentencing phase of the trial began on July 31, with prosecution witnesses testifying about the damage Manning caused. Significantly, no local sources named in the war logs were later killed, but most of the other testimony about alleged damages was taken in closed session.

In open court, State Department witness Patrick Kennedy testified that the document dump had had a “chilling effect” on diplomatic partners, but he also agreed with statements by Secretary of War Robert Gates, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and State Department official Alex Ross downplaying the harm caused. And he could not explain why a thorough department review of the possible damages had been shelved and never completed, rendering his testimony without much documentary foundation.

A pre-sentence ruling on August 6 mostly favored the prosecution, but it did grant a defense motion to merge some charges against Manning for the purpose of sentencing, thus reducing the maximum prison term from 136 years down to 90.

Testimony in defense of Manning during the sentencing phase began with several soldiers, from supervisors of Manning’s unit on up the chain of command, painting the scene of a dysfunctional, understaffed intelligence analysis team that did not respond adequately to Manning’s troubled behavior and requests for help. Significant incidents were largely ignored or downplayed to avoid the consequence of Manning being shipped out.

Paul Adkins returned to the stand to testify about an email Manning sent him a month before his arrest with the subject line “My Problem.”

A photo of Manning in a blond wig and lipstick was attached to these words:

This is my problem. I’ve had signs of it for a very long time. It’s caused problems within my family. I thought a career in the military would get rid of it. It’s not something I seek out for attention, and I’ve been trying very, very hard to get rid of it by placing myself in situations where it would be impossible. But, it’s not going away; it’s haunting me more and more as I get older. Now, the consequences of it are dire, at a time when it’s causing me great pain in itself...

This brought the issue of Manning’s struggle with gender identity – during the time when military policy on homosexuality was known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” – into the sentencing. It gave context for a series of other incidents reported by fellow soldiers in the months before his arrest.

A forensic psychiatrist and clinical psychologist testified the next day. In his summation of their testimony, Coombs said that is was offered “not to excuse” or “minimize” Manning’s conduct, but to set out “what this young man was going through.”

Psychiatrist Dr. David Moulton reviewed Manning’s records and diagnosed her with Gender-Identity Dysphoria (GID), along with symptoms of Fetal Alcohol and Asperger’s Syndromes. He testified that some of this contributed to a weak grasp of the potential consequences of her actions. But what stood out for him was Manning’s consistency of belief and adherence to principle despite these stressors.

“It was his opinion that if through crowd sourcing that enough analysis was done on these documents, which he felt to be very important, that it would lead to greater good, that society as a whole would come to the conclusion that the wars weren’t worth it, that really no wars are worth it,” Moulton testified.

Manning made her own brief statement to the judge, unsworn so as not to be subject to cross-examination. It was widely reported in the major media as an abject apology and plea for mercy. Even some supporters in the courtroom were stunned by words that sounded like she had “reversed [her] principles on the stand...”

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

THE INSIDE LINE

~ from Ocilla

by Michael Walli

July, 2013

Pope John XXIII wrote the Encyclical “Pacem in Terris”, Peace on Earth. Quite a few millions of people have died directly from war making, indirectly or from war related causes (including what Dwight D. Eisenhower referred to as the theft of resources resulting in degrading human rights shortfalls). Just think of all of the premature deaths caused because of the theft of resources (from usages calculated to supply for God-given human rights needs) for criminal warmongering usages. Eisenhower said that every warship built was a theft of resources from the poor. And then the U.S. military government disrespected his publicly stated values by putting Eisenhower’s name on a multimillion dollar U.S. Navy aircraft carrier.

Dr. King preached and practiced nonviolence, prioritized justice, and said that the U.S. government and people had guided missiles and misguided men misruling the nation. After Dr. King’s death he was indeed given a national holiday, a national memorial, and became namesakedly remembered in many places. But like Jesus whose Gospels Dr. King preached, Dr. King gets lip serviced while being rejected - his values are shunned and instead of His Dream we have a national and global nightmare. We have an empty irrelevant memory of his advocacy on behalf of a global Beloved Community. We have a torture training U.S. Army terrorist school in his home state of Georgia, the “Empire State of the South”.

Dr. King wasn’t pushing for a continuance of U.S. arrogance, dictation and dominance when he called for societal sea change by saying, “We must become a people oriented rather than a thing oriented society.” A practical way we could honor Dr. King would be to act upon his counsel and embrace the Christ-friendly, people-oriented humanitarian laws of the international community, which although they are a part of the legally binding U.S. Constitutional structure, are being systematically violated by the U.S. government. It is as though Article VI of the U.S. Constitution had been ripped out of the jurisprudential operations of the country. The U.S. Constitution gets lip service - nothing more.

[Michael Walli awaits sentencing for his part in the Transform Now Plowshares disarmament action at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in July, 2012.]

However, others in the courtroom said it reflected the legal strategy defense attorney David Coombs had pursued from the beginning. Legal observers noted that at sentencing, the honest and best legal advice for a defendant under duress of a potential life sentence – a defendant who never sought the courtroom as a political theater or for what justice might be found there – would be to simply admit whatever error or regret one can identify, highlight lessons learned, and express the will and opportunity to do better if given the chance.

In closing statements, the government asked for a sentence of 60 years and a \$100,000 fine.

Coombs pleaded for no more than 25 years, pointing out that, “Perhaps his biggest crime is that he cared about the loss of life.”

For more information, visit bradleymanning.org.



Letters of support should be written to Chelsea Manning, but to ensure delivery the address on the envelope must read Bradley Manning, 89289, 1000 N. Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-2304.

Amnesty International and the Private Manning Support Network (formerly the Bradley Manning Support Network) have posted a petition at the White House website asking President Obama to grant clemency to Manning. Visit pardon.bradleymanning.org to sign the petition.

Chelsea Manning has confirmed that she expects that the name Bradley Manning and the male pronoun will



~ from Jesup

by Nashua Chantal

August 7, 2013

For the first three years in my elementary school in Nashua, New Hampshire, I remember the fear of the air raid drills, where the whole school had to participate and had to hide under our desks.

Periodically, all classrooms full of children had to line up with their hands over their faces against the hallway wall. We were told these drills would protect us from the Atomic Bombs. Little did we know how catastrophic this blast would be.

A lot of us kids, at times, would draw pictures of airplanes dropping bombs to the ground, the bigger the bombs, the bigger the blast. We’d even add reddish yellow color to make the explosion look bigger than the other kids’ pictures. What did we know in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade? I still remember (to this moment) looking out my classroom window, “day dreaming”, thinking if war is on a sunny day or rainy day and where would I hide when it came...

As I sit here in this 3 man cubicle room (7’ x 11’), thinking about the word catastrophic and the loss of all human and any life form incinerated into ashes, I lose sight of Love, Peace and Hope.

Our land mass exposed to massive radiation to not be used by human, and by biogeography, ever again. Our upper atmosphere spreading the radiation to other countries on the stratosphere winds. Winds that take radiation beyond the blast and slowly floating down on top of all living life forms, absorbed into watersheds...

We live in the United States, the land of the free, our money has a quote saying “In God We Trust” and our churches read from the Bible, Matthew 5:1-12. The Beatitudes! What about our attitudes?!

In my home town of Nashua, New Hampshire, our state has a quote on the license plates, “Live Free or Die”. I want to live Free, along with everyone else, on this planet or I’ll die trying on the road to Civil Disobedience...

[On September 11, Robert “Nashua” Chantal will complete a six-month prison sentence for trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia last November.]

continue to be used in certain instances, notably for legal matters and communications with the government such as the White House petition. The support network is at work changing the name on their website, Facebook page and other materials from Bradley to Chelsea Manning, as they continue to work for her freedom.

Finally, donations to support Manning’s appeals will be gratefully received online via www.bradleymanning.org, or made payable and sent to Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610. Note “Chelsea Manning Defense” on the memo line.

Bangor, cont.

continued from page 4

Constance Mears, Elizabeth Murray, Jean Sundborg, and Alice Zillah.

BANGOR UPDATE

Of fourteen people arrested on the federal side of the Bangor line last March 4, seven were summoned to federal court in Tacoma on June 10. Bill Bichsel SJ, Susan Crane, Ed Ehmke, Betsy Lamb, Denny Moore, Mary Jane Parrine and Jerry Zawada OFM all pled not guilty and are set for trial October 21. Marcus Page-Cologne, one of six cited at the same demonstration for being in the roadway on the state side of the line, had his fine reduced from \$56 to \$25 at a mitigation hearing July 19. Mona Lee and Bert Sacks, cited for the same violation at Bangor last Mother’s Day, also had their fines similarly reduced at an August 9 mitigation hearing.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Uranium Industry Blockades

With both of their governments committed, more or less, to cutting reliance on nuclear energy, activists in Germany and France this summer targeted the international uranium processing industry at two sites in each country.

France

In France, a pair of processing factories was targeted by blockades on June 19, coordinated by local affiliates of the nationwide Sortir du Nucléaire network. Stop Uranium led 60 people to the COMURHEX Malvési plant in Narbonne, where many locked themselves together to block the gate at noon. One hundred and forty miles away, Tricastin Stop organized a blockade with 40 people at COMURHEX’s companion plant in the Tricastin nuclear complex at Pierrelatte.

Imported uranium ore is converted first to uranium tetrafluoride in Narbonne, then shipped by truck to Pierrelatte, where it is further processed into uranium hexafluoride, the form necessary for enrichment into nuclear fuel and weapons grade uranium. A survey by local activists confirmed that 3 – 5 truckloads travel the busy A9 freeway across southern France every day, ferrying up to 60 tons of the caustic radioactive material unsecured, through cities and motorway service areas.

Both groups sustained their blockades for a couple of hours before police were able to remove locks and chains, and arrest the activists. No charges were filed.

For more information, visit www.sortirdunucleaire.org.

Germany

In late July, about 100 people took part in an eight-day anti-nuclear action camp on a farm outside of Metelen, Germany, near the Dutch border. Teach-ins and films about the nuclear industry were presented, and activists prepared for nonviolent blockades of a URENCO uranium enrichment plant in Gronau and an AREVA nuclear fuel fabrication facility in Lingén. The uranium industry in Germany is not included in the government’s commitment to phase out nuclear power.

Two activists who chained themselves under the tracks to block a uranium supply train serving Gronau in 2012 were given a summary punishment in February of 120 and 80 days each, but their court process continues on appeal. This threat of imprisonment did nothing to dampen this year’s action.

The blockade at Gronau began before dawn on July 22. Two tripods were erected in front of the main entrance, and about 20 people blocked workers from driving to or from work. A samba band, also organized at the action camp, kept spirits high. State and federal police held back because the blockade was on URENCO property. A few activists found a second gate on a

service road, and two were arrested before a score of reinforcements arrived, enough to complete a blockade. Every time police used a megaphone to try and negotiate letting some traffic in and out, the drums of the samba band turned up the volume and prevented such dialogue.

“We will no longer accept that what is produced here in Gronau should quietly provide nuclear fuel for a quarter of the world,” said an activist named Luca.



Action-campers suspended in tripods anchor the blockade of a uranium processing plant in Gronau, Germany, July 22.

“It is ridiculous that here in Germany the nuclear power plants should be shut down while fuel for the whole world is produced. I want a real nuclear phase-out, right now and for the whole nuclear industry. Anything otherwise is eyewash,” said Darius. Activists note that much of the uranium processed at Gronau is mined under appalling working conditions in Africa and Australia.

URENCO eventually hired taxis to take home workers who could not drive away from the plant. At 8:00 in the evening the blockade came down, and a successful day of action was celebrated at the main gate before returning to the Metelen action camp.

Three days later about 50 activists established a pre-dawn blockade with a sit-in, a banner-hanging by tree climbers, and samba band at the Lingén fuel fabrication plant. Police were not so sanguine this time, and by noon began clearing the blockade using pain-compliance techniques to dislodge people. A crane was brought in to remove the climbers, and several people were taken to the police station and released hours later. Two others were treated in the hospital for injuries suffered during the forced eviction. All were cited for refusing to disperse, and some also for misuse of identity documents.

For more information, visit antiatomcamp.nirgendwo.info.

War Starts Here

The same week as the anti-nuclear action camp in Metelen, more than 400 anti-war activists converged near Magdeburg, Germany for the War Starts Here action camp. They came to disrupt activity at the sprawling European Combat Training Center (CTC) under development nearby.

Attempts to suppress participation in the gathering included a court order barring outdoor assemblies in all but one nearby city that was challenged and overturned just in time for a series of rallies. Police also set up checkpoints and stopped cars and bikes as they entered the camp.

Among numerous acts of graffiti and minor property damage in the CTC, on July 25 a dedicated rail line through the CTC was made impassable by tree trunks placed on the tracks at one point, and the removal of gravel from under the rails in another.

On the night of July 26, when mass infiltration of the site began, 16 army vehicles went up in flames in Havelberg, 60 miles away. With no suspects and damage estimated at 10 million euros, police seized the opportunity to escalate harassment of the peace campers, even before news of the arson had reached them. Carloads of activists departing the peace camp for the CTC were followed by some of nearly 200 police vehicles counted in the area.

Peace campers disclaimed any prior knowledge of the arson attack, and a spokesperson said they support actions that send a clear message against militarization and do not endanger human life.

The next evening, July 27, 150 cops and a helicopter raided the camp and staged a high-profile seizure of one of the cars they had followed the night before. Most activists were away blocking gates or inside the training area when the raid occurred, so could not resist.

Throughout an entire day of autonomous actions, many were temporarily held in custody but none were sent to a detention center. One group hiked for several

hours into the heart of the CTC, evading a helicopter patrolling for activists until they found a supply train parked at the station. They stormed the end of the train farthest from the train station and decorated four cars with pink paint and slogans such as “No More War”, “Soldiers are Murderers” and “War Starts Here.” When police finally discovered them in action, they fled undetected into the woods. Another small group, certain they would soon be discovered by police in pursuit, burst from the brush and played a small concert for their arresting officers.

For more information, visit www.warstartsherecamp.org.

The 24-hour Rhythm Beats Bombs blockade in August successfully shut down Büchel, the NATO base in Germany where U.S. nuclear weapons are stored. The musical blockade involved over 150 people who kept nine different gates closed to vehicular traffic for the day. Despite the presence of hundreds of police, no arrests were made.

For more information, visit www.atomwaffenfrei.de.

Sweden

Martin Smedjeback was arrested on July 14 during a demonstration at Aimpoint, the Malmö war merchant that sells “red dot” laser gunsights to the U.S. and other armies globally. A film crew was on hand as Smedjeback climbed over the fence at the gate. During interrogation at the local police station, Smedjeback was told he would probably be charged with trespass. He was convicted once before of criminal damage for climbing the fence at Aimpoint.

“The court has already sentenced me to €9,000 in criminal damage which I don’t intend to pay. It is they, the weapons manufacturer, who should pay for damage; for the damage their weapons have caused in countries like Afghanistan and Iraq,” said Smedjeback.

For more information, visit www.ofog.org.

Tricastin Occupied

One month after the dual uranium plant blockades, Greenpeace France organized another dramatic occupation of a nuclear site, the latest in a series meant to shine a light on inadequate security and an aging, leaky fleet of reactors. This time, the light was in the form of gigantic images projected on the containment and generator buildings of the four nuclear power reactors at the Tricastin complex, among the nation’s oldest and most dangerous.

On July 15, more than two-dozen activists in three teams from France, Italy, Romania and Spain broadcast video of their action as some climbed over a gate and entered the site before dawn, reaching the reactor buildings within 15 minutes. While still dark, a series of images were projected, first of large cracks on the wall, then pictures of President Holland and the words (in French) “Tricastin nuclear accident”, “President of the disaster?” and “Ready to pay the price?”

By daybreak, climbers on the machinery had hung banners with the same slogans and could hear arriving employees applauding them. While officials assured the public that the demonstrators had not breached secure areas, a detachment of special nuclear security police was sent to help the local cops. The first arrests were made three hours after the occupation began, and by noon police had rounded up and arrested 29 people. The last to be arrested were climbers removed with the help of a police helicopter and mountain rescue team.

After 38 hours in custody, they were charged with trespass and damage to the fence, and given a summons to trial on September 12.

For more information, visit energie-climat.greenpeace.fr.

Australia

Four people were arrested on July 19 when they blocked the entrance to a barracks in Rockhampton, Queensland as the annual U.S. – Australian “Talisman Saber” war games began. The die-in came to an end when police carried Jim Dowling, Andy Paine, Dave Sprigg and Robyn Taubenfeld out of the road and charged them with contravening a direction.

Four days later, Graham Dunstan and Greg Rolles infiltrated the vast Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area, publically intent on disrupting the event. They posted photos of their presence online, prompting calls to halt the exercises. After camping overnight, the two men blocked passage of a convoy of U.S. Marine Humvees through the area, and tried to persuade the marines they met to put down their arms. Instead the men were arrested and held overnight in jail.

In court the next morning, Rolles pled guilty to trespass on Commonwealth land, but is contesting a charge under the Defence Act relating to possession of a photographic device. Dunstan faced the same charges, plus breaching bail conditions from when he helped his friend, the late Bryan Law, disarm a Tiger attack helicopter after last year’s war games. He pled guilty to the charges and was fined AU\$940.

“Talisman Saber is about the U.S. military training the Australian military to fight future U.S. wars,” said Dunstan.

He was back in court August 19 for a three-day trial for willful damage of Commonwealth property. He’d cut the fence at the Rockhampton Airport last summer so Bryan Law could peddle his tricycle out to the Australian army’s Tiger helicopter and bash it with a garden mattock. Dunstan was permitted to introduce the “Collateral Murder” video (released to WikiLeaks by Chelsea Manning) as part of his defense of necessity, as it showed how a comparable attack helicopter is used in war. The jury also heard testimony from Australian witnesses to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Unable to reach a unanimous verdict on their first day of deliberations, the jury returned the next morning to convict Dunstan.

The judge commented, “The case has caused me and is causing me anxiety. The circumstances are difficult and bear out that the law is complex.” He noted Dunstan’s commitment to peace and sentenced him to two years in jail, suspended, plus a fine and \$162,000 restitution. He also noted that payment was not expected, given Dunstan’s financial situation as an itinerant peace monger.

For more information, visit peacebus.com.

Jeju

After years of persistent nonviolent resistance to construction of a provocative naval base on Jeju, the South Korean “Island of Peace” and a UNESCO World Heritage site, the courts are increasingly a part of the struggle. Scores of cases, some long-pending, are coming

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NATO 5 Update

One out, one down, and three still in play. That’s the summary for five activists jailed since May, 2012, when they were accused by police infiltrators of various crimes and indicted as terrorists while protesting the NATO summit in Chicago.

Sebastian “Sabi” Senakiewicz is now out, deported to his native Poland in August after several weeks in immigration detention. In July, as his mother drove him away from the state boot camp where he served the last four months of his sentence, their car was pulled over and he was seized by ICE agents. Senakiewicz was expecting house arrest until deportation.

Mark Neiweem is down for now, sent to the hole at the state prison in Pontiac where he is serving a three-year sentence. After an internal investigation by the prison gang unit, Neiweem was issued two disciplinary charges for possessing “unauthorized” anarchist symbols and possessing “unauthorized” anarchist literature, both of which are deemed an imminent threat to the facility. Neiweem faces a possible loss of good time credit as a result.

Still in play is the case against Brent Betterly, Jared Chase and Brian Church, the NATO 3, who are charged together under a post-9/11 Illinois anti-terrorism law and other offenses. Their trial was to begin September 16, but the prosecution has repeatedly delayed responding to discovery orders. The trial is now expected to begin January 2, 2014.

One recent revelation from discovery is that police lost or destroyed personal cell phones used by the infiltration team during their work, and that conveniently, the private cell phone provider did not save the text messages they sent in the course of the operation, either.

The judge has already denied most of the defense motions for dismissal of particular individual charges, and recently granted the prosecution authority to take photos of the defendants’ tattoos at their September 3 pretrial hearing.

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.

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to trial, an often protracted process of sporadic hearings and testimony. Many sentences have included high fines, suspended jail terms and probation.

The stand-off at the construction gate continues on a daily basis, where some engage in ritual bows, a daily Catholic mass is held, artists decorate the road, gate and high walls, and police remove blockaders when convoys arrive to enter and leave the site. Overhead, ten police television cameras are constantly observing the peace-keepers’ presence at the gate, and the comings and goings of residents of Gangjeong, the village neighboring the base. Villagers have always considered themselves the guardians of Gureombi, the unique and sacred lava rock coastline being defiled for the base.

In 2012, typhoons destroyed poorly installed caissons at the construction site. This summer, accelerated dredging and construction in advance of the typhoon season meant that environmental protection measures were overlooked. After repeated complaints to the coast guard brought no action, Dr. Song Kang-Ho, Jesuit Brother Park Do-Hyun and two other members of Save Our Seas took two kayaks out to observe active dredging on July 1. They observed a faulty silt protector device in use, and notified the coast guard about the violation. Again, the coast guard did nothing so the two men rowed into the construction zone to document the destruction.

At that point, the coast guard took notice, pursued and roughly arrested the two men, breaking Brother Park’s video camera in the process. Following their arrest, clear documentation of their actions and the construction violations, as well as the inaction by government authorities, was presented to a judge in an appeal to cancel their arrest warrant. The judge disregarded it all and they were imprisoned on charges of obstruction of business. They were in court for trial on August 9 and 26, and the proceeding continues.

On June 5, Prof. Yang Yoon-Mo, already serving an 18 month prison sentence, was brought to court on new charges of property damage, violence, and obstruction of business. The trial continues.

On June 10, Mr. Kim Young-Jae, jailed since April, was on trial along with Fr. Kim Sung-Hwan for climbing the caisson dock with Park Suk-Jin and others on September 6, 2012. In addition, Kim was charged with 16 counts of obstruction of business. This trial also continues.

Mr. Lee Jong-Hwa was released on June 22 after 55 days in jail. The writer and poet was convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended, and two

Tax Day in Milwaukee

On a blustery Tax Day, April 15, a small group of war tax resisters vigiled outside the Army Reserve base in Milwaukee, leafleting drivers and talking with passersby about taxes for war and what that buys us. When Don Timmerman blocked the driveway, he was arrested for trespass and released from a nearby police station. Later, when Timmerman went to court for trial, he was told his case was not on the docket. Two weeks later, he received notice in the mail that he had been fined \$175 after failing to appear and being found guilty. Timmerman, a Catholic Worker and war tax resister who has been arrested many times at tax day vigils in the city, took the notice to a judge and explained that he had indeed been to court, and why he went back home. The judge tossed the entire case before Timmerman could even explain why he had refused to leave the base on Tax Day.

CIA DRONE PROTEST

The National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance sent a letter to CIA Director John Brennan requesting a meeting to discuss ending the drone program, but received no response. So 50 people went to the agency’s Langley, Virginia headquarters on June 29 to press their request for a meeting in person.

The group walked up to the gate with a copy of the letter they had sent to Brennan. When they were denied a meeting, Joy First, Malachy Kilbride, Max Obuszewski, Phil Runkel, Cindy Sheehan and Janice Sevre-Duszynska crossed onto the property. After announcing a mock drone strike, five of them lay down on the ground and were covered with pictures of drone victims. The sixth keened and wailed over the bodies. Security guards retreated, allowing the die-in to continue.

After 20 minutes, the group rose up and began to walk further onto the base, carrying pictures of drone victims. They were arrested, cited and released on site. At an August 23 hearing, the six rejected a plea bargain and were given a trial date of October 22.

For more information, contact Max Obuszewski at mobuszewski@verizon.net.

years probation.

Mr. Park Suk-Jin, who had been jailed on May 7 for violating his bail conditions by staying more than three days in Gangjeong village, was released on May 31 after being sentenced to one year in prison, suspended, and three years probation.

Also on May 31, a young woman was arrested in Seoul and moved to Jeju Prison the next day. She was arrested trying to stop shipments of explosives to the construction site in March, 2012 and was picked up for a failure to appear in court. On June 5, she was fined about \$2,200 and released.

In late August, an appeals court reviewed a couple of dozen cases of obstruction of business, rejecting the argument that because construction violated environmental review laws, resisting construction is not a crime. It also overturned the trial court and declared that obstruction of business in these cases had been a conspiracy, and not simply a convergence of isolated acts, despite the absence of any formal agreement.

On August 21, Park Yong Sung chose prison labor for about 40 days instead paying a fine of \$1,800. He was convicted of trespass and illegal occupation for the purpose of obstruction of business after going onto Gureombi Rock in February 2012, and staying there for four days in a makeshift tent along with three others. Gureombi Rock is a public site, officially owned by the island government, not the Navy.

For more information, visit savejejunow.org.



Letters of support should be individually addressed and sent to Park Yong-Sung, Prisoner No. 305; Yang Yoon-Mo, Prisoner No. 301; Kim Young-Jae, Prisoner No. 435; Song Kang-Ho, Prisoner No. 409; and Park Do-Hyun, Prisoner No. 535; 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).

International supporters can also contribute to a fund established to help pay the large fines imposed by the court on many villagers. Visit bit.ly/JejuFines for details.

FUTURE ACTIONS

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

swan island

Peace activists are returning for the fourth year to the Swan Island Military Base in Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia, September 22-26, 2013 for a week of nonviolent action training, vigils, engagement with the local community, and creative actions to block the bridge leading to the island base. Australian Special Forces fighting “dirty wars” in Afghanistan and Africa train there. For more information, visit swanislelandpeace.org.

nyc vietnam vets memorial

Veterans for Peace will return to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in NYC on October 7, the 12th anniversary of the war in Afghanistan, “to nonviolently reaffirm our commitment to justice, ending war, exposing the lies of war...” Supporters are invited to join the overnight vigil, reading the names of war dead and risking arrest when the memorial park closes at 10 p.m. For more information, visit www.stopthesewars.org/ or email StopTheseWars@PopularResistance.org.

no drones/d.c.

The National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR), CodePink and others are planning civil resistance following the 2013 Drone Summit, Drones Around the Globe: Proliferation and Resistance in Washington D.C., November 16-17. Final preparations will likely be made Sunday evening November 17, for a Monday action. For more information contact NCNR’s Joy First at joyfirst5@gmail.com, 608-239-4327.

ft. benning

The 23rd anniversary November Vigil to Close the School of the Americas will be held outside Ft. Benning, Georgia from November 22-24, 2013. Organizing materials and more information are at soaw.org/november/en/ or phone 202-234-3440. For more information about risking arrest in nonviolent direct action, email directaction@soaw.org. Also, see soaw.org for information about a Field Organizer job with SOA Watch.

Have you been to Fort Benning? Supported SOA Watch prisoners of conscience? The School of the Americas Watch wants to know what you think.

Nonviolent direct action and prison witness have been core elements of the SOA Watch movement since its beginning. Now, in the context of an increasingly militarized prison system, is there a need to shift to other creative ways of continuing the tradition of direct action? What is your take on nonviolent direct action and prison witness considering both our movement’s history and today’s context? Respond online at bit.ly/SOAprisonwitness, or by mail to SOA Watch, P.O. Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017.

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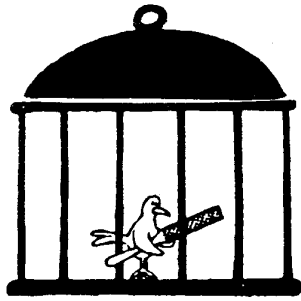
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#171

Update Files



MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY: Bob Graf was convicted July 15 of trespassing on the Milwaukee campus last March when he went to the library to do research in the archives of Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day. He told a sympathetic judge he was a scapegoat after being barred from campus for leading the most recent spate of 44 years of peaceful protests of military ROTC classes and training at the Jesuit university. At trial, University officials said Graf was barred after allegedly trying to force his way into a meeting on campus last fall, despite a trespass charge then being dismissed in court. Graf was sentenced to pay a \$171 fine. He expects to serve four days in jail rather than pay...

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE: A day-long bench trial in federal court in Sacramento ended with the conviction of five people for trespass last October at the northern California base where Global Hawk reconnaissance drones are remotely piloted in war zones around the world. Sharon Delgado, David and Jan Hartsough, Janie Kesselman and Shirley Osgood characterized the Global Hawk, though unarmed, as a necessary “accomplice” in the notorious international humanitarian and war crimes of the Reaper and Predator drones. They were denied both necessity and international law defenses, and the court ignored evidence that only those holding signs were arrested while other protesters on base property were not. All five say that when they return for sentencing September 9, they will not consent to probation nor pay any fine...

KOODANKULAM: The first reactor of the besieged nuclear power project went critical in July, amid ongoing protest by its neighbors at the southern tip of India. More than 225,000 cases have been filed against those involved in the last two years of mass protests, mostly for sedition and waging war against the state. In June, the Madras High Court issued notice for the government to withdraw these cases, but that has not happened...

MORDECHAI VANUNU: The nuclear whistleblower is still forbidden from leaving Israel, and he continues to be harassed by Israeli authorities. In 2004, immediately upon release from serving his full 18 year sentence at Ashkelon Prison, the Israeli government imposed restrictions intended to prevent Vanunu from meeting with foreigners or leaving Israel. As has happened in the past, he was brought to a police station for questioning several times this past spring and summer about visits with foreigners. Vanunu hopes to be able to leave Israel, and his attorney has filed another appeal against the ongoing restrictions...

PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT: At a preliminary hearing in Plymouth, Massachusetts on July 19, one of fourteen people charged with trespass during two recent protests at the reactor accepted a plea agreement with no jail time. The 13 others, all members of Cape Downwinders, have another pretrial hearing September 13...

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE: Eight people charged with failure to disperse from their March 28 blockade of the drone warfare piloting center outside Las Vegas, Nevada, were told in June that charges had never been filed...

ROYAL AIR FORCE – WADDINGTON: Six no-drones activists who entered the British base in June have claimed lawful reasons to do so, and pled not guilty to criminal damage at a July hearing. A trial date has been set for October 7 in Lincoln Magistrates Court...

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Three CodePink activists prosecuted for disrupting the February 7 confirmation hearing of CIA director John Brennan were convicted by a Washington jury August 19, and sentenced to 90 days in jail, suspended, and 100 hours of community service. Alli McCracken, also arrested at the hearing, earlier took a plea and performed 32 hours of community service...

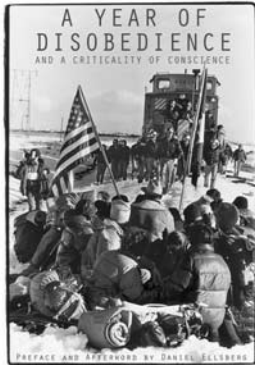
NEW YORK CITY: A four-day trial of 12 veterans and friends arrested in October at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Plaza while reciting the names of U.S. war dead, allegedly after-hours, was notable for the first attempt to defend a free speech case citing U.S. obligations under the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, ratified by the Senate in 1992. The judge rejected that argument, as well as testimony by a landscape architect about the public nature and use of the space around the memorial, finding the defendants guilty as charged. Then, he immediately accepted a defense motion for “dismissal in the interests of justice”...

FRANCE: In late May, an activist who began unbolting a THT high-voltage transmission line tower in March, 2012 was fined €2,000 in damages. The transmission line is opposed both by farmers whose land has been seized for the transmission towers as well as anti-nuclear activists because it is being built to serve nuclear power plants. Five more activists from the campaign were on trial June 11, a proceeding marked by the paucity of evidence. Their verdict will be delivered September 26. On June 5, a court ruled that seven activists who blocked a nuclear waste train in November, 2010, must pay €29,000 damages and €1,750 attorney’s fees to the train company...

Resistance Reading

A YEAR OF DISOBEDIENCE AND A CRITICALITY OF CONSCIENCE

by Joseph Daniel. A beautiful re-issue and timely update of the original 1979 black & white photo-documentary. Joseph Daniel’s photos illustrate Keith Pope’s original narrative of a critical year of demonstrations and civil disobedience by thousands of people at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant and the resulting arrests and trials. Located upwind of Denver, Colorado, the plant was both a local hazard and global threat to the life and health of millions of people. Shut down after an FBI raid ten years later and a sealed Grand Jury investigation, it remains cloaked in secrecy and controversy due to a highly questionable Super Fund cleanup and renaming much of the site as a Wildlife Refuge. The book includes all of the original photos by Joseph Daniel, trial transcription of co-defendant Daniel Ellsberg’s testimony and original poetry by Allen Ginsberg, including his classic *Plutonian Ode*. This new edition incorporates a critical historical update by LeRoy Moore and an Afterword by Ellsberg exploring the current worldwide nuclear weapons threat as it relates to the conflict of national security and government powers most recently revealed by whistleblower Edward Snowden. (© 2013, 170 pages 8”x10”, \$20 paper includes shipping from www.ayearofdisobedience.com, ISBN 978-0-9889754-4-6)



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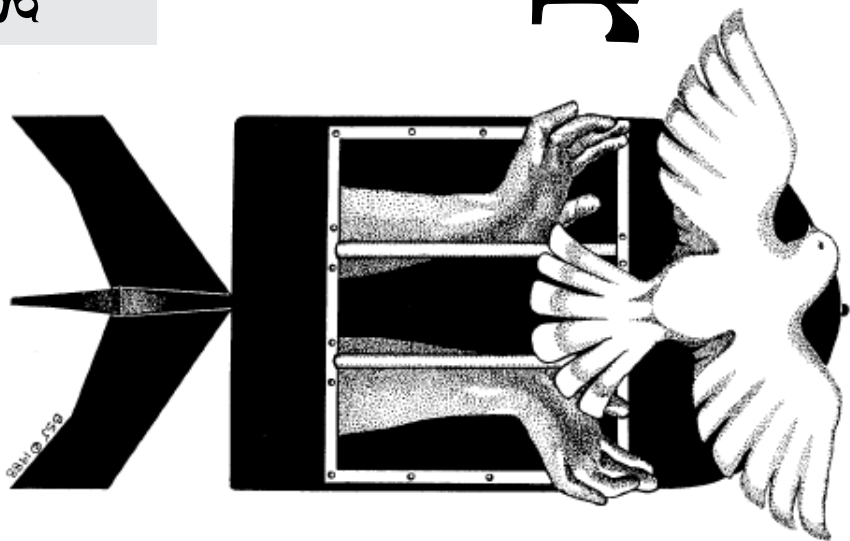
Manning Convicted,
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