were additional drone protest arrests on Good Friday (see Force and Air National Guard bases in five states, together news of legislative lobbying, educational lectures and state charge of criminal trespass. At their arraignment Guinn and Michele Naar-Obed were arrested. They were Bloomer, Julie Brown, Steve Clemens, Ruthie Cole, Chet Cres Vellucci were joined by Fred Bialy, Bev Fitzpatrick, custody about 8 a.m. Veterans Barry Binks, Richard Devan Phenix and Cathy Webster in the largest single-day arrests were reported at seven sites including Air Force and National Guard bases in five states, Lockheed-Martin offices, and the headquarters of the National Security Agency at Ft. Meade, Maryland. There were additional drone protest arrests on Good Friday (see page 6).

DES MOINES AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The nationwide campaign kicked off early in March with an action in Des Moines, where the Iowa Air National Guard’s 132nd Fighter Wing is shifting its mission from F16s to combat drones. Veterans for Peace joined with midwest Catholic Workers who had gathered for their annual spring resistance against nuclear power plants. Over 100 people rallied at the base on Saturday, March 15, and a few dozen returned on March 17 to celebrate Ireland’s patron saint. As Des Moines Catholic Worker Julie Brown explained, “St. Patrick once said ‘in Christ, there is no killing,’ and we will continue the work to drive the drones and warmakers out of Iowa just like St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland.”

Seven people approached the closed iron gate arm-in-arm, where they stood holding large photographs of some Afghan Peace Volunteers and victims of drone strikes. The group asked to speak with drone pilots and tried to deliver a letter but they were refused. When they refused to leave, Elliot Adams, Eddie Bloomer, Julie Brown, Steve Clemens, Ruthie Cole, Chet Guinn and Michele Naar-Obed were arrested. They were each given a flier and a hand-written letter and state charge of criminal trespass. At their arraignment the following week, all seven pleaded not guilty and asked to be released.

Photo: DPA

Catholic Worker, P.O. Box 4551, Des Moines, IA 50305, dmcatholicworker@gmail.com, 515-243-0765.

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE

From Beale Air Force Base in northern California, the Air Force directs the worldwide fleet of Global Hawk surveillance drones, essential tools that support the lethal missions of the Reaper and Predator drones. Regular demonstrations led to arrests five times since March, including on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (see reports on page 5).

On April 1, Veterans for Peace members Elliot Adams and Richard Gilchrist were arrested when they walked onto the base in protest. They were joined by more than a dozen supporters who vigilied with flags and banners in pouring rain at the gate until Adams and Gilchrist were released about an hour later. Although both were fingerprinted and their details recorded, they were released without any paperwork and have received none in the mail, yet.

Four weeks later on April 29, participants in the Veterans for Peace Spring Days of Drone Action briefly blocked traffic entering two gates at Beale. They sought to deliver an indictment charging President Obama, the Beale base commander, drone pilots and others with “crimes against peace and crimes against humanity.” Six veterans were among 13 people arrested, handcuffed and taken into custody about 8 a.m. Veterans Barry Binks, Richard Gilchrist, Michael Kerr, John Reiger, Ted Sexauer and Cres Velucca were joined by Fred Baily, Bev Fitzpatrick, Catherine Hourcade, Pamela Osgood, Shirley Osgood, Devin Phanix and Cathy Webster in the largest single-day arrest tally to date at Beale. They were all released two hours later with citations for misdemeanor trespass and a date in federal court in Sacramento.

For more information, visit occupybealeafb.org.

Photo: DPA

WHITMAN AIR FORCE BASE

The arrest reported from Whitman Air Force Base during an April 6 drone protest came as a surprise. June Stoever wrote:

A member of the PeaceWorks, Kansas City Board of Directors and a co-member of the Loretto Community, Tamara Severns was walking toward the base’s animation of cracking and crumbling onto the 41-year-old Borsele nuclear power plant, but no arrests were made.

On March 18, ahead of an energy summit of European leaders, activists hacked a large cargo truck up to a closed gate at France’s Fessenheim nuclear power plant. A ramp was extended from the top of the truck over two barriers and ladders dropped to the ground inside.

More than 60 Greenpeace activists from 14 countries across Europe, plus Turkey and Australia, entered the site of the country’s oldest operating reactors, which are near the Swiss and German borders. Climbers made it up onto the roof of one of the containment buildings, where they hung a gigantic banner that declared “STOP RISKING EUROPE!”

It was just the latest in a series of such infiltrations demonstrating that security weaknesses continue to plague the French reactor fleet.

Hundreds of police responded, surrounding the site while two police helicopters circled overhead. They worked carefully to remove demonstrators from the roof, and arrested 57 people. As the demonstration inside the plant was removed, other activists displayed a large banner from boats on the Rhine Canal next to the plant that read “The Future is Renewable – Stop Nuclear!” For more information, visit greenpeace.org/ international/en/.
Ten years ago, on April 21, 2004, several hundred of us from around the world gathered with great anticipation outside the gates of Israel’s Ashkelon Prison, holding up signs saying “Thank you, Mordechai Vanunu: Peace Hero, Nuclear Whistleblower.” After many years of campaigning for his freedom, the day had finally arrived: Mordechai Vanunu would walk out of the prison where he had spent each day of his 18 year sentence (12 of those years in solitary confinement) for blowing the whistle on Israel’s then secret nuclear arsenal. We were there to welcome him to freedom.

Our excitement had been somewhat dimmed a couple of days earlier, when Israel announced a list of oppressive measures to be taken in response to his release. He would be under restrictions which require him to report and gain permission for any change in residence, to avoid diplomatic missions, to not speak to foreign nationals and to prevent him from leaving Israel, a thing Mordechai has wished to do ever since his release from prison.

Since his release he has been repeatedly harassed and taken in by police for questioning. He has served a further three months in prison for talking to foreigners, which he continues to do in spite of the restrictions.

In December 2013, an appeal to Israel’s High Court of Justice against this indefinite punishment for “crimes” for which he has served his full sentence proceeded much as previous appeals had. The government, in secret testimony, persuaded the court that “the evidentiary material suggests that there is still additional privileged information that [could be] jeopardized by the petitioner.”

However Vanunu has repeatedly insisted that he has no more secrets to tell, including in his first public statement to the throng of international reporters gathered to cover the moment that he emerged from prison on April 21, 2004. He shared all that he knew with UK Sunday Times journalists back in 1986 (information that is now more than 20 years old) – giving the world its first photographic proof of Israel’s clandestine production of nuclear weapons at the remote Dimona factory where he had worked as a technician until 1985.

He strongly believed that in a democratic country, people have the right to know what their government is doing, and, after examining his conscience, felt it was his responsibility to share the information he had. On the eve of publication, Vanunu was lured from London to Rome by a Mossad agent, where he was kidnapped, drugged and bound and put on a freighter to Israel. A secret court convicted him of espionage and treason.

We believe that Mordechai Vanunu is a hero for his courageous act of whistleblowing, not a traitor or a spy. And we think it’s likely that Israel would view a potential Iranian nuclear weapon whistleblower in the same light. In any case, it is time for Israel to stop this endless persecution of Vanunu. He is currently living in East Jerusalem, but very much wishes to leave Israel and start a new life.

As we continue to work for a nuclear-free future, we invite people around the world to join us as we call on Israel to do the right thing, morally and legally, and finally lift Vanunu’s restrictions without further delay, ten years after the original court-imposed sentence for his “crimes” has expired. Mordechai Vanunu must at last be given his freedom.

Signed:

(Israel) Yehuda Atai, Ronnie Barkan, Rayana Moss, Gideon Spira, Ron Ben-Yishai
(UK) Yvain Alam, Pat Arrowsmith, Geoffrey Austin, Ben Birnberg, Margaret and Jacob Ecclestone, Paul Eisen, Jay Gin, June Haustot, Ben Imman, Bruce Kent, Bruce Mackenize, Carmim Martin, Jenny Morgan, Adrian O’Keefe, David Polden, Ernest Rodeker, Sabha Sagall, David Smethurst, Ben Sofia, James Thackera, Barry White

(US) Miriam Adams, Barbara Beseley, Edmond L. Browning, Pati Browning, Felice Cohen-Joppa, Nick and Anne Eiko, Sally Fong, John Hannon-Ricardi, Art Laffin, Daniel McGowen, Mary H. Miller, Ronald H. Miller, Kim Redigan, Grace Ritter, Scott Schaeffer- Duffy, Jeanie Shaterian

(Ireland) Kevin Cassidy, Barbara Fabish, Mairead Maguire

(Norway) Fredrik Heffermehl

(Japan) Shinti and Ryoko Noma

(Australia) Phillip Mudge, Rev, David Smith

Plowshares Trio Now at Federal Prisons

The Transform Now Plowshares have all arrived at their designated federal prisons to serve out multi-year sentences. They were convicted in May, 2013 of sabotage and felony destruction of government property following sentences. They were convicted in May, 2013 of sabotage and felony destruction of government property following

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The Transform Now Plowshares have all arrived at their designated federal prisons to serve out multi-year sentences. They were convicted in May, 2013 of sabotage and felony destruction of government property following their July, 2012 direct disarmament action at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Greg Boertje-Obed and Michael Walli are serving their 62-month prison terms, Boertje-Obed at Leavenworth in Kansas and Walli at McKean in Bradford, Pennsylvania, while Sr. Megan Rice is serving a 35-month sentence at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York.

A challenge to the sabotage tactic is on its way to the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeal. Pro bono help on the appeal is being provided by a legal team at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. Briefs will be filed by fall and the appeal will be argued by the end of this year or early next.

Letters of support should be sent to Gregory Boertje-Obed 08052-016, USP Leavenworth, P.O. Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048; Megan Rice 88101-020, MDC Brooklyn, Metropolitan Correctional Center, P.O. Box 329002, Brooklyn, NY 11232; and Michael Walli 92108-020, FCI McKean, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 8000, Bradford, PA 16701.

The Nuclear Resister


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 1996, 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 will be imprisoned. Behind bars, they are physically isolated from their support but their own resistance activity is limited. Beyond awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to maintaining a peaceful, nonviolent movement.

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.

Thanks

Thanks to Jim, Charlotte, Sam, Allison, Richard, Paige, and Cindy for helping to mail the last issue.
Chelsea Manning Pursues Appeal, Treatment

There have been several significant developments in the case of the court-martialed Army whistleblower serving a 35-year prison sentence for releasing evidence of war crimes and diplomatic deception to Wikileaks in 2010.

In April, a Kansas City court approved the petition of Bradley Edward Manning to change her name to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning. The Private Manning Support Network had also changed its name to the Chelsea Manning Support Network, reflecting Manning’s self-identification. All mail should now be addressed to Chelsea E. Manning.

Attorney Nancy Hollander has been hired as the lead attorney to represent Manning on appeal of her multiple convictions.

Court martial defense attorney David Coombs concluded that when he filed Manning’s clemency petition in late March. Coombs continues to represent Manning as she pursues hormone replacement therapy, the recommended medical treatment for her gender dysphoria.

In May, Coombs quickly condemned as a “strategic leak” widespread reports citing unnamed officials “who were not authorized to speak openly” that if the Pentagon were to be transferred Manning to a civilian prison for treatment.

He wrote:

“This story to the media is a transparent attempt to pressure Chelsea into dropping her request for needed treatment under the artificial guise of concern for her medical needs. It is not an emanation of a genuine belief that the federal prison system cannot guarantee the safety and security of Chelsea in the way the military prison system could. Chelsea would face the choice between receiving necessary medical treatment but potentially jeopardizing her personal safety or potentially receiving necessary medical treatment but ensuring her personal safety. The Pentagon’s lie is intended to strong-arm Chelsea into backing down in her requests for medical treatment, ironically using the same method (leaking information) that sent Chelsea to prison for 35 years...”

Whether the Pentagon likes it or not, Chelsea is a military service member. The responsibility for her falls on the military. Although a very small number of military inmates are transferred to federal prison each year, this is only after all appeals have been exhausted and the military inmate has been discharged from the service. Chelsea’s appeals have not yet begun and her transfer to federal prison in these circumstances would be unprecedented. Chelsea’s request for medical treatment is a request for medical treatment for the military for the past ten months. So far, the military has outright ignored her requests. The military absolutely needs to revisit its “policy” on transgender medical care and adapt it to 21st century medical standards. It cannot continue to bury its head in the sand any longer.

Manning herself responded to say:

“At the beginning of 2014, the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the Army Corrections Command were ready to approve and implement a treatment plan that at least conservatively met the standards set by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. I was content with this plan. Based on these facts I don’t understand why the Office of the Secretary of Defense would feel the need to punt this issue by transferring me.

For more information, visit chelseamanning.org.

NATO 3 SENTENCED

An Illinois judge has sentenced three men guilty of helping undercover cops make molotov cocktails for protests in the May, 2012 NATO summit in Chicago. The sentences of six years for Brent Betterly, eight years for Jared Chase and five years for Brian Jacob Church were all less than the 14-year terms that prosecutors sought for each young man, who were convicted of misdemeanor mob action, possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson, and possession of incendiary devices with intent for someone else to commit arson. Under Illinois law, they will all serve 50% of the sentence and will receive credit for the two years they served since their arrest. Upon release, they will each have two more years of supervision.

Although the jury acquitted the three of the high-profile, post-9/11 state terrorism charges, prosecutors at the April 25 sentencing hearing repeatedly invoked the T word by comparing the three with the accused Boston Marathon bombers. Judge Thaddeaus Wilson chimed in, adding that the incendiary devices “may not be terrorism, but it is terrorizing.”

Defense attorneys framed the case as they had during trial. The actions of the defendants were far less about a serious threat of terrorism and more about intoxicated young men boasting in the company of undercover cops who nurtured imaginations fantasies with faux friendship and alcohol.

When passing sentences that were less than the state asked for, but more than time served, Judge Wilson described the three as not so cunning as the Three Musketeers, like prosecutors alleged, nor as bumbling as the Three Stooges portrayed by the defense.

Church and Betterly both addressed the court. Church said he loves his country, and was hurt by the comparison to the Boston bombers. He has made mistakes and learned from them since his arrest, he said, and has continued to educate himself while in jail through reading. He has family and a job waiting for him when released.

Betterly acknowledged describing himself as an anarchist, and said he came to Chicago not with hatred and violent intent, but “in solidarity with the millions of people around the world who’ve learned the true meaning of terror at the NATO summit’s seemingly endless war agenda...I came to lend my voice to those who...no longer have one.”

Jared Chase did not testify at sentencing. Chase is also facing a charge of aggravated battery on a police officer during his pre-trial confinement in the Cook County Jail.

On his behalf, a medical doctor provided expert testimony about Huntington’s disease, a hereditary degenerative neurological disorder affecting Chase. (“Huntington’s disease usually causes movement, cognitive and psychiatric disorders with a wide spectrum of signs and symptoms,” according to mayoclinic.org.)

Dr. Kathleen Shannon testified that the disease makes those affected unable to plan ahead or learn from mistakes, and that she believes the disease was likely behind Chase’s misconduct while in jail. Shannon testified that Chase probably has about ten years to live.

When this testimony was tied to the request for leniency due to Chase’s expected lifespan and quality of life, one of the prosecutors replied that he should actually get a harsher sentence, not more lenient. His reasoning was that Chase is more “dangerous” because he has nothing to lose, and that has made him unpredictable.

While in court for the sentencing, Chase turned down a plea offer on the battery charge, but negotiations continue because prosecutors have learned more about the disease and its impact. A status hearing in the case is set for June 30.

For more information, visit freethenato3.wordpress.com.

All three men have book wish lists at amazon.com that anyone may purchase for them. Letters of support should be send to Brian Jacob Church M44710, P.O. Box 112, Joliet, IL 60434; Jared Chase M44717, 2600 N. Brinton Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021; and Brent Betterly M44724, 4017 E. 2603 Road, Sheldon, IL 60551.

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continued from page 1

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE
A small contingent of San Francisco Bay-area CodePink and Nevada Babies for Peace, and Brian Terrell. All were taken into Las Vegas and sovereignty, and killing of innocent civilians..."

due process, wars of aggression, violation of national Law of the Land, extrajudicial killings, violation of Crimes Against Peace & Crimes WARCRIMES ACCOUNT

Wednesday morning, April 16 to deliver an indictment for walkers approached the gate long list of particulars, nine action at Creech. Adding Peace Walk prepared for their just three days later, force was published in net, 510-541-6874. contact Toby Blomé, warrant from previous drone They were taken to Las Vegas branch of the government, actions were making a statement, and the arrests were part around crossing the (arbitrary) boundary and approached with white masks, coffins and a giant mourning mother around Creech. There the shade of large cottonwoods created an outdoor studio space for painting the large signs and banners used for four days of high vigil and tableau theater at the base gate.

Protest themes during the week included a simulated drone attack on a wedding party; a funeral procession with the demonstration to greet commuter-warriors at Creech Air Base. Each wore a garland string of pink paper drones, each one bearing the name of a civilian drone
casualties.

"There was a somewhat playful mood as we wiggled around crossing the (arbitrary) boundary and approached the gate entrance as close as possible," write Martha Hubert. "They really didn't want to arrest us. But our actions were making a statement, and the arrests were part of our plan. Along with confronting the President and the Congress, we feel it's important to confront the judicial branch of the government, and the arrest process is an important part of that picture."

Hubert was arrested along with Toby Blomé, Renay Davis, Maggie Huntington, Catherine Houcquard, Lisa Marcus and Edwina Vogan. They were taken to Las Vegas for processing that day later that day. Vogan was the last woman out, as she also had to address an outstanding warrant from previous drone protest at Creech.

For more information contact Toby Blomé, ralthert@gmail.com. net, 510-541-6874.

More evidence that both CIA assassination orders and military court-martial statutes flown by the Creech air force base was published in the Guardian on the first three days later, as participants in the Sacred Peace Walk prepared for their action at Creech. Adding the latest revelations to a long list of particulars, nine walkers broadcast a "Crew" Wednesday morning, April 16 to deliver an indictment for war crimes to the base commander, charging: 

"...the United States President, Barack Obama and the full House of Representatives to challenge the MQ-9 Reaper drone operations, could participate in the rally without being arrested for violating that order. A permitted march to the main gate followed the rally, and people named the charger or not to risk arrest by marching to the main gate. About half a dozen did so, and although no one was arrested that day, police acknowledged "pulling pictures" from their photo collection to be used to identify convicted or arrested protesters.

And while the legitimacy of the OOP itself is in doubt, one woman just convicted of violating it, Mary Anne Grady-Flowers, awaits sentencing on July 10. She faces a maximum of one year in jail.

On March 19, a New York State Supreme Court justice reversed the controversial Order of Protection (OOP) in the case of Daniel Finlay. Justice John Brunetti cited grave flaws with the order itself, but dismissed on habeas corpus grounds the action taken against Mr. Finlay after his arrest at the base on April 28, 2013. He was charged with trespassing, violating a booming voice at the base commander's workplace.

No court date has been set, and prosecution of such arrests at the NSA in the past has been uncommon. For more information, contact NCNR c/o Max Ozbuzewski, mobuzewski@verizon.net, 410-366-1637.

VOLK FIELD NATIONAL GUARD

Half a dozen people demonstrated outside the gates of Volk Field in Camp Douglas against a new drone operator training center there during the Wisconsin Air National Guard's annual open house on May 17. Bonnie Blomé and Fr. Jim Murphy boarded a bus onto the base, and began leafletting the passengers as they got off at the National Guard Museum. Their little flyer asked a few simple questions, beginning with "Would you have heightened anxiety if surveillance drones were flying over your community all day long?" and encouraged the reader to "Call your members of Congress and ask them to ground the drones before we become targets."

These small sheets of Socratic inquiry proved too much for base security, and when the two said they intended to continue passing them out, the sheriff's deputies were summoned. Within minutes the two were handcuffed and taken into town. Both were cited for trespass and disorderly conduct, then released with a court date of June 18.

For more information contact Joy First, joyfirst@ gmail.com.

A CodePink drone war resister is removed from the road at Creech Air Force Base, April 11, 2014

DRONE RESISTERS IN COURT

While the scenarios resulting in arrest at drone sites across the country are similar, recent protest prosecutions reveal varied responses in both state and federal courts.

HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Dr. Cornel West spoke in Syracuse on April 27 on the topic, "Connecting the Dots: Racism, Poverty and Drones," then joined the march to a rally behind a building in a parking lot adjoining the Hancock Air Base just outside Syracuse, New York. The rally site was positioned so that none of the protesters could see the base and no one on the base could see them. The line-of-sight agreement was reached between organizers of the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office so that any of more than 50 protesters who are restrained by an Order of Protection (OOP) granted to New York National Guard Colonel Earl A. Faison, commander of the MQ-9 Reaper drone operations, could participate in the rally without being arrested for violating that order. A permitted march to the main gate followed the rally, and people named the charger or not to risk arrest by marching to the main gate. About half a dozen did so, and although no one was arrested that day, police acknowledged "pulling pictures" from their photo collection to be used to identify convicted or arrested protesters.

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THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

June 2, 2014

continued on page 5

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END DRONE WARFARE, cont.
Vandenberg 1st Amendment Issue
Back at 9th Circuit

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected Dennis Apel’s appeal of his permanent ban and bar from Vandenberg Air Force Base. Ruling 9-0 on February 26 the court affirmed the narrow issue that the base commander has authority “to issue a warrant within the defined boundaries of a military base [and] those limits do not change when the commander invites the public to use a portion of the base for a road, a school, a bus stop, or a protest area.” And while the court explicitly did not address the free speech elements of Apel’s case, Justice Ginsburg, joined by Justice Sotomayor, wrote that it is “too speculative whether Apel’s ouster from the protest area can withstand constitutional review.” The case was sent back to the 9th Circuit which now has the opportunity to consider the First Amendment issue.

Apel returned to Vandenberg a week later for the monthly peace vigil, which this time coincided with Ash Wednesday. Apel and fellow protester Kelly St, who is also barred from the base due to previous protest convictions were handcuffed and taken from the protest zone, cited for trespass, then released off-base.

While reading to the Supreme Court ruling before he was arrested (see sidebar, below), on Friday, March 14, Apel was again arrested when he joined a protest at the gate on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Global Network Against Nuclear Power and the Samoan Nonviolent Action for Peaceful action from around the globe attended the three-day gathering.

Also identified and arrested at the demonstration was MacGregor Eddy and Eddy were both cited for trespass and released at an off-base location. Base security overlooked Fr. Kelly, who was also reportedly in attendance.

In federal court in San Francisco on May 15, Eddy’s and Kelly’s charges were dismissed. Apel was granted a postponement until July 17, a strategic move intended to position this case to follow his 9th Circuit Appeal on court calendars.

For more information, contact info@vandenbergwitness.org or visit vandenbergwitness.org.

RESISTERS IN COURT, cont.
continued from page 4

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE

In the face of more protest arrests at Beale Air Force Base, federal prosecutors in Sacramento appear to be prosecuting only repeat line-crossers. Trespass charges made last November against MacGregor Eddy, Michael Kerr and Flora Rogers – the first Beale arrest for each – were recently dismissed but prosecution of two-time Beale arrestee Shirley Osgood concluded with a bench trial on April 16.

Judge Dale Droid heard testimony and watched a video of her arrest from which he introduced into evidence by the prosecution. To his eye, the video seemed to contradict the testimony presented by both the defense and prosecution, stating that when Osgood was arrested on the shoulder of a road is not base property.

“I am not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt,” he concluded. “I will not convict Ms. Osgood of this misdemeanor charge.”

Osgood received a $232 fine. The base would have us believe that an act of civil resistance 13 years ago, namely spilling a few ounces of my blood on their sign 5 days before the illegal assault on Iraq, which spilled thousands of gallons of Iraqi blood across the country filled with the blood of our own children, just to state my First Amendment right to peacefully exercise my right to freedom of speech, would not change when the government which is carrying out those crimes begins to whittle away at its citizens’ rights.

The mission and purpose of this base are not as clean and honorable as the base’s public relations department would have us believe to lead us to believe the base is responsible for testing the delivery system for the most hideous and immoral weapon of mass destruction ever designed by humankind. This base is responsible for launching the satellites which make operational the drones our country uses to assassinate foes and innocent civilians alike in countries around the globe with no declaration of war or judicial oversight or accountability. This base is responsible for the continued irradiation of the Marshall Islands as every I.C.B.M. launched from this base carries in its warhead depleted uranium which it deposits in the lagoon and on the islands of Kwajalein Atoll. As if years of above-ground nuclear testing which irradiated the islands and people of the Marshall Islands were not enough.

As citizens of the most powerful nation on earth, we have an obligation to hold our government to the basic human standards of decency and respect for our global family. When our government is guilty of crimes against humanity, it is our obligation to take them to task.

But what happens when the government which is carrying out those crimes begins to whittle away at its citizens’ rights to dissent? Prior to one week ago today, any concerned citizen could legally stand along this public highway outside the fortified gate of this base and peacefully proclaim that the mission here is dishonorable. However, one week ago today the Supreme Court ceded authority to the commander of this base to exclude, for any reason, at any time, his or her discretion, any private citizen from this public highway – Highway 1, the Pacific Coast Highway – No Circuit Court or even the United States Supreme Court has ever interpreted any statute, let alone a trespassing statute, to allow such unrestrained power to be left in the hands of a military commander over private citizens. This ruling changes the meaning of freedom of speech in ways to null and hold our government accountable, and it is another step in the erosion of the constitutionally guaranteed rights which were put in place to secure our liberty.

From the loss of our privacy to the NSA, to the loss of our government to corporate interests, to the loss of free speech to the military, we are slowly and willingly giving up our freedoms. And even those who are sworn to protect those freedoms and who are fond of saying that we are free because of their sacrifice are now complicit in that loss. It is time to wake up and act like a democracy before it slips away from us.

Dennis Apel’s Statement on Ash Wednesday at Vandenberg Air Force Base

For nearly 18 years, along with other concerned citizens have held vigils and protests here at the front gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base. Since 2010 the base and the federal prosecutor’s office have waged a campaign to silence me and my fellow Beale activists who would hold the base and our government accountable for the crimes against humanity in which they are involved.

The base would have us believe that an act of civil resistance 13 years ago, namely spilling a few ounces of my blood on their sign 5 days before the illegal assault on Iraq, which spilled thousands of gallons of Iraqi blood across the country filled with the blood of our own children, just to state my First Amendment right to peacefully exercise my right to freedom of speech, would not change when the government which is carrying out those crimes begins to whittle away at its citizens’ rights.

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THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

Reprefing War on Ash Wednesday

While resisters knoel in prayer, a military policeman warns of their imminent arrest at Beale Air Force Base.

Beale Air Force Base

Christian clergy involved in the drone resistance campaign at Beale Air Force Base led an ecumenical morning demonstration there on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

The service included a call to faithfulness and action, songs, prayers, scripture, Holy Communion (open to all) and spreading ashes to symbolize repentance, human mortality and our interrelatedness with the whole web of life. It concluded with the arrest of five people who crossed the line, some carrying white crosses with drawings memorializing children killed by U.S. drones.

 Arrested were Rev. Sharon Delgado, Rev. Elizabeth Griswold, Flora Rogers, Michael Kerr and Reverend Dr. Jerry Peterson, retired Lutheran pastor who was a Marine on the U.S.S. Missouri when Japan surrendered.

For more information, visit occupybealeafb.org.

London

For 32 years Christians have gathered at the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in London on Ash Wednesday to call on the government to repent and move away from nuclear weapons. On March 5, about 100 people joined with the London Catholic Worker and members of Pax Christi and Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to protest a government policy to try and take part in symbolic acts of repentance and peacemaking as they processed, with three prayer stops, around the MOD building. They ended the day by approving the planned federal replacement of Trident, the United Kingdom’s quasi-independent nuclear program.

During their procession, three men marked the MOD building with crosses using charcoal and ash blessed at the beginning of the service. Only Scott Albrecht was arrested, pulled away by police after he managed to write a message on the MOD building.

On March 14, Fr. Martin Newell of the London Catholic Worker, who had marked the building on Ash Wednesday but was not arrested, returned to the MOD office and again wrote with charcoal on its walls: “Choose Life, No Trident, says God” and “God is Peace.”

Newell was held overnight and brought to the bench at Westminster Magistrates Court the next day. The Catholic priest has refused to pay fines totalling £565 from various peace and anti-nuclear actions over the past few years, stating reasons of faith and conscience. The judge said he had no option but to sentence Newell to 28 days in prison.

The priest said, “Jesus taught us to love not just our neighbors but also our enemies. He showed us his life and example how to resist evil not with violence but with love, peace and patience. For Jesus, this revolutionary patience on behalf of the poor and op pressed, that humanly speaking, led to him being arrested, tried, tortured and sentenced to death. Jesus taught us that.

“The acts of witness that resulted in the fines I have refused to pay were a form of conscientious objection. Refusing to pay them is a continuation of that objection. It is a privilege to be able to follow on the path that led Jesus to the way of the cross and resurrection.”

Newell was released after serving 14 days at HM Wandsworth. For more information, visit paxchristi.org.uk and www.londoncatholicworker.org.

June 2, 2014

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NEVADA NATIONAL SECURITY SITE

The Sacred Peace Walk concluded at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSN) on Good Friday, April 18. Walkers, numbering about 40 this year and from as far away as the Netherlands, took part in a morning ritual commemorating victims of war and nuclear technology.

Afterwards, they moved toward the gate, stopping at the cattle guard marking the boundary line. There, River Victor and Ming, both Council Members of Nevada Desert Experience (NDE), the group that organizes the annual trek, first took a step together into marriage. In a ceremony officiated by Western Shoshone National Council Chief Johnnie Bobb, they exchanged vows “as a sign of personal power to bless the enemies of the USA, rather than curse them.”

The couple met on the Sacred Peace Walk in 2011, and are committed to the end of drone warfare and a nuclear-free future. As soon as their wedding concluded, the newlyweds crossed into the nuclear test site to protest nuclear weapons and urge their prompt abolition. They were followed by 18 more men and women. The happy couple were the first to be cited for trespass and released. A wedding reception followed at the Temple of the Goddess Sekhmet in Cactus Springs.

For more information, visit NevadaDesertExperience.org or 702-646-4814.

Sadly, after hosting the weekend-long CodePink vigil at Creech Air Force Base and then the Sacred Peace Walk, the statue of Sekhmet was stolen sometime overnight April 18-19 from the temple. A reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the thief.

For more information visit www.sekhmettemple.com.

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE

About 40 people participated in all or part of a Holy Week Stations of the Cross walk through the base of military facilities in the Hampton Roads, Virginia region. The Norfolk Catholic Worker coordinated the six-day, 53-mile Stations of the Cross, which visited 12 military bases, an army recruiting center, and a Lockheed-Martin facility as the 14 stations.

At each military station, walkers remembered the crucifixion of Jesus, the crucifixion of humanity in war, and the President’s call to disarmament, nonviolence, and peacemaking.

The pilgrimage ended on Good Friday at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, part of the drone warfare network. There, six people attempted to deliver a letter to the base commander addressing the illegality of drone warfare, and to block the gate going into the base with banners reading “Drones Crucify Christ” and “No War, No Drones, Love One Another.” All six were taken into custody on base property, handcuffed and removed from the base.

Russell DeYoung, Bill Frankel-Streit, Sr. Carol Gilbert and Joan Wages were released after processing, and told they would be notified of federal charges via U.S. mail. Mary Jane Parrine, Ed Ehmeke and Fr. Steve Kelly SJ were cuffsed and held by the Sunnyvale police. Parrine was charged with trespass and released pending a June 4 court date in Santa Clara. Ehmeke and Kelly were held over Easter weekend and were released without charges near midnight on Tuesday, April 22.

Ehmeke and Parrine were both told by their federal probation officer that their arrest was being reported as a violation to authorizes in Washington State, where the two had attended last October in federal court for crossing the line at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor. They have not heard from the Washington court.

For more information, visit wevigil.org.

Lockheed-Martin/Sunnyvale

Fifty people observed Good Friday with liturgy and witness at Lockheed-Martin’s aerospace facility. After the Stations of the Cross, three people walked up to the main gate. Fr. Daniel Doughty handed over a candle to a federal officer that their arrest was being reported as a violation to authorities in Washington State, where the two had attended last October in federal court for crossing the line at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor. They have not heard from the Washington court.

For more information, visit www.sekhmettemple.com.

Lockheed-Martin/Pennsylvania

One of this year’s traditional Good Friday peace protests drew particular attention to the growing role of Lockheed-Martin, the #1 global war proiller, in drone war and spying technology. This includes both Lockheed-Martin’s production of remotely piloted aircraft and the Hellfire missiles launched from armed drones, as well as the many space-based satellites that enable warriors to fight overseas from stateside safety.

The community of resisters returned to town for a final protest at the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration field office in North Las Vegas. Several people entered the office to speak with people inside, while others picketed out front and hung banners on the signs at the road. A printed statement was attached to the banner, which read: “We call for an end to all nuclear weapons, nuclear power, and memorializing the downwind victims of nuclear testing in the Pacific and at the Nevada site, and of the ongoing nuclear catastrophe at Fukushima, Japan. Some protesters spoke with the head of public relations before leaving, to share their concerns.

For more information, visit pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com.

At the sprawling King of Prussia, Pennsylvania campus of the Lockheed Martin/Boeing company, Brandywine Peace Community observed the Stations of the Cross, planting crosses and tolling a bell for the victims of war and the domestic casualties of the war economy. Nine people then blocked the driveway. Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Genie and William Durland, Rev. Barry Kroeker, Tom Mulligan, Rev. David Peppert, Paul Sheldon, Rev. Francis McCone and Robert M. Smith were arrested and cited for disorderly conduct.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com/events or call 610-544-1818.

PLC Does Vegas!

Over the first weekend in March, about 60 people took part in the 8th annual gathering of the Pacific Life Community (PLC). This year the group met at the Las Vegas, Nevada Catholic Worker hotel.

The PLC is largely comprised of peace activists motivated strongly by their religious faith to engage in and support civil resistance at locations across the American nuclear weapons complex. This year, attendees ranging in age from their 20s to their 80s came from Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and even Maine and New York to learn from and support each other, break bread and protest together.

Some rose before dawn on Saturday, March 8 to travel 45 minutes away for a protest at Creech Air Force Base, a major drone training and pilot base in Indian Springs. On Sunday, the group held another early morning vigil at Nellis Air Force Base outside of Las Vegas, once a major nuclear weapons storehouse with an unknown number of warheads still on site.

The group rose early again on Monday, March 10 to travel to the Mercury gate of the nuclear weapons testing grounds northwest of Las Vegas, now known as the Nevada National Security Site. An ecumenical liturgy incorporated the buring of the ashes of Peter Edger, Mennonite minister, poet and anti-nuclear activist who died two years ago.

The group then proceeded to the cattle gate crossing on the entry road that marks the NNSS boundary, where Nye County sheriff’s deputies were waiting. Over the next 30 minutes, 34 people crossed the line. They were eventually arrested and held in the large holding pens built more than 25 years ago when thousands came and crossed onto the site to demand an end to nuclear weapons testing. All 34 were issued citations and released a short time later without further consequence.

The community of resisters returned to town for a final protest at the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration field office in North Las Vegas. Several people entered the office to speak with people inside, while others picketed out front and hung banners on the signs at the road. A printed statement was attached to the banner, which read: “We call for an end to all nuclear weapons, nuclear power, and memorializing the downwind victims of nuclear testing in the Pacific and at the Nevada site, and of the ongoing nuclear catastrophe at Fukushima, Japan. Some protesters spoke with the head of public relations before leaving, to share their concerns.

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Locked Out of Justice

Members of the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR) first brought a criminal complaint against senior staff at Lockheed Martin, CIA Director John Brennan, and others at the CIA who are involved in the drone program to the U.S. Attorney’s office in Alexandria, Virginia last May when Neil MacBride held the office of U.S. Attorney. After numerous attempts to follow-up on the complaint, no action was apparently taken. A copy of the criminal complaint was sent to the new U.S. Attorney Dana Boente in mid-March.

On March 25, six members of NCNR followed up at the U.S. Attorney’s office in person to demand action as drone attacks continue to murder innocent people around the world. NCNR, along with drone resisters taking action across the U.S., maintains that the Obama administration and the CIA drone program are in violation of U.S. and international law.

When the six activists arrived at the U.S. Attorney’s office at 11:00 a.m., they discovered the doors to the public building were locked. A uniformed security officer came out and told them that they would not be allowed into the building.

Then a plainclothes security officer from the U.S. Attorney’s office came out to speak to them. He acknowledged that the doors were locked specifically to keep the activists out. Other members of the public were let into the building while the officer spoke with the activists. No lawyer said that they had received the complaint and U.S. Attorney Boente would take it under advisement. After several minutes of dialogue, the nonviolent activists left the area.

Malachy Kilbridge from Arlington, Virginia explained, “We tried to give voice to the victims of drone violence and their families by going to government officials responsible for drone violence, but what we encountered was the U.S. government legal system that is literally shutting out those who want to report serious crimes and accept their responsibilities under the law.”

The National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance will not give up in their pursuit of this matter. They can be contacted via Max Obszusewski, mobuszewski@verizon.net.
Greetings my friends, relatives, supporters, and all those who support the cause of freedom, not only for Native Americans but for all people of the Earth.

I know it’s sometimes not easy being involved and staying involved, so for all of you that have done just that, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart to the top of my soul. We need more people all over the world who not only care about the freedom of others, but who care about our future generations and what kind of Earth we leave behind.

I know there are prophecies and predictions and beliefs that predict the end times of life as we know it, and I want to say to you that all of these things that have been said are for our benefit so that we may choose a different path. All over the world there are people who seek to serve God or the Creator or the Great Spirit in the things that they do. We are all children of that other ghoulish spirit; our greatest enemy throughout the world is gluttony, people wanting and taking more than they need.

I am not in this prison for anything that I did wrong. I am in this prison because I was a part of a people that sought to try to make a change. I am in this prison as a statement by the corporation controlled government forces that want to say, “Give up your resources, give up your freedom, don’t stand against us.” That is their message in keeping me in here.

I want to tell you sincerely, this is not an easy place to be. It is a terrible place to be, but when I chose to answer the call along with my people, many of us took a vow to stand up even unto death if necessary. Some were shot and killed and their lives were taken immediately. My life has been taken one day at a time. But if I had it all to do over again I would still choose to stand up for my people and our future generations to protect our freedoms and our Mother Earth, and in doing that I am honored that you remember me. I want to thank you for that remembrance and of all those before me, and the ones now that do the same and know that there will be others in the future.

I can’t tell you that these choices will always make you feel good. I can’t tell you that these choices won’t hurt or cause moments of depression or sorrow, but I can tell you that there is a closeness with the Creator that is unlike any good feeling you could ever know anywhere else, a closeness with the Creator that no one can take away, and makes it all worth it. I am saying these things at this time because I get a lot of letters and communications now from groups around the country that are facing crisis within their organizations in trying to stop these pollutions and destructions. As I have in the past, I want to encourage you to do your best to do what is right and right what is wrong and protect what we have and regain what we have lost.

I want to thank you for your support and I want you to know that I will do all I can so walk this earth and have some say, myself and this committee will do the best we possibly can to always do what is right. In the Spirit of Crazy Horse

Most sincerely,
Leonard Peltier

Mitukey Oyasin

[Leonard Peltier is serving two life sentences, wrongly convicted for the 1975 death of two FBI agents while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.]
The first indictment against Dhafir contained 14 charges related to the Iraq sanctions. Later, when Dhafir refused to accept a plea agreement, the government piled on more charges and, after a lengthy trial, he was found guilty on 59 counts violating federal regulations related to economic sanctions imposed against Iraq. Middle Eastern countries such as those he had donated to. HTN was never released. Held without bail for 19 months before trial, this greatly impeded his ability to prepare his defense.

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OLD NUKES?  NEW NUKES?  NO NUKES!

VERMONT YANKEE

“We wanted to do something fun and positive,” said Nancy First, 84, of Northampton, Massachusetts, a member of the Shut It Down affinity group. Dressed in their colorful hand-painted shirts with signs encouraging green jobs and green energy, ten women from the group held green balloons and waved as children and their parents exited Vernon Elementary School on March 19. One sign said “Confronting the Nuclear Lies” with a finger pointing in the direction of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant on a mile-long marching route.

Many parents and children waved enthusiastically. After school was out, the women moved their demonstration to the gates of the nuclear power plant where they blocked the gate, tied their balloons to the fence and held signs. Vernon Police Officer Matthew Stains arrested them for trespass.

Booked at the station and released were Anneke Corbett, Frances Crowe, Nancy First, Marcia Gagliardi, Ellen Graves, Connie Harvard, Susan Lantz, Ulrike von Moltke, Hattie Nestel and Judy Wolter (ages 65-95).

With a Mothers’ Day message to love Mother Earth, the women were back on May 9. Visiting CodePink co-founder Medea Benjamin joined their persistent call to shut down the aging reactor. It was pouring rain, so the twelve women stood in front of the locked plant gate with balloons, banners and umbrellas. Vernon police officer Albrey Crowley single-handedly transported the arrested by threes and fours to the nearby Vernon Police Station.

Cited and released were Medea Benjamin, Anneke Corbett, Frances Crowe, Nancy First, Marcia Gagliardi, Ellen Graves, Jean Grossholdz, Susan Lantz, Priscilla Lynch, Hattie Nestel and Linda Pon Owen (ages 61-95). There is strong precedent for not prosecuting these cases, but change may come: the Vernon townspeople voted the previous Monday to terminate its police department as of July 1.

Thanks to Marcia Gagliardi for her reports.

For more information, contact Shut It Down, c/o haley. antique@verizon.net.

PILGRIM

Four women, three of whom were recently convicted of trespass at the Pilgrim Station nuclear power plant in Massachusetts, were arrested on Mother’s Day. They tried to enter the “aging death factory” with potted flowers, “to show them what a plant looks like, it’s full of life and color.”

Susan Carpenter, Mary Conathan, Sarah Thacher and Diane Turco were taken to jail and charged with trespass, then released. They have a pre-trial hearing on July 31, but were not ordered to stay away from the Pilgrim station as previous arrestees have been.

The new arrests came after a dozen members of Cape Downwinders were in Plymouth district court for two spring 2013 nuclear power protests at the site, when they tried to deliver a letter calling for the plant’s closure. The Pilgrim plant sits south of Boston on the west side of Cape Cod Bay, and in the event of a major radiation release, the plume and evacuation zone would encompass the two bridges leading to and from the Cape and make retreat from the area impossible, particularly in summer.

Judge Beverly Cammone allowed them to present a defense of necessity, so their four-day trial included a series of expert witnesses. Four defense attorneys were joined in the opening statements by two pro-se defendants. The prosecution presented a straightforward case alleging trespass.

On the second day of trial the defense began its case. Expert evidence came first from epidemiologist Dr. Steven Nathanson addressed the historical context of civil disobedience as a tool for creating change. Having exhausted other avenues, such as regulatory and legislative, he said the defendants were justified in using civil disobedience to raise awareness of the reactor as an imminent danger. Massachusetts State Senator Dan Wolf testified about his efforts to protect his constituents on the Cape and nearby islands, and that he had tried every available means himself, without success, to lessen the danger should a catastrophic accident strike the plant.

As part of her closing argument, pro-se defendant Diane Turco, co-founder of Cape Downwinders, derided the emergency evacuation plan’s “shelved in place” directive for stranded Cape residents and visitors because it “really means ‘Sit down, shut up, and eat your cussin.’” She said that Cape Cod is not America’s “collateral damage”, and asked that the NRC “remove the threat, and not the people.” She concluded, “We will not be radiation refugees. It was Entergy which refused to take our letter. So we refused to leave. We were not trespassing. We were entering a crime scene.”

Although the judge did not accept their defense of necessity, he agreed with some of their arguments, sentencing them to a day, time served, for their several hours in custody on the island nation escalated rapidly when Lin Yi-huing, former chairperson of the main opposition DPP party, began a hunger strike in front of the President’s office on Earth Day, April 22 over the government’s refusal to call a referendum on the construction of the new reactor, which is nearly complete. Opinion polls show up to 70% of the population oppose operating the two-reactor plant.

The size of street demonstrations grew with each passing day of his fast, with marchers rejecting a government counter-offer to finish line construction first and only then hold a referendum about whether to operate the plant or not. By Sunday, April 27 more than 50,000 people turned out to protest, many joining a sit-in on one of Taipei’s busiest avenues and promising not to leave until the government stopped construction.

The long-ruling Koumintang (KMT) party leaders held urgent talks around the country, and that afternoon the party announced that the government had agreed to halt construction. But it was not a government announcement, so demonstrators occupying the road in front of the main rail station rejected the deal and remained after their permit to demonstrate expired at midnight.

More than a thousand remained seated in their raincoats, arms locked, anticipating what was to come. Police moved in with water cannon before 3 a.m., ordered to clear the roads before Monday rush hour. Dozens of people were injured and up to eleven arrests were reported.

Lin ended his fast on April 30, not yet satisfied with the government response acknowledging the “unprecedented, touching and admirable” struggle of millions of Taiwanese over the preceding weeks that led to the halt in construction.

TURKEY

The Nuclear Engineers Society of Turkey hosted a Nuclear Power Plants Summit in Istanbul on May 30-31 to promote the nascent national industry. Turkey has a joint reactor project signed with Russia and another with France and Japan, but construction has not begun on either.

Greenpeace Mediterrane invited themselves to the summit’s opening day, hacking into the wireless network of the hotel hosting the event to link guest users to the Greenpeace message.

Activists also climbed on the roof above the hotel entrance and displayed signs and a banner in Turkish and English that declared Nukleer Felaket Burada Başlıyor (Nuclear Disaster Starts Here). Another group rappelled down from a balcony six floors up, briefly unfurling a giant banner with the same Turkish slogan before hotel security and police came and took them. Nine people were arrested and taken into custody.

For more information, visit greenpeace.org/turkey

TAIWAN

The political fallout from the Fukushima nuclear catastrophe descended heavily on Taiwan in April. Popular opposition to a fourth nuclear power plant on the island nation escalated rapidly when Lin Yi-huing, former chairperson of the main opposition DPP party, began a hunger strike in front of the President’s office on Earth Day, April 22 over the government’s refusal to call a referendum on the construction of the new reactor, which is nearly complete. Opinion polls show up to 70% of the population oppose operating the two-reactor plant.

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The next day, Dr. Gordon Thompson testified about voluminous state-sponsored research into the catastrophic impact of a Fukushima-like event affecting the spent fuel cooling pools at Pilgrim, packed tighter than original design specifications and estimated to hold even more radioactivity than those at the Japanese reactors. Mary Thompson, founder of Pilgrim Watch, testified about the design of the reactor, placement of the spent fuel rods, deficient emergency planning and the impact of the plant on Cape Cod Bay.

On the final day of testimony, philosophy professor Dr. Steven Nathanom addressed the historical context of civil disobedience as a tool for creating change. Having exhausted other avenues, such as regulatory and legislative, he said the defendants were justified in using civil disobedience to raise awareness of the reactor as an imminent danger. Massachusetts State Senator Dan Wolf testified about his efforts to protect his constituents on the Cape and nearby islands, and that he had tried every available means himself, without success, to lessen the danger should a catastrophic accident strike the plant.

As part of her closing argument, pro-se defendant Diane Turco, co-founder of Cape Downwinders, derided the emergency evacuation plan’s “shelved in place” directive for stranded Cape residents and visitors because it “really means ‘Sit down, shut up, and eat your cussin.’“ She said that Cape Cod is not America’s “collateral damage”, and asked that the NRC “remove the threat, and not the people.” She concluded, “We will not be radiation refugees. It was Entergy which refused to take our letter. So we refused to leave. We were not trespassing. We were entering a crime scene.”

Although the judge did not accept their defense of necessity, he agreed with some of their arguments, sentencing them to a day, time served, for their several hours in custody on the day of their arrest. None were ordered to stay away from the Pilgrim plant site.

On Memorial Day, Cape Downwinders stretched out along the traffic-filled approach to Sagamore Bridge with signs and banners that elicited honks and cheers of support from the vacationing masses: “No Escape From the Cape – Close Pilgrim.”

For more information, visit cappedownwinders.org.
The purpose of the action was to make the invitation-only attendees walk through “blood.” This was entirely appropriate: the arms industry thrives on wars in which innocent people are killed as a matter of routine.

We may not have caused too big a headache for the event’s organizers. But we certainly drew attention to how the EDA, an official European Union institution, is trying to corrupt a watchdog industry on an industry that deserves to be revisited.

For more information, visit www.vredesactie.be.

**RAF Croughton**

The ever-ready Linda Percy of the Campaign Against Arms Bases South England blogged on March 27 at blogs.euobserver.com:

“WHISTLE BLOWERS URGENTLY NEEDED”

written on its stripes, and stood briefly in front of cars as they stopped and exited the base. As an electronic communications center, Croughton plays a central role in the National Security Agency’s mass surveillance program and U.S. drone warfare.

**BELGIUM**

**Sussex**

**JAEGYU**

susannefellow.org:

If you want to support the ongoing resistance and payment of fines for those who cannot afford them should be made payable to the Global Network, with “Jeju” in the memo line, and donations can also be made online at donatenow.networkforgood.org/Space4Peace.

**Gangjeong Village**

April 2014 issue of Peace News (UK):

Early on March 19, I was arrested on board HMS Ambush hunter-killer submarine inside Faslane naval base (which houses Britain’s Trident nuclear missile submarines) along with fellow peace camper James Watson.

We set off a couple of hours previously with a ladder, carpet and boltcutters and no expectation of getting through the outer fences. I’m still amazed we got as far as we did.

Nobody had got inside the base for months, so our action was viewed as taking the contractors were right so we decided to go for it. After a long, muddy walk we reached the appointed spot and rather grudgingly climbed over the razor-wire-topped fence – with the help of the ladder and boltcutters. The carpet helped us smurf the three coils of razor wire inside. …We were in.

Being natural pessimists, we hadn’t spent very long at all considering this eventuality. It seemed logical to head downhill towards the most interesting part of the base.

We somehow found the pedestrian entrance to the

**Jeju Island**

The longest-serving political prisoner in the epic struggle to stop the first navy base being built on Jeju, the Peace Island of South Korea, was released from prison just after midnight on April 17.

Yang Yoon-Mo was freed after 435 days, the fourth and longest time behind bars for the Jeju native and noted film critic.

He emerged to the cheers of 100 supporters, eating the traditional first food in freedom of raw tofu before hugging those gathered. Yang took a microphone and shouted to the crowd, “Absolutely no naval base!” He told everyone that he plans to live for four years of protest, sharing, despite your desperate struggle, that I, who am insufficient, could get by daily. This is how I am able to return back to you healthy and with a stronger will after my prison life… I once ignorantly thought that as time went by the odds would grow against our struggle. But in prison, I realized that time is on our side.”

Yang reported receiving letters from 30 countries during his imprisonment, a show of international solidarity that greatly encouraged him. He declared his renewed commitment to the campaign to make Jeju the Demilitarized Peace Island.

Since 2007, residents of Jeju’s coastal Gungeungs village have led the campaign of sustained nonviolent resistance to the navy base. They refuse to give in, even when two years ago construction blasted most of Gureombi, the unique lava rock at the coast with its distinctive shape.

NATO’s next summit in Newport, South Wales this summer could bring out the largest protests in that country in a generation (see Future Actions, page 11). At the agenda-setting “Post-2014 Strategic Narrative Conference” on March 17 at Winston House, a stately mansion in London, anti-militarist hug banners to greet the delegates and blockaded the front entrance for more than an hour. Traffic was snarled on the A283 and police escorted cars into the conference by a back gate, where police arrested one person.

The conference’s official website describes it planning the “elements of a proactive communications strategy to support NATO’s 2014 strategic narrative and validation of the utility of military force to member state politicians and publics.”

A spokeswoman for Smash EDO, the direct action anti-trade group behind the protest, said: “Some of us have visited regions that have been targeted by NATO. We have seen buildings devastated by bombings and we have met local people who have lost friends and family. We oppose the development of nuclear weapons and the media of people from countries that are the victims of NATO’s invasions.”

**Faslane Naval Base**

Faslane Peace Camper Heather Stewart writes in the April 2014 issue of Peace News (UK):

“Jeju” in the memo line, and also to Sung-Hee Choi and Reverend Bora Yeo-ok Yang, Jungmin Oh Cheol-Geun, Prisoner No. 32, Nambu Correctional Service, P.O. Box 165, Geumcheon Post Office, Seoul, Korea.

Contributions to support the ongoing resistance and payment of fines for those who cannot afford them should be made payable to the Global Network, with “Jeju” in the memo line, and also to Sung-Hee Choi and Reverend Bora Yeo-Ok Yang for the Jeju base and to James Watson for the Government, “If you want us, come get us.” That day three people, Yeok-oy Yang, Jungmin Oh and Reverend Bora Yeo-ok turned themselves in rather than pay 2,000,000 KRW fines. They each

Many thanks to Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon and Eunmi Pang for the beautiful calligraphy and wood carving that now hang in the Nuclear Resister office, and also to Sang-Hye Choi for all that she did to help make this happen!

I was arrested shortly before Fr. Mun was arrested with three others on April 7 and jailed for two days for blocking a cement truck at the naval base construction site on Jeju Island. He told a supporter in the jail’s visiting room, “I feel the people on the Earth community are of one family.”

After half an hour, Percy was confronted by agitated military police who demanded she stand in a certain spot. As she was on public land, she refused and cited High Court precedent for standing in front of the exiting cars. Unconvinced, the arresting officer read out a citation for aggravated trespass, told Percy to leave and then immediately arrested her. She was handcuffed and taken to the police station in Northampton. Percy was released hours later with a summons for a bail hearing on May 9. At that hearing she was told she was “reported with a view to prosecution.”

For more information, visit caab.org.uk

**Sussex**

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submarine docks without seeing anyone. Unfortu-
nately the turnstiles were locked. The guard on one
side didn’t even wake up and the guard on the other
side asked for my open gate. The guard saw us but all we had to do
was keep walking, and we were halfway along the
Astute jetty before the bandit alarm sounded. Five
minutes later, we were finally arrested on the deck
of the submarine. The police had not even bothered to
ring the bell, watch the police boat arrive and wonder how it had
all happened. We were charged with malicious mischief, by-laws
offences and offences under the Serious Organised
Crime and Police Act. We were held for court but
eventually released without appearing after nearly
33 hours in custody.
NORMANDY, FRANCE: Out of more than 100 people who took part in a symbolic action in March, 2012 against property seizures in the path of a high-voltage line for nuclear-generated electricity in Normandy, only three were brought to court on suspicion of damaging a construction site. Asserting their innocence, all refused to surrender DNA samples or fingerprints as part of the investigation. Their refusal prompted an entirely separate round of state action threatening a €15,000 fine and one year in prison. At a hearing in January, the court challenged the legitimacy of the effort, noting that the prosecutor’s file had no evidence to support the original charge. Two defendants testified they believe they were targeted because they had dark skinned peoples in foreign nations by our military is suffering inflicted on the nation of Pakistan by the U.S. and its allies, including Australia... I am here to accept [the consequences]. And I would just conclude by saying that it is common practice to see a guilty plea as a sign of remorse. Please understand that in this instance that is not the case.” The men refused the sympathetic judge’s offer of a good-behaviour bond. Rolles told him, “I can’t do this in good conscience – if the government goes into the full knowledge that I risked penalties for my actions. Looking at the highest potential penalties for the charges I am faced with, they are insignificant compared with the suffering inflicted on the nation of Pakistan by the U.S. and its allies, including Australia... I am here to accept [the consequences]. And I would just conclude by saying that it is common practice to see a guilty plea as a sign of remorse. Please understand that in this instance that is not the case.” The men refused the sympathetic judge’s offer of a good-behaviour bond. 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