A single mother and Iraq war veteran has been in jail in Colorado Springs, Colorado since her arrest in Oregon on August 27. Sara Beining went AWOL a second time last summer after a near two-year-long delay in resolving the original charge that resulted when she left her unit at Ft. Hood, Texas for reasons of conscience in January, 2007. Her court martial on two counts of desertion is now scheduled for December 9 at Fort Carson, Colorado.

On September 14, 2013, Beining was stopped for a traffic offense and held on the outstanding military warrants more than six years ago. She and her newlywed husband had together walked away from war service. She was briefly jailed, then given a plane ticket and orders to report back to Fort Carson, Colorado, where, she said, “I tried for another year to play the game” and be quietly processed out of the army as many other recent military refusals have been. But in her absence without leave, Beining had given birth to a daughter in September, 2008 and become an outspoken opponent of war. She and her husband were later divorced, and on August 27, 2014 he was arrested for going AWOL, held three months at Fort Carson, and then discharged.

At the time of Sara Beining’s latest arrest, she was serving as secretary on the board of directors of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

During her past year at Fort Carson, Beining was assigned office duty and lived off-base. But as a consequence of her anti-war activity, she was repeatedly threatened with pretrial confinement and loss of custody of her child. Progress on her case was only stalled.

As the summer wore on, and the U.S. restated aerial bombardment of Iraq, Beining could no longer abide her service nor the delay. She decided to go AWOL again, to speak out publicly against the war, and force the government’s hand in her case.

Beining left her assignment in July and headed to Portland, Oregon. She gave her field an interview that aired August 15 on Veteran’s Voice, a KBOO-FM community radio public affairs program. She was arrested in Portland on August 27, taken into custody on the military warrant, and returned to the El Paso County Jail in Colorado Springs.

In the radio interview, Beining described a positive, formative experience in JROTC, her chosen alternative to gym class in high school. Her 2004 enlistment at age 17 grew from a desire to serve and to experience more of the military classroom she vowed to support when she joined the army.

But her service in Army intelligence in Iraq from September 2005 through November 2006 left her with serious doubts that it was even possible to uphold the values she vowed to support when she joined the army. She compiled daily casualty reports and reviewed video surveillance of combat in Baghdad, repeatedly witnessing death and carnage but powerless to help in any way.

“We did this oath, to swear to ‘uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic’,” she told listeners. “And the longer I was in Iraq, the more I realized that we weren’t really doing anything to defend our own constitution. I was in intelligence. There were no weapons of mass destruction. The worst that was happening there was for weapons that was the depleted uranium in southern Iraq. Most Iraq women gave birth to children, and the first thing people would ask is, ‘Is it normal?’ because there were so many birth defects due to depleted uranium. So many soldiers have symptoms of radiation poisoning and sickness. We weren’t helping our country over there, without a doubt.”

This past summer, watching the news from Iraq and seeing the effects of militarism across the globe coming home to roost in places like Ferguson, Missouri, Beining came to the conclusion, “I can’t be part of that. As sad as it is, the world’s reinforcing my decision.”

In November, her civilian attorney James Brauman wrote, “A sealed plea deal is in place, so Sara will be...Twenty-five hundred human rights activists braved the rainstorms on Sunday, November 23 to converge at Fort Benning for the annual SOA Watch vigil and action calling for an end to militarized state violence in the U.S. and abroad. The stage program featured presenters from Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Venezuela and the U.S.

A solemn funeral procession followed, commemorating those murdered at the hands of Fort Benning’s School of the Americas/WHINSEC graduates, including the two women and six Jesuit priests who were massacred in 1989 at the University of Central America in El Salvador, as well as activists from Honduras, Mexico and Colombia killed earlier this year.

Eve Tetar, an 83-year-old author, veteran peace and justice activist and retired public schoolteacher from Washington D.C., crossed the line onto Fort Benning in solitary nonviolent witness at 9 a.m., and carried with her a poster of one of the 43 students disappeared in Ayotzinapa, Mexico this September, and the prophetic verse, “they shall beat their swords into plowshares.”

After the procession concluded, Nashua Chantal, a 62-year-old human rights defender from America, carried a ladder to the fence and climbed over onto base property. It was the third arrest at Fort Benning for Chantal, who previously served a three-month sentence in 2005 and six months in 2013 for crossing the line.

Tetar and Chantal were cited for trespass and released pending arraignment in federal court on January 13.

Five people were arrested outside the White House on September 25 after officials at the gate refused to accept their letter to President Obama that called for an end to the bombing of Iraq and Syria and for concrete policy shifts away from drone warfare. Their action formally launched Campaign Nonviolence, a long-term movement promoted by the Christian pacifist organization Peace e Bene, “to build a culture of peace by mainstreaming active nonviolence – and by joining with people, organizations, and movements everywhere in the long-term nonviolent struggle to abolish war, end poverty, reverse climate change, and challenge all violence.”

To dramatize the impact of the bombing that began that day, the group engaged in a die-in on the driveway and refused to move away, leading to their arrest for “inacommoding.” Cited were Campaign Nonviolence Co-coordinator Fr. John Dear, David Barrows, JoAnne Lingle, Alice Sutter and Lorna VanderZamden. They were taken to a nearby police station where each posted a $50 forfeiture bond, and were released a few hours later.

There were more than 200 Campaign Nonviolence actions and events across the U.S. during the last week of September, and arrests were also reported at actions in Nevada and California.

A three-day gathering tied to the campaign, Justice for Our Desert, was hosted by Nevada Desert Experience from September 20–22. The weekend retreat addressed four issues of environmental and social justice in Nevada: continued sub-critical nuclear bomb tests at the Nevada National Security (nuclear testing) Site; drone war operations at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs; recent developments in Geneva regarding justice for the Shoshone people who were land taken for the nuclear test site; and commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the closing of the former Soviet Union’s nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan, brought about by a Chornobyl popular movement that took inspiration from the nonviolent resistance at the Nevada Test Site in the 1980s and named itself the Nevada-Semipalatinsk Movement.

On Sunday, following an interfaith liturgy, ten people crossed the line to enter the test site, and were arrested...
Resistance Reflections

by Michele Naaz-Obed

It was a rough start for our family. When Greg did this plowshares action, we were living in one of the Catholic Worker houses in Duluth and that community did not support Greg’s witness. Shortly before Greg went to trial and while he was in Tennessee preparing for trial, the community asked me to pack up our family’s belongings and leave. It felt like my sense of stability and safety was pulled out from under me and my family. The thought that a community we spent so many years with was taking a different direction and that we no longer fit, hurt tremendously. This difference of direction was a year in the making and probably was going to happen anyway, however, the timing couldn’t have been worse. The energy that I needed to support the action was drastically diminished.

Then God’s providence came through and the wider Catholic Worker movement both nationally and internationally stepped forward to embrace the Transform Now Plowshares and offered support for Greg and us. The Vets for Peace stepped forward and embraced us as did the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica here in Duluth. The Sisters told us that this action is valued, it is needed, it is Spirit led and it is, in fact, pleasing in God’s eye. When my Christian Peace Team in Iraqi Kurdistan found out about the witness, they embraced us and many of my Kurdish friends wrote letters of support during and after the trial. All of this validation helped me pour my life’s energy that I needed to support the action was drastically diminished.

Then God’s providence came through again. I am part of the Hildergard Catholic Worker House, a new Catholic Worker community focusing on providing hospitality for women, children, and all those who need a welcoming, loving and healing environment to heal. I was welcomed into a family and felt as if I was part of something significant.

As time went on, guys have been teaching me about the problems here. Initially, the Minnesota section of Minnesota explained that the dining hall tables were assigned by inmates to different states or regions. I was led to sit at the tables with those who were seated at the Northland section. A short time later, some of the Christians in my unit urged me to sit at the four tables set aside for Christians or anyone who was rejected from their state tables. I switched from the Northland section to the integrated section and seat that we cannot stand by the tables. We must take a seat elsewhere or throw our food away and leave. When this happened to me, twice I went to sit at the white Northland table. It wasn’t a problem the first time. But the second time I was asked where I was from and I answered that I had been born in Duluth.

After a while, I realized that the Minnesota tables were set for everyone but the white Northland section and sit at the Christian section which is the only integrated area. The dining hall is huge, with more than 125 tables. Some inmates comment that this segregation is like a “black iron” and “white iron” that is also said to apply to seats in the recreation yard and in areas where I sat were restricted to white Northlanders. I have heard of a death of a Vietnam veteran who sat at the predominantly black table and was beaten to death by guards. Other inmates have been beaten by guards and have been put in solitary confinement.

I am grateful for the opportunity of emotional and spiritual support Rachel and I receive from so many people. I am grateful when reminded that our lives as individuals and as a family come together to help us walk through these difficult times. I am grateful for the bigger circle of humanity.

If one understands an angel to be a helpful stranger, it would not be far from the truth. Twice I’ve heard an account of how inmates in a fiery furnace come to mind. I have had the good fortune of being assigned to live in one of the cell blocks with 100 inmate youths in a fiery furnace come to mind. I have had the good fortune of being assigned to live in one of the cell blocks with 100 inmate youths.
HANCOCK AIR BASE DRONE RESISTERS IN COURT

It surprised everyone in court when Mark Colville was sentenced on December 3 to one year of conditional release, a $1000 fine, $255 court costs and ordered to give a DNA sample to New York state. At a meeting with Judge Robert Jokl and the prosecutor immediately before his September 19 trial, Colville, a Catholic Worker from Connecticut, refused the maximum sentence if he were to be convicted.

"Why?" he asked. "Because I think you deserve it," replied the judge.

Colville was arrested in December 2013 at Hancock Field in Rome, N.Y., by a DeWitt, New York town court jury on five charges: obstructing governmental administration, trespass and two counts of disorderly conduct.

The fifth charge was contempt of court for violating the court’s controversial Order of Protection (OP) granted to the base commander “to keep the protesters away from my property,” Jokl told the court. Dozens of others have also been served the OP after their first arrest. Last summer, the only other town court judge sentenced Mary Grady Flory to one year in prison after she unknowingly violated the OP. She is out on appeal. The OP was not renewed as part of Colville’s sentence.

On October 1, the same Judge Jokl had sentenced Jack Gilroy to jail for a $1,000 fine for trespass and obstructing government administration during an April, 2013 mock funeral procession to the base. The 79-year-old retired teacher and Veteran for Peace member told the court, “It’s time for our justice system to identify the real criminals … and to do away with the obsession with our military.”

William Walli also received a sentence for base camp entry and set up a Dyson 3500 German-made vacuum cleaner to challenge the OP.

"Why?" he asked. "Because I think you deserve it," Judge Robert Jokl told the court.

On December 3, at his sentencing, Colville also condemned the court.

"The drone base within your jurisdiction is part of a military/intelligence undertaking that is not only founded upon criminality, but is also, by any sober analysis, allowed to operate beyond the reach of law. …Yet never has any of this been subject to congressional approval or, more importantly, to the scrutiny and voices of the governed, and cannot be reconciled with democratic principles."

The New York City chapter of Anarchist Black Cross, a prison support project, in consultation with the prisoners, has posted book lists with amazon.com for Boerje-Obed (short link: bit.ly/Boerje-Obed) and Walli (bit.ly/Walli).

From the
Transform Now Plowshares

Greg Boerje-Obed, whose Inside Line appears on page 2 of this issue, is a key reader of the Nuclear Resister for all of the letters and books. He advises that all mail must include a full, handwritten return address. Avoid labels, paperclips and staples. All mail is subject to inspection. Stamps or other items cannot be received in the mail.

Unfortunately, staff does not tell the prisoner who sent the books received, nor does it report when books are returned to sender. Prisoners may only receive five books at one time, and twice Boerje-Obed was told parcels were sent back for exceeding the limit. Books must come from the publisher or a bookstore, and be labeled as books on the package.

Michael Walli recently also sent his greetings and thanks, and included a poem he wrote that can be found, along with writings from Sr. Megan Rice, Boerje-Obed and other prisoners, on the Inside Line page at www.nukeresister.org.

Recent visitors at St. Megan Rice’s prison in Brooklyn include the authors of two new books on nuclear weapons issues, and Rice recommends their work.

Thermocarbon Monarchy: Choosing Between Democracy and Doom, by Elaine Scarry (©2014, W.W. Norton & Company), lays out in lucid argument how nuclear weapons violate the U.S. Constitution, undermine the presumption of a social contract between government and the governed, and cannot be reconciled with democratic principles.

The Nuclear Terrorist: His Financial Backers and Political Patrons in the U.S. and Abroad, by Robert Gleason (©2013, Fortress Press) left Rice full of hope despite the grim topic. Gleason sides with historian Arnold Toynbee when he concludes that “The United States does not have to continue down this road. Middle East oil dependence and nuclear power addiction [fueling nuclear weapons production] are curable diseases. We still have choices.”

For more information, visit transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com.

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

Chelsea E. Manning
98298
1300 North Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-2304.
(35 years – in 5/10, out 2/3/20)
(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 envelope or card must be addressed exactly as noted)

Jared Chase
M44710
XD20, 2600 N. Brinton Avenue, Dixon, IL 60112.
(8 years – out 5/6/16)

Brent Betterly
M44724
4017 E. 2603 Road, Sheridan, IL 60551.
(5 years – 6/5/15)
(NATO 3, convicted of possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson during protests at NATO summit in Chicago, March 2012)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED:
Brian Jacob Church
1080-202
FCI McKean, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 8000, Bradford, PA 16701.
(62 months – out 9/19/17)

Meghan Root
039002
MDC Brooklyn, Metropolitan Detention Center, P.O. Box 329002, Brooklyn, NY 11232.
(35 months – out 11/14/15)

Michael Walli
M308
FCI McKean, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 8000, Bradford, PA 16701.
(62 months – out 10/29/17)

Leonard Pelletier
89637-132
USP Coleman, P.OB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

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

Name ID# (if needed) (sentence - in/out date if known) prison or support address (action & date)

Please refer to nukeresister.org/inside-out for current addresses before writing.

NUCLEAR RESISTERS
Gregory Boerje-Obed
08052-016
USP Leavenworth, P.O. Box 1004, Leavenworth, KS 66048.
(62 months – out 9/19/17)

Meghan Root
039002
MDC Brooklyn, Metropolitan Detention Center, P.O. Box 329002, Brooklyn, NY 11232.
(35 months – out 11/14/15)

Michael Walli
M308
FCI McKean, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 8000, Bradford, PA 16701.
(62 months – out 10/29/17)

Leonard Pelletier
89637-132
USP Coleman, P.OB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

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

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Sara Beining A0305918
Criminal Justice Center, 2739 E. Las Vegas St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906.
(6/27/14)

Tranquil veteran and public military refuser jailed pending court martial 12/9/14

Shakir Hamoodi
21901-045
USP Leavenworth, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048.
(33 years – out 4/07/15)

(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
SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Rd., Dallas, PA 86142.
(one to seven years – in 8/11/11)
(Repeated trespass at military recruiting office, 8/11/11)

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

Chelsea E. Manning
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1300 North Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-2304.
(35 years – in 5/10, out 2/3/20)
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(8 years – out 5/6/16)

Brent Betterly
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4017 E. 2603 Road, Sheridan, IL 60551.
(5 years – 6/5/15)
(NATO 3, convicted of possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson during protests at NATO summit in Chicago, March 2012)

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(62 months – out 10/29/17)

Leonard Pelletier
89637-132
USP Coleman, P.OB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

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

December 9, 2014
Kicked Out of Court

Eve Tetaz and other members of Witness Against Torture attended a federal court hearing on October 7 in Washington, D.C. about the force-feeding of Guantanamo prisoner Abu Walid al-Dhafi. As she entered the courthouse, a guard told Tetaz to turn her blaze orange “Shut Down Guantanamo, Stop Torture” t-shirt inside-out, and cover it with a plain white shirt. She did, and after the hearing began, Tetaz removed her jacket. Bailiffs immediately told her she had to leave.

She took off the inside-out shirt, which she wore over a plain white shirt, and gave it to the guard. More guards came back moments later and told Tetaz she would have to leave anyway. They took her hands to escort her from the courtroom. Offered a wheelchair to help her leave, Tetaz insisted she would leave as she came, of her own volition.

A guard who identified himself as a Homeland Security officer “put his arm around and tried to walk me out as you would a child,” she told thinkprogress.org. She stood her ground and said, “I am not leaving without my shirt.” The guard told her she would only leave in handcuffs, and he obliged, producers the cuffs from his pocket. Once outside, the guard was uncnuf, not cited, and told to wait there for her friends.

See Future Actions on page 7 for information about Witness Against Torture’s January fast and nonviolent direct action at the State Department.

NOTED DEFENSE COUNSEL TO AID DR. DHAFIR

Rafid Dhafir met the deadline and filed his own 2255 habeas corpus motion to reduce or set aside the 22-year prison sentence related to his 2002 humanitarian aid to Iraqi civilians during the U.S. and U.K.-led sanctions regime, 1990-2003. While the former oncologist completed his review of thousands of pages of documents related to his prosecution and the government surveillance of his charitable and anti-war activity during that time, Dhafir was visited by defense attorney Charles Swift, Director and Counsel of the Center for Constitutional law for Muslims in America. Swift is the retired military attorney who successfully argued Hamdan v. Rumsfeld before the Supreme Court, and the Center is the latest project of the Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA). In mid-November, Swift and the MLFA announced Swift’s legal representation of Dr. Dhafir, who he will now work preparing the necessary documents and legal arguments in support of the 2255 motion.

Four days before he was released from disciplinary segregation at the end of August, Dhafir’s stripped-down cell had been searched, his prescription medications confiscated, and he was accused of hoarding them. Back in general population, he was not allowed to “self-carry” his hypertension medicine. His prescription was not filled, and because daily “pill call” was during his daily prayer time, he faced an impossible choice. The physician’s assistant on duty said the only doctor could reman mounted self- car, but the doctor was away. After ten days without the medicine, Dhafir again asked supporters outside for help. Within days, a group of retired military attorneys and an administrator to direct the PA to do the right thing.

For more information, visit www.dhafirtrial.net.

Support Action

Letters of support should be sent to Rafid Dhafir 11921-052, Unit HB, Federal Medical Center Devens, POB 879, Ayer, MA 01432.

PETREAS PROTEST PREEMPTED

Outspoken former CIA analyst and anti-war activist Ray McGovern was confronted by name and denied entry to an event where retired general David Petraeus was speaking in New York City on October 30. Very quickly after being blocked by 92nd Street Y security, McGovern was injured by New York police officers, arrested, held overnight and charged with criminal trespass and resisting arrest.

McGovern had a ticket for the event, as an action organizer for the World Tea Watch, which has protested Petraeus many times since 2009. McGovern was at the building entrance, when he was told by security, “Ray, you can’t go in.” McGovern argued that he had a ticket, and expected to go in as other members of the public were. Quickly, he was grabbed by security, and then handled by NYPD, who roughly arrested him. His previously injured shoulder was re-injured, requiring a trip to the hospital.

For more information, read McGovern’s posts at consortrustnews.com.

Thanks to Debra Sweet for her report.

Campaign Nonviolence, continued

continued from page 4

On Monday, twenty people gathered for silent meditation outside Creech Air Force Base. One group stayed on the roadside, while others moved in the road to block entry to the base. Clark County deputies warned them to leave or face arrest. Five left, and police then arrested Susan Dillon, Dennis Dcwall, Eryr Hdb and Keith Colhber for blocking a roadway. They were cited and released across the highway. All have since been fined $50.

California activists returned to Beale Air Force Base, north of Sacramento, for two days of Campaign Nonviolence demonstrations on September 27 and 30. The base is home to the worldwide Global Hawk surveillance drone fleet, which performs reconnaissance for armed drones.

Two people were arrested at Beale on Monday afternoon, September 29. Rev. John Auer, a retired United Methodist pastor from Fresno, was assisted in his wheelchair by Guarionex Delgado, a veteran from Nevada City. Delgado pushed Auer’s wheelchair the length of the tarmac to the Beale main gate. Rev. Auer stated that he was attempting to deliver a letter to Colonel Phillip A. Stewart, the base commander, informing him of a recent anti-drone resolution passed by United Methodists in the California-Nevada region.

After he was released, Auer explained, “I oppose drones because they are the more effective way to terrorize, the easy way to terrorize, and they are not costing us anything. When we mechanize war it makes others expendable. Everyone becomes collateral damage...I want to be able to say that we offered some kind of resistance and some kind of hope.”

The next day, several demonstrators gathered in a circle and began dancing and singing in front of Beale’s main gate. Nine people were arrested while doing “Dances of Universal Peace”, including veterans Barry Binks and Andrew Hayes, and Toby Blome, Sharon Delgado, MacGregor Eddy, Pamela Ogudoy, Shirley Ogudoy, Lorraine Reich and Flora Rodgers.

MORE ARRESTS AT BEALE AFB

Anti-drone demonstrators have kept up a regular presence at Beale Air Force Base over the past three years. Over fifty arrests for civil disobedience have been made; eight people have been convicted in U.S. Federal Court. Thirty-one arrests were made in March and April of 2014 alone. Sixteen of the demonstrators were summoned to be arraigned on September 9, but at the last minute all charges were dismissed.

The following month two more people were arrested at the Beale vigil. At dawn on October 28, Mauro Oliveira and his 17-year-old daughter Mahal’a, her sign reading “Syrian Children are Our Children”, slipped inside the gate as military police moved to close it after a blockade. Mauro Oliveira wrote:

Since 9/11 my wife and I, and eventually our children as well, became involved in the illegal war. Our moral act after the other by Washington in the name of “America[...]”, in the name of you and me. One lie after the other, from who committed and what acts were committed on 9-11, to the non-existent link to Saddam Hussein, to weapons of mass destruction...that didn’t exist, a nuclear hoax, a promise of a fast war, that we would be greeted as liberators, that we would leave the Iraqis better off.

That’s just the start...the Patriot Act, deleted uranium and phosphorous weapons that we would leave the Iraqis better off. War is bad for the environment...fossil fuels in the entire world,” said Army veteran Ellen Barfield. “War, even just training for it, is massively destructive and wasteful. War is bad for the environment...

The very fracked gas Beyond Extreme Energy activities are protesting this week is being used as an economic weapon by the Obama administration, threatening Russian gas exports to Europe through Ukrainian pipelines.”

When the arrestees went to court for arraignments in late November and early December, they found their cases were not on the docket.

Fossil fuels in the entire world,” said Army veteran Ellen Barfield. “War, even just training for it, is massively destructive and wasteful. War is bad for the environment...
Missouri War Resistance Updates

Walker accepted the challenge and test stymied by Judge Anna LaBella’s insistence to limit toxins used in nuclear weapons production. When she crossed the property line at the Bannister in the 1988 Missouri Peace Planters. She was one of 13 drones, another of the base’s missions. The women both bombers, the focus of their protest that day was armed bombers, the focus of their protest that day was armed.

Stoever pleaded not guilty and is set for trial on December 19. At a rally before court, Stoever declared, “It matters what we are doing here! These weapons have consequences!”

In federal court on December 5, Fr. Carl Kabat faced charges of property destruction and disturbing the peace for his July 4 “Interdependence Day” action at the new nuclear weapons plant, when he blood-stained the big sign with a pail of red paint. His testimony echoed Stoever’s as he told the court, “It is up to us, it’s our country; things only change if we cause a ruckus.”

Kabat quoted many individuals who have spoken out against nuclear weapons, adding his own conclusion that “nuclear weapons are the gas chambers and crematoriums of the 21st century.”

The judge convicted Kabat of property destruction but found him not guilty of disturbing the peace. He told Kabat that he “kind of put me in a box.”

“Frankly, I am a little befuddled by what to do with an 81-year-old priest who will most likely do this again,” Judge Larsen said. To give himself time to deliberate, he sentenced Kabat to one year in the mouth of Port Phillip Bay.

The judge phoned Walker and without explanation rescinded the stay-away order. Georgia Walker has often been in Caldicott’s courtroom in her role as executive director of a program helping women and men coming out of prison.

The expert testimony of two returning witnesses from the March trial Massachusetts Senator Dan Wolf and Dr. Richard Clapp, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Health at Boston University School of Public Health and founding Director of the Massachusetts Cancer Registry persuaded Judge Sullivan to hear Dr. Caldwell on the last day of the trial.

From the witness stand, the doctor’s prescription was blunt. “If I had young children, I would not live on the Cape. And I was a pediatria here, I would advise parents to leave. It’s a very dangerous situation.”

Sullivan was not persuaded, and delivered the guilty verdicts.

For more information, visit capedownwinders.org.

Drone protest, cont.

continued from page 3

Joan Pleune’s on October 8. Both were arrested last July 23 at an Atlantic Life Community action at Hancock. The prosecutor failed to appear in court for Pleune’s hearing, where her attorney argued for dismissal on First Amend- ment grounds and poor boundary marking at the base.

There are 11 more trials scheduled for Hancock protesters in DeWitt between now and next July stemming from the April 2013 protest. Next up on December 10 is Julienne Oldfield, who faces a year in prison if convicted.

For more information, visit upstartredaction.org.

SUSPENDED JAIL SENTENCE FOR ANTI-NUCLEAR GRANDMOTHERS

A group of four grandmothers arrested at the Pilgrim nuclear power plant have been given suspended jail sentences. Each has no prior record, was fined $100.

The expert testimony of two returning witnesses from the March trial Massachusetts Senator Dan Wolf and Dr. Richard Clapp, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Health at Boston University School of Public Health and founding Director of the Massachusetts Cancer Registry persuaded Judge Sullivan to hear Dr. Caldwell on the last day of the trial.

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For more information, visit upstartredaction.org.

NATO Protester Out of Prison

Brian Jacob Church was released from prison in Illinois on November 21 to a halfway house in Chicago. With statutory credits, he served 20% of a five year term for possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson at the May, 2012 NATO summit in Chicago. Church was convicted along with two other men for helping undercover cops make molotov cocktails. For more information, visit freethemato3.wordpress.com.

Letters of support should be sent to co-defendants Brent Bettyly and Jared Chase at the addresses on page 3, Inside & Out.
France

The World Nuclear Industry annual exhibition opened in Paris in September, in the same way French representatives began considering an energy plan to decrease nuclear’s contribution to French electricity production from 75% to 50% by 2025. Greenpeace greeted the nuclear industrialists with a 35 long banner that declared “Exhibition of Bad Business” and hung over the entrance to the convention center. Fourteen activists were quickly taken into custody and the banner removed, but the questions asked by Greenpeace remained: How can nuclear be good business when its contribution is declining worldwide and investments in nuclear foreclose the possibility of other renewable energy sources? The activists were in custody for several hours before release without charges.

In September, a French court in Colmar gave a two-month suspended sentence to 55 anti-nuclear activists arrested last March inside the nearby Fessenheim nuclear power plant, one of Europe’s oldest nuclear power plants near the German border. The activists were highlighting the danger of old reactors when they were arrested in one of a series of civil disobedience actions across Europe that month.

Greenpeace-France was soon in the news again, denying any involvement in a series of reported drone overflights of French nuclear power plants.

In October, the French energy company EDF began noticing small drones flying in restricted airspace over some of its nuclear power plants. By early November, more than 30 French nuclear nuclear power plant and several nuclear research facilities had been reported, including four on the same night at plants hundreds of miles from each other, all across the country. Most of the reported overflights have been at night, and videos reveal the drones involved are not lightweight toys, but larger ones capable of flying several miles, equipped with lights and possibly cameras. A trio of radio-controlled model airplane enthusiasts were arrested near one reactor but were cleared of suspicion in the suspect overflights.

The government insisted there was minimal threat from the drones. But Greenpeace pointed out that one cannot rationally conclude the absence of danger without knowing more about who is piloting the drones and why. After denying any involvement in the covertly, apparently coordinated drone surveillance, the group commissioned a risk analysis from British nuclear consultant John Large. He presented his report to a government committee.

In the interests of public safety, Greenpeace did not publish his report, which detailed available drone technology, French nuclear plant vulnerabilities, and several potentially successful terrorist scenarios involving the small aircraft. Instead, Greenpeace renewed their call for a shut-down of the nuclear power industry.

Jeju Island

Two more women went to jail on Jejou Island, South Korea in October, in lieu of paying all or part of their fines for nonviolent resistance to the navy base under construction and now dominating life in the coastal village of Gangneung.

Choi Sung-Hee spent 12 days locked up in full payment of a fine of 600,000 KRW (~$600), and Choi M.K. served nine days for part of fines totaling 3 million KRW (~$3,000).

Also in October, after the government promised not to build housing in town for any of the 7,000 personnel expected at the base, construction began on a scaled-down military housing project of 72 units in the village. A tangerine grove was cleared and a new protest front opened.

After a village meeting, the mayor, villagers, police, and construction workers continued working in shifts around the clock to prevent cement trucks from entering the housing construction area. Two peacekeepers blocked the road on October 12 by a construction supervisor in his car who drove over the foot of one, dragging the other along as he grappled with the car window.

This, while dozens of police brought in on rotation from the mainland continue to spend time each day carrying and pushing people from the road in front of the main base construction gate.

At least 65 arrests and more than 550 indictments have been reported over the last eight years of resistance, and 46 prison terms served. Some people have served more than three jail terms, and trials and appeals are ongoing.

In recent cases, on November 21 the trial court sentenced Mr. Park Jong-Hoon to 14 months in prison in 23 cases of obstruction of business and obstruction of justice. Sr. Stella Soh Hee-Sook, the first Catholic nun in Korean history to be convicted, was sentenced to 5 months imprisonment and 1 year probation for obstruction of business as a dedicated coordinator for the daily Catholic mass that blocks the construction gate. Both cases are on appeal.

More than a dozen recent Supreme Court appeals were dismissed, affirming the original sentences, mostly suspended jail terms, probation and fines ranging up to 67 million KRW (~$6,000).

In a victory against government repression of the anti-base movement, the high court in Incheon found two former secretaries of the Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (SPARK) not guilty of national security violations. SPARK is a leading neutral international network opposing the navy base in Jeju. Their defense showed that the 2012 investigation and raids on the SPARK offices and staff houses were part of a government intention to diminish opposition to the Jeju base.

For more information, visit savejejunow.org.

Update Files, cont.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: Fr. Martin Newell was found guilty on September 8 of criminal damage for anti-Trident graffiti on the Ministry’s building in London last March 14. He had already served 14 days in jail immediately after his charge to pay off accumulated unpaid fines from earlier protests, and this time was simply given conditional discharge.

GERMANY: A woman was fined €100 in September for peace in public following her arrest last August blocking a uranium transport train in Hamburg. As the chains tying her to the rails were being cut, she told police of her need to go. Her pleas and warning were ignored while she had to stand in custody away from the train on a nearby street. When she finally released herself, she was ticketed for the offense. Twenty German anti-nuclear activists, tired of repeated postponements delaying their trial for blocking the Lingen nuclear fuel processing facility in August, 2013, returned to block the road into the plant for the day on October 14, the latest court date to be scheduled but again postponed. No arrests were reported, but Lingen is a regular target of protest. It is part of a network of uranium industry plants across Europe, and an international movement opposing the trade and hazardous shipments between these hubs is alive and well.

Australia

Among the 14 arrested reported during November’s G20 summit in Brisbane was that of native son Crown O’Reilly, back in Australia after a stint at the London Catholic Worker. He and three others were declared “prohibited persons” in advance of the meeting, but he announced no specific plans to join the disarmament activist convicted in two countries and acquitted in a third, O’Reilly suggested his public intention to confront President Obama may have contributed to the order barring him from the vicinity of the meeting.

On Saturday, November 15, O’Reilly entered the area with a placard calling for freedom for Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange and Edward Snowden. He was arrested and charged under special G20 security laws, refused bail and was released on Monday, after the summit ended. He has a court date on December 4 in Brisbane.

O’Reilly told Guardian Australia, “I know Julian’s dad and Chelsea’s brother so it’s quite a personal connection I have with them really, so I feel obliged to do some kind of action while I’m here in Brisbane and the guy holding the keys to their bondage is in town.”

Swan Island

knives, then choked, dragged and dropped repeatedly across the dirt. Soldiers stood on their backs and heads while threatening to kick the men.

Only when the Victoria state police arrived on the scene did the assaults cease. “I was thankful for the arrival of the police. When they got there I finally felt safe,” said peace activist Sam Quinlan. Rolles wrote, “The tactics used were designed to instill fear and compliance within dominated people. People have been tortured and murdered using these strategies to intimidate and control.

The abused group met up with the other four in the police van. An ambulance was called to the front gate as activists were released from custody to attend to their injuries. The eight were charged with trespass and await their day in court.

For more information, visit swanislandpeace.org.
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THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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FUTURE ACTIONS

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the United Nations. The campaign began May 6, the fifth anniversary of a Bundestag vote that the federal government take action in NATO and appeal to the United States to take action in the United Nations. The government has agreed to NATO nuclear modernization plans that could bring precision atomic weapons into Germany and further provoke Russian nuclear responses. Lodging and logistical support for visiting blockaders and their supporters will be provided. For more information, email buechel65@buechel-atomwaffenfrei.de or visit www.buechel-atomwaffenfrei.de/buechel65/

Burgfield Lockdown!

A major blockade of both gates of the British Atomic Weapons Establishment at Burghfield will begin Monday morning, March 2, 2015. The event is intended to be open ended as it launches a month of sustained actions at Burgfield and the nearby Aldermaston site in the lead up to the United Kingdom’s 2015 general election. For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org and actnaw.org.

Faslane Trident base

In the wake of the Scottish independence vote and a surge of local interest and support, Scrap Trident is planning a mass demonstration in Glasgow on March 28 and a blockade of Faslane on April 13 in anticipation of the next general election. The next Westminster Parliament will determine whether to replace Trident at a cost of up to $100 Billion. For more information, email sctrident@gmail.com or visit sctrident.org.

2015 sacred peace walk

The Nebraska Desert Experience’s annual spiritual pilgrimage begins March 28 with orientation in Lincoln and urban pilgrimage the next day. Then walk the ways of peace from the desert to Las Vegas to Creech Air Force Base and the Nevada National Security (nuclear test) Site. Join nonviolent witness and resistance at Creech on April 1 and the Test Site on Good Friday, April 3. For more information and registration, visit the Events link at nevadasertexperience.org or call 702-646-4814.

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The Nevada Desert Experience’s annual spiritual pilgrimage launches a month of open ended as it begins Monday March 30, 2015. The campaign will take a name and bring a story of one of the men in Guatemala about cleared. The nonviolent action will be part of the group’s annual commemoration with the men at Guantanamo. January 11, 2015 marks 13 years of torture and indefinite detention at the extra-legal prison. People are also invited to join the group from January 13 for all or part of the fast. Please email witnessotrudge@gmail.com if you have any questions or are considering risking arrest. For more information, visit witnessotrudge.org.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day bangor

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action will honor the nonviolent legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. On Saturday, January 17, including nonviolent action at Bangor marina submarine base in Maine. The monks from the Nipponzan Myohoji Bainbridge Island Dojo will lead their annual Peace Walk from January 12–17, arriving at Ground Zero Center in time to join the group from January 13 for all or part of the fast. Please email witnessotrudge@gmail.com if you have any questions or are considering risking arrest. For more information, visit gzccenter.org or call 360-930-8697, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Pacific time.

Lockheed-Martin

You are invited to join the Brandywine Peace Community for their 37th annual Martin Luther King Day of Nonviolent Resistance at noon on Saturday, January 17 at the main driveway entrance to Lockheed Martin Valley Forge weapons complex, 230 Mall Boulevard in King of Prussia, PA. There will be audio broadcasts of Dr. King’s speeches and sermons, speakers, music, liturgies and nonviolent resistance honoring his message of nonviolent resistance to injustice. For more information, contact a brandywine@brandywine-uaf.org or brandywine@juno.com.

Creech air force base

Join Code Pink, Veterans for Peace and Nevada Desert Experience for a 36-day campaign of nonviolent resistance to the invasion of Afghanistan, they were not arrested as they had been in the past. The new mayor sided with the vets on the Constitutional question over a curfew that had only been enforced when vets exercised their rights to peacefully assemble in large numbers during the height of the Occupy movement. Weee visitors paying their respects alone had never before been harassed...

One way I’ve tried to be of service to others is by responding to requests to help edit others’ legal motions of appeal and to write letters. My cellmate, Mr. Lam is a great lawyer who has the legal training and compassion. He doesn’t work. Mr. Lam is from Vietnam and initially pled not guilty to arson which resulted in a death. The jury deliberated six days, and then concluded a mistrial. His public defender repeatedly delayed and seemed to be working for the government. Mr. Lam repeatedly asked for substitute counsel and was denied, until it threatened suicide. A new lawyer advised a conditional guilty plea which meant that an appeal could be filed on certain criteria. He ended up receiving a life sentence. It’s been a legal nightmare ever since. This case has been appealing for 17 years and is now representing himself. But he is still hopeful and is looking for a good pro bono lawyer. A new magazine previewed his latest motion recused herself on appeal and to write letters. My cellmate, Mr. Lam is serving a 62-month sentence for his part in the Transform Now Plowshares disarmament action at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Kentucky. The government has agreed to NATO nuclear modernization plans that could bring precision atomic weapons into Germany and further provoke Russian nuclear responses.

On the upside, when I arrived, the prison library had a printing shop is now in operation. When I attended a printing shop is now in operation. When I attended the Bible and pray with others, develop community of appeal and to write letters. My cellmate, Mr. Lam is serving a 62-month sentence for his part in the Transform Now Plowshares disarmament action at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Kentucky. The government has agreed to NATO nuclear modernization plans that could bring precision atomic weapons into Germany and further provoke Russian nuclear responses.

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PHILADELPHIA: A two-day federal bench trial ended with the conviction on all counts of Iraq War veteran and folk musician Emily Yates. Charged with five misdemeanors (three counts of assault, plus trespassing and resisting arrest), Yates was fined $3,250 and placed on three years probation. In August, 2013, she was arrested and jailed for three days after park police provoked a scuffle by grabbing her from behind when she questioned their demand to leave the area where she had just performed at an anti-war rally. She told the court, “I panicked,” when the police forcefully handcuffed and dragged her away. The government would not permit a Veterans Administration psychologist to testify about diagnosing Yates’ post-traumatic stress disorder as part of her defense against the assault charges. Supporter John Grant wrote that Judge Rueter told Yates she was lucky the park rangers were not as violent as some police, who might have seriously injured her. Still, he ignored the prosecutors’ suggestion that “Ms. Yates could do with some more incarceration time to think about what she did.”

PENTAGON: Prior to a scheduled October 17 trial, the three defendants from a Hiroshima Day commemorative march pleaded guilty to trespassing. Magistrate Sharon McCaslin accepted their pleas of no contest to the charge of disorderly conduct when it was shut down in September for major repair. The damage – holes for mounting fire extinguishers drilled into the containment wall – was not discovered until last summer...

VANDENBERG: Five Catholic Workers arrested on August 9 at the California missile base appeared in federal court in Santa Barbara on October 26. To their surprise, Magistrate Sharon McCaslin accepted their pleas of no contest to charges alleging activists damaged the Leibstadt nuclear plant during a 2008 action. The damage – holes for mounting fire extinguishers drilled into the containment wall – was not discovered until last summer...

National Security Agency: Four women charged with breach of the peace and vandalism for unfurling a “Resist Militarism” banner from the Fenninnet Crane in Glasgow on June 28, 2012, were in court on November 26. They said they had no case to answer, as four young women who were polite and laughed with police is no cause for alarm. The court agreed, and the four adjourned to share hot drinks and free food outside with supporters, while leafleting passersby about the connection between prisons and militarism. In a separate case, Jamie Watson was acquitted of resisting arrest but fined £300 for breach of the peace. Civilian police accompanying a military convoy last July were briefed (in ignorance of the convey’s nuclear load) that there may be attempts to stop it, but were not told that it would likely be peace activists. Two testified that they were alarmed when disarmament activists stopped the trucks transporting nuclear weapons on a country road leading to the Royal Navy’s Coupport nuclear bunkers...

SWITZERLAND: Swiss authorities have filed criminal charges of trespass and damage to property against 66 activists who took part in a mass occupation of the Beznau nuclear plant last March. At the same time, the Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI) filed two criminal charges alleging activists damaged the Leibstadt nuclear plant during a 2008 action. The damage – holes for mounting fire extinguishers drilled into the containment wall – was not discovered until last summer...