

# the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 177

June 5, 2015

*SABOTAGE CONVICTION THROWN OUT*

## Court Orders Release of Nuclear Disarmament Trio

Greg Boertje-Obed, Sr. Megan Rice and Michael Walli – the Transform Now Plowshares – all walked out of federal prison on Saturday, May 16. Their release came after a surprising and swift sequence of events, unprecedented in the 35-year history of such direct actions for nuclear disarmament.

The good news – first that a three-judge panel of the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals had reversed their sabotage conviction, and then of their freedom one week later – made headlines around the world.

The three were arrested inside the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex at Oak Ridge, Tennessee on July 28, 2012. They were convicted in May, 2013 of sabotage and depredation of government property for cutting through four fences to reach an enriched uranium storage fortress. The appeals panel notes, “the trio spray-painted antiwar slogans, hung crime tape and banners with biblical phrases, splashed blood, and sang hymns.”

In its 2-1 decision May 8, the panel distinguished motive from intent, and found the three lacked the requisite intent of an accused saboteur to “injure the national defense”, because their actions, while damaging property and motivated by a desire for disarmament, did not functionally affect the nation’s ability to initiate or defend attacks.

Its decision read,

No rational jury could find that the defendants had that intent when they cut the fences; they did not cut them to allow al Qaeda to slip in behind. Nor could a rational jury find that the defendants had that intent when they engaged in their protest activities outside the HEUMF. True, their ultimate goal in engaging in those activities was to advance the cause of disarmament, by persuading Y-12’s employees to abandon their pursuits there. But “the ultimate end” that “compel[s] the defendant to act . . . is more properly labeled a ‘motive.’” *Kabat*, 797 F.2d at 587.

The panel then vacated the activists’ sentence on both charges. A new sentencing was ordered because the trial court had taken the convictions together when sentencing Boertje-Obed and Walli to 62 months on each count, and Rice to 35 months on each count, to be served concurrently. Considered alone, the panel said that under federal guidelines, a new sentence on the depredation charge alone “will be substantially less than their time already served in federal custody.”

The government has until late June to decide whether or not to appeal to the full Sixth Circuit or the U.S. Supreme Court. A date for resentencing has not been set.

The decision was foreshadowed during oral arguments before the panel in Cincinnati, Ohio on March 12. Such proceedings often lack common elements of courtroom drama with no witness testimony, strict time limits, arcane legal discussion and few spectators.

Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance coordinator Ralph Hutchison was among three dozen supporters who filled the courtroom. He writes that at least Judge Kethledge seemed quite skeptical of the arguments made by Jeffrey Theodore, the assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the case.

Defense appellate attorney Mark Shapiro argued that the jury verdict must be overturned because the activists should never have been charged with sabotage in the first place. He argued the government had misapplied the statute, that interfering with Y-12 was not the same as interfering with the “national defense”, that the defendants’ general aspiration to bring about global nuclear disarmament did not equate to an intent to injure the national defense, and more. (Thomas McConville and Judy Kwan helped Shapiro brief the appeal; all working pro-bono with a few others from the firm of Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, under advisement from defense attorney Bill Quigley and assistant Anna Lellelid-Douffet.)

Theodore began his defense of the charge by describing how they surreptitiously entered, cut the fence, crossed the security zone, and targeted the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility.

“They brought a banner. They read an indictment for war crimes,” he said, his voice rising with a little emotion at the end.

Kethledge cut in. “Sounds more like a protest than sabotage.”

Looking for an understanding of where protest ends and sabotage begins, he asked Theodore, could blocking a

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## Shadows and Ashes

As Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) review meetings got underway at the United Nations in New York City, 60 nuclear abolitionists rallied at the Isaiah Wall near the United Nations on April 27.

Their rallying call for direct action, endorsed by 30 local, national and global organizations, was straightforward:

Every five years the NPT is reviewed during three weeks of meetings. This is not the first time they have talked. Fifteen times since the United States dropped nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 – killing more than 300,000 in a flash – world leaders have met to discuss nuclear disarmament. After decades of talking about disarmament, nine countries still threaten the world with more than 16,000 nuclear weapons at the ready. In 2009, President Obama pledged that the United States would seek the peace and security of a world free of nuclear weapons. Instead his administration is budgeting \$350 billion over the next 10 years to upgrade and modernize the U.S. nuclear weapons program. The abolition of nuclear

weapons will never happen if we just wait for the leaders who gather at the East River to do it.

From the Isaiah Wall, the group marched around the corner to the front of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. They were surprised to discover that police for the first time in many years had not barricaded off the sidewalk between the two as part of securing the Mission from any planned demonstration. They walked right up to the main entrance and held a long banner in front of it which read, “Shadows and Ashes: All That Remain”. Some of the group circled around the city block, and sat on the sidewalk in front of the side entrance with signs that read “Sit-In For Survival” and “Abolish All Nuclear Weapons Now”.

Both doors were blocked for about half an hour before police made arrests. Fourteen people were taken into custody at the front entrance, and eight were arrested at the side. All 22 were taken to the 17th Precinct station for processing. They were released by 1 p.m. with two citations each for disorderly conduct and a date in court, June 24. For more information, email [nycwrl@att.net](mailto:nycwrl@att.net).



photo by Bud Korozer/DESERTPEACE

Nuclear abolitionists sit-in at the front entrance of the United States Mission to the United Nations, April 27, 2015.

## DRONE RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

*Editors’ Note: Nonviolent anti-war direct actions at military bases across the country involved in drone warfare continue, with reports in this issue of arrests or prosecutions in five states and reflections on time served behind bars by three resisters. Nick Mottern, publisher of the informative [knowdrones.org](http://knowdrones.org) website, recently wrote in his organizer’s bulletin that, “As other anti-war activity ebbs, civil resistance to drone attacks stands out more and more, not only with respect to drone war but U.S. war-making generally.”*

### HANCOCK FIELD

After sending Jack Gilroy to jail for three months last fall, and sentencing Mary Anne Grady Flores to a year in prison last summer (she’s out on appeal), two Dewitt,

New York town judges seem to have changed course in dealing with drone resisters arrested at Hancock Field, an Air National Guard base piloting Reaper armed drones. Activists say one factor, in addition to their persistence despite vigorous prosecution, is strong pro bono legal advocacy that has come into the campaign, providing more legal friction to prior questionable court actions.

First came Judge Robert Jokl’s retreat from a promise to send Mark Colville to jail when he was sentenced in December.

Then in January, when Bonny Mahoney arrived for a jury trial on charges of obstructing governmental administration (OGA) and two counts of disorderly conduct during an April 2013 protest, she was also arraigned on a new charge, trespass, and given no time

to adapt her defense to the charge. When her attorneys’ motion to dismiss the OGA charge for lack of specifics was granted, it also meant the jury was dismissed.

Mahoney brought the proceedings back to her central concern for drone victims, saying, “I consider myself lucky to be able to defend myself against charges I feel are unjust. U.S. drone policy does not provide this opportunity for its victims.” Her conduct at the protest being far from disorderly, she was convicted only of trespass and sentenced on February 12 to a conditional discharge.

Between the time of Mahoney’s trial and sentencing, Judge Jokl revisited the three year, restricted-to-the-county

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# Resistance Reflections

## My Five Days in “Pod A” at the Juneau County Jail

by Bonnie Block  
April 10, 2015

On April 1, 2015, a six person jury found me guilty of trespassing at the Volk Field Open House because I handed out leaflets with four questions about drone warfare in the parking lot of the Wisconsin National Guard Museum. National Guard personnel deemed that “propaganda” sight unseen. The result was my arrest, being charged with trespass, pretrial motions to greatly limit the evidence I could present to the jury and ultimately the trial. The fine was \$232 but I felt I couldn’t in good conscience pay it.

So Judge Paul Curran sentenced me to serve five days in the county jail. After I was “booked in” and issued my orange jump suit and orange plastic clogs, I was escorted to Pod A where I became the 7th woman living in a two-story cinderblock room about 35 by 15 feet. The front half was common space with metal tables with stools or benches attached, a TV high on the wall, a cabinet with the various request forms and some books, games, puzzles and two phones. The front wall was one-way glass so guards in the “bubble” could see in but we couldn’t see out.

The back half of the room was divided into two levels, each of which had five bunk-beds and a bathroom with shower. There were seven narrow windows on each level but they were opaque so no one could see out. The TV was on from 8 a.m. till 11 p.m. (or 12:30 a.m. on weekends) as were bright florescent lights which were dimmed after “lockdown” but never turned off.

(NOTE: The Juneau County Jail was built in 2002 and its website describes the jail like this: “This modern Pod design allows Jail Deputies to restrict and control the movement of prisoners throughout the facility, while minimizing the staff needed to monitor and control the population. This layout places Pod’s or housing units around a centralized control center from which a single deputy can monitor all of the cells and each pod. The Control Deputy can control cell doors, lights, water, inmate’s communications and inmate movement. CCTV monitoring is conducted from the central control station as well.”)

I set my small storage box and bedding on Cot #2 as directed and the guard left, slamming the metal door shut. I introduced myself to four of the women (the other two were napping) and told them why I was there. We talked a while and then I went to make my bed. One of the women came to help because the sheets were only about 2/3 the length of the blue plastic mat that served as a mattress, but if you knotted them together just right you could cover the whole pad.

A few hours later as I was working on a puzzle, I realized I was chilly because I only had a short sleeved shirt and no socks (my socks, bra, and turtleneck were the wrong color so they stayed in storage in the booking area). I went to put my towel around my neck like a shawl. Immediately there was a voice over the intercom: “Ladies, please inform the new person what the rules are.” The rules are that you cannot cover your neck or face. I put the towel back and rubbed my arms. Without a word one of the women went to her box and brought

me a thermal long-sleeved shirt and another brought me a warm pair of socks — both regulation white. Thanks to their generosity I was comfortable for the rest of my stay.

As I listened to these women for the next few days I heard stories of being victimized or suffering abuse, of addiction to drugs, of homelessness, of illness, of needing dental care or surgery, of poverty and unemployment, and of more than a dozen children in foster care or cared for by relatives while their mothers were locked up. Five of the six women were there because they couldn’t make bail or were on a probation hold. Only one had already been tried and sentenced to one year in jail.

I entered the Jail voluntarily to make a public witness with support from family and friends and knowing I would get out in five days. They entered abruptly and now sit waiting weeks or months for a court date, or a visitor (allowed once a week) or till they could make a phone call (\$1.50 a minute to a corporation called Securus which someone outside has to pay in advance and then accept the collect calls.) They waited for mail or finding a book that looked interesting, or for the Friday commissary pick-up (assuming someone had put money in their account.) And they walked—54 times around the common area was a mile and you counted it off with a deck of cards.

I’ve seen clients in various Wisconsin jails and prisons and I’ve visited fellow resisters in jail — but it’s very different to have metal doors clang shut and know that you’ve lost your freedom. I expected there to be regimentation and rules — but I had no idea of how frustrating and aggravating the guard’s collective punishment mindset would be. I knew I’d be locked up in a confined space — but didn’t understand what happens when you don’t know if it’s day or night and feel cut off from the natural world. I knew there would be little privacy and a lot of surveillance—but I didn’t know how dehumanizing that would feel.

In short, I have been one of the absurdly privileged people who has not had to face the punitive U.S. criminal justice system—just as I have not lived in countries beneath the Hellfire Missiles carried by U.S. drones that I’m working hard to stop. As I was writing this reflection a few days after I got out of jail, the daily e-mail from Campaign Nonviolence arrived and put both of these things into context.

“No one today can afford to be innocent, or to indulge themselves in ignorance of the nature of contemporary governments, politics and social orders. The national polities of the modern world are “states” which maintain their existence by deliberately fostered craving and fear: monstrous protection rackets.” [Gary Snyder, *The Path of Compassion: Writings on Socially Engaged Buddhism*, p. 83]

It is precisely our “craving and fear” which makes us wrongly believe we are protected from the “terrorists” by our government’s program of targeted assassination via drones. And it is precisely “a protection racket” which makes us think spending billions on jails and prisons is being “tough on crime” and that we’re safer if we lock people up in cells or Pods without adequate services or diversion programs and often before they’ve even been convicted of a crime.

Just as we can’t kill our way to peace and security, we can’t imprison our way to public safety and justice. Militarism and drone warfare are not the answer. Nor are jails the answer. Those who have created the current systems are not going to be the ones who fix it. That’s up to us as nonviolent, determined, and relentlessly persistent activists.

## Where We’re At

Just as temperatures top 100 F. in Tucson, we’re back with what we think is that “spectacular two-in-one double issue this summer” we promised after skipping an issue in March. As a thank you to subscribers for your patience while we got a significant amount of work done on the Nuclear Resister archive project, this 16-page issue counts only as a single on your subscription.

The extra space gives us more room to feature the thoughtful words of the resisters themselves in this issue – in action, in court, from prison, and in reflection after their release.

What a great day in May it was when we heard the wonderful news that the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals had overturned the sabotage charge for the Transform Now Plowshares activists! And just a week later, Sr. Megan, Michael and Greg were released from prison, into the loving circle of their family, friends and communities! (see story, page 1) Many thanks to the lawyers for all of the long hours they spent preparing the appeal.

With their sudden early release from prison in mid-May, and the release of other activists from prison since we last published (as noted in these pages), the list of imprisoned resisters on page 3 of this newsletter is shorter than it was in December. And some activists were not sent to jail for protests in Georgia and New York in recent months as anticipated. All good!!

Anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance actions continue, and the Nuclear Resister will keep on reporting on these actions, with a focus of supporting people jailed as a result. Thank you for your continued support of this Chronicle of Hope!

## Thanks

Thanks to Sarah, Sam, Allison, Lena, Cindy, Catherine, Steve, Faith, Charlotte and Jim for helping to mail the last issue, and many thanks to Allison and Faith for their help with archive work.

## the Nuclear Resister

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### YOU CAN HELP!

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

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Please inquire about multiple copies of the current issue for free distribution at conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.

### THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

*The Nuclear Resister* is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Collection (1986 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by the ProQuest Company, 789 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor, MI 48106 or online at proquest.com.

### ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

Since 1980, *the Nuclear Resister* has provided comprehensive reporting on arrests for anti-nuclear civil resistance in the United States, with an emphasis on providing support for the women and men jailed for these actions. In 1990, *the Nuclear Resister* also began reporting on anti-war arrests in North America, plus overseas anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance with the same emphasis on prisoner support.

*The Nuclear Resister* is published about every three months and serves to network this nonviolent resistance movement while acting as a clearinghouse for information about contemporary nonviolent resistance to war and the nuclear threat. We believe that in any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are imprisoned. Behind bars, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Broader awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future.

Each issue provides the names and jail addresses of currently imprisoned anti-nuclear and anti-war activists. Readers are encouraged to provide active support by writing letters to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

## iPresente!

*Your face will shine through all our tears...  
And when we sing another little victory song,  
precious friend you will be there.*

*from “Precious Friend” by Pete Seeger, one of Bix’s favorite songs*

### Fr. William “Bix” Bichsel

(May 26, 1928  
- February 28, 2015)  
Jesuit priest, long-time  
Tacoma Catholic Worker,  
peace and justice activist,  
nuclear resister



**Juanita Nelson**  
(August 17, 1923  
- March 9, 2015)  
Pacifist, farmer, civil rights  
activist, war tax resister,  
partner of Wally Nelson,  
early member of the  
Peacemakers group

**Ray Davies**  
(1930 - May 7, 2015)  
Peace, justice and anti-nuclear  
activist, Vice-chair of CND  
Cymru (Wales), husband,  
father, grandfather,  
great-grandfather





# Prisoner Updates

## Norman Lowry

Peace prisoner Norman Lowry, 62, has worked many jobs. It’s been a downwardly mobile path from his late 20s on. From prison, he writes prolifically, often quoting at length from books he is reading – fiction and non-fiction, classics and new pages. “I write to be honest, transparent and vulnerable! Like the Velveteen Rabbit, ‘I want to be real.’”

They are nourishing words that helped guide and still support a journey that has become more conscious and intentional, bringing him to take simple direct actions against the causes of war, to court imprisonment, and welcome the harsh consequence of living among and loving those commonly regarded as “the least” of humanity: prisoners.

In 2009, Lowry was jailed for six months after openly breaking windows on military vehicles at a Lancaster, Pennsylvania recruiting office. It was “a Spiritual, Socio-Political Protest against ... the United States of America, to me, the world’s most evil-ever imperialist empire ... I was openly declaring nonviolent war on all mechanisms of said Violence, Racism and Poverty-Production.”

Less than three months after his release, he returned to the same office. He went in, sat down, and implored the recruiters to quit. He was arrested again when he refused to leave. This time, Lowry served 18 months in a Pennsylvania county jail.

A few weeks after his release in the summer of 2011, Norman Lowry was back at the recruiting office again, sitting in front of the door. Arrested again and jailed for criminal trespass, he finally came to trial in May 2012. Convicted and presented with the opportunity to reduce his maximum seven year sentence to time served in exchange for a promise to forswear such civil disobedience, Lowry steadfastly refused.

In the letter accompanying Lowry’s *Inside Line*, page 11, he wrote:

For my yearly quiet time, I am returning to my thinking which brought me to prison. These last six years have taken a toll on me and I wish to remain focused for the next 3.5. What we are about is so vital, and after time, it seems to be such a waste of time to exist in a mostly, if not totally, dead, slave community. Like our outer society, the bulk of my peers, both inmate and staff, seem to mostly desire the status quo. I simply do not wish to give in to my selfish emotion and fail to persevere in something so important to humanity’s existence. Thanks to the many who continue to be such a vital example and encouragement!



Letters of support should be sent to Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. KN 9758, SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Rd., Dallas, PA 18612.

## Leonard Peltier

June 26 marks 40 years since the “Incident at Oglala” that lead to the imprisonment of Leonard Peltier.

The Native American activist was wrongfully convicted in the deaths of two FBI agents that day in 1975 during a state of siege by the agency on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. One Native American man also died in the gunfight. Not by coincidence, on that very day corrupt tribal leaders were secretly signing away traditional mineral rights, including to uranium under reservation lands in the Black Hills.

Recently, Leonard Peltier was again denied a transfer to a medium security facility. No reason was given. (see support action, below)

This winter, the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee suffered a loss of data while also moving operations to Oregon (ILPDC, PO Box 24, Hillsboro, OR 97123). While much data was recovered, supporters are encouraged to visit whoisleonardpeltier.info and sign up for email updates as well as information about joining or hosting a commemorative event on June 26, and how to contribute financially and otherwise to ongoing efforts.

Now under the direction of his eldest son, Chauncy Peltier, the committee asks support for its work in four directions:

- 1) An award of Executive Clemency;
- 2) A congressional investigation into the FBI’s misconduct in Indian Country, against the American Indian Movement and in the case of Leonard Peltier;
- 3) An Executive Review by the Attorney General; and
- 4) The release of tens of thousands of related case documents through FOIA requests.

A new legal team is quietly working on Peltier’s behalf, and to represent his needs and best interests.

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# CHELSEA MANNING BEGINS HORMONE THERAPY

Chelsea Manning celebrated her 27th birthday last December 17. On May 27, she marked five years since her arrest in Iraq as Pfc. Bradley Manning, accused of releasing millions of classified Iraq and Afghanistan battlefield reports, Guantanamo prisoner profiles and State Department related documents into the public domain. She wrote about this anniversary in an essay published in *the Guardian*, where she is now featured as an occasional columnist (reprinted on page 14, *the Inside Line*).

In early February, a handwritten letter of thanks was posted at chelseamanning.org, which read in part,

Thank you so very much for your thoughtful cards and letters. I am so grateful for all the incredible and heartfelt support from the tens of thousands of people out there, like yourself, who took the time to write to me and the President. These cards and letters literally flooded the mail room and my cell during my birthday, the holidays, and the Write for Rights campaign by Amnesty International. I wish that I could write to each and every person like you, but I just don’t have the time or resources here in prison to respond to tens of thousands of letters and cards. The best that I can do, though, is say “Thank You!” and hope that this is enough to convey my sincere gratitude to all of you...

Manning is serving a 35-year prison sentence, convicted of espionage, theft of government property, and other related charges. She has two legal battles in process: the appeal of her criminal convictions, and her pursuit of adequate medical treatment as a transgendered person.

Her court martial produced the largest volume of legal filings in U.S. military justice history, and support is still solicited for those ongoing legal expenses.

After fighting to receive proper care from the military prison in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Manning finally began hormone therapy in February, an important step in her transition to living as a woman which she announced shortly after her sentencing in August, 2013. In March, the Army Court of Criminal Appeals ordered the military to stop using male pronouns when referring to Chelsea Manning in all legal papers filed in her appeal. Military lawyers had opposed requests by Manning’s attorneys to use her legal name and female pronouns when referring to her in court documents, but were ordered that all references “shall either be neutral, e.g., Private First Class Manning or appellant, or employ a feminine pronoun.” Manning is still fighting for the right to grow her hair to the length allowed female prisoners.

For more information, and to contribute to her legal fund, visit chelseamanning.org. Twitter users can also join more than 50,000 people following her “tweets” since she signed on in April, dictated over the phone, @xychelsea.



Letters of support should be sent to Chelsea E. Manning 89289, 1300 North Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-2304.

## Freedom for Anti-War Philanthropist

Shakir Hamoodi was released on December 9, 2014 from the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas to a half-way house in Columbia, Missouri. Two weeks later he was allowed to return to his family under house arrest until the expiration of his three-year prison term on April 7.

Hamoodi was sentenced in May, 2012 for violating the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq from 1991 to 2003. By the time a surprise home raid in 2006 initiated his prosecution, such charity was no longer a crime. Fully cooperative, Hamoodi never denied sending more than \$200,000 to family and friends still living in Iraq over a nine-year period. After a halting three-year prosecution, he pled guilty in December, 2009 to a single count of violating the Iraq sanctions, telling the court he was “deeply sorry” for the “mistake” of violating the law.

Following the 1991 invasion of Iraq, the Iraqi-born physicist and his wife, already living in the United States, became U.S. citizens and started their family. He left a doctoral post at the University of Missouri in 2003 to open World Harvest International and Gourmet Foods, a successful import business. As a community leader, Hamoodi was also an active opponent of U.S. wars on his native land.

The prosecution of Hamoodi was part of a larger, documented and continuing U.S. practice of prosecuting international Muslim charitable activity on the pretext of cutting off funds to terrorists. While scores of Americans affiliated with the group Voices in the Wilderness openly traveled to Iraq with prohibited aid supplies during the sanctions years, and the group was fined out of existence, no individuals were threatened with prison.

## Inside & Out



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

### NUCLEAR RESISTERS

**Leonard Peltier** 89637-132 (life)  
USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.  
(Native American political prisoner framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands)

**Yasuo Yamamoto**  
Address unavailable.  
(Charged with landing a drone on Japanese Prime Minister’s roof in anti-nuclear power protest, 4/15)

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

### ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

**Norman Edgar Lowry Jr.** KN 9758  
SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Rd., Dallas, PA 18612.  
(one to seven years - in 8/1/11)  
(Repeated trespass at military recruiting office, 8/1/11)

**Rafil Dhafir** 11921-052  
Unit HA, 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** 89289  
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  
P.O. Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764.  
(8 years – out 5/6/16)  
(NATO 3, convicted of possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson during protests at NATO summit in Chicago, May, 2012)

**PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED:** Megan Rice, Gregory Boertje-Obed, Michael Walli, Sara Beining, Shakir Hamoodi, Brent Betterly

# For Mom and King

## MOTHER'S DAY Bangor

On the eve of Mother's Day, people blocked the entrance to a West Coast nuclear weapons base in a statement against U.S. nuclear modernization efforts.

On Saturday, May 9, nuclear weapons abolitionists gathered at the main gate to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Silverdale, Washington, home to eight of the nation's fourteen Ohio Class (Trident) ballistic missile submarines. Carrying signs saying "Our children deserve better", five protesters walked into the roadway and blocked traffic entering the base. Washington State Patrol officers moved in and escorted the protesters off the roadway.

Anthony DeLorenzo, Tom Karlin, Mona Lee, Brenda McMillan and Alice Zillah were cited for being in the roadway illegally, released and escorted back to the designated zone where others were still protesting. Other activists on the overpass over the entrance road held a large banner that read: "Abolish Nuclear Weapons."

The Mother's Day eve protest and nonviolent direct action is an annual event held by Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action at the Bangor Trident base.

In a statement announcing this year's action, event organizer Mona Lee said that, "The world's children deserve better than to struggle to live under the threat of a renewed nuclear arms race. Increasing militarization steals resources desperately needed to mitigate global warming and improve living conditions worldwide."

This year's event was held at a time when the U.S. government continues to modernize its nuclear weapons, their delivery systems and the infrastructure that builds and maintains them at a cost estimated at roughly a trillion dollars over the next three decades. At the same time, nations were meeting at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in New York.

As Leonard Eiger, spokesperson for Ground Zero's NO TO NEW TRIDENT Campaign put it, "We can't have it both ways. The rhetoric coming out of The White House is simply not in accord with good faith negotiations towards total nuclear disarmament as required by the NPT. Our nation's actions, rather than slowing nuclear proliferation, are driving it and creating a new nuclear arms race."

For more information, visit [gzcenter.org](http://gzcenter.org) and [notnt.org](http://notnt.org).

## Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant

Cape Downwinders amped up their campaign to shut down the aging Pilgrim nuclear power plant with a Mad As Hell Mother's Day Rumble on May 10. "Bring food, noisemakers and all your frustrations - We will make a racket" announced the flyer for the event, which began with a picnic and rally in White Horse Beach on the western shore of Cape Cod Bay, next to the 42-year-old reactor. There was song, drumming, three original poems about Pilgrim by Cape resident Marge Piercy, and an update on the shut-down effort in the wake of two reactor shutdowns last winter due to storm threats and damage, including one emergency scram.

It was the fourth annual Mother's Day protest by Downwinders, and again ended with a walk to the plant gate where they raised a ruckus of drumming, honking and chanting. Police warned them not to cross the road towards the plant entrance, but soon Elaine Dickinson and Paul Rifkin crossed and walked slowly toward the police line. They were arrested for trespass, cited and released with a July 15 court date.

Downwinders and other New Englanders are invited to join a march from June 13-16 through the South Shore and metro Boston communities to the State House, raising awareness of the risks and calling for the closure of the Pilgrim reactor. For more information, visit [madowndwinders.org](http://madowndwinders.org).

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY Lockheed Martin

On Saturday, January 17, people stood in front of the Lockheed Martin complex in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania as the recorded voice of Dr. King echoed over the area behind the King of Prussia Mall with the sound of excerpts from his sermons and speeches. There was also bell-tolling, peace songs by Tom Mullian, a litany drawn from Dr. King's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize speech with the response: "Lives Matter, Damn Their War Profits... Wage Justice, Wage Peace."

Five people were then arrested blocking the main driveway entrance to the King of Prussia complex of the world's #1 war profiteer. The nonviolent resisters - Theresa Camerota, Tom Mullian, Paul Sheldon, Fr. Patrick Sieber and Robert M. Smith - were cited for disorderly conduct by the Upper Merion police and released.

For more information, contact  
[staff@brandywinepeace.com](mailto:staff@brandywinepeace.com)

## Bangor

Over 60 people took part in the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action's annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and legacy on Saturday, January 17. The all-day event began on the grounds of the Center in Poulsbo, Washington, and concluded with a vigil just down the road at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. Eight

nuclear-armed Trident missile launching submarines call the base home, and the base shares a fence with the Ground Zero Center.

Ten people were arrested as the activists staged a mock funeral in an act of civil resistance to nuclear weapons.

In March, four of those arrested appeared in Kitsap County district court to seek mitigation of their fines. Each was allowed to make a brief statement. Judge Claire Bradley listened attentively, first to Mona Lee, who raised her children in her home on the closest private property to the submarine docks:

"On April 17, I entered the roadway at Bangor to help block the main gate and symbolically close the Base. I was dressed as a monastic pall bearer carrying a casket with a large globe image of the earth. I did this to call attention to the gravest danger imaginable."

Lee spoke of learning at Ground Zero that morning the particulars of the United States' trillion-dollar nuclear weapons modernization program, of its first-strike capability, and the nuclear arms race renewed by this reckless strategy.

Bernie Meyer approached the court "feeling deep concern and with a profound frustration." Deep concern because of "new urgency today, new possibility of nuclear war, on top of older possibilities," and profound frustration because this situation exists despite his speaking out about nuclear weapons for 40 years, to all three branches of government, from several approaches: necessity of action, the 1996 World Court ruling on nuclear weapons, international humanitarian law as applied to nuclear war, and citizen intervention. He found one bright spot in citizen intervention, recounting that in 1999 a jury in the same court found a group of Trident resisters innocent based upon treaty law.

"My appeal is to the Court to recognize the truth of our words and the purpose of our actions by finding them appropriate for communicating to all entities involved in the creation, support, and use of nuclear weapons, that the weapons must be abolished with deliberate urgency," Meyer concluded.

Michael Siproth told the court about being a school teacher and trying to teach his students to act responsibly with the highest degree of integrity. He loves his students, would probably give his life for them, but he cannot protect them from the threat of nuclear war. He talked about the Nuremberg Principles, and personal responsibility in the face of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

A few days later, Mary Elder told the same judge, I believe it is incumbent upon this community to support a civil discourse that asks the essential question: Are we okay with the largest concentration of nuclear warheads in the world sitting just 20 miles from this courtroom? And if we're not, what are we going to do about it?

...I am 50 years old, and this is my first arrest. Considering that I was born in the same year as the march on Selma, that I was in college during the anti-Apartheid movement, and that I have lived my entire life aware of the threat of environmental and nuclear disaster, it's pretty embarrassing that only now, at my age, have I used my voice in this way.

It is clear to me that some issues require civil disobedience. If we could rely on the normal channels of congressional, military and legal processes to end the nuclear arms race, it would be over now...

Breaking the law is not in my nature, but protesting peacefully at Bangor taught me that it should be. I wish to close by reminding this court that mitigation makes a statement, too: that voices like mine, and like the tireless individuals at Ground Zero, are crucial in this community and should be heard.

Thanking each for their presence in court, Judge Bradley reduced the fines to \$25 each.

For more information, visit [gzcenter.org](http://gzcenter.org) and [notnt.org](http://notnt.org).



Pentagon police round up activists challenging the military's abuse of the environment on Earth Day.

## Earth Day at the Pentagon

Eight people were arrested at the Pentagon on Earth Day, April 22, as they followed up on a letter seeking to meet with new secretary of war Ashton Carter to discuss the Pentagon's role in polluting the planet and creating climate chaos. Their letter cited the U.S. military as not only a purveyor of radioactive contamination from nuclear weapons testing and depleted uranium munitions, but also the world's single biggest consumer of fossil fuels, and thus the single entity most responsible for destabilizing earth's climate.

The eight were part of a group of about 30 climate and anti-war activists brought together by the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR), who had first demonstrated outside the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

At the EPA, they delivered a letter asking for a meeting with EPA administrator Gina McCarthy or a representative to discuss what the activists called the ecocide being committed by the Pentagon. The letter was accepted, and NCNR representatives were told a response

would be forthcoming.

Outside the Pentagon, School of the America's Watch organizer Hendrik Voss spoke about the impact of U.S. military support for undemocratic governments in Latin America as they waited for an official to accept another copy of their letter to Secretary Carter, and reply about a meeting. When an official did arrive to accept the letter, he was only authorized to get it to Carter's desk, and not to make an appointment. Perceiving that the Pentagon is unwilling to end its activities that threaten the planet, some of the group remained to protest when ordered to leave. Stephen Bush, Felton Davis, Joy First, Malachy Kilbride, Max Obuszewski, Phil Runkel, Manijeh Saba and Trudy Silver were arrested and charged with failure to obey a lawful order.

Secretary Carter has not replied, but the defendants were told in early May that their charges were dismissed.

For more information, contact Max at 410-366-1637, or [mobuszewski@verizon.net](mailto:mobuszewski@verizon.net).

# WRITINGS FROM JAIL

## ~ from FC1 McKean

by Michael Walli

On his last day alive, April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sent the title of his upcoming Sunday sermon to his church in Atlanta: “Why America May Go to Hell.”

He had earlier said that, “A nation that continues, year after year, to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”

He had condemned nuclear weapons in 1959 at the age of 30. Dorothy Day condemned them in 1945. Nuclear weapons were condemned when Jesus made a peace offer which is still being extended: “My peace I give unto you – not as the world gives it.”

Dr. King died in 1968 in Tennessee, the year that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was born into existence. The U.S. became a signatory nation to the NPT, whose provisions came into effect in 1970. But in 2015, the U.S. government has plans and military appropriations calculated to retain the antichrist U.S. government arsenal of nuclear weapons and to continue to proliferate them until at least calendar year 2080. From the year of the death of Dr. King and the birth of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1968 until 2080 is 112 years.

The United States government is in systemic noncompliance with a great many of its legal obligations as a consequence of the presence of Article VI in the United States Constitution. All of the international laws, treaties, agreements and understandings into which the U.S. government has entered are integral obligatory component parts of the U.S. Constitution.

On paper the U.S. is a lamb concerning the subject of torture. The U.S. government has become a signatory to many international legal documents illegalizing torture including:

- 1) The Hague Conventions
- 2) The Geneva Conventions
- 3) The 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and
- 4) The 1984 United Nations Convention on Torture to name a few.

In 1890, the United States Supreme Court defined solitary confinement to be a form of torture. The United States Constitution as originally written prohibited cruel and unusual treatments and punishments (and still does). If torture is not cruel and unusual treatment or

punishment, what is? The World War I era U.S. suffragette Alice Paul was unjustly arrested, jailed and force fed during her hunger strike as an inmate. The forced feeding of fasting/ hunger striking prisoners has been defined to be a form of torture but it is still being used by the U.S. government employees who operate the Guantanamo Bay concentration camp in eastern Cuba.

Assassination campaigns are illegal. Various weapons in the U.S. government arsenal are illegal, including cluster bombs, nuclear weapons and depleted uranium munitions. The targeting and killing otherwise of unarmed noncombatant civilian men, women, children and babies by the unmanned killer drone aircraft is illegal.

The U.S. Constitution is not the Word of God. But some people take oaths to preserve, protect and defend it. The U.S. Presidential oath of office does not apparently use the word “observe” but it is clear that habitually U.S. presidents do not observe their legal obligations under the U.S Constitution.

Worse, the U.S. Constitution is being misused to hamstring efforts to bring about meaningful gun reform in the U.S. FBI statistics show that for some years now U.S. annual firearms deaths exceed 30,000 per year (all causes – homicides, police killings, suicides, accidentals, undetermined, etc.). If the framers of the U.S. Constitution intended that their literary child should be used to prevent the work of bringing about a calendar year in which there are ZERO gun deaths in the U.S., THEN SHAME ON THE FRAMERS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

People in the U.S. have got to do better than pound on their chests and make loud lamentations when the firearms fatality body counts continue. “For lack of vision the people perish.” - The Word of God

What is being done to redeem this sad state of affairs?

We continue to hope for all things through Christ who strengthens us. Jesus miraculously raised a dead man to life by calling out:

“LAZARUS – COME FORTH!”

The spiritual death of the U.S. prophesied over 47 years ago by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has come to pass. Uncle Sam is a dead pigeon. The divisions amongst the people of the U.S. arise from the fact of the presence among us of unGodly ones. But we can and must draw close together about essential matters relating to the Common Good. A household divided against itself cannot stand. We must join hands and call out:

‘UNCLE SAM – COME FORTH!’

# THE INSIDE LINE



Dr. King talked about the Rip Van Winkle story. Uncle Sam has been in a deathlike slumber since World War II.

A 2015 march from Ferguson, Missouri to the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King died; to the Oak Ridge Y-12 nuclear weapons of mass destruction proliferation site; to the Atlanta, Georgia tomb of Dr. King; to the U.S. Army torture and terrorist training school at Ft. Benning, Georgia; to the King’s Bay, Georgia Trident guided missiles nuclear weapons of mass destruction U.S. Navy submarine base; to the Trayvon Martin death site in Florida; to the Dr. King Memorial in Washington, D.C.; to the smoldering ruins of 2015 riot-torn Baltimore; to the Brooklyn, New York Bureau of Prisons site where my 85-year-old codefendant Sister Megan Rice, SHCJ is being unjustly imprisoned by the antichrist, failed, rogue, terrorist, millions-of-dead-people’s-blood-on-its-hands U.S. government.\*

This kind of a march could have some redemptive influence on societal affairs. Appeals to reason, quotations of the Word of God, and mentioning the various international level playing field rule of law obligations cannot do any harm. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed his letter from a Birmingham Jail mostly to his fellow clergy – men who refused to prioritize matters of social justice in their use of their Christian pulpits. But Jesus said, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and its justice.” And Dr. King, a true prophet of God, said, “Injustice anywhere in the world is a threat to justice everywhere in the world.”

\* [Michael Walli, Sr. Megan Rice and Greg Boertje-Obed - the Transform Now Plowshares - were suddenly released from prison on May 16, eight days after Michael Walli mailed this to the Nuclear Resister (see page 1). Walli was serving a 62-month prison sentence when he wrote, and now awaits resentencing with his codefendants.]

# DRONE RESISTANCE, CONTINUED

continued from page 1

probation and 1,500 hour community service sentence he’d given to Jack Gilroy in addition to the jail time. At Gilroy’s resentencing on February 4, Jokl accepted his attorney’s challenge and acknowledged that the probation and community service were both illegal and dismissed them. He hinted at another factor for the changed course, commenting that he and fellow DeWitt judge David Gideon do not like the idea of drones in their area.

The activists of Upstate New York Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars returned to Hancock on March 19, the 12th anniversary of the second U.S. invasion of Iraq. Seven people blocked the base with books. Four books sufficed, each an eight-foot-tall replica of titles that together make the case for today’s drone war crimes: the *United Nations Charter*; *Dirty Wars* (Jeremy Scahill); *Living Under Drones* (NYU and Stanford Law Schools); and *You Never Die Twice* (Reprieve).

The activists also held a banner quoting Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution, which states that every treaty signed becomes the supreme law of the land. They attempted yet again to deliver a citizens’ indictment for war crimes to the base commanders, but instead were arrested. Danny Burns, Brian Hynes, Ed Kinane, Julianne Oldfield, Fr. Bill Pickard, Bev Rice and James Ricks were charged with trespass, disorderly conduct and obstruction of governmental administration. Those in the group who had previously been served with orders of protection naming Col. Earl A. Evans were not charged with that violation as he is no longer serving at Hancock and the new commander has apparently not asked the court for protection. All pled not guilty, and pre-trial motions will be heard on July 9.

Then on April 1, after hearing about 90 minutes of legal arguments on pre-trial motions, Judge Jokl also dismissed “in the interest of justice” all charges against John Honeck, Julianne Oldfield, Andrew Schoerke and Mary Snyder, charged with up to four counts each following the same 2013 demonstration at Hancock. The next group of four people arrested in April, 2013 is set for trial on June 24. Others have again been postponed until fall or indefinitely.

For more information, visit [upstatedroneaction.org](http://upstatedroneaction.org).



photo by Ellen Grady

Activists and giant books condemn drone warfare at Hancock Field, New York.

## CREECH

In March, about 150 people came from at least 18 states to join the three-day Shut Down Creech actions outside Creech Air Force Base, northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. Creech is the central site of control for both CIA and Pentagon targeted drone killings that terrorize communities and remotely kill civilians in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia and elsewhere. It was the latest in a series of twice-annual mobilizations at the remote base organized by a coalition of groups including Code Pink, Veterans For Peace, Nevada Desert Experience, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and Voices for Creative Nonviolence.

They pitched tents and created Camp Justice across highway U.S. 95 from the base’s main gate, just outside the small town of Indian Springs, on Wednesday, March 4.

While they were gathered, drone opponents across the country privately paid for an anti-drone television ad addressed to the pilots to be aired in the Las Vegas region. It showed graphic images of mutilated children killed by drone attacks and encouraged drone pilots to “please

refuse to fly”. The ad, produced by [knowdrones.org](http://knowdrones.org), has also been shown in New York and California markets near drone bases.

The next day, when protesters were making final plans and preparations for Friday’s resistance action, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbird precision flying team flew six jets at extremely low altitudes over Camp Justice, making it nearly impossible to have discussions because of the noise of the jets. In spite of the purposeful interruption, creative plans were made for early the next morning.

On March 6, U.S. 95 was renamed the “Drone Victims Memorial Highway,” and grave markers were placed along the road with the names and ages of known drone victims. Affinity groups took sequential actions at both base gates to sustain their interruption of base activities. Traffic was backed up along the highway and on frontage roads multiple times through the morning.

The 40 person Veterans For Peace contingent delivered a letter addressed to drone operators calling on them to not participate in war crimes related to targeted killing and to refuse to obey illegal orders. Another contingent blocked one gate with yellow crime scene tape, temporarily impeding traffic. A third group marched in a long procession along the highway holding large photographs of drone victims, many of them children, passing along the backed up cars trying to enter the base, and ultimately laying down on the roadway in a “die-in.” A fourth wave of resisters carried large hand-painted panels depicting some young victims killed in Pakistan and Yemen.

Police arrested 34 people, bussing them across the highway where they were cited for misdemeanors and released, with one exception. Fr. Jerry Zawada OFM was taken to jail in Las Vegas for processing when his probation from an earlier protest showed up in police records. He was released later that day.

Two minors later had their charges dropped. Ten people had charges reduced to a traffic infraction that does not fit the police description of their action, so they are asking that it be dismissed. The others are to be arraigned

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# THREE MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR TRESPASS AT DRONE BASE

On December 10, Human Rights Day, a federal magistrate found Georgia Walker of Kansas City, Missouri and Kathy Kelly of Chicago, Illinois guilty of criminal trespass on a military installation. On June 1, 2014, the women attempted to deliver a loaf of bread and a citizens’ indictment to authorities at Whiteman Air Force Base. Located in west-central Missouri, Whiteman is home of the 20th Reconnaissance Squadron piloting Predator drones directly in support of missions flown from Creech Air Force Base in Nevada. Judge Matt Whitworth sentenced Kelly to three months in prison and Walker to one year of supervised probation.

During their day-long trial, the women were given a little latitude to explain their simple action and address the issues surrounding drone warfare. Questioned by her attorney, Walker testified,

“We wanted to deliver an indictment to the commander on the base, but in a friendly way. When we went to the line, there wasn’t anyone to give our bread and indictment to. Our intent was not a demonstration

but a dialogue. ... What we were doing was to petition the government with our grievances. We were grieved about the killing of women and children from that base. A woman approached us and said, ‘You can’t go any further.’ I said, ‘We don’t want to go further. We just want to talk...”

She was asked, “Was it your purpose to commit trespass or any crime?”

“No,” said Walker. “I was acting urgently. Probably as I was speaking, people were being terrorized by drones.”

Following their conviction, while he mulled suggested prison terms for both women, Voices for Creative Nonviolence co-founder Kelly told Judge Whitworth, “We all have a grave responsibility to bring grievances before the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch... We do have a responsibility to protect security. I quote Gen. (Stanley) McChrystal (former U.S. commander in Afghanistan): ‘The aggressive and arrogant use of drone warfare jeopardizes the security

of the United States.’ I’ve been at the side of a 9-year-old girl whose arm was blown off by a drone. I’ve said (to Afghani people), ‘I’ll do what I can to bring your grievances to my government.’ We tried to speak up today on behalf of people impoverished and entrapped.”

Rejecting jail for Walker, Whitworth acknowledged the good works both women are known by, but also that in at least nine previous cases, Kelly had been convicted on similar charges, some of them federal. “Clearly you have not been deterred,” he recognized.

However, “There is a message that should be sent.”

Kelly was permitted to self-report on January 23, and served her sentence at the federal prison in Lexington, Kentucky. One of her prison essays is reprinted below, *The Inside Line*. All of them can be found at [nukeresister.org/the-inside-line/](http://nukeresister.org/the-inside-line/).

For more information, visit [vcnv.org](http://vcnv.org)

*Thanks to Jane Stoever for her report on the trial.*

## WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from FMC Lexington

### Possibility of Escape

by Kathy Kelly  
March 9, 2015

*That is also us, the possibility of us, if the wonderful accident of our birth had taken place elsewhere: you could be the refugee, I could be the torturer. To face that truth is also our burden. After all, each of us has been the bystander, the reasonable person who just happens not to hear, not to speak, not to see those people, the invisible ones, those who live on the other side of the border.*

- Karen Connelly, *The Lizard Cage*

It was a little over two weeks ago that Marlo entered Atwood Hall, here in Lexington federal prison. Nearly all the women here are nonviolent offenders. When I first saw Marlo, her eyes seemed glued to the tiled floors as she shuffled along hallways. I guessed her age to be 25 or so. A few days later, she came to a choir rehearsal. She was still shy, but she looked up and offered a quiet smile when she joined the soprano section. The next time our choir gathered, Marlo raised her hand before we ended our rehearsal. “I got something to say,” she said, as she stood. “When I first came here, I can tell all of you now, I was terrified. Just plain terrified. I have 70 months, and I felt so scared.” The intake process for this, her introduction to the prison system, had badly frightened her, but before sundown that same day, a second intake process had occurred, with several inmates finding her, reassuring her, and getting her beyond that first panic.

During my four stints in U.S. federal prisons, I’ve witnessed long-term inmates’ unconquerably humane response when a newcomer arrives. An unscripted choreography occurs and the new prisoner finds that other women will help her through the trauma of adjustment to being locked up for many months or years. Halfway through a three-month sentence myself, I’m saddened to realize that I’ll very likely adapt to an outside world for which these women, and prisoners throughout the U.S. prison system, are often completely invisible.

U.S. state and federal prison populations have risen, since 1988, from 600,000 to an estimated 1,600,000 in 2012. This trend shows inhumane behavior on the part of lawmakers and myriads of employees who benefit from the so-called “criminal justice” system. But our entire society bears responsibility for what now can aptly be labeled a “prison-industrial complex.” Constructing prisons and filling prisons with people who posed little or no threat to our security didn’t happen secretly, without our consent. We watched, mesmerized perhaps, and allowed ourselves to become a country with the world’s largest prison system.

A friend from home recently sent me encouraging news of Illinois Governor Rauner’s initiative to address the problems in some of the United States’ most brutally overcrowded prisons. A Chicago Tribune article from several weeks ago notes that Rauner plans to reduce the state’s prison population by 25% over the next ten years, establishing the reduction as a goal through executive order. The article, by columnist Eric Zorn, cites a widely-cited recent report by the Vera Institute of Justice that “nearly 75% of the population of both sentenced offenders and pretrial detainees are in jail for nonviolent offenses like traffic, property, drugs or public order violations.”

Skyrocketing costs of incarceration have finally convinced some lawmakers to work toward “reducing

prison populations.” Yesterday, I read a long report about how the California Department of Corrections has responded to a court-ordered demand that the state reduce the numbers of people locked up in California state prisons. The order was first issued in 2009 by a three-judge panel. The state appealed the order, but in 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld it, ordering the state of California to comply by 2013. The California government sought and was granted two extensions. As of now, the order insists that California must reduce its prison population, by 2016, to “no more than 137.5 percent of the design capacity” of its state prisons.

Whatever plans Gov. Rauner’s committee proposes for Illinois, the notoriously incarceration-minded Illinois state legislature is likely to put up just as vigorous a fight. Meanwhile the California report discusses “cost-effective measures,” “recidivism reduction results,” “rehabilitative programming” and “programming slots” at “in-state contract facilities.” The language, highly impersonal, suggests warehousing. I wonder if zookeepers might be more attentive to the individuality of the beings they cage.

Trapped in a cruel and uncaring system, women here in Atwood Hall reliably find humane ways to cope. Among many signs of daily generosity, one of my favorites is the practice of “window shopping.” Women place extra items they can spare in the window sills nearest the stairwells. A new prisoner can find new fresh socks, a warm knit cap, books, magazines, pitchers – items that quickly disappear and are soon replenished.

Perhaps we’ll begin to see a trend toward finding humane ways to cope with seemingly intractable problems in today’s criminal justice system. The U.S. Supreme Court’s insistence that the State of California must release many thousands of prisoners signals a trend in which, as Gov. Rauner’s order recognizes, “States across the country have enacted bi-partisan, data driven and evidence based reforms that have reduced the use of incarceration and its costs while protecting and improving public safety.” Zorn notes that the Mac Arthur Foundation recently granted \$75 million for a 5 year “Safety and Justice Challenge” meant “to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about its prisons and jails.”

I can’t imagine a figure too high to pay, in dollars or in human work hours, to effectively challenge the way U.S. people think about safety and justice. In describing a class that he taught in a New Jersey maximum-security prison, Chris Hedges wrote:

The mass incarceration of primarily poor people of color, people who seldom have access to adequate legal defense and who are often kept behind bars for years for nonviolent crimes or for crimes they did not commit, is one of the most shameful mass injustices committed in the United States. The 28 men in my class have cumulatively spent 515 years in prison. Some of their sentences are utterly disproportionate to the crimes of which they are accused. Most are not even close to finishing their sentences or coming before a parole board, which rarely grants first-time applicants their liberty. Many of them are in for life. One of my students was arrested at the age of 14 for a crime that strong evidence suggests he did not commit. He will not be eligible for parole until he is 70. He never had a chance in court and because he cannot afford a private attorney he has no chance now of challenging the grotesque sentence handed to him as a child.

Here in Atwood Hall, guards and administrators know that they imprison humane, caring, generous and

## THE INSIDE LINE



talented women, people not very different from their own relatives, friends and co-workers. Where are the “bad sisters” that could ever justify the punishment of isolating women like Marlo from their children and other loved ones for long and wearying years? I imagine that many BOP guards admire, as I do, the courage and fortitude of the women facing long sentences here. Do they wonder, sometimes, what courage would be required, in their own lives, to stop working as enforcers of the prison system? Or do they perhaps wish, sometimes, that the general public could muster up the will to stop voting for the prison system?

There is a cynical quote which a cynical friend of mine likes to quote to me, from the philosopher David Hume: “A prisoner who has neither money nor interest, discovers the impossibility of his escape, as well when he considers the obstinacy of the gaoler, as the walls and bars with which he is surrounded; and, in all attempts for his freedom, chooses rather to work upon the stone and iron of the one, than upon the inflexible nature of the other.” It’s the cliché of the prisoner attempting escape: the prisoner sees more hope tunneling out through bricks than appealing to the stone-faced jailer.

But who are the jailers? These prisons were built, and filled, in our name – in the name of making us “safer”. More guards, more lawyers, judges, wardens, marshals, probation officers and court personnel would be hired even if the present ones resigned. Meanwhile the creative work to create real security, real community in the face of social dislocation and crime, would still need to be done. We, the broader public, must be the jailers. Sometimes we seem to be a stone rolling down the path of least resistance. But we’re not stone. We can choose not to be jailers, and choose, instead, to be ever more inflexible in our resistance to injustice and to hatred born of fear.

I’m here among women, some of whom, I’ve been told, are supposed to be “hardened criminals.” Fellow activists incarcerated in men’s prisons likewise concur that the system is futile, merciless and wrongheaded. Our jailers, I’m convinced, can see this. Men like Governor Rauner, it seems, can see it, or his advisers can. Where are the inflexible ones keeping women like Marlo isolated from and lost to the world, trembling for their future for the next five years? I would like to make an appeal to you, and to myself two months from now when I’ve left here and once more rejoined the polite society of these women’s “inflexible jailers.” I choose to believe that we can be moved and these women can escape. I am writing this, as many have written and will write, to see if we’re easier to move than iron and stone.

*[Kathy Kelly served three months in federal prison for crossing the line to protest drone warfare and offer bread to the commander at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.]*

# Epiphany at Livermore

On January 6, the monthly Catholic Worker vigil at Livermore was joined by members of Tri-Valley CAREs, the local nuclear abolitionist group that keeps a critical eye on activity at the lab.

The particular focus of the January vigil was to oppose the planned use of plutonium in the National Ignition Facility (NIF), a big-budget science project long trumpeted to advance research on fusion energy.

In December, the lab made a sudden announcement that plutonium experiments would begin at NIF in January, bringing the project back to its stealth roots as an advanced nuclear weapons engineering enterprise. The lab is preparing to conduct at least ten experiments this year zapping bits of plutonium with lasers in NIF, and vaporizing the radioactive metal. According to documents Tri-Valley CAREs obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, there will be no inner containment vessel to effectively capture the debris.

As vigilers began to hand out leaflets drawing attention to the “Bad Idea: Plutonium in the NIF”, Livermore Lab security personnel, backed by the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department, opted to close the East Gate and turn away the steady stream of lab employees coming in to work.

Police accosted three leafletters on the road just outside the gatehouse. Marcus Page-Collogne and Fr. Louis Vitale were escorted back across the boundary line, while Chelsea Collogne was handcuffed, threatened with prosecution, and then released a short time later without charge.

For more information, visit [livermore.catholicworker.biz](http://livermore.catholicworker.biz) and [trivalleycares.org](http://trivalleycares.org).

## Holy Innocents at the Pentagon

More than 50 people from the Atlantic and Southern Life Communities went to the Pentagon on December 29 to commemorate Herod’s Massacre of the Holy Innocents, as told in Matthew 2:16-18. They processed with banners and signs along Army Navy Drive to the south entrance where the subway station is located. A large group of Pentagon police awaited them, and directed the column to the designated “protest zone”. Ten people instead continued down the sidewalk with their large banner reading “Wage Peace – Practice Nonviolence.”

To their surprise, police let them pass by and assemble near the entrance. They began their witness, reading from the book of Matthew as the first of several warnings to leave or face arrest was given. A litany of the innocent who have been slaughtered by the U.S. military was read, with the response “God Forgive US!” to each example. The litany concluded as police gave their final warning and began making arrests. Ten people were handcuffed and led away to the Pentagon police station. They were charged with failure to comply with a lawful order and released. The charges were dismissed in February.

## DRONE RESISTANCE, CONTINUED

*continued from page 5*

in court on June 30 where at least eight plan to appear in person and pursue a joint trial, and some may agree to pay a \$50 fine for six months deferred prosecution. They welcome supporters in court and for additional actions at Creech that week.

For more information, visit [nevadadesertexperience.org](http://nevadadesertexperience.org).  
(Thanks to [warisacrime.org](http://warisacrime.org) for parts of this report.)

### BEALE AIR FORCE BASE

In California, Beale Air Force Base is the home of the Global Hawk “accomplice” drone, a long-range surveillance drone that helps find targets for the armed Predator and Reaper drones. Regular protest vigils there have evolved to include “soft blockades” of an entrance with banners and signs, where they dialogue with police or state highway patrol up until arrest appears imminent, then leave the road. Following news of a 12-year-old killed by a U.S. drone attack in Yemen, eight people blocked the morning commute for 80 minutes on January 27. The heading of their leaflet for Beale personnel connected the dots to the rampant police violence against people of color: “From Ferguson to Pakistan, Oakland to Afghanistan, Black and Brown Lives Matter.” It questioned the racism that exists both in U.S. global warfare, drone killing and in law enforcement practices, where lives of people of color and people of other cultures

## Conviction Overturned, cont.

*continued from page 1*  
road be sabotage?

“Is it fair to say, banners, hammer, spray paint and blood—those are instruments to harm the national defense?”

Theodore could not back down now. “They could be—“

“Could be?”  
Kethledge cut him off. “These people are in prison right now.”

In that instant, Hutchison wrote, humanity entered the courtroom that usually dealt only in verbal interpretations of legal language, hypothetical cases and the intentions of legislatures long since past.

Kethledge continued, “I’m inclined to the view of Chief Justice Roberts that we have to take a step back from a definition of national defense so eggshell that banners [and] bread could injure the national defense.”

In the ruling, Kethledge wrote for the majority that “the defendants’ actions in this case had zero effect, at the time of their actions or anytime afterwards, on the nation’s ability to wage war or defend against attack,” and dismissed the government’s implication “that a mere ‘diversion of resources’ – in the form of the guards’ response to the intrusion, rather than continuing to do what they were doing before – amounts to interference with the national defense. To answer that suggestion on its own terms: responding to intrusions is what guards do...”

He concluded that the government’s “vague platitudes about a facility’s ‘crucial role in the national defense’ are not enough to convict a defendant of sabotage.”

With the conviction overturned, and the near-certainty that a new sentence would be less than time already served, on May 14 defense attorneys filed an Emergency Motion for Expedited Determination of Immediate Release. The court asked the government for a prompt response.

Events unfolded rapidly the next day. That Friday afternoon the government responded that it would not oppose the release of the defendants pending resentencing. Just after 7:00 p.m. that evening, the Sixth Circuit ordered the immediate release of the three on their own recognizance.



photo by Dan Zak  
**Sr. Megan Rice is embraced by a friend as she leaves the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, May 16, 2015.**

Their legal team reached Walli by phone with the news that evening, but Boertje-Obed and Rice were not able to access email notification before she heard the news of her impending release while listening to the BBC in her prison bunk at 3 a.m. on Saturday, and Boertje-Obed was told when summoned by a guard.

On Saturday, Walli was put on a bus back home from central Pennsylvania to the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker community in Washington, D.C. Family and friends greeted Rice as she stepped out of the federal prison in Brooklyn, New York. Boertje-Obed expected to be sent from Leavenworth, Kansas home to Duluth, Minnesota, but the prison mistakenly bussed him instead back to Knoxville, Tennessee. Supporters met him there and put him on a flight to Minnesota on Monday (his 60th birthday), but that flight was turned back by storms in Philadelphia. He finally made it home the next day.

During their two years in prison, the Transform Now Plowshares received quite a bit of mainstream and alternative media coverage. Their release was also reported on widely by media around the world. Boertje-Obed was interviewed in Knoxville for a story in the local paper and then by the Duluth newspaper once he was back home. Rice and Walli were interviewed that Monday, May 18 on Democracy Now, and other stories and interviews followed.

Months earlier, in a profile of Sr. Megan Rice published in the *New York Daily News* in January, the nun discussed prison conditions faced by the 110+ other women with her in Brooklyn’s Metropolitan Detention Center. The article led to a tour of the prison by six women from the National Association of Women Judges. They listened to the women’s complaints about overcrowding and lack of opportunity for self-improvement in the prison. Limited improvements in conditions and programming had been made by the time Rice was freed.

One of Michael Walli’s last letters from prison is found on page 5, The Inside Line.

For more information, visit [transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com](http://transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com).



Photo by Guarionex Delgado  
**A die-in blocks a gate into Beale Air Force Base.**

are so easily expendable. The blockade was removed before arrests were made.

Six people, including several clergy members and military veterans, were arrested during an ecumenical religious service at the base gate on Ash Wednesday, February 18. In the words of Rev. Sharon Delgado, they crossed the line to “call for repentance for: the harm done to the Indigenous people who used to live where Beale is

now, the harm being done to Mother Earth by our building and deploying high-tech weapons and weapons of mass destruction, the harm done to families and communities who suffer cutbacks in public services while billions are spent for the military, the overall harm caused by the global reach of U.S. military power.”

They were taken into custody by military police as they spread ashes memorializing those of children killed by U.S. drones overseas.

Delgado, along with Barry Binks, Shirley Osgood, Pamela Osgood, Marcus Page-Collonge and Lorraine Reich, were charged with trespass and released later.

Occupy Beale activists welcomed Kathy Kelly to join their April vigil just days after her release from federal prison (see page 8). She and Brian Terrell, both from Voices for Creative Nonviolence, were arrested April 28 alongside fourteen others at the Beale main gate as they tried to deliver a letter of protest to the base commander. The group was cited for federal trespass and released.

Since the spring of 2014, federal prosecutors in Sacramento have not proceeded with charges against any Beale resisters.

For more information, visit [occupybeale.org](http://occupybeale.org).

# WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE FASTS AND ACTS FOR JUSTICE IN D.C.

from the reports at [Witnesstorture.org](http://Witnesstorture.org)

Every year around the January 11 anniversary of its opening, Witness Against Torture (WAT) gathers in Washington, D.C. to Fast for Justice in solidarity with the men still remaining at the extra-legal Guantánamo Bay, Cuba prisoner of war camp. This year, about 70 people took part for eight days of a liquid-only-fast and sleeping on the floor, community-led reflections, daily public witness with orange jumpsuits and black hoods, nonviolent civil resistance, and the sharing of the stories of men detained in Guantánamo, this January numbering 122. They were supported in fasting and prayer by many others around the country who could not go to D.C., all committed to the work to close Guantánamo.

WAT joined CodePink’s Torturers Tour in McLean, Virginia on Saturday, January 10, to demonstrate at the homes of CIA Director John Brennan and former Vice President Dick Cheney and call for their arrest as war criminals. First stop was Brennan’s abode, remarkably unprotected in a modest suburban neighborhood. Together in song (“we’re gonna build a nation/that don’t torture no one/but it’s gonna take courage/for that change to come”), they walked past the handful of waiting police officers who tried to stop them and moved directly in front of the house. Using a portable sound system, several activists spoke directly to Brennan, condemning the CIA’s and his actions. After half an hour, and with a police force growing in size and agitation, the group filed away from Brennan’s home to continue the tour.

At former Vice President Dick Cheney’s house, police stood outside of the front door. Finding a back driveway gate ajar, more than a dozen people walked through it to demonstrate on the back porch. Tighe Barry, in a Cheney mask and prison stripes, welcomed the demonstrators from behind a frame of PVC plastic prison bars. Police came around to the scene shortly, and ordered everyone out to the street. Members of the group encouraged the police to arrest Dick Cheney, and they did, but they got the wrong one, nabbing Barry after he returned to the sidewalk. Eighty-three-year-old Eve Tetaz, longtime Witness Against Torture participant, was also arrested, apparently for moving too slowly. Both were charged with trespass and disorderly conduct and released later that day.

The other demonstrators were asked to disperse because by then they were blocking traffic on the narrow residential street. They concluded the tour with a rally at CIA headquarters.

Tetaz was later found guilty of “disturbing the tranquility of the home.” The judge said she intended to let her off with a warning, but after seeing her arrest record decided the retired teacher needed to be taught a lesson and fined her \$500.

As part of their mission to build a future where Guantánamo, torture, and all forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment are unimaginable, WAT had looked deeply at the intersection of domestic racism with overseas torture. The next step was to take it into the streets, the U.S. Capitol and the D.C. jail on the final day of their fast, Monday, January 12.

“The group decided not to speak out on behalf of an abstract, universal humanity, even as it invoked universal rights,” wrote Jeremy Varon. “Instead, it chose to acknowledge its status as a mostly white group working to break white silence and to invite other whites to do the same.”

In dialogue with diverse voices, WAT conceived a suite of actions under the slogan From Ferguson to Guantánamo: White Silence Equals State Violence. “The goal was to link mass incarceration at home and indefinite detention overseas, impunity for police murder and for CIA torture as dual dimensions of systems of state violence rooted substantially in racism.”

At the Capitol, one group went in to the Senate Gallery and another group went to the visitors center. Later, yet another group went to the Department of Justice, then proceeded to the D.C. Central Cell Block.

In the Senate, demonstrators sat in three different locations. Beginning at 2:30 p.m., three waves rose in succession to interrupt the proceedings. Citing the recent Senate report on CIA torture practices, each chanted “U.S. Torture! It’s official, prosecute now! – Waterboarding! It’s official, prosecute now! – Rectal feeding! It’s official, prosecute now!” until thirteen demonstrators were ushered out of the chamber and arrested.

The action in the visitors center was set into motion as

the observers returned from the Gallery. Banner holders and chanters took their place, forming a large circle in the middle of the open floor. The banners read, “Ferguson 2 Guantánamo: White Silence = State Violence” and “We Demand Accountability for Torture & Police Murder.” A mic-check group reading was interrupted when police soon descended on the group, pushing observers out of the room and making nine arrests.

WAT members not in custody then joined the Hands Up Coalition for their weekly vigil at the Department of Justice, calling for the indictment of law enforcement officers who have killed unarmed people of color. From there, they processed together to the jail. Stopped at the security checkpoint, a group of 20 occupied the lobby for 28 minutes, in recognition of the people of color killed every 28 hours in the United States by police or vigilantes.



photo by Justin Norman

**Torture and police murder opponents protest in the Capitol visitors center.**

“We came to the U.S. Senate, the Justice Department, and a D.C. jail,” said WAT member Uruj Sheikh, “to convey with a new voice that racism and Islamophobia, torture tactics in U.S. prisons like extended solitary confinement and the torture of indefinite detention at Guantánamo are two parts of the same system of white supremacy and militarized violence.”

Those arrested in the Capitol were held overnight and released until trial. The Senate group trial will be in D.C. Superior Court on June 22, and the visitors center group trial on June 25.

The trials will coincide with Torture Awareness Week, when WAT traditionally gathers in support of Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, Inc. (TASSC), whose members — torture survivors from all over the world — come together for solidarity and advocacy. The week culminates with the TASSC vigil

on Saturday, June 27 in Lafayette Square in front of the White House. WAT invites supporters to join them for all or part of the week at St. Stephen Episcopal Church, 1525 Newton St. NW, Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [witnesstorture.org](http://witnesstorture.org) or email Helen Schietinger, [h.schietinger@verizon.net](mailto:h.schietinger@verizon.net).

**CONGRESS HAS HEARINGS BUT IS IT LISTENING?**

On February 5, first Helen Schietinger from Witness Against Torture and later David Barrows from CODEPINK were arrested for speaking out during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing about Guantánamo Bay prison. In an open letter to committee chair Sen. John McCain, Schietinger wrote about why she was compelled to disrupt the hearing:

I’m sure you heard my words, “Give them the rights of prisoners of war!” before I was arrested.

I attended the hearing in an orange jump suit to silently protest the very existence of Guantánamo prison, and I expected to hear a reasonably rational discussion of the prison and its future. I planned to listen respectfully, holding my sign reading “I died waiting for justice: Adnan Latif, Died September 8, 2012,” to remind the Senators and administration officials that Adnan Latif either committed suicide or was killed at Guantánamo after ten years of torture and unjust detention, and six years after being cleared for release. The Capitol police appropriately allowed me to peacefully express my opposition to Guantánamo in that public forum.

I was so shocked, however, by the vitriol of the senators who chose to attend the hearing that I felt I had to respond. I was appalled by their hateful statements — statements that contribute to a hostile climate that foments tragic hate crimes. Less than a week after the hearing three young Muslim Americans were murdered in North Carolina almost certainly because they were Muslim.

... Senator Cotton would have more Muslim men locked up as terrorists in Guantánamo without due process...

Senator Manchin thinks the detainees are not being treated harshly enough...

And when I exhorted the committee to at least give the men at Guantánamo the rights of prisoners of war, Sen. Manchin responded by saying, “I just want to say — their attack on this country — they lost their rights.” Think about that: a U.S. Senator doesn’t think that human beings in U.S. custody should have rights. Not one Senator spoke up in disagreement.

Barrows was already facing a charge of impeding a House of Representatives hearing about the Islamic State last September 18, when he spoke out against escalating U.S. warmaking in the Middle East. Prosecutors wanted him held until trial but he was released on a promise to appear, and an order to stay away from the vicinity of the Capitol and congressional office buildings where he was arrested.

Schietinger was charged but when she came to court was told no papers were filed but the arrest could still come up in her record if she is arrested again. She was arrested, just a few weeks later, as she stood holding

*continued on page 9*

## Grandmother Picks Jail Over Fine

A Juneau County, Wisconsin jury deliberated only half an hour on April 1 before finding Madison grandmother and long-time peace activist Bonnie Block guilty of trespassing at her trial in Mauston. The charge resulted from her arrest while attending an open house tour of Volk Field in May, 2014, and handing out leaflets to other visitors. The leaflets questioned National Guard drone warfare training operations at the base.

Co-defendant Fr. Jim Murphy had been convicted in a bench trial and fined, but Block asked for a jury.

In response, the county attorney filed a boilerplate motion *in limine*, and a pretrial hearing in March granted its limits on her defense. Nineteen of the 25 points of the motion prohibited some part or another of her legal case.

Thus constrained, Block was handily convicted and fined \$232 or 5 days in jail.

Block told the court,

Your Honor, I asked for a jury trial in this matter so I could explain to the citizens of Juneau County my moral, constitutional, and legal reasons for opposing the drone training via handing out a leaflet at the Volk Field Open House. I also wanted to point out the absurdity of being arrested for trespassing at an event to which the public had been invited.

However, the Court’s pretrial orders based on the

District Attorney’s 25 point Motion in Limine precluded me from explaining this to the jury because the pre-trial orders prohibited any mention to the Jury of the very issues that I believe constitute a defense for my nonviolent action.

These prohibitions also made it impossible for me to testify on my own behalf because I couldn’t honor the oath “to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth.” And to top it off, there was the unilateral refusal of Volk Field Commander Romauld to honor my third party subpoena to testify so he could explain the military rules and rationale that he considers the justification for my arrest. It puts the military brass above the law and I object.

For these reasons, I can’t in good conscience pay the fine. It would be giving consent to the outcome of a legal process I believe was unfair and which sets dangerous precedents for those of us engaged in nonviolent civil resistance and seeking justice for victims of U.S. drone warfare. So I’ll “do the time” instead of paying the fine.

Judge Paul Curran allowed Block to have lunch with her husband and son before reporting to the Juneau County Justice Center to do her time.

In the essay on page 2, Resistance Reflections, Block writes about her short stay in jail.

(Thanks to Joy First for her reports.)



# Good Friday Peace Actions

## PENTAGON

The theme for the two-day Holy Week Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker and Jonah House communities, was “Put Away the Sword.” Ray McGovern, a career CIA professional for 27 years, did just that. On Thursday, April 2, he shared with the retreat his journey from CIA professional to Gospel peacemaker and truth-teller using song, prayer, stories, video and Irish wit.

Early Good Friday morning, April 3, at the Pentagon, the community of about 25 processed from Army-Navy Drive to the designated “protest zone.” They sang as they carried signs and small crosses with the names of various victims of our society’s violence written on them.

As hundreds of employees walked briskly by, seven people remained on the sidewalk for a rite of Adoration of the Cross, while the others continued on to the protest zone. A huge banner reading “U.S. Empire Crucifies Humanity” was placed on the grassy slope overlooking the entrance. One person in a black robe stood on a crate, arms outstretched on a large cross, wearing a sign, “Victim of Militarism.” Readings alternated with silence, and very soon the seven who were praying on the sidewalk were arrested.

Joe Byrne, David Eberhardt, Bill Frankel-Streit, Nancy Gowan, Art Laffin, Sr. Margaret McKenna and Eve Tetaz were taken to the Pentagon police processing center and released after several hours. They were charged with failure to comply with a lawful order, and have a June 4 court date.

A noon-time witness in front of the White House, where no arrests were made, concluded the retreat.

For more information, visit [dccatholicworker.wordpress.com](http://dccatholicworker.wordpress.com).

## NEVADA TEST SITE

Twenty-two people from eight different U.S. states, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands were arrested on Good Friday after crossing over the cattle guard that marks the boundary of the Nevada National Security Site (formerly known as the Nevada Test Site).

The action culminated the annual Sacred Peace Walk which began on Palm Sunday. This year about a dozen of the 50 or so walkers, including Buddhist monks and nuns, made the event part of an international relay walk through different parts of the U.S. on the way to the United Nations for the Nonproliferation Treaty Review events. Chief Johnny Bobb of the Western Shoshone also participated in the Walk.

## WITNESS, CONT.

*continued from page 8*

a small sign reading “There is no Military Solution” and spoke out at a March 11 Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF), Congress’ construal of a declaration of war.

To her surprise, this arrest was also “not papered.”

Meanwhile, the government moved to join Barrows’ two arrests at one trial, and to prohibit testimony about why he was there, saying what he was saying. At a May 15 hearing, joinder was denied. On the eve of his first trial, May 27, the government offered to drop one charge if he’d plead guilty to the other – his choice.

Barrows signed on to an agreement that would include no recommendation of jail time, nor large fine, nor exclusion from the Capitol neighborhood. In court the next day, he was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended, 40 hours community service, and 18 months probation during which he is prohibited from entering the office buildings where he was arrested.

In a related CodePink action at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on January 29, honored witness Henry Kissinger was confronted with signs and shouts suited to a widely accused war criminal. Alli McCracken dangled handcuffs between a battery of cameras and Kissinger, assuring global reach for the story of the citizen’s arrest attempt even before Senator McCain’s intemperate outburst about “low-life scum.” McCracken and others were removed from the room and released without charge.

For more information, visit [codepink.org](http://codepink.org).



photo by Felice Cohen-Joppa

**Pacific Life Community blockaders at the main entrance to Lockheed Martin’s missile center in Sunnyvale, California, March 2, 2015**

## BLOCKADE OF LOCKHEED MARTIN

More than 80 people participated in a lively and colorful demonstration at Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale, California on Monday, March 2.

The protest at the sprawling factory complex of the world’s largest war profiteer concluded the 2015 weekend retreat of the Pacific Life Community (PLC). The PLC is a network of spiritually motivated activists from the Pacific Coast and other western states committed to nonviolent action for a nuclear-free future.

After sharing poetry, litany, dance and songs, twelve community members spread across the entrance roadway to stop traffic going into the weapons plant with a 50-foot-long banner that read “Lockheed Weapons Terrorize the World”.

The group was arrested and charged with blocking traffic. Fr. Jerry Zawada OFM was cited and released on site. At the Sunnyvale police station, Ann Havill, Ed Ehmke and Mary Jane Parrine signed out on a promise to appear, and Elizabeth Murray was mislead into signing herself out while processing into the county jail that evening. Peggy Coleman, Susan Crane, Betsy Lamb, Fr. Steve Kelly SJ, Katie Kelso, Larry Purcell and John

Responding to renewed calls to resume testing of nuclear weapons, to store high level nuclear waste and increase the use of drone assassinations, all at U.S. government facilities in Nevada, the Sacred Peace Walkers experienced the Nevada desert in a direct way by walking about 13 miles per day. In addition to the action at the Nevada nuclear test site, the peace walkers prayed with Chief Johnny Bobb at Yucca Mountain, site of the now-stalled nuclear waste dump, and held a protest opposing drone warfare at Creech Air Force Base that resulted in three arrests.

The Nevada Desert Experience has organized annual peace walks to the nuclear test site since 1996. For more information, visit [NevadaDesertExperience.org](http://NevadaDesertExperience.org)

## LOCKHEED MARTIN

Seven people were arrested following the traditional Good Friday Stations of Justice, Peace, and Nonviolent Resistance at Lockheed Martin’s industrial campus in Valley Forge/King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. At the conclusion of the liturgy and stations, a large wooden cross was hammered into the ground at the entrance, and a large wooden sign placed at its base with Lockheed’s logo and the words “We’re making a killing.”

A bell tolled for the last station, signaling seven people to stand across the main driveway with a long banner and another large cross draped with an earth flag. They stepped across the line in front of Lockheed Martin security and Upper Merion police. All seven were arrested after refusing to leave. They were handcuffed, taken to the police station and released with disorderly conduct citations.

Those arrested and cited: Carroll Clay, Tom Mullian, Rev. David Reppert, Paul Sheldon, Fr. Patrick Sieber OFM, Robert M. Smith, and Brendan Zaleski. All but Brendan Zaleski have been arrested repeatedly for civil resistance to Lockheed Martin. Vigil organizer the Brandywine Peace Community, noted that it was the first act of civil resistance at Lockheed Martin in decades without the presence of Annie Geers, who recently died at age 93.

For more information, contact [staff@brandywinepeace.com](mailto:staff@brandywinepeace.com).

## LIVERMORE

The annual Good Friday liturgy and nonviolent action at the Livermore nuclear weapons lab in California – to oppose the work done there now to rebuild the nuclear weapons stockpile – resulted in 29 arrests for trespass. As expected, all were cited and released, pending a summons to court that has been rare in recent decades.

Yevtich were held until a judge could see them two days later. They were released late Wednesday evening without charges.

During the retreat, on February 28, news came of the passing of longtime Tacoma Catholic Worker, peace activist and PLC member, Jesuit Fr. William “Bix” Bichsel, 86. The retreat and direct action were dedicated to him, with many at the action wearing a photo of Bix with the word “¡Presente!” in remembrance. Bix was a member of the Disarm Now Plowshares and recently traveled a second time to Jeju Island, South Korea, to protest the U.S.-sponsored naval base being built there.

Those who had signed out were given mid-April court dates, but their names were not on the docket that day. They learned that charges had not yet been formally filed, but still could be.

Lockheed Martin is the world’s largest military contractor and responsible for making the Trident D-5 missile, engineered to deliver a dominating preemptive nuclear attack, the First Strike.

For more information, visit [pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com](http://pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com).

## NATO 3 Update

NATO 3 co-defendant Brent Betterly was released from an Illinois prison on April 16. For the next two years, he will be on supervised parole. On the eve of the May, 2012 NATO summit in Chicago, Betterly, Brian Church and Jared Chase made four molotov cocktails, which were never used, at the instigation of undercover cops. They were acquitted by a jury on Illinois state terrorism charges, but 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. Brian Church was released last fall.

Jared Chase (*now Maya Chase, see below*) is due to be released in May, 2016. However, still unresolved in her case is a battery charge resulting from a run-in with jail guards during her pre-trial confinement. At her sentencing on the NATO protest charges, her physician, neurologist and movement disorder specialist Dr. Kathleen Shannon, testified that Huntington’s Disease, a hereditary degenerative neurological disorder affecting Chase, likely contributed to her misconduct in jail.

Last October, Chase wrote to the Nuclear Resister, “I am a transgender woman,” identifying herself as Maya Chase. In April, she wrote that she had been to court in Chicago the previous day. She tried to give the judge a letter she had written, but which he had apparently not received, asking for a continuance and to be returned from state prison to the Cook County Jail until trial on the battery charge because she has not had access to legal counsel nor to the evidence against her. The judge told her not to talk to him and not to write to him.

“I was forced to yell over him to keep him from trying to ignore me or my issues. I started screaming protest chants at him and the prosecutor every time they started talking and told them it won’t stop until my voice was heard. He then ordered me out of the courtroom...”

Chase was removed by force, while yelling at the judge. The hearing continued in her absence, and her public defender (PD) got a continuance until May 26.

Two days later, Chase was moved from the state prison in Dixon to one in Pontiac.

In court on May 26, a different, inexperienced PD represented the fully shackled Chase and renewed the request for a continuance, citing Chase’s recent transfer and lack of video viewing facilities at some prisons as part of the reason Chase has not reviewed the evidence. Judge Wilson told her that she could have done it there at the courthouse, something the PD had not known was possible in her year of taking cases there.

*continued on page 15*

# Troubled Judges in Kansas City

The prosecution of nuclear abolitionists in both city and federal court in Kansas City presented moral challenges for their judges.

Oblate Fr. Carl Kabat, 81, was back in federal court on April 23 for sentencing on his conviction for destroying government property, to wit: splashing red paint on the large corporate sign at the entrance to the new factory for nuclear weapons parts last July 4. It was the fourth summer in a row he'd been arrested at the plant site, three times on the Fourth of July.

The probation office suggested 30 days in jail, while the prosecutor asked only for five years probation including the provision that Kabat not go near any military base.

“What is your wish?”, Magistrate Robert Larsen asked Kabat.

“To get rid of all nuclear weapons,” he replied.

Kabat reminded the court that July 4 is just around the corner. “If nuclear weapons did not exist, then I would comply with all requests. This is insanity, for nukes would kill old people, children and women.”

“What do you recommend? You have a long list of offenses,” the judge reminded the priest.

“Nonviolently shoot me,” Kabat replied. “I work for the reign of the Holy One on this planet.”

Exasperated, Larsen told Kabat the priest was too old to “keep doing this.” He recalled having Kabat in the dock before him more than two decades earlier (presumably for post-conviction proceedings after his trial and initial 18-year sentence for the 1984 Silo Pruning Hooks action).

And next time, pled the judge, protest peacefully, and use a water-based paint because it cost the government over \$8,000 to remove the oil-based red paint.

Kabat returned to his theme that these bombs belong to us, and we are all responsible. He spoke of the failed responsibility of the German people to address the holocaust in their midst.

Larsen, concerned for Kabat’s health, did not want to send him to an institution where he would be exposed to danger. “Will you protest lawfully?” he asked again.

“I’m just a nut-ball,” Kabat replied. Again he mentioned the German people, that we all have to take

responsibility, and that he wanted to advance the realm of the Holy One.

“I am in a BOX!”, Larsen confessed, “because you say you will not comply.”

Kabat suggested a fine. “But you’ve taken a vow of poverty!” the judge exclaimed.

Finally, Larsen sentenced Fr. Kabat to one day in jail, asking that he be processed immediately and released. The judge waived the usual \$25 processing fee, required no probation, no conditions of release, and no supervision.

Kabat’s trial had taken place in December, and ended with the judge delaying his verdict until April, “befuddled by what to do with an 81-year-old priest who will most likely do this again.”

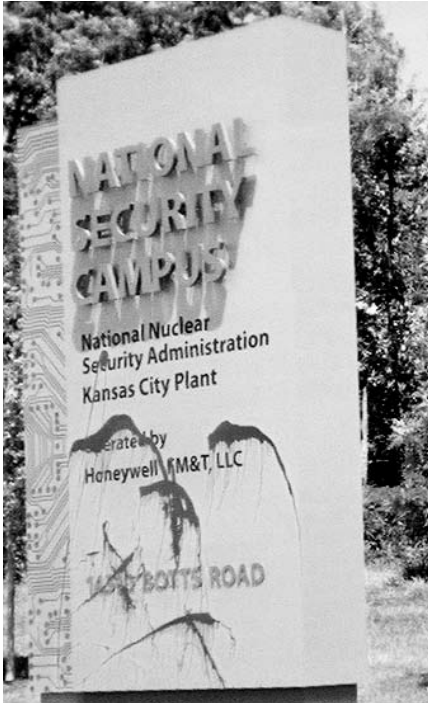


photo by Jane Stoever

**Fr. Carl Kabat’s abstract addition to the sign at the Kansas City nuclear weapons parts plant last July 4 communicated the product’s purpose with its red image of blood spilled.**

While Larsen deliberated, Kabat’s advisory counsel Henry Stoever (who provided the story of Kabat’s sentencing) was in Kansas City municipal court on January 16 to defend himself on a charge of trespassing at the plant with two others last August.

In a pre-trial motion and in court, Stoever put forward several “claims of right” under Missouri law, justifying his actions under common law, the U.S. Constitution, his duty as a lawyer, international law and more. In closing, he quoted the 1966 dissenting opinion from U.S. Supreme Court Justices Douglas, Brennan, and Fortas in *Adderley vs. Florida*: “We do violence to the First Amendment when we permit this ‘petition for redress of grievances’ to be turned into a trespass action.”

After the 90-minute trial, Judge Elena Franco gave her verdict (from the notes of Jane and Anneliese Stoever – wife and daughter of Henry):

“You may have better forums than Municipal Court” for bringing forth a petition against government actions, Franco advised Stoever.

“I disagree (with using the court as a forum) and still, that said, I respect your right (to express your views) and your commitment to peace. I admire your desire to not be silenced. I am envious of that. I happened to be on the other side of the Cuban missile crisis, in Cuba, not here.” She expressed thanks for the peacemakers’ ongoing efforts.

“I could say you have a ‘claim of right’ and you had a right to be there (on the plant property); I am too weak to do that,” said Franco. “Maybe a portion of my brain has been so focused on ‘the legal’ ... maybe when I leave the bench in 20 years, I can approach this issue from the other side of my brain. You aren’t going to like this: there is a technicality. The *mens rea* [criminal intent] is not there. And I believe the line for the trespassing hasn’t been shown. I don’t know that you were trespassing; maybe. The *mens rea* is iffy. I have to find you not guilty.”

This was the first not guilty verdict from some 120 arrests since 2010 at the sites of Kansas City’s old and new bomb factories.

For more information, visit [peaceworkskc.org](http://peaceworkskc.org).

## Resistance Reflections

### My Time in Prison Reveals Caring Behind Bars

by Jack Gilroy  
April 18, 2015

Jamesville Correction Facility is just a few miles from Syracuse, N.Y. Syracuse has its own jail, known as the Justice Center. After serving two months at the Jamesville Correction Facility (my crime was attempting to deliver a message to stop the killing from the Syracuse drone assassination base, the 174th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard), I can testify that there is little or no correction accomplished there. My many interviews with inmates who moved from the Onondaga County Justice Center in Syracuse to Jamesville Correction Facility bring serious doubt if justice is served in either place.

At Jamesville, inmates are allowed to sleep much of the day. Education, including behavioral change, is all but absent. A weekly meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and a GED program stand alone. Behavioral change classes are absent, as well as training for trades (unless toilet cleaning and snow shoveling counts).

The common pastime is playing poker or dominoes or watching TV. A favorite is “The Jerry Springer Show,” featuring men and woman quarreling and fighting on stage. Twice a week, movies are shown, and most assuredly, they will be violent films. Keep in mind that many of the inmates have had problems with aggressive behavior.

The vast majority of inmates at Jamesville are violators of parole or probation. Guards often know inmates from previous incarcerations. The staff jokes about the revolving-door syndrome. The many men I interviewed did not find it funny.

Most have families. Most have children. Some have children or spouses in other jails, if not in other units at Jamesville. One young man, a serious diabetic, had his mother in the women’s unit, a brother in another Jamesville unit, and his father in an upstate prison.

So, who does care about these men and women?

First, the men care for one another. “Are you all right?” is a common question. Men help each other compose letters to lawyers, judges and sometimes even to their loved ones — not all inmates are literate. When an inmate is ill, fellow inmates urge them to request medical assistance. Sometimes positive medical care results.

All faiths have representative jail ministers. As a Catholic, I found that Fr. Ed Reimer and St. Joseph Sr. Maura Rhode were excellent. Willing to speak to and assist any inmate, they made it a point to seek out those who indicated they were Catholic.

Reimer, a full-time pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Chittenango, N.Y., makes time for visits with each new inmate. He had spiritual gifts to offer, the most important being the willingness to hear the inmate’s story and offer advice. Each Friday, Reimer has Mass and is assisted by Rhode.

Reimer and Sr. Maura have the respect of both men and women. That’s evident at each Friday’s Mass. Reimer’s clear and sensitive message of faith and hope is captivating. Inmates are riveted by his Gospel-based message, given in good cheer. He knows how to smile as he zeroes in on the love essence of the Christian message.

Having served the poor of Ecuador for years, there is a sense of ease in Reimer’s manner with the men and women. (Men and women do not see one another at Mass, as a wall divides and a guard stands, arms crossed as he stares at the men in attendance.)

Reimer has help in Sr. Maura’s ability to bring alive the Christian message, often with mind-awakening quotes from literature or thoughtful people of justice and faith.

Sr. Maura has no problem walking through the men’s units, offering books or magazines and inquiring how the men are doing. She is the best-known and respected woman to enter the men’s quarters.

Not being from Syracuse, but knowing a couple of former priests who do jail ministry at the downtown Justice Center, I wrote and called them for assistance with several needy inmates. Bill Cuddy left the priesthood back in the 1970s, when he fell in love with a parishioner, a widow with nine children. Bill married and became a different kind of father.

When Bill came to see me in the visitor’s center, we faced each other over a barrier, but his eyes twinkled when I asked him how many grandchildren he had. “Thirty-eight,” he said.

As busy as Bill is, he was willing to come up from the Justice Center. He agreed to focus on a few guys I hoped he’d find of interest.

One young man was due to be released but was without a job or a place to stay. He worried about going to a halfway house where drugs seemed too easy to get. The 26-year-old never knew his father, and his mother was an alcoholic. Various friends took turns raising him. After high school, he was on his own. His mother died some years ago. So, after years of prison and jail time, it was Cuddy who worked to get the young man a place to stay after his November 2014 release.

My good friend Dick Keough, a former Catholic priest, has a long history of jail ministry at the Justice Center. He was aware of the burden on the backs of Reimer and Sr. Maura at Jamesville. Dick agreed to help.

He came to Jamesville and interviewed several men — most notably, “Bob” (not his real name), a 44-year-old man who has spent 16 years in jail and prison. A carpenter, Bob has a job awaiting him but nowhere to live. Dick agreed to come over to Jamesville to speak to him.

Shortly afterward, Bob was transferred out of my unit, and it was several weeks before I heard him call my name through the falling snow and razor wire in the jail yard. We were in different caged-in walking areas, but only 25 yards apart. Bob, whose toes had been getting black from the ill-fitting jail-issued footwear, called out as he pointed to his feet: “Hey, Jack, how about my new sneaks?”

He said Dick brought them, and his feet were getting back in shape. More importantly, he was ecstatic that Dick had arranged to help him get a place to live when he was released in February.

Bill Cuddy, Dick Keough, Sr. Maura Rhode and Fr. Ed Reimer are examples of Catholics who understand the injustice of incarceration in the United States. No other nation imprisons its people as we do. Yet, going into jail to greet, listen to, and help is surely an act of mercy and love.

Many who read this may live near a prison and could ask the jail or prison chaplain if you can visit someone in need. Keep in mind the story Jesus tells in Matthew 25:39-40: “When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you? And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

*This essay first appeared in the National Catholic Reporter.*

# Prisoner Updates, cont.

continued from page 3

In February, Leonard Peltier wrote,  
Greetings My Friends, Relatives and Supporters,  
I know that many of you have concerns about the status of my situation and have been wanting an update about what is going on...

We are coming up on 40 years of my being in prisons. Sometimes, I honestly cannot believe it, sometimes I just don't want to believe it. You have been here with me through many dark times. It is not possible for me to respond to each of you personally, I sure wish I could.

The reality is that I am not getting any younger, I feel my body every day. My hip hurts, I cannot see very well, my body aches and my diabetes makes me feel uneasy a lot of the time. I do not say these things so you'll feel sorry for me, I just want to share because I would like for you to understand where I am at in my life. When I put the losses of my friends and family together in my mind with the way my body feels, I feel a hunger to go home like I have never felt in all these long years...

I want you to continue to support what you know is right. Be active, take an active role in our world and support the things you know need to be supported. Stand up for those that need to be stood up for, teach and take care of our children and our Mother Earth. Help one another to be strong and honorable, keep and carry on the traditions, languages and culture of our people. Be kind and caring toward each other.

I will continue to need your support, prayers, your love, and your understanding as I walk on this final path toward my freedom.



The ILPDC asks, "Please contact the Bureau of Prisons on Leonard Peltier's behalf. Reference Leonard Peltier #89637-132. Let BOP authorities know that it is an outrage that this 70-year-old man in ill health has not been transferred, and demand a transfer whereby Peltier can receive help with daily living, quality health care, and protection from violence. Let the BOP know that you consider this an instance of elder abuse!" Contact the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St., NW, Washington, DC 20534. Comment by phone at (202)307-3198 or online at [www.bop.gov/inmates/concerns.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/inmates/concerns.jsp).

Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

## Rafil Dhafir

Rafil Dhafir continues to experience harassment from prison authorities as two legal challenges to his confinement await a decision. Last year, just before Ramadan, Dhafir was moved to isolation and had privileges revoked for weeks during an "investigation" of allegations eventually proven to be spurious, but significantly affecting his observance of the Muslim holy month. He's concerned similar shenanigans could be afoot again this year, and his support committee has been in contact with the warden and is alert to the situation, with Ramadan coming soon.

The Iraqi-American oncologist is serving a 22-year sentence on charges fueled by government overreach for his charity to the people of his native country in violation of economic sanctions between the U.S.-led attacks of 1991 and 2003. During that time, Dr. Dhafir was also a public opponent of the U.S. war against Iraq.

On May 12, attorney Charles Swift filed a reply to the government's response to Dhafir's 2255 petition for habeus corpus. Years of legal proceedings are distilled into two principle issues in Dhafir's case: prosecutorial abuse of marital confidential communications and discriminatory prosecution, where others involved in open violation of the sanctions, such as the activists of Voices in the Wilderness, were not prosecuted, and how that decision was made by U.S. attorneys.

A separate action seeking a change in Dhafir's prison designation so he might serve his sentence in a lower security setting closer to home, is also before the courts, with government response and petitioner replies having been filed this spring.



Ramadan begins on the evening of June 17. Letters of support are most needed at this time to demonstrate outside concern for Dhafir's religious rights, and should be sent to Rafil Dhafir 11921-052, Unit HA, Federal Medical Center Devens, POB 879, Ayer, MA 01432. Any urgent updates will be posted to the Dr. Dhafir Support Committee email list, as well as at [nukeresister.org](http://nukeresister.org). To add your name to the email list, contact Bob at [poetaoetus@taconic.net](mailto:poetaoetus@taconic.net).

# MILITARY RESISTERS IN COURT

## SARA BEINING: TIME SERVED

Military war resister Sara Beining was sentenced to time served in pre-trial confinement when she finally had her day in military court on December 9, 2014. Her attorney James Branum shared the news from Fort Carson, Colorado, via Facebook: "Judge gave sentence of 5 months and a Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD). Our sealed plea deal was for no more than 4 months and not a dishonorable discharge so she only does 4 months. With credit for time served and good behavior," Beining was released that night. She was processed out of the Army within days.

Sara Beining faced two counts of desertion, the first for going AWOL from the army after returning from Iraq in 2007. During her absence she spoke out against the war and was serving on the national board of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) when she was arrested on the outstanding warrant in 2013. Growing impatient after a year of threats from otherwise pokey prosecutors, Beining once again left her post at Fort Carson in the summer of 2014. She was picked up on the second desertion charge soon after a radio interview in Portland last August, and held in custody until her court martial.

Prosecutors cited as primary aggravating factors her IVAW post and other advocacy for social justice.

Branum also had represented another Ft. Carson resister, Kimberly Rivera. He writes:

Comparing the outcome of this case (4 months and a BCD) with the case of Kimberly Rivera (10 months and a BCD) is very interesting. Both Bein-ing and Rivera were very politically outspoken while absent from the Army and both spoke extensively to the press. Both cases also had significant miti-gating factors (the fact that both defendants were mothers of young children and had positive testi-mony on their behalf from friends and family). And both cases happened at Fort Carson.

So why did Rivera get more than double the sentence of Beining? Was it a matter of having a different judge or was it because Rivera sought refuge in Canada while Beining stayed in the U.S.A? I definitely think this disparity in sentencing should be a significant consideration for Canadian officials in considering the cases of U.S. war resisters seek-ing asylum in Canada.

I am very appreciative of the support of the peace activist community in the Colorado Springs and Denver areas. Most courts-martial have few specta-tors in attendance (and often no civilians) so it was nice that we had so many spectators.

For more information, visit [couragetoresist.org](http://couragetoresist.org).

## ANDRE SHEPHERD ASYLUM UPDATE

At the end of February, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) weighed in on the case of André Shepherd, another army refuser who also went AWOL in 2007. Shepherd sought asylum in Germany, where his case now returns for a final decision in accord with the ECJ judgement. If Germany denies asylum, André Shepherd's eight year legal effort to avoid participating in war crimes could come to a swift end with his deportation in the custody of U.S. authorities.

The ECJ said that Shepherd could be granted asylum if he could prove his service "would itself include... the commission of war crimes", even indirectly. Yet the court did not address the disputed legality of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. If it had, the legal implication would be that any and all military service there could be seen as lesser included war crimes.

With a curious tautology, the court found that in conflicts approved by the U.N. Security Council or some other ill-defined international consensus (like that claimed by the United States in Iraq), no war crimes "are committed."

Also, the court declared that any anticipated prosecution and imprisonment for simply refusing to serve in Iraq are not so "disproportionate or discriminatory as to amount to acts of persecution," that would support a claim for asylum.

Finally, the ECJ said a military refuser seeking asylum to avoid persecution must also have sought conscientious objector status as a way to avoid participation in war crimes. For Shepherd, this was not an option because he is not a pacifist and does not object in principle to military force for national defense. He just learned enough to know that the war in Iraq is a crime and he could not take part. Interviewed by *Counterpunch*, Shepherd said, "The question of conscience is notably absent from the judgement... I just do not understand why the court did not do more to solidify the rights of the individual soldier to form their own opinion of a particular conflict. We were never nor will we ever be robots, and we should be treated as human beings with fully functioning mental faculties."

Shepherd has the support of Connection e.V., an international network supporting a comprehensive right to conscientious objection. For more information, visit [connection-ev.org/en\\_index.php](http://connection-ev.org/en_index.php).

## WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from SC1 Dallas

### RESISTANCE AS EXILE IN PRISON

by Norm Lowry  
February 24, 2015

*The old yellow pus of American cowardice is once again throbbing in the veins of this sorry country. How does it appear? In chauvinism that struts safely in its own land, away from danger. It is easy to talk "dangerously" about knocking people down when you are on your own turf, behind an embattlement of thousands of nuclear missiles and an ocean.*

- Jack Henry Abbott, with Norman Mailer

Our ugly and tasteless culture cannot abide women and men with ideals, whose faith alone compels us to purposefully give up our lives of ease, for the betterment of humankind. We are not saints or heroes. We have simply grown sick and tired of the lies and can no longer stomach the fact that it is these lies that allow even we who are imprisoned to live better than two-thirds of all humans on earth. Our society's chosen lies cover the obvious truths that we are the chief oppressors and terrorists of humanity, the fiscal pillagers of cultures and peoples we deem to be our lesser, the slumlords of humanity - all in the name of our country, our favored gods, and religions.

Our society's prisons are filled, not according to demographic substantiation of actual crime, but according to publicly-and-media-driven lies, racism, poverty, and political incorrectness or discomforts. All inmates in American prisons are there to be broken or silenced, no matter the perceived, necessary means or method. Anyone who believes that there is any justice

THE  
INSIDE  
LINE



involved in America's justice or prison complexes is simply deluded.

My gratitude goes out to all who are, or have been, imprisoned for the love of humanity, or who offer encouraging and inspirational uplift to those of us who are imprisoned. Truly, I could not do this alone, as prison is filled with death and human loneliness. My peers, both inmate and staff, constantly seek to bring me around to their chosen reality - that I cannot stop nuclear weaponry and warmaking, racism and bigotry, impoverishment and community violence, et. al, but they are deceived. In one, I am stopping all of them. If we can create adversity, surely we can disappear it.

Blessings,

Norm

[Norm Lowry is serving a maximum seven year sentence in Pennsylvania for repeated criminal trespass at a military recruiting office.]



# INTERNATIONAL

## Vanunu Arrested Again

Nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu has again been arrested by Israeli police for conversing with foreigners.

The man who gave photographic proof of Israel's nuclear arsenal to the Sunday Times of London in 1986 before being kidnapped by the Mossad back to Israel and convicted of espionage and treason completed an 18-year prison sentence in April, 2004. Since then, he has been forbidden to leave Israel and is subject to a broad set of post-release restrictions on his freedom of speech, association and movement. These restrictions are reviewed and invariably renewed periodically, including a prohibition on communicating with foreign media and non-Israelis that has been sporadically enforced. Vanunu is often recognized on the streets of East Jerusalem and approached by tourists whose nationality he has no way of knowing.

His attorney sought relief when these provisions came up for renewal in January, arguing that no security purpose is served by prohibiting all communication with foreigners, and that the restrictions are intended only to drive Vanunu to commit "technical" violations. The court denied such trivial intent, and magnanimously adjusted the restriction to order that the petitioner may – even without prior permission – have an occasional conversation with foreign nationals or foreign residents, provided this conversation is a one-off event, takes place in person, is not planned in advance, and takes place in a public place, for a period of not more than 30 minutes.

Vanunu has been under regular surveillance since his release from prison, and on April 23, Israeli Independence Day, his minders must have set their watches. As Vanunu sat conversing with two tourists in a bookstore near the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem, eight police burst in, arresting Vanunu and one of the men he was speaking to. In police custody, debate ensued. What if a conversation had lasted more than 30 minutes, but there are two tourists? Is each entitled to 30 minutes? May Vanunu converse with two in succession for an hour total before gagging himself?

Hours later, while his friends were looking for him and his phone went unanswered, Vanunu was released from custody.

## No New Nukes in Finland

Before Finnish energy company Fennovoima has found enough investment partners, or permits have been issued for the proposed Pyhäjoki (Holy River) nuclear power plant, it has begun to create an image of inevitable progress by clearing the site, fencing it in, and building a short road to the coast where a boat dock will be constructed.

Anti-nuclear activists from the Rising Tide Finland network were arrested last fall blocking the first roadwork into the site at Hanhikivi, a remote headlands and important migratory bird nesting area on the northern Gulf of Bothnia. The original contractor then refused to continue until a challenge by conservationists and local opponents was resolved.

Contractors newly hired for their willingness to proceed nevertheless rushed in mid-April to resume clearing the dense forest habitat. The activists were already planning a protest camp for the second week of June, but faced with the audacious assault on the environment just as nesting season had begun, they put out the call for immediate help with site occupation, treesits and blockades.

Their first stop on April 17 was at the Helsinki head office of the contractor, where police arrested three people who refused to leave until the company agreed to stop logging. They were released that day.

Protesters then headed north for Hanhikivi, where they had arranged with sympathetic owners for the use of some vacation cabins that have been in families for generations. A condemnation process is set to transfer title of these and other properties to Fennovoima on May 31, even though the amount of financial compensation for the owners has not been agreed on and final legal settlement is months away.

For the next week in April, a small group did their best to document the destruction and hamper the tree clearing operation as it proceeded around the clock. Local residents angry about the project joined the protest.

On April 22, two people were arrested when police belatedly arrived on the scene where they were blocking roads and construction machinery. They were released later that day. Another person climbed a tree in the path of destruction, and stayed there for 16 hours until a snowstorm forced him down. The trees in the area were then removed.



photo via twitter @AbbsWinston

**Police took Mordechai Vanunu into custody outside a Jerusalem shop where he allegedly conversed with foreigners for too long.**

On May 19, 2015, Mordechai Vanunu wed long-time girlfriend Kristin Joachimsen of Norway at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. Joachimsen is a professor of the Old Testament at the Norwegian School of Theology.

For more information, visit [vanunu.com](http://vanunu.com).

## Japan

A Japanese man who blogged under the name Kantei (Prime Minister's residence) Santa is under arrest for delivering an anti-nuclear message by drone to the official home of Japan's Prime Minister in Tokyo. Up on the rooftop, a small quadcopter carrying a vial marked with a radiation symbol was discovered in late April, prompting an investigation. Sand in the vial was found to be slightly radioactive.

After news of the investigation broke, Yasuo Yamamoto turned himself in to police on April 24. He brought with him some of the sand and the drone's control console, and after questioning was arrested on a suspicion of obstructing official business. He reportedly told police, "I was operating the drone around 3:30 in the morning of April 9 to express my opposition to nuclear power generation... I thought I could gain public attention if I used a drone. I chose a method that was more apparent than a demonstration, but not as shocking as a terrorist attack. I thought of using it after I saw videos of pizza deliveries made using similar devices." He claimed the sand had been collected from areas of fallout in Fukushima Prefecture.

Yamamoto was indicted for obstructing official business on May 15, and on June 3 prosecutors added a charge of illegally modifying warning flares mounted on the drone. He is believed to still be in police custody.

## No Drones At RAF Waddington

On January 5, four people were arrested inside Royal Air Force (RAF) Waddington in Lincolnshire protesting the continuing use of armed drones. They had cut through the fence creating a "New Year gateway for peace" at the base and made their way towards the Reaper Ground Control Station from which RAF pilots are remotely operating armed drones over Iraq. They carried banners as well as reports of civilian casualties arising from recent U.K., NATO and coalition airstrikes in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Chris Cole, Gary Eagling, Katharina Karcher and Penny Walker were taken to the Lincoln police station and held overnight. While they were in custody, armed police were sent to search their homes for apparent evidence of a conspiracy of nefarious benevolence.

In their statement, the four said:

We come to RAF Waddington today to say a clear "no" to the growing normalisation and acceptability of drone warfare... Thanks to the marketing of drone war as "risk free", "precise" and above all "humanitarian", war has been rehabilitated and accepted as virtually normal by those who see little or nothing of the impact on the ground thousands of miles away. Remote wars mean most no longer hear, see or smell the impact of bombs and missiles. With just a little effort we can almost believe that war is not happening at all.

But behind the rebranding, war is as brutal and deadly as it has always been with civilians killed, communities destroyed, and the next generation traumatized... And so we have come to RAF Waddington, the home of drone warfare here in the U.K., to say clearly and simply "End the Drone War."

Chris Cole later wrote,

Our intention was to disrupt the ongoing and unlawful drone flights that are taking place from the base. We knew that our presence inside the base would trigger Operation Round-Up – an RAF security procedure whereby the base is shut down and no-one is allowed to enter or exit the base or move between buildings – which we believed would likely impact the drone operations.

We were originally also charged with aggravated trespass (disruption of lawful activity). However this gave scope for us to raise questions and obtain documentation due to disclosure procedures about the legality of what was happening at RAF Waddington, so these charges were dropped as they had been against drone protesters who occupied a factory [supplying Israel with drones] near Birmingham last year.

Their trial is scheduled in October. For more information, visit [dronewars.net](http://dronewars.net).

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# NOTES

## Australia

Australia’s decision to invest billions in the “lemon” F-35 fighter jet made by Lockheed Martin was mocked in a blockade last September of a Lockheed Martin office outside Melbourne. Demonstrators arrived early to add their own locks to the gate, hang banners and put fake blood on the corporate sign. Four people, one costumed as a lemon, then stood in front of the gate. Police physically pushed them away, but Greg Rolles managed to slip back in front of the gate again. Police were annoyed and arrested Rolles for hindering police.

Rolles pleaded guilty on April 8. The judge warned that if he continued his behavior, he may wind up in jail. Rolles was offered a six-month good behavior bond and refused. He told the court that his religious beliefs prevent him from making a promise he might not be able to keep in the face of Australia’s aggressive violence towards the world’s poor, including 1.3 million killed in recent wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. He was fined \$500 instead, which he will not be paying.

## Wales

Two anti-militarists faced trial for criminal damage in Cardiff in January, for throwing red children’s paint on the suits and shoes of three delegates as they entered the DPRTE military business and arms trade fair at Cardiff Motorpoint Arena last October. A courtroom full of supporters witnessed an incompetent prosecutor be chastised by the judge for the “ludicrous” bait-and-switch he proposed, claiming the cops as victims of rubbed-off paint when no arms dealers showed up to testify. Charges dismissed!

For more information, visit [southwalesanarchists.wordpress.com](http://southwalesanarchists.wordpress.com)

## Irish Police Block Weapons Inspector

The use of neutral Ireland’s Shannon International Airport by the U.S. military picked up in April just days after Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan revealed that the U.S. is granted blanket permission for overflight of Ireland by unarmed military aircraft. Furthermore, his reply to a parliamentary question from member Clare Daly (see update, below) admitted that the U.S. embassy provides his department with what he called “post hoc monthly statistical returns” on the total number of overflights by military aircraft.

“We have suspected for some time that there is no oversight of what U.S. military traffic is going through Irish airspace and this proves it,” said ShannonWatch organizer John Lannon. “Our department of Foreign Affairs, which should be overseeing our neutrality and our compliance with international law, doesn’t even find out how many U.S. military planes pass through our sovereign airspace until weeks, possibly months later.”

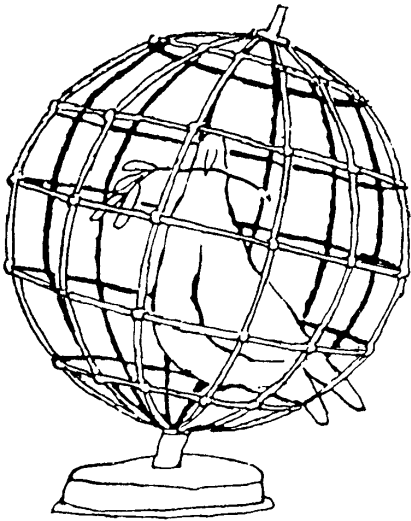
“*Post hoc* reporting means that if the U.S. is taking arms over Ireland in preparation for another illegal invasion or bombing operation, the Irish government doesn’t know about it. And since it would appear that aircraft details are not provided by the Embassy, there is no way of knowing what type of missions the aircraft were on even after the fact,” he added.

Into this context stepped Dr. Edward Horgan, another ShannonWatch activist.

He writes at [Shannonwatch.org](http://Shannonwatch.org) that on the morning of April 19:

I was looking forward to taking a day trip to London to attend the AGM of Veterans for Peace UK. I recently helped to establish a chapter of Veterans for Peace Ireland. I went to Shannon Airport. As I was about to board my Aer Lingus flight to Heathrow, there were four U.S. Hercules C130 warplanes parked in the centre of the airport a couple of hundred yards from my Aer Lingus flight. I felt obliged to search these aircraft, given the repeated failure of the Irish government and the Gardaí to take all or any necessary steps to ensure that U.S. military aircraft at Shannon Airport are not acting in breach of international laws on neutrality, by carrying weapons, or munitions through Shannon Airport, or being engaged in military operations or exercises. I walked carefully towards the four U.S. military aircraft and as I approached the first aircraft I was

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## Scotland Rejects Trident

In the lead up to the May 7 Parliamentary elections, a series of nonviolent direct actions at the Faslane nuclear submarine base demonstrated why, despite the Conservative Party’s narrow victory overall, the abolitionist Scottish National Party (SNP) swept the ballot there. Scotland wants to scrap Trident.

On December 17, Trident Ploughshares activists Janet Fenton, Brian Quail, Mary Millington, Barbara Maver and Gillian Lawrence were charged with malicious mischief after painting SCRAP TRIDENT – BAN NUKES on the weld-mesh fence surrounding the base.

Brian Quail said, “Trident Ploughshares warmly welcomes [SNP leader] Nicola Sturgeon’s pledge made yesterday with Leanne Wood of Plaid Cymru and Natalie Bennet of the Greens never to work with any Westminster party that supports Trident replacement, and calls on the U.K. government to disarm its nuclear weapons without delay. We know that the Faslane/Coulport complex is the only site in the whole U.K. that can accommodate Trident, yet the Scottish government has no say over the deployment of illegal weapons of mass destruction from here. This makes it essential that Scots vote for anti-Trident parties in the May general election.”

Janet Fenton added, “Last week a global conference in Vienna highlighted the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of these weapons. While the Austrian government made a pledge to outlaw them, the U.K. insisted that the way to nuclear disarmament was to build new weapons. It makes no sense and is completely out of step with the majority of countries who want to see nuclear abolition.”

Fenton returned on February 22, in costume with Jean Oliver and David McKenzie as the Peaton Peace Pirates (the PPP, careful to distinguish themselves from the sectarian splinter group known as the Peace Pirates From Peaton, or PFPF). One was charged with vandalism while the other two were detained for a spell after pinning a banner of the Peace Pirate Articles to the security fence:

- Article 1: WE be committed to disarming the U.K. Trident of them dastardly nuclear weapons.
- Article 2: WE be committed to acting with no fisti-cuffs, slugging off or any other pesky and violent actions.
- Article 3: WE will tell any landlubber or sea(wo)man who asks why we are there and what we be a doing of.
- Article 4: WE will cite the articles from Nuremberg, Geneva and the 1996 ICJ ruling and some other legal doings what we are experts on, to all who ask what we be up to and why.

The pre-election high point was the Bairns Not Bombs blockade on April 13, “Bairns” meaning children in Scotland. It came one week after 4,000 people gathered in Glasgow’s George Square for the largest anti-Trident rally in city history. At Faslane, nearly 300 people took part, blocking both gates of the base from 7 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Many workers, who had been queued up in buses in nearby Helensburgh, were sent home after refusing to be ferried up the Gare Loch to work.

In keeping with the theme, several families and children took part in the blockade, with two families prepared to be arrested together. At the South Gate, after police spent four hours removing 24 locked-down blockaders from the road, another group drenched themselves in red paint and took their place, forming the People’s Red Line against Trident. They danced joyously to the frantic beat of the Rhythms of Resistance Samba band before laying down in the road in an impossibly twisted jumble of lock-ons.

In the end, 34 people were arrested after being cut out of their lock-ons at the South Gate, charged with breach of the peace, while two women were arrested earlier and charged with malicious mischief for painting the fence.

Days after the election, Able Seaman William McNeilly, a Royal Navy submariner who was on patrol with the Trident submarine HMS Victorious from January to April of this year, was revealed in the media as the author of an informal, 16-page public statement only after

it was posted by Wikileaks. His report detailed a series of security and safety problems with the Trident fleet. For more than a week, other media had apparently ignored his first effort to make public the information he said he had been “gathering for over a year”.

“This is bigger than me, it’s bigger than all of us. We are so close to a nuclear disaster it is shocking,” he told Wikileaks, “and yet everybody is accepting the risk to the public.”

His report reveals McNeilly to be a “nuclear pacifist,” unopposed to war per se.

...We are at war with a new kind of enemy. The terrorists have infiltrated every nation on our planet. Our nuclear weapons are a target that’s wide open to attack. You don’t have to be Alexander The Great to see we must adapt our strategies. The cold war is over; are we still in a situation where we must invest billions upon billions into a system that puts our citizens at risk? NO! ...

However this world is evolving, and in order to survive, we must adapt! The world faces a new threat. Order through the fear of nuclear annihilation can no longer be maintained. Every major nation on the planet has been infiltrated by terrorists that are preparing to attack us from within. Our nuclear weapon systems are the prime target and we are wide open to attack. We must unite globally in order to eliminate the biggest threat the world has ever seen.

The Navy immediately denied all of his claims, and set out to find him. He responded on Facebook,

Security at the site must [be] heightened immediately, whether you make the transition to nuclear disarmament or not. Responding by downplaying a report because there’s lack of seniority, acting like your security system is impenetrable and your aged system is still in excellent condition for sailing, is not an adequate response. Anyone who can use simple logic will not believe that...

I’ve tried my best over the past year, and I’ve finally achieved what I set out to do. I set out to gather as much information as possible, as fast as possible, inform you and the government before getting caught, then hand myself into the police. There’s nothing I can do from prison; whatever happens now is up to you and the government.

McNeilly turned himself in early on May 18, and is reported to be at a Navy post in Plymouth, but not in confinement. Charges are being considered, and [couragefound.org/projects/trident](http://couragefound.org/projects/trident) has launched an emergency fund for his defense.

On May 27, security and safety concerns at Britain’s top nuclear sites were highlighted again as a resident of the Faslane Peace Camp was arrested having breached security and occupied the Fuel Oil Depot adjacent to Faslane for ten hours before being arrested.

“Huge volumes of fuel are stored in a poorly-secured depot and fuel jetties, and a fire or explosion would cause chaos at the submarine base next door, for which fire is a major hazard,” the peace camper wrote in a statement. “We’ve been incredibly lucky that these sites haven’t been targeted by terrorists who would surely identify and exploit such vulnerability. Rather than protecting us, Trident is a liability.”

The activist was charged with breach of the peace and released later in the day.

On June 1, a planned Tour de Faslane was cut short. After a quick tour of the Green Zone (Trident area) and a chase at speeds of up to six miles per hour, two police Land Rovers pinned the lead bike between them. Unfortunately, as there were no other cyclists, this marked the close of the event. The peace cyclist was held for 31 hours on charges under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act, but released only with a warning and threat to prosecute.

For more information, visit [Scraptrident.org](http://Scraptrident.org) and [faslanepeacecamp.wordpress.com](http://faslanepeacecamp.wordpress.com).

# WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Leavenworth

by Chelsea Manning  
May 27, 2015

Today marks five years since I was ordered into military confinement while deployed to Iraq in 2010. I find it difficult to believe, at times, just how long I have been in prison. Throughout this time, there have been so many ups and downs – it often feels like a physical and emotional roller coaster.

It all began in the first few weeks of 2010, when I made the life-changing decision to release to the public a repository of classified (and unclassified but “sensitive”) documents that provided a simultaneously horrific and beautiful outlook on the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. After spending months preparing to deploy to Afghanistan in 2008, switching to Iraq in 2009 and actually staying in Iraq from 2009-10, I quickly and fully recognized the importance of these documents to the world at large.

I felt that the Iraq and Afghanistan “war diaries” (as they have been dubbed) were vital to the public’s understanding of the two interconnected counter-insurgency conflicts from a real-time and on-the-ground perspective. In the years before these documents were collected, the public likely never had such a complete record of the chaotic nature of modern warfare. Once you come to realize that the co-ordinates in these records represent real places, that the dates are our recent history and that the numbers represent actual human lives – with all of the love, hope, dreams, hate, fear and nightmares with which we all live – then you cannot help but be reminded just how important it is for us to understand and, hopefully, prevent such tragedies in the future.

A few months later, after spending months poring over at least a few thousand classified U.S. diplomatic cables, I moved to also have these documents released to the public in the “cablegate” archive. After reading so many of these documents – detailing an exhaustive list of public interest issues, from the conduct of the “global war on terrorism” to the deliberate diplomatic and economic exploitation of developing countries – I felt that they, too, belonged in the public domain.

In 2010, I was considerably less mature than I am now, and the potential consequences and outcomes of my actions seemed vague and very surreal to me. I certainly expected the worst possible outcome, but I lacked a strong sense of what “the worst” would entail. I did expect to be demonized and targeted, to have every moment of my life re-examined and analyzed for every possible personal flaw and blemish, and to have them used against me in the court of public opinion or against transgender people as a whole.

When the military ordered me into confinement, I was escorted (by two of the friendliest guys in my unit) to Kuwait, first by helicopter to Baghdad and finally by cargo plane. It was not until I arrived at the prison camp in Kuwait that I actually felt like I was a prisoner. Over the succeeding days, it only got worse as the public and the media began to seek and learn more about what happened to me. After living in a communal setting for about a week, I was transferred to what amounted to a “cage” in a large tent.

After a few weeks of living in the cage and tent – not knowing what my charges were, having very limited access to my attorney and having absolutely no idea of the media firestorm that was beginning to swirl in the world outside – I became extremely depressed. I was terrified that I was not going to be treated in the dignified way that I had expected. I also began to fear that I was forever going to be living in a hot, desert cage, living as and being treated as a male, disappearing from the world into a secret prison and never facing a public trial.

It didn’t help that a few of the Navy guards delivering meals would tell me that I was waiting for interrogation on a brig on a U.S. cruiser off the coast of the Horn of Africa, or being sent to the prison camps of Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. At the very lowest point, I contemplated castrating myself, and even – in what seemed a pointless and tragicomic exercise, given the physical impossibility of having nothing stable to hang from – contemplated suicide with a tattered blanket, which I tried to choke myself with. After getting caught, I was placed on suicide watch in Kuwait.

After being transferred back to the U.S., I was confined at the now-closed military brig at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia. This time was the most difficult for me overall, and felt like the longest. I was not allowed to have any items in my cell – no toothbrushes, soap, toilet paper, books, paper and on a few occasions even my glasses – unless I was given permission to use them under close supervision. When I

was finished, I had to return these items. At night, I had to surrender my clothing and, despite recommendations by several psychiatrists that I was not deemed suicidal, wear a “suicide prevention” smock – a single-piece, padded, tear-proof garment.

Eventually, after public outcry regarding the conditions of my confinement at Quantico and the resignation of PJ Crowley, the former press secretary of the Department of State, I was transferred to medium custody and the general population at an Army prison. It was a high point in my incarcerated life: after nearly a year of constantly being watched by guards with clipboards and having my movements controlled by groups of three-to-six guards while in hand irons and chains and limited contact with other humans, I was finally able to walk around and have normal conversations with human beings again.

## THE INSIDE LINE



The government pressed forward with charges of “aiding the enemy” – a treasonable offense under the U.S. Constitution – and various charges under the Espionage Act of 1917 and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. Over nearly two years of hearings, I witnessed firsthand just how much the government was willing to invest in my prosecution: the stacks of money spent; the gallons of fuel burned; the reams of paper printed; and the lengthy rolls of personnel, lawyers and experts.

For over 100 days, I watched the lawyers who prosecuted my case present me as a “traitor” and “enemy of state” in court and then become friendly people giving greetings and making chit-chat out of court. It became clear to me that they were basically just decent people doing their jobs. I am convinced that they did not believe the treason arguments they made against me – and was, even as they spoke them.

The verdict and sentencing at the end of my court-martial was difficult to predict. The defense team seriously worried about the aiding the enemy charge and the very wide range for a sentence, which was anything between “time served” and life without parole. After the judge announced my 35-year sentence, I had to console my attorneys who, after years of hard work and effort, looked worn out and dejected. It was a low-point for all of us.

After years of hiding and holding off because of the trial, I finally announced my intent to change my name and transition to living as a woman on August 22, 2013 – the day following my sentencing – a personal high point for me, despite my other circumstances. However, the military initially declined my request to receive the medically-mandated treatment for my diagnosed gender dysphoria, which is to live as a woman and receiving a regular regimen of estrogen and androgen blockers. Just like during my time at Quantico and during my court-martial, I was subjected to a laborious and time consuming legal process. Finally, just under four months ago – but nearly a year and a half after my initial request – I began my hormone treatment. I am still fighting for the right to grow out my hair to the military’s standard for women, but being able to transition remains one of the highest points for me in my entire life.

It can be hard, sometimes, to make sense of all the things that have happened to me in the last five years (let alone my entire life). The things that seem consistent and clear to me are the support that I receive from my friends, my family and the millions of people all over the world. Through every struggle that I have been confronted with, and have been subjected to – solitary confinement, long legal battles and physically transitioning to the woman I have always been – I manage not only to survive, but to grow, learn, mature and thrive as a better, more confident person.

*[Chelsea Manning is serving a 35-year sentence in military prison for espionage and other charges for release of military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes. This essay first appeared in the Guardian.]*

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES Finland, cont.

*continued from page 12*

On May 13, another excavator was the target of a lockdown, stopping road construction near the beach for a few hours. When police arrived, the activist unlocked himself, avoiding arrest.

A dozen activists walked along the road the morning of May 15, blocking each truck and excavator along the way until half a dozen were stopped and all work halted for a couple of hours until police arrived.

*continued on page 15*

## Jeju

Gureombi, the unusual volcanic rock that hugged a small area on the south coast of the Peace Island of Jeju, South Korea, was long regarded as sacred by residents. Now, it is all but gone, blasted away and built over by construction of a major navy base that has only begun to dominate life in the small farming and fishing village of Gangjeong. But the spirit of peace and persistence that has so far motivated eight years of nonviolent resistance to the base is still being nurtured by a dedicated core of villagers, the Catholic Church in Korea, and welcomed Korean and international visitors. Villagers have assembled residential space from re-used shipping containers to be used by “peace migrants,” the community cooks and others involved in the organizing. International visitors are regularly received, a network of anti-militarists is growing throughout the islands of the Western Pacific, and daily resistance continues.

In December, former mayor Kang Dong-Kyun and Mr. Lee Jong-Hwa were given one year suspended sentences for obstruction of justice in May, 2013, when police forcibly removed the protest tent then on the construction site. Both men had chained their necks together and to the tent structure. They were found not guilty of obstruction of business.

On January 31, after a series of threats and delays, a large police force removed the sit-in tent erected last fall at the entrance to village land being taken for military housing. In an intense, day-long struggle, many people were removed from the area by police. The tent, the only city-owned bus and a watchtower of scaffolding built above it for locked-down protesters were destroyed in the process, and 24 arrests were made. When a detention warrant was issued for the mayor, vice-mayor and two others on February 2, it was feared these leaders of the protest would be jailed, but the warrants were thrown out the next day, and they were released.

With numerous appeals among more than 600 cases brought to trial in recent years coming to an end and outstanding fines now due, the Gangjeong Village Association last November decided it would take responsibility for villagers’ fines accrued from anti-base activity. So far, the fines from all anti-base activity have exceeded \$400,000. Villagers are not volunteering to pay, but rather risking unexpected arrest or possible jail time. Then, as happened with Mr. Yoon, the Association quickly paid the \$2,000 fine to win his release after he was seized on March 26 when police saw him driving his car.

At least six other people reported to jail this winter to serve one to two weeks in lieu of paying fines of up to \$3,500 – Mr. Lee Young-Wook, Reverend Lim Borah, Mr. Cho Ik-Sand, Mr. Lee Woo-Ki, and two women identified only as Park and Lee.

For more information, and to make a donation to help with fines, visit [savejejunow.org](http://savejejunow.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

... **Finding My Radical Soul**, a memoir by long-time Nuclear Resister subscriber Frances Crowe, is highly recommended summer reading. Now 96 years old, Crowe has been a committed peace, justice and anti-nuclear activist for most of her life. A Quaker, mother, grandmother and long-time pacifist, she counseled more than fifteen hundred conscientious objectors during the Vietnam War. With her husband, physician Tom Crowe, she began resisting nuclear weapons the day the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima (August 6, 1945). The beautiful and inspiring final words of her book:

The way I’ve lived my life I have found extremely satisfying. It’s been an exciting, fulfilling life. I have no regrets about my activities of community building, organizing and resistance. I think that my only regret is that I didn’t do more. You need to resist and take courage to move ahead as your conscience leads. You need to let your conscience crystallize and grow and peel off the layers and get to what is the core of yourself. Rejoice in life. And act.

\$24.95 online at [www.findingmyradicalsoul.com](http://www.findingmyradicalsoul.com), or by sending a check plus \$3 shipping to Haley’s, 488 South Main St., Athol, MA 01331. 283 pages, includes color photos, ISBN 978-0-997667-7-7.





Antiinuclear activists block media tour of denuded forest reactor site in Finland, May 2015.

continued from page 14

On May 19, a Fennovoima media tour bus was held up just out of sight of police who were removing one person from high up on an excavator’s digging arm. By the end of May, activists had delayed work for a few hours on at least two dozen occasions, and demonstrations against the project were taking place in other cities in Finland.

Instead of leaving the cabins on May 31, activists hosted a Dance Down Fennovoima party to celebrate the growing resistance and their determination to remain on the site through the summer, resisting plans to fence the site, close the road and install the electricity system needed for construction.

“It is thus far not a nuclear power plant construction site, but an unnecessary and premature natural disaster site,” the activists say, which can recover in time if construction is stopped now. Fennovoima can’t afford the project by itself, and by law must have 60% Finnish ownership signed on by the end of June. So far, investors continue to avoid it, adding to hope that the end could be near.

“Right now, we have been more than successful in our fight against Fennovoima,” says Rising Tide Finland. “We have supporters and several different resources to continue our resistance. We have found a vast majority of people positively supporting us through social media, email, phone, and the local supporters have been generous in providing us with clean drinking water, washing facilities and shelter.”

On Wednesday, June 3, Fennovoima’s building director visited the campers to tell them they had to leave by the next morning. At latest report, the first excavator headed towards the cabins was intercepted Thursday morning by campers, but the driver would not stop. One person climbed aboard the bucket and another atop the machine as it lumbered along, swinging the bucket to dislodge the protester. Eventually, the machine stopped and one person was arrested. The struggle continues.

For more information, see the contact details under Future Actions on this page.

## NATO 3, cont.

continued from page 9

The PD also asked for more time to demonstrate that Chase is unfit to stand trial. Wilson told her that her chance to do that was now, but she did not have on hand a physician’s letter or any other additional evidence. Wilson also said her “behavior” and not any “illness” was behind Chase’s conduct in court. Judge Wilson refused to visit that issue again, saying he had previously found Chase competent. Trial is set for June 29, with pretrial motions to be heard on June 5.

Several times Chase addressed the court directly to say she hadn’t had access to counsel or the evidence, as her April letter stated. She said if she didn’t have access before the trial there would “be a problem.” Judge Wilson said there would be no “problem,” he would just have the defendant removed from court again. Eventually, Chase again cursed the judge, and was escorted out of the courtroom before the hearing ended. Her PD continued to advocate for Chase until she herself was threatened with arrest for contempt of court.

For more information, visit [freethenato3.wordpress.com](http://freethenato3.wordpress.com).



Maya Chase’s birthday is June 12. In order for her to receive them, cards and letters of support should be addressed to Jared Chase M44710, P.O. Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764.

# FUTURE ACTIONS

More future actions and event details can be found at [nukeresister.org/future-actions](http://nukeresister.org/future-actions)

## livermore

*70 Years of Nuclear Weapons – At What Cost?* is the theme of the Hiroshima Commemoration and Action at the Livermore nuclear weapons lab on August 6, beginning at 8 a.m. at the corner of Vasco Road and Patterson Pass Road in Livermore, California. Prelude to action includes a two day peace walk from Walnut Creek to Livermore, with overnight August 5 peace camp at Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore. Sponsored by dozens of Bay area peace and justice groups. For more information, contact Tri-Valley Cares at 925-443-7148, or visit [trivalleycares.org](http://trivalleycares.org).

## oak ridge

A week-long series of programs and public events marking the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in east Tennessee will include the Saturday, August 8 *Action for the Earth: Saying No to the New Bomb Plant*. A program, march and nonviolent action at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge. For more information, contact the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, [orep@earthlink.net](mailto:orep@earthlink.net), and [www.orepa.org](http://www.orepa.org).

## Ireland, cont.

continued from page 13

stopped by an airport security officer who informed me that I was not authorised to be in this area. I informed him that I wished to search the four aircraft and he prevented me from doing so. He was then joined by other members of the airport police and I was taken by an airport police patrol car to a terminal building where I was handed over to [an] Immigration officer... I was informed that I would not be allowed to board my Aer Lingus flight to London. After about half an hour [a] Garda Sergeant... came to the Garda immigration office and cautioned me. I informed him that I felt obliged to try to search these aircraft because I was convinced that some or all of them were carrying weapons or munitions, or were engaged in military operation or exercises, in breach of international laws on neutrality. He informed me that the Gardai would be preparing a file on this incident and would be in touch with me later. I was then told that I was free to leave the airport...

Horgan was not able to attend the conference, and has yet to be charged.

Just days after Horgan’s attempted inspection, a court in Ennis entered a guilty verdict against Clare Daly and Mick Wallace, both members of the Dáil, Ireland’s parliament, for illegally entering the restricted area at the airport last summer. They were fined the maximum €1000 each and given 90 days to pay. Two other campaigners were jailed last year when they refused to pay fines for Shannonwatch actions.

Two days of trial in February and March featured the testimony of several experts in neutrality, military affairs, and human rights, supplementing that from Dr. Horgan about the specific aircraft using Shannon and a former worker who told about seeing guns on U.S. troop carriers and the planes that stayed off-limits, far from any terminal building – what workers called “rendition planes.”

The *Irish Times* reported the testimony of Wallace:

On two occasions when former Minister for Justice Alan Shatter was finished being as derogatory as he could with me, he told me to go and get the evidence. And that is exactly what we went to do when we went over the fence in Shannon – to find their so-called concrete evidence.

Under no circumstances were we going to be allowed in and search the planes and the only chance we would have of searching the planes was to get over the fence illegally and search the planes ourselves. We went to every measure possible not to put anyone else at risk. We wanted to search the planes. We didn’t want to break the peace. We wanted to keep it.

...Shannon has been used as a U.S. military base for a long time now. I don’t believe that we broke the law by going over the fence and the Nuremberg Principles support that. They state that citizens have an obligation to break domestic law in order to protect justice and humanity.

We felt that it was our obligation to do our utmost to ensure that international law is upheld. The fact that we are legislators put an extra burden of responsibility on us. Even more so than ordinary citizens...

I’m admitting that I got over the fence to do what I thought was right. I felt as a legislator, I had an obligation to see that Ireland was not breaking international law. I went over the fence to promote peace, not war.

## lockheed martin

Brandywine Peace Community will host the annual demonstration and nonviolent resistance at Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, (Mall & Goddard Boulevards, behind the King of Prussia Mall). Join them at noon, August 6, to commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Those willing to risk arrest, please call Brandywine Peace Community, 610-544-1818.

## pyhäjoki, finland

Join Hyökyaalto (Tsunami - Rising Tide Finland) at the People Power Against Nuclear Power action camp on Hanhikivi Cape, June 8-21. Forest removal has already begun at the site of the still unapproved Pyhäjoki nuclear power plant along the northern Bothnian Bay coast. Enjoy the endless summer sunshine while learning and sharing skills and ideas on different forms of direct resistance. Consensus decision making is preferred. Any kind of discrimination based on gender, sexuality, ethnicity etc. is strictly forbidden. Political party or nationalist signs do not belong at the camp. For more information, contact [hyokyaalto@riseup.net](mailto:hyokyaalto@riseup.net) or visit [hyokyaalto.net](http://hyokyaalto.net). A companion protest camp is being organized by Friends of the Earth Finland, with more information at [parempaavirtaa.com/camp-in-english](http://parempaavirtaa.com/camp-in-english).

## talisman sabre

Talisman Sabre are biannual “war games” that take place in Northern Australia. In 2013, over 20,000 members of the U.S. forces joined Australian military units to practice invading a fictional Pacific Island. This year, Japanese and New Zealand military will take part. These war preparations are crucial for the U.S. to incorporate Australian military assets into future U.S.-led invasions. A peace convergence at Rockhampton will take place from July 4–18 to protest those “games.” Activists are also planning to take “peace pilgrimages” onto the site to try and disrupt the live fire exercises and hopefully slow down war preparations. Visit [www.100peacepilgrims.com](http://www.100peacepilgrims.com) for more info and ways to help.

## justice for our desert

Nevada Desert Experience invites you to three days at three sites in the high desert, September 19-21, to stop remote control murder (Creech AFB), prevent full scale testing of nuclear weapons (Nevada National Security Site, formerly Nevada Test Site) and protect Yucca Mountain from nuclear waste dumping. Nonviolence training on Saturday, liturgy and line-crossing at the NNSS on Sunday, followed by prayerful time at Yucca Mountain, and drone resistance activities on Monday. Call 702-646-4814 for more information, or visit [nevadadesertexperience.org](http://nevadadesertexperience.org).

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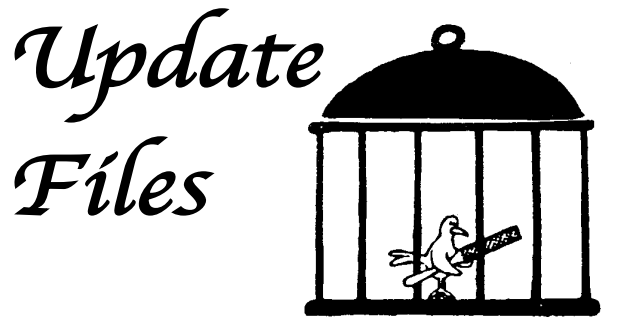


**FT. BENNING, GEORGIA:** It seemed everyone in the Columbus courtroom on January 29 was surprised when U.S. Judge Stephen Hyles sentenced Nashua Chantal to five years probation, and Eve Tetaz to a \$5,000 fine for crossing the line at the annual School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) vigil and nonviolent action last November. Chantal, who’d been over the Fort’s fence and into prison before, pled guilty to trespass. Tetaz argued her innocence but was found guilty. Prosecutors had asked for prison, the six-month max, from a judge notorious since his 2010 appointment for imposing jail terms on nonviolent activists. The two prior occupants of his seat were likewise known for their maximum punishment of protest. Tetaz summed it up later, saying, “Torture is *not* a political tool. My own President asks, ‘Is this who we are?’ All of us would like to say no, but if the School of the Americas is kept open, then I am afraid the answer is yes. This is who we are.” In early April, five SOAW activists arrested at a companion solidarity demonstration last November at the nearby Stewart immigrant detention center had charges dismissed...

**PETREAU’S SPEECH:** In New York City on February 4, former CIA analyst Ray McGovern’s trespass and resisting arrest charges were adjourned contemplating dismissal. He’d been roughed up and arrested last October after trying to attend a public speech by now confessed national security criminal and retired army general David Petraeus. McGovern had a ticket but it only got him jailed overnight when security ID’d him and waiting police grabbed him before he even got in to ask pertinent questions about responsibility for torture in Iraq and other war crimes...

**ROYAL AIR FORCE CROUGHTON:** In February, Crown prosecutors dismissed three charges filed against Lindis Percy when she protested in April and May, 2014 outside the base, a vital communications link in U.S. global surveillance and war fighting. The Crown agreed she was probably within her rights, and it would not succeed in court. She was awarded costs...

**NETHERLANDS:** The more than 60 people who were surrounded and arrested at The Hague demanding disarmament during a nuclear security summit in March, 2014 were each fined €150...



**SWAN ISLAND:** In April, trespass charges against eight people who infiltrated the Australian special forces training base were dismissed by a magistrate in Geelong, Victoria, who wished them all the best of luck. They’d not been so lucky last October when military security forces physically abused four of them in custody in ways like those reported by Afghan villagers subject to the house raids Australian special forces conduct with their U.S. counterparts...

**GERMANY:** The last prosecution remaining against people who sat-in at the Lingen nuclear fuel fabrication plant in 2013 ended in February with the acquittal of a person charged with criminal misuse of identity documents for fidgeting with their summons while in custody. Other fines and charges were dismissed in December and January. Nine people charged following an aerial blockade with banners hanging across the road to block a shipment to the plant in 2012 are finally set for trial in September. Four nuclear power opponents have recently been fined up to €800, not for a protest, but for insulting the police at three different demonstrations in 2013: two when police were roughly handling banner-hangers in Berlin, another when police sided with a driver who nearly ran over legal demonstrators at the Neckarwestheim nuclear power plant, and a fourth during a blockade of the uranium enrichment plant in Gronau...

**EN ROUTE TO COULPORT:** Jamie Watson was found not guilty of resisting arrest, but fined £300 for breach of the peace, having possibly alarmed police escorts when a nuclear warhead convoy was stopped by Trident resisters in the Scottish countryside last summer...

**AUSTRALIA G-20:** Ciaran O’Reilly pleaded guilty on February 24 to violating special restrictions that named him among four people to be kept away from the G-20 meeting in Brisbane in November, where he hoped to confront Barack Obama about the persecution of Chelsea Manning and Julian Assange. He told the court that “good law breaking leads to good law making.” No one else was convicted under the now redundant law, and he was not sentenced, having already served 42 hours in custody upon his arrest...

**SPAIN:** In December, the provincial court in Valencia fined Greenpeace Spain and sixteen activists for property damages when they painted “Nuclear Danger” in huge black letters on the cooling tower of the Cofrentes nuclear power plant in 2011. The activists and a photojournalist were acquitted on more serious charges of public disorder and injuring two guards, together the most serious charges ever faced by Greenpeace Spain activists. The decision was affirmed on appeal in May, when the fine was also more than doubled to €50,000...

**DSEI ARMS FAIR:** Sylvia Boyes served a 14-day jail sentence in March after refusing to pay a fine for obstructing a highway as part of protests in London in September, 2013...

## ANNOUNCEMENT

...The **International Fast for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons** will take place between Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days (August 6-9). The Fast was initiated over 30 years ago in France to commemorate the 300,000 deaths that resulted from the atomic bombings of Japan. Anti-nuclear activists in Germany and Britain have also participated. People throughout the world are invited to join the fast from wherever they are, which is held not only as a commemoration, but also to protest the ongoing possession of nuclear weapons by nine nations. The fast takes on particular significance in Britain this summer, in the final year before the decision on Trident renewal. For more information, contact Marc Morgan at [marcwmorgan@btinternet.com](mailto:marcwmorgan@btinternet.com) or Angie Zelter at [reforest@gn.apc.org](mailto:reforest@gn.apc.org), or visit [tridentploughshares.org](http://tridentploughshares.org).

the Nuclear

# Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

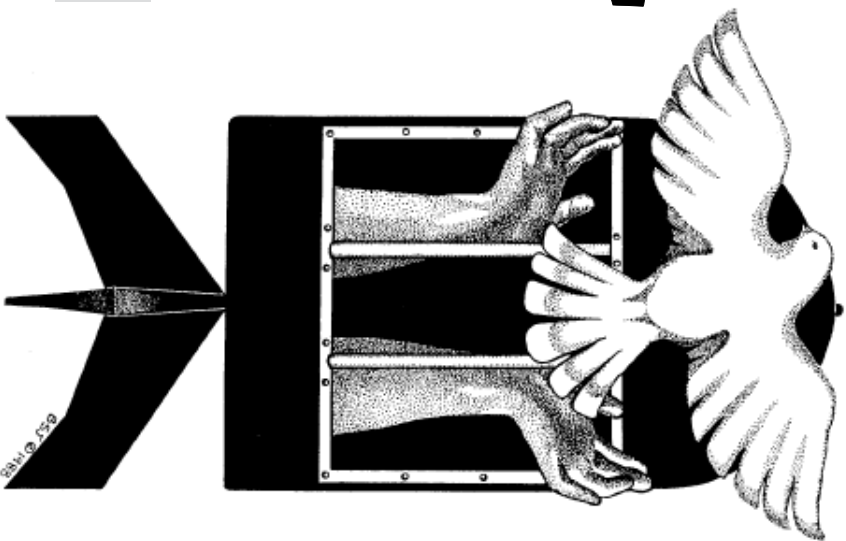
Court Orders Release of  
Y-12 Plowshares Trio

Drone Resistance Roundup

Peace Prisoner  
Updates

Mother’s Day and  
MLK Day Actions

Witness Against  
Torture Fast and Action



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INFORMATION  
ABOUT AND  
SUPPORT FOR  
IMPRISONED  
ANTI-NUCLEAR  
& ANTI-WAR  
ACTIVISTS

*inside this issue...*

Prisoner Addresses, p.3  
Writings from Jail,  
Future Actions  
...and more

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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