

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 182

September 6, 2016

Hiroshima & Nagasaki Day Actions

BANGOR SUB BASE

Nuclear abolitionists held two days of protest at the Trident nuclear submarine base in Washington state to commemorate the anniversary of the atomic bombings.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action gathered to vigil on the roadside just outside the base Main Gate early on the morning of August 8. While Ground Zero peacekeepers safely stopped incoming traffic, four activists risked arrest by entering the roadway and blocking arriving sailors and workers with large banners.

Sue Ablao and Mack Johnson carried a banner identical to the large ad now being displayed on the side of Seattle Metro Transit buses that reads, “20 miles west of Seattle is the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the U.S.” The accompanying image includes a map with a line drawn from the sub base at Bangor to Seattle.

Washington State Patrol officers removed Ablao and Johnson from the road, and shortly thereafter two more activists, Philip Davis and George Rodkey, entered the road carrying a banner that read “No More Genocide In My Name,” a reference to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

State Patrol removed Davis and Rodkey from the road, and issued all four activists citations for being in the roadway illegally before they were released.

The next day, “Boats by Bangor” marked the Nagasaki anniversary with a water-based nonviolent protest and witness for peace in the Hood Canal at the Trident base. A peace flotilla of 13 kayakers and twenty activists on two sailboats was led by one of the sailboats, the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule is the original peace boat that set sail in 1958 to the South Pacific to stop nuclear bomb testing in the atmosphere. A Veterans for Peace project recently restored the ship.

The activists traveled along the entire waterfront of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, where the Trident submarines are maintained and resupplied for ballistic missile patrols in the Pacific Ocean. Military personnel were courteous and professional in their interactions with the August 9 peace flotilla as it passed by the Delta Pier and the two Explosives Handling Wharves at Bangor, where nuclear warheads and Trident D-5 missiles are loaded into the submarines.

This was the first year for a large water-based presence since the first Trident submarine, the USS Ohio, arrived at Bangor in 1982. The flotilla and the bus ad are part of an ongoing effort by activists to lift the veil of secrecy involving nuclear weapons in the Puget Sound.

Three men who crossed the line at the Bangor sub base in May are set to be arraigned in federal court on September 7.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org.

LIVERMORE LAB

from reports by Marylia Kelley and Earth Abides Catholic Worker

About 200 anti-nuclear activists rallied outside the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab in California on August 9 to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Nagasaki, and to stand with survivors of nuclear weapons from Hiroshima to the Marshall Islands.

Speakers at the rally included atomic-bomb survivor Nobuaki Hanaoka, Executive Director of Lawyers



photo by Leonard Eiger

A Washington state trooper directs George Rodkey and Philip Davis to leave the road into the nuclear submarine base at Bangor.

Committee on Nuclear Policy John Burroughs and nuclear weapons analyst and Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg. Tara Dorabji with local watchdog Tri-Valley CAREs gave the group a sense of place with her description of current nuclear weapons work at Livermore Lab, while Chizu Hamada drew links between the nuclear bomb and nuclear power.

The rally was followed by a march to the Livermore Lab main gate where dozens of people staged a “die-in” and had their bodies outlined in chalk on the roadway to symbolize the victims vaporized in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A second gate, three-quarters of a mile down the road, was simultaneously blocked by nine demonstrators from Earth Abides Catholic Worker Farm, CodePink and the Pacific Life Community. Police cleared both gates, arresting 45 people. All but one signed a citation and were released. Jesuit Fr. Steve Kelly refused to sign, and was jailed for two days before being released. All were given a September 6 court date.

For more information, visit trivalleycares.org.

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE

On August 6, 30 members of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker, the Guadalupe Catholic Worker and Veterans for Peace gathered at Vandenberg Air Force Base in central California to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While they vigiled for peace outside the main gate of the base where ballistic nuclear missile tests are launched, Mike Wisniewski and Karan Benton were approached by base security and warned that they were in violation of their ban and bar letters. These are letters received from the base commander after prior arrests there, barring one’s participation without written permission in protests at the gate, which is located on California Highway 1, miles inside base property. The two activists were asked to leave immediately or face arrest. Wisniewski chose to leave the protest area, while Benton refused to leave and was immediately arrested.

Later, after the vigil and prayer service, Jed Poole and Chris Knudson crossed the green line marking the

Push for Clemency For Peltier

With the clock ticking before President Obama leaves office and Leonard Peltier’s bid for clemency hanging in the balance, he needs help like never before.

The International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (ILPDC) will be in Washington, D.C. in December, 2016 for lobbying, media events and a human rights forum to press the lame-duck administration to grant clemency.

The Native American activist was wrongfully convicted in the deaths of two FBI agents on June 26, 1975 during the agency’s siege of a homestead 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.

Kathy Peltier, Leonard’s daughter, wrote in an appeal published on Father’s Day by Amnesty International USA:

My father is a prominent member of the American Indian Movement (AIM). His name is synonymous with the struggle for Native rights and he has been behind bars for over 40 years – my whole life...

Many people – including judges, prison guards and legal experts – have agreed that his trial was unfair and corrupt. They’ve called for mercy, leniency and freedom – but he remains in prison.

My father has become very sick and has an abdominal aortic aneurysm. The Federal Bureau of Prisons says it won’t take care of it until it gets even worse – but I’m afraid that it will be too late. His freedom would mean that he can get the help he actually needs.

Please ask for the release of my father so we can spend the time he has left together.



If you have not already done so, please sign the petition at amnestyusa.org/leonardpeltier.

Also, contact the Office of the Pardon Attorney (OPA) at the Department of Justice, which welcomes communications regarding clemency matters. Express your strong support of Leonard Peltier’s application for clemency in a letter, email and/or phone call to the OPA. Make reference to Leonard Peltier #89637-132 and his application for clemency dated February 17, 2016. Urge the OPA to recommend to President Obama that he grant clemency to Leonard Peltier: Honorable Robert A. Zauzmer, Acting Pardon Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20530; 202-616-6070; USPardon.Attorney@usdoj.gov.

Call President Obama in support of Leonard’s bid for clemency at 202-456-1111 (White House Comment Line) or 202-456-1414 (White House Switchboard). Email him at whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments.

To make a donation and for more information, visit whoisleonardpeltier.info.

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

lawful protest area, processed down the base road and were arrested near the visitor’s center. While those arrests were taking place, David Omondi walked into the street without the intention of being arrested, but was nevertheless quickly taken into custody. All were cited for trespass and released 30 minutes later at Vandenberg Village, seven miles from the base gate.

Prior to his unintended arrest, David Omondi had just been released from federal prison in Los Angeles on June 28, after serving a two month sentence for trespass at Vandenberg in August, 2015. His co-defendants Jeff

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*We give thanks for the lives of these
peace, justice and anti-nuclear activists*



Sigrid Dale

August 7, 1929 -
July 5, 2016



Ken Seaman

December 24, 1923 -
July 23, 2016



George Homanich

December 8, 1947 -
August 7, 2016

¡Presente!

CHELSEA MANNING FACES NEW CHARGES

After a mental health crisis, a July 5 suicide attempt and a trio of new “administrative offenses” that could lead to longer and more severe confinement, Chelsea Manning wrote, “Just a few words about my spirit and well being” on August 8 on her blog, medium.com/@xychelsea.

I have been feeling a little better. Certainly better than the week before last, when I was first served with these charges. Your outpouring of support has been incredible. You have made a real difference in my feelings about myself and my situation...

I am astonished at the breadth and heart of your voices with your petitions to drop the charges by the prison for a suicide attempt. My court martial appeal is still ongoing. I am still seeking appropriate psychological, psychiatric, and medical care for my gender transition.

Today, I am inspired and motivated to keep writing, educating myself, and speaking out on matters that we know are important.

Only your incredible support could have made this happen.

Manning’s court martial appeal brief was filed by her attorneys on May 18. While asking for a significant reduction in her 35-year sentence, the appeal challenges the harsh solitary confinement conditions before her trial, legal vagaries and the lack of proof presented for the serious charges.

Manning was buoyed by the filing, but in July, an official at the military prison in Leavenworth, Kansas contacted the press with unverified “confidential medical information” about the attempted suicide, sparking global headlines. Outraged that no one had contacted her legal team, lead attorney Nancy Hollander also accused the Army of lying to her when they told her a scheduled

privileged phone call with Manning could not be connected when in fact Manning was then hospitalized. Not until July 11 did army doctors allow Manning to take an emergency call from Hollander, her partner Vincent Ward and Chase Strangio, the ACLU attorney handling Manning’s legal fight for hormone replacement and other gender dysphoria medical treatment.

Just over two weeks later, Manning was informed she would face disciplinary proceedings for resisting the cell removal team, having prohibited property in her cell, and conduct which threatens, all spuriously tied to her attempted suicide.

A coalition of advocacy groups responded quickly, and on August 10 delivered more than 115,000 petition signatures to Army Secretary Fanning, calling for him to drop the new charges. Chase Strangio said, “Chelsea’s access to mental health care has been inconsistent. It is an ongoing concern of her attorneys and supporters that she is not getting adequate mental health care, particularly in light of the external forces that are destabilizing her mental health, like the service of these administrative charges against her and the ongoing investigation of those charges. It seems like the government is doing everything in their power to make her physical and mental condition worsen...”

For more information, visit chelseamanning.org.



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

Volk Field Drone Trial

When Brian Terrell and Kathy Kelly were jailed overnight last winter, following a peaceful line-crossing at a Wisconsin drone training base, it was because they were overcharged. This was acknowledged when the original charges of disorderly conduct and trespass to a dwelling were dropped before trial, and the less serious trespass to land substituted, a charge that better described the protest and would have meant a citation and release at the scene.

Instead, Juneau County sheriff Oleson told media that the periodic protests at Volk Field, where the army trains Shadow surveillance drone operators, were impeding traffic and interfering with the rights of others. These statements contradicted the reality of the protests, so Terrell requested documents under the state Open Records Law to explain why, and also explain why protester’s vehicles are being singled out for scrutiny and petty traffic citations.

The response, from undersheriff Craig Stuchlik, was shocking.

“Law Enforcement Officers are being targeted in the United States by hate groups because they stand for law and order. Law Enforcement Officers are being executed by these hate groups at an alarming rate and it does not appear to be slowing down. As a matter of fact, you have had a person attend your protests in Camp Douglas who

has threatened to kill our Deputies. Not sure if that person is a regular member of your group or just shows up from time to time.”

And contradicting earlier statements from the sheriff, Stuchlik wrote that the department “ran” the license numbers of “all vehicles... that appeared to be involved in the protest,” even when parked legally.

“When Deputies respond to such incidents, we need to know who we are dealing with,” said Stuchlik. “Thus the reason that we run license numbers. As I mentioned before, you have had a party attend your protests who has openly threatened to kill us. You seem to have different people attend your protests and thus another reason to run the license plates.”

Citing the ongoing “investigation,” the department will not reveal who they allege made the threats.

Terrell was prepared to challenge the department’s claims at his August 19 trial, but neither of the deputies, though present in court, took the stand for the prosecution. Only an air force security sergeant testified to the trespass, and his truthful account contradicted the original deputies’ reports. But without them on the stand, their lies that led to a night in jail could not be countered. Terrell was convicted and fined \$232.

where we’re at

Our summer has flown by! Here in toasty Tucson, we’ve been enjoying occasional monsoon rains and appreciating abundant basil, armenian cucumbers, padrón peppers, purple long beans and zucchini from the garden. In June, our daughter arrived for about a month. She had just finished five years of teaching music at an international school in Panama, and she unpacked her belongings and decided what to repack before heading off to a new teaching job in Vietnam! Our son started a new IT job here in Tucson around the same time. We’re happy they both have jobs doing what they enjoy!

In August, Allison McGillivray (who was a Nuclear Resister intern in 2010) joined us once again as we continue organizing 36 years of Nuclear Resister archives. Listening to her questions and comments as she’s reading action and court statements, letters from prisoners and the sometimes heated exchange among activists about topics like nonviolence, action tactics and the effectiveness and value of spending time in jail, reminds us what a significant, vibrant and evolving movement the Nuclear Resister has chronicled. It’s taking longer than we first imagined, but what a valuable resource the archives will be when they are part of the Peace Collection at the Swarthmore College library! We are grateful that Allison has offered us more of her time and invaluable help in September before she and her husband Sam leave Tucson after living here for two years... We wish them the very best as their journey unfolds from here!

At first, we will all be headed in the same direction – to the National Catholic Worker gathering from October 7-9 in Las Vegas, which will conclude with nonviolent action at the nearby Nevada nuclear test site and Creech

drone base. We are traveling from Tucson with John Heid, and very much look forward to attending this gathering and seeing friends (old and new) there! This will be the fourth National Catholic Worker gathering we have attended in Nevada over the years - kudos to the wonderful Las Vegas Catholic Worker community once again for hosting and organizing!

We are disappointed, however, to be missing the first School of the Americas Watch Border Convergence in Nogales, Arizona (U.S.) and Nogales, Sonora (Mexico), which unfortunately is happening the very same weekend. We have been hearing from friends who are letting us know they are looking forward to seeing us when they are in southern Arizona, and we’re sorry we won’t be here.

That said, if you are coming to the SOAWatch Border Convergence, please let us know if you’ll still be around on Tuesday, October 11, because we will probably schedule a drone protest early that morning at Davis Monthan Air Force Base. Also, if you come to Arizona *before* the Border Convergence, here are two things we will attend in Tucson on Tuesday, October 4 (during Keep Space for Peace Week and on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi):

- Peace vigil at Davis Monthan AFB, Tucson from 7 - 8 a.m., (from where armed drones are piloted around the world). Park at recreation field parking lot at N-W corner of Craycroft & Golf Links Roads with access from Craycroft.

- Talk on nuclear weapons by John LaForge of Nukewatch (and former SOAW prisoner of conscience), at 6:15 p.m. at Himmel Park Library Meeting Room, 1035 N. Treat Ave., Tucson (at 1st St., one block south of Speedway)

Please contact us for more details about the October 4 activities at nukeresister@igc.org and see page 7 of this issue for more information about the SOAW Border Convergence and the National Catholic Worker gathering.

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa, coordinators

Thanks

Thanks to Polly, Sam, Allison, Gretchen, Jim, Frank, Aston, Bill, Rosemary, Kathleen, Russell, Charlotte, Richard, Cindy, Sonia and Xiomara for helping to mail the last issue.

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

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

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

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

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

The Nuclear Resister is published about every 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

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Federal Summons Dropped Again for California Drone War Resisters

Dhafir to Seek Compassionate Release

Monthly overnight peace camps with vigils and leafletting of air force personnel continue outside Beale Air Force Base in northern California, headquarters for the Global Hawk surveillance drone program. While itself unarmed, the Global Hawk is actively involved in the drone assassination program, used as a tool to identify and track potential targets.

Toby Blomé writes:

On June 28, seven northern California peace activists crossed the military base boundary line, one after the other, in an extended interruption of “business as usual”... As each activist prepared to cross the line, they read aloud to the military nearby parts of the story of the poor taxi driver, Muhammad Azam, who, on May 21, was unknowingly transporting a high level U.S. drone target, Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor. U.S. officials had no qualms about sacrificing the life of this poor taxi driver for a target they were determined to murder. Sadly, both the Taliban leader and Mr. Azam, the taxi driver (sole supporter of his 4 young children, his wife and his disabled brother) were burned beyond recognition by a hellfire missile. As our sign reads: Who will feed his family? Azam’s story was not covered by U.S. media.

Arrested for trespass were Toby Blomé, Michael Kerr, Chris Knudson, Chris Nelson, Mauro Oliveira, Shirley Osgood and Flora Rogers. Chris Nelson was also charged with resisting an officer, after she went limp to protest an effort to separate Blomé from the others while in custody. All were later released.

The day before, Blomé was involved in a dispute with the head of base security about where she was allowed to

safely stand while leafletting departing drivers, and Kerr had been briefly detained, handcuffed, cited and released as he bore witness to the harassment of Blomé while crossing the intersection back and forth with his Black Lives Matter sign.

No arrests were reported from the July peace camp, but activists were back crossing the line again in August. Early Tuesday morning, August 16, Fred Bialy, Barry Binks, Toby Blomé, Michael Kerr, Pamela Osgood, Shirley Osgood and Flora Rogers approached the base boundary line at the main gate. They stopped and read aloud a written indictment, ordering the commander and personnel to “disperse immediately” and stop the crimes against humanity resulting from drone warfare. Holding hands, they crossed the line together and asked where to find the commander so they might place him under citizen’s arrest. Instead, the seven activists were detained, handcuffed, searched and taken to a processing center. They were released at the base boundary about an hour later.

In recent years, Occupy Beale activists have been increasing the frequency of civil resistance actions, and the government response has been to detain, cite, release, but ultimately cancel the arraignment, without pressing charges. It happened again for the fourth time in late August. The seven people arrested in June received a summons to federal court in September to answer the charge of trespass, but ten days later the charges were again dismissed.

For more information, contact Toby at ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net.

KABAT RETURNS TO NUCLEAR BOMB PLANT

Someone should have been waiting for him. For three of the last five years he’d shown up and been arrested on the Fourth of July; and a week later one year, and last year on Nagasaki Day, August 9. This year, for his celebration of “Interdependence Day,” Fr. Carl Kabat, age 82, sashayed up a path for walkers and joggers at 9:00 on the morning of July 4 and trespassed through the prairie grass and a parking lot of the National Security Campus (NSC) in Kansas City, a sprawling new factory where almost all of the non-nuclear parts for U.S. nuclear weapons are made and assembled. No one approached him, until he splashed oil paint on the entrance doors. Soon, he was arrested.

Later at the police station, a supervisor looked through Kabat’s bag, which held papers from his earlier trials. “You’re a super-patriot,” the supervisor told the priest, and let him go with a court date for intentional damage and trespassing after being ordered not to return to the site.

Outside the station, Kabat told supporters, “That place is bloody, and it was red paint – bright red paint.”

Jane Stoever writes,

In court August 15, Kabat pleaded not guilty and told Judge Corey Carter he’d represent himself. A trial date of October 12 is set, but Carl asks, “Is there any chance I could have the trial now?” “No,” the judge insists. Grabbing the cane he left on the floor, Carl leaves the courtroom. Outside, a reporter asks why, in Carl’s opinion, nuclear weapons must be opposed. “You can’t kill women, babies, and old people like me indiscriminately,” says Carl. “This is insane. The world’s insane. When did you vote for nuclear weapons? Nobody ever did.” The reporter parries, “One of the leading candidates for president just talked about giving more countries nuclear weapons.” “They are insane,” says Carl. Then he divulges, “I intended to use a hammer, too,” on July 4. “The Old Testament said, ‘They shall beat their swords into plowshares.’” The reporter asks, “You didn’t use the hammer?” Carl replies, “No. They were on me.” His supporters marvel that he made it to the NSC main door. Carl shrugs them off, saying, “The Holy One does big things!” He reminds us that John 10.34 quotes Jesus as saying, “You are gods,” quoting the Psalms. “And Jesus said we would do greater things (than he). Jesus never deactivated a nuclear missile silo. We had it deactivated for a month, in 1984,” he recalls.

Kabat was recalling the Silo Pruning Hooks action when he, his brother Oblate, Fr. Paul Kabat, Larry Cloud Morgan and Helen Woodson took a pneumatic jackhammer and sledge hammers to a Minuteman nuclear missile silo in Missouri.

SENTENCING UPDATE

Two weeks earlier, disarmament advocates went to the

courthouse in support of Lu Mountenay, on the occasion of her sentencing for crossing the line at the Kansas City plant on Memorial Day, May 30. Mountenay told them, “We rally to keep in the public view the inherent danger of nuclear weapons, especially as we approach a national election... One candidate doesn’t even know what the nuclear triad is — air, land and sea launching capabilities. My grandchildren even know that. They are why I do this (civil resistance). We say, ‘Never again! No more Hiroshimas. No more Nagasakis. No more nukes!’”

Before pronouncing sentence, Judge Katherine Emke asked Mountenay, “Is this your first time?”

“Third time I’ve done the same thing in the same place,” was her reply. The judge sentenced Mountenay to 90 days in jail, suspended, 50 hours community service, one year probation and a small fine.

For more information, visit peaceworkskc.org.

After full consideration of a document prepared on his behalf, Rafil Dhafir decided he could not sign it as the “Petitioner” for executive clemency. “How can an innocent person like me ask for this alleged commutation from a criminal, regardless of who she/he is?” asks Dhafir.

The 68-year-old immigrant oncologist’s awareness of the crimes of American presidents against his native Iraq led him to become an opponent of the 1991–2003 U.S. sanctions against that country. As a respected physician and leader among upstate New York Muslims, he established a charity for the beleaguered Iraqis, and donated well over \$1 million of his own money to their needs.

Rafil Dhafir has been imprisoned since his surprise arrest on the eve of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, when he was denied bail and accused by federal officials of funding terrorists. The day of his arrest, FBI agents seized all of his personal and business records, and in an intimidating sweep, soon interrogated 150 Muslim families in the Syracuse area. When Dhafir refused a plea bargain on the original 14 charges related to the Iraq sanctions, the government responded with a 59-count indictment, expanding the prosecution to include 25 counts of Medicare fraud for receiving improper reimbursements totaling much less than the charity he gave. No evidence of funding terrorism came into the trial, so the defense was not permitted to mention or refute the widely-publicized accusation.

A nearly two-year-old federal court petition for a change in Dhafir’s prison designation has still received no response. Dhafir has since sworn supplemental declarations to document ongoing harassment, which he believes is due both to his religion and having filed the suit itself. For example, twice during Ramadan this summer his cell was “trashed” and clearly-labeled Ramadan food was taken and not returned, while his cellmate’s property was left untouched.

Dhafir is also applying for non-medical compassionate release. Newly amended federal guidelines will go into effect in November, and Dhafir should then be eligible based on his age and having served the minimum 10 years. He will need the warden’s recommendation.

“I just pray that all good people never have to face what I am going through of tyranny and mediocrity,” he writes.

For more information, visit dhafirtrial.net.



Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir 11921-052, FMC Devens Unit GB, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 879, Ayer, MA 01432.

Inside & Out

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



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)

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Chelsea E. Manning 89289
1300 North Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-2304.
(35 years – in 5/2010)
(Whistleblower convicted on charges related to release of military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes)

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052
FMC Devens Unit GB, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 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)

Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. KN 9758
SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Rd., Dallas, PA 18612.
(1 to 7 years – max out 8/31/18)
(Sentenced 5/21/12 for third trespass at military recruiting office in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 8/1/11)

Jared Chase M44710
P.O. Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764.
(8 years – out 11/6/17)
(Convicted of possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson during protests at NATO summit in Chicago, May, 2012)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED,
RECENTLY RELEASED: Michael David Omondi, Robert J. Dietrich, John D. Apel

Hiroshima & Nagasaki, cont.

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Dietrich and Dennis Apel each served a four month sentence and were released on August 26 and September 2, respectively.

Chris Knudson, another of the August, 2015 Vandenberg defendants, has been told his Social Security check will be docked to pay \$135 in fines and court costs, plus interest, that he had refused to pay.

In May, the *Santa Barbara Independent* began publishing a series of Apel’s letters from prison on their website. His fourth letter tells of a sudden meeting he was called to in early June, after the third was published.

Apel describes the “sting” he felt after the meeting, realizing he had agreed with the suggestion of the official who called him in that maybe publication of his letters “could wait until I got out”.

He decided to continue sending letters to the paper. Three more had been published by mid-July before the hammer fell. On July 14, Apel was removed from general population and confined in the segregated housing unit (SHU). He was told he would be charged with introducing contraband into the prison. It was alleged that some incoming correspondence had tested positive for amphetamine, and Apel was suspected of soliciting.

Supporters responded quickly with a flood of letters to the warden protesting the absurdity of accusing the 66-year-old Catholic Worker of drug smuggling. The alleged sender submitted a notarized affidavit denying the accusation.

At a hearing two weeks later, the charge was withdrawn and he was returned to general population.

To read Dennis Apel’s letters from prison, visit independent.com/news/diary-from-prison.

For more information, visit lacatholicworker.org and vandenbergwitness.org.

OAK RIDGE

from OREPA

Even before the sun rose on August 6 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the deep sound of a pealing bell resonated across the landscape, as the names of Hiroshima victims were read aloud, and an origami peace crane tied for each one on a makeshift fence across from the main entrance to the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex.

The annual Names and Remembrance ceremony sponsored by the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA) lasted three hours, with an abrupt break in the readings at 8:15 a.m. to mark the time the United States obliterated the city of Hiroshima, Japan, in an instant killing more than one hundred thousand men, women and children with the first atomic bomb. The highly enriched uranium that fueled the bomb named “Little Boy” was produced at the Y-12 site in Oak Ridge.

Along with names and first-hand accounts by witnesses to the bombing, those who gathered heard the annual declaration by the mayor of Hiroshima and the call of the Hibakusha, survivors of the bomb, who ask people around the world to join them in their call of “Never Again!”

While the morning’s ceremony looked back into history, the afternoon’s events were rooted in the present and looked to the future. Following a concert for peace in Bissell Park in Oak Ridge, about 60 people joined a two-mile march in the withering August heat from the park to the bomb plant.

“We are here in Oak Ridge because Y-12 continues to produce nuclear weapons components,” OREPA coordinator Ralph Hutchison said. “And because the National Nuclear Security Administration wants to build a new bomb plant here and continue to use old bomb plants, which they admit do not meet modern safety codes, for 25-30 more years because bringing them up to code

would be ‘cost prohibitive.’ This work puts the public at considerable risk.”

Scores of demonstrators tied ribbons together to form a chain that they carried across Scarboro Road and draped on the security fence encircling the bomb plant. The event, part of a series of global events called “Chain Reaction: Breaking Free from Nuclear Weapons,” was marked by singing a folk song with the chorus: “And I ain’t comin’ down in chains.”

Beth Rosdatter, from Lexington, Kentucky, then broke from the ranks of demonstrators and walked into the middle of East Bear Creek Road, the main thoroughfare into the bomb plant. When she reached the blue line, she sat down on the hot asphalt. “I didn’t feel I could be part of the ceremony in the morning, with its graphic descriptions of the suffering caused by the bomb, and then just get in my car and go home. I had to do something,” said Rosdatter.

That something shut down the bomb plant, at least while police talked with Rosdatter and went through the process of arresting her. Eventually, she was charged with obstructing a highway and taken to the Anderson County Jail, where friends posted a \$500 bond to secure her release. Rosdatter has previously served time behind bars for protest at Y-12, and will next appear in General Sessions court in Oak Ridge on December 1.

Asked if her action was a statement, Rosdatter pointed to her white shirt on which she had written in black marker, “There is no place in this world for nuclear weapons.”

For more information, visit orepa.org.

PARIS

On Hiroshima Day, Rémi Filliau and Sophie Jallier took part in a demonstration outside the Paris headquarters of Les Républicains to denounce the historical responsibility of the pro-nuclear French political party. They placed a few adhesive anti-nuclear stickers on the windows and chalked a simple message, “No to nuclear weapons – which cost us €4 billion per year.” Following a die-in with others, police arrested the two Désobéir collective activists and held them overnight. Others who joined the die-in had their identities checked by police but were not arrested. Charged with defacing the building, the two will be in court on November 7.

For more information, visit desobeir.net.

JARED CHASE UPDATE

Just as the last issue of the Nuclear Resister went to press, encouraging readers to contact prison authorities on his behalf, Chicago NATO summit protest prisoner Jared Chase was finally brought to the prison infirmary. His nose was finally x-rayed, but six months after he was assaulted by guards it showed no current fracture. Two prescriptions for Huntington’s Disease were re-written and filled, and Chase has been in contact with an attorney from Chicago’s Uptown People’s Law Center since then. Although he is not corresponding much, Chase has expressed appreciation for mail, birthday cards and books received this summer.

His current booklist can be found at freethenato3.wordpress.com.



Letters of support should be sent to Jared Chase M44710, P.O. Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764.

Volk Field, cont.

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In an essay, “What Makes a Hate Group”, Terrell identifies one reason behind the Sheriff’s confusion.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. long ago noted that the violence in American streets is a direct and inevitable result of the violence of our country’s wars. The racial profiling that results in the killings of unarmed Black citizens, even children, by police in American streets is the domestic expression of the “patterns of behavior” surveilled by Shadow Drones that trigger the “signature strike” executions of people of color in the wars abroad. The violence in our streets is the war coming home, and running the license plates of law abiding citizens will not make Juneau County Sheriff’s deputies any safer so long as those wars rage on.

For more information, contact brian@vcnv.org.

THE INSIDE LINE



I have spent a considerable amount of time here in prayer. And I know that many of you have joined your prayers with mine. Although I am leaving the prison the struggle continues and my hope is that our prayers were less for me than for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Let’s continue to join our prayers and our actions and stoke the fires of love that the darkness cannot overcome. All we have is God and each other, and that is more than enough.

Thank you for being there...

Much love,

Dennis

[Dennis Apel has just completed a four month prison sentence for trespass at Vandenberg Air Force Base in August, 2015.]

The following letters from Jeff Dietrich are reprinted from the Catholic Agitator (August 2016), newsletter of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker community.

Dear Community,

I woke up this morning to loud voices: “Those liberal fuckers just want to ban all of our arms. They are so brainless.” That is Sheldon’s opinion. He is the regular CO or “Correctional Officer” here on 5 North. Amazingly, racial tensions around here have been pretty much tamped down since the shootings of five Dallas police officers. But I have noticed a few sentiments surfacing above ground after word of former Congressman Joe Walsh’s now deleted tweet: “Black Lives Matter punks should be on notice that we are coming after you.” I overheard one white inmate remark to another: “Guess they’ll stop trying to take our guns away from us now.”

My former cellmate, Wolverine, was arrested for possession of firearms. While fleeing the police, he crashed his car into a tree. Police found an assault weapon, a shotgun, and a 9mm “glock.” Back at home in his garage, he had a whole stockpile of weapons, and he spent an evening giving me a lesson on how to construct

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WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Los Angeles

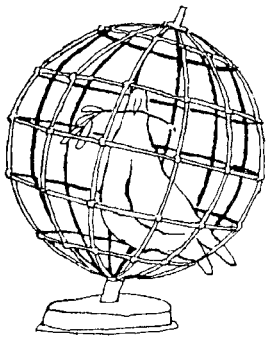
Dear Family and Friends,

Today is Monday and as they say here, I’ve got “three days and a wake-up.” On Friday morning, September 2nd sometime around eleven o’clock in the morning I will walk out the front door of the prison that has been my home for the past four months. Oh what a journey this has been! I am grateful beyond words to be approaching the finish line.

I am aware that this will be my final correspondence with you from prison, and I’m not sure what to write. But it’s important for you to know how grateful I am for your love, prayers and support for both me and Tensie, Rozella and Thomas. The letters, cards and expressions of love have been so overwhelming and have both nourished our souls and held up our spirits. What a blessing we have in you and we thank God for you in our lives.

As a family we spent many hours in discernment before making the decision to follow our consciences and accept whatever consequences came. The scourge of nuclear weapons and the role that Vandenberg plays in that immoral and corrupt program cries out to be exposed and confronted. We knew that speaking out could have consequences and we all agreed to suffer what came because the stakes are so high for the human community. But to say that we will accept the consequences and to actually live them out are two different things. It has been hard. There have been times in the past four months when we have wished that this cup would pass. It was during those times when your faithful solidarity held us tight and brought God’s tender mercies to water our parched souls. You have been an essential part of this journey and because of that we are reassured of the rightness of our commitment.

I have been cautioned to focus on the reason I am here, the desire to rid the world of nuclear weapons, and to not get overly distracted by the issues around prison reform. But the fact is that our prison system is corrupt and highly discriminating and I have lived first-hand that reality. In the end, it is the same powers that would research, develop and deploy hideous weapons of indiscriminate mass murder, that also employ a harsh, dehumanizing and racially biased system of incarceration. The two are intricately woven together of the same fabric. And the very fibers of that fabric are the cynical surety of the powers that we will forever be too frightened or too busy or too attached to our lifestyles to confront them.



INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Bure, France

In 2000, the French nuclear industry established an underground research laboratory in the forested hills and farmlands of the Meuse river valley, east of Paris. Anti-nuclear activists from France and Germany assumed the industry would, in time, just bury the waste where the only lab and test tunnels are, so they’ve been quietly organizing locally for even longer.

By 2005, they’d bought a farmhouse in the nearby village of Bure, which has since been renovated into a gathering place and house of resistance to the proposed nuclear dump. A major action camp there in 2015 brought more young, politically aware activists into the struggle.

This May, before all the necessary permits had been issued, the nuclear waste agency ANDRA put up barbed wire fencing and began clearing a site in the forest of Mandres-en-Barrois for “evaluation”.

The call for blockades and a summer-long occupation of the site went out. On June 19, about 200 people from near and far picnicked in town before taking a hike into the woods. Police and private security did not intervene as fencing was removed and structures were assembled in the new clearing in the centuries-old, once communal forest.

Over the next two weeks, occupiers met more local residents who defied police intimidation and dropped by for a chat than they’d met in several recent months of public meetings, canvassing and mass rallies. Gardens and new trees were planted as the organizing took root right where ANDRA needs to drill. Barricades were built to keep police vehicles from approaching too close.

An eviction order was posted on June 28, but not until the morning of July 7 did dozens of police sweep into the camp on bulldozers, trucks and a helicopter. Using flash grenades and teargas, they roused, injured and chased off dozens of occupiers, including children, but took only one person into custody overnight.

Sicily, Italy

Cruelty or coincidence, the timing was at least dramatic. A 16-month legal battle that shut down a vital U.S. military communications link in the middle of a Sicilian cork oak preserve was settled with a court order on August 5. The Catania Court of Review said that while it’s “contemptuous” (dispreziativo) of the normal way of looking at things, in law the military wins over the landscape, and operation of the passionately contested MUOS ground station can resume. Four days later, No MUOS activists took another hit with the indictment of 139 people who took part in mass protests in 2013 and 2014.

Most defendants, who range in age from 21 to 82, are charged with trespass onto the site and face a fine of up to one year in jail. Ten are charged with cutting the fence surrounding the large parabolic antennas, and another 34 for various incidents of throwing objects at police. A mass trial larger than the biggest Mafia prosecution is expected in 2017 for a movement driven by environmental, cultural and health concerns in addition to opposition to U.S. militarism.

While the system was shut down, local opponents continued to be regular targets of petty police harassment including car searches and brief detention, especially when they walked or drove anywhere near the forest preserve and the towering white satellite dishes.

Even with this ground station (one of four worldwide) back online, the real-time war-fighting system has other problems. MUOS-5, the final and ready-in-space back-up satellite for the global network, launched on June 24 but failed to reach the required orbit, and is now stranded uselessly in space.

And despite the criminal indictments, hundreds of people came out on a hot Sunday afternoon, August 21, for a protest walk through the remaining protected oak forest outside the Sicilian town of Niscemi. Waving No MUOS flags, they denounced Italy’s part in the war in Libya and its servitude to U.S. imperialism. Police inside the military outpost held back, and those escorting the march were kept at bay by other marchers while one contingent again cut down a section of the perimeter fence and left a ripped up American flag hanging from the barbed wire.

The No MUOS movement is calling for a national demonstration on October 2 against war and the U.S./NATO militarization of Sicily, where 30 of the 113 U.S. military installations in Italy are located. Their demonstration will be one of many worldwide marking Keep Space for Peace Week. For more information, visit numuos.info and space4peace.org.

Hastened into action, a handful of nuclear backers in the national assembly gave a green light to the “pilot project” in a special July 11 session. To replace the fence, ANDRA began erecting two miles of concrete wall from sections 5’ wide and 8’ tall.

On Saturday, July 16, 400 people returned to again release the forest from ANDRA’s grip. Over the weekend, police stood by or coordinated their movements with private security forces. These forces, unidentified by any uniform or badge and equipped with a motley mix of military and riot gear, would then assault groups of demonstrators who advanced on the forest. Several were injured with rubber bullets, clubs and teargas. Part of the site was re-occupied for a few days. Four people were arrested and held for two days, then released without charge. Early on July 19, a truck laden with sections of the wall was blocked in the village of Bure and “redecorated” until police arrived and held a few people just long enough for the truck to get away.

A local high court joined the fray on August 1, halting the forest work and demanding restoration in six months if local permits are not obtained. Activists responded by erecting a watchtower at the forest edge to monitor activity at the site for compliance with the court order. For days, police on hand outnumbered the dozen or so activists who occupied the tower to prevent it being taken down.

Emboldened by the court order, hundreds of people returned to the forest on August 14. With ladders and large levers, they surmounted the concrete wall and, section by section, tipped over 90% of it. Spray paint and sledge hammers transformed the barrier into a festive backdrop for the joyous weekend of nuclear resistance.

After almost three months of struggle to prevent test drilling at the site, so far only one criminal case is proceeding after the July evictions, with a hearing on September 12. Two other activists who had been detained are in court this week for refusing to give a DNA sample, as all who are questioned by police in France may be required to do.

For more information, visit vmc.camp and Burezonelibre.noblogs.org.

War Resisters in Canada

The election of a new Prime Minister in Canada has given hope to U.S. military refusers who fled there after the reality of the war in Iraq dawned on them, awakening their conscience. More than 200 active duty military were known to have fled north since 2004, when Canada withdrew from participation in the U.S. war on Iraq. Most have since returned to the U.S., with several of the more public refusers singled out for prosecution and jailed upon their eventual return. Many others were quietly discharged.

In June, the War Resisters Support Campaign, formed in 2004 to help these men and women seek refuge in Canada, reported a new poll that shows three in five Canadians (63%) support granting permanent resident status to the estimated two dozen war resisters remaining in Canada. Support Campaign members met for the first time in July with the senior immigration bureaucrat handling the issue, who hinted at “good news in the works.”

A federal court reviewing the cases of four resisters this fall has given the government of Justin Trudeau until September 16 to decide whether or not it will continue the policy of the previous conservative government to deny refuge and fight for deportation of the refusers.

For more information, visit resisters.ca.

London, England

A London man admitted to criminal damage and was assessed £245 in compensation and costs in Westminster Magistrates court on June 1. Peter Harris confessed to spraypainting “Don’t bomb Syria” in large black letters on the wall of historic St. Margaret’s Church, facing the Houses of Parliament. The graffiti, with a heart and peace sign completing the message, went up last December 2 while Parliament debated extending airstrikes in Syria. Harris apologized, saying, “I am greatly sorry to all parties involved. I didn’t think about how I am acting in regards to my belief. I did a rash, thoughtless and impulsive thing.”

Jeju, South Korea

Residents of Gangjeong, the village at the center of resistance to the new naval base on Jeju Island, South Korea, continue to go to jail. Like many before him, Mr. Lee refused to pay a fine of about \$2,500 and served it off in jail from June 9 to July 4.

Kim Miryang, a local villager, spent two days in jail in July in an impromptu resistance to unjust police questioning. She had reluctantly agreed to a scheduled interview about a spontaneous protest of military vehicles patrolling through the village center last April 28. But at the station, police demanded she also submit to an interview about another case she had no knowledge of. Kim refused, and told supporters she was also protesting the Korean navy’s lawsuit seeking compensation from the villagers for construction delays attributed to their protest.

Then on September 5, Mayor Cho Kyung Cheol was handcuffed and taken to the Seogwipo city police station. He has refused to cooperate with an investigation about the same protest of the April military patrol, when he told soldiers to stop pointing their guns. He closed his eyes and kept silent while being questioned. The mayor was then taken to jail in Jeju City, where he fasted for two days until being released.

For more information, visit savejejunow.org.

BATH IRON WORKS BLOCKADE

The Navy’s latest Zumwalt-class “stealth” destroyer was christened in a ceremony at the Bath (Maine) Iron Works on June 18. Outside the ceremony, peace activists rallied to decry the latest \$4 billion attack vessel. Many have participated in regular vigils at the shipyard, holding banners and reaching out to the workers with a message of peace and economic conversion, not industry for empire.

Twelve people shut down the street in front of the ship yard just as the Navy crew was entering to attend the event.

“We just shut the whole street down,” Bruce Gagnon told the *Bangor Daily News*. “Our goal was to interrupt the celebration of endless war and corporate profit. On top of that, we’ve been wanting to do it for a long time. There was a feeling that we had to do more to speak out against this in our own community, our own state.”

One banner they held addressed the idea of Christ blessing the warship, declaring “The Global Crucifixion of Christ Today.” Another read “Convert the War Economy – Good Jobs for a Peaceful Future.”

The dozen men and women, including members of Veterans for Peace and the Global Network Against Nuclear Power and Weapons in Space, were arrested by Sagadahoc County sheriff’s deputies after they refused an order to leave the road, and taken to the Bath police department. Bruce Gagnon, Dudley Hendrick, Cynthia Howard, Constance Jenkins, Tarak Kauff, Richard Lethem, John Morris, George Ostensen, Joan Peck, John Peck, Jason Rawn and Russell Wray were charged with obstructing a public way and released. As they left, one of the police officers told an activist that, “You all are the conscience of the community.”

At their arraignment on August 2 in West Bath District Court, the “Zumwalt 12” all entered pleas of not guilty. Their next court appearance is in September, but a trial is not expected until this winter.

Five members of the group have visited Gangjeong village on Jeju Island, South Korea in recent years, and are inspired by the nonviolent protests against construction there of the new navy base. The base is a likely port of call for the three high-tech Zumwalt destroyers as they join the military “pivot to Asia”.

For more information, visit vfpmaine.org.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Burghfield, England

A month of coordinated blockades of the AWE Burghfield nuclear weapons factory in England got an unexpected boost when bobbies opted to avoid arresting the first nonviolent campaigners at the gates.

About 50 people opened the protest on Monday morning, June 6. Blockaders, most dressed in red, used a colorful cloth “red line” banner to block the main gate, while others locked together and closed down traffic on two roads leading to the construction gate.

“With our red clothing and long red line of fabric, we [are] making the connection to climate change as another critical threat to our future that is largely ignored by the state. It’s that intransigence and blindness that makes it imperative that people take back control,” their statement said.

The organizing group, Trident Ploughshares, had made a point to ask police not to interfere with their intervention against illegal weapons of mass destruction, and were surprised when they did not.

By day’s end, the demonstration evolved into a single blockade, closer to the critical construction gate. A core group of about 20 people settled in for the night.

Meanwhile, in London after dark, the messages “Trident is a war crime” and “Stop Trident Replacement” were projected onto the exterior walls of the Ministry of Defence and Houses of Parliament, referencing the upcoming vote in July when that body would approve a multi-billion-pound plan to replace Britain’s four-submarine strategic nuclear weapons delivery system.

The next day, June 7, four people, including three conscientious objectors from Finland, were arrested after using a car to block the roadway near the main gate and locking on to it. The four were held for nine hours and released, charged with obstruction. But the blockade of the construction gate remained.

Pleased with the police response, whatever their reason, organizers called on supporters to join the round-the-clock action and sign on with groups already committed to direct action later in the month.

For the next week, the English, Welsh and Scottish abolitionists were joined by activists from France, Germany, Belgium and Finland who helped sustain the blockade. They took turns locked together and were sheltered from the elements by others in support roles. Construction inside was reported to be at a standstill, and blockaders saw that police were turning away trucks too large to reach the construction site through other gates.

On day six, women from nearby Aldermaston Women’s Peace Camp came to support the blockaders. They put up more banners on the fences and were told to take them down as this was a byelaw offence. To the amusement of witnesses, the Aldermaston women quoted from the High Court case that they had won some years previously, affirming their right to put up banners as part of lawful protest. The military police insisted that Giulia Gigliotta, Juliet McBride, Kay Tabernacle and Angie Zelter had been “defacing the fence.” The women were detained and later released with a summons.

After the first week of round-the-clock blockading, the protest continued with a peace camp across the road from one of the gates. It became the gathering place for the scheduled protest groups who held day-long blockades in the following weeks.

As the number of overnights dwindled, police stormed the temporarily unattended blockade on June 13 and demanded the lock-on equipment be removed. Organizer Angie Zelter took responsibility for the gear but refused to remove it. The gear was all cut off and Zelter was reported for a byelaw violation.

On June 15, Zelter was again reported for a byelaw violation after refusing to unlock from a 40-foot-long plywood Trident submarine cutout that a Welsh group had used to block the gate.

The next day, campers celebrated their shut-down success and ended overnight camping at the site as no one was able to commit to holding the space safely and responsibly. Nevertheless, daily protest with sit-ins and blockades of the construction gate kept it out of use through the end of the month.

On June 27, the No Faith in Trident action saw 14 members of Christian peace groups block all three gates into AWE Burghfield using super glue and arm tubes. After two hours, police removed locking devices and cleared one entrance without arrests. At the next gate, five were arrested for obstruction in order to clear the way, and over six hours later, three more people were arrested

when the last blockade was clear. All eight refused to give their details at the scene for a summons by mail, and were released late that evening. While the blockades were in place, people from local Buddhist, Muslim, Christian and Sikh groups also gathered to pray outside the base for the victims of war.

A Scottish woman was arrested early in the morning of June 28 as she painted “No more deadly convoys” in the road leading to the main gate. Mary Millington’s graffiti referred to the nuclear warhead transports that move on public roads and through cities from Burghfield to Coulport in Scotland. She was released that afternoon, charged with criminal damage.

More than 200 people had participated by June 30, when demonstrators hung large red Xs all along the perimeter fence and again blocked the construction gate for the “red line” finale. No more arrests were made.

Ten members of Trident Ploughshares held a six-hour vigil inside Parliament the evening of July 18, leading up to the Trident replacement vote. Despite their singing and speaking out, they were not arrested.



Photo by Zoe Broughton

Police consider how to remove the locking device used by No Faith in Trident activists to blockade AWE Burghfield.

Lianyungang, China

Thousands of residents of Lianyungang, a port city in China’s eastern Jiangsu province, took to the streets for four days of anti-nuclear protest, (coincidentally?) from Hiroshima Day, Saturday, August 6 through Nagasaki Day, August 9.

The mass assemblies began just days after it was revealed that the city was favored on a short-list of potential sites for a joint French-Chinese uranium reprocessing facility that is integral to China’s expansive nuclear power plans.

While state-run media ignored the protests, people used social media to facilitate their organization and despite government censorship spread news and images from the demonstrations around the world. As a result, at least one man was detained by police on a charge of disrupting social order, accused of encouraging support for city workers preparing to go on strike over the issue. [Editors’ note: At press time, we’re not sure if Mr. Wei is still in custody.]

A recent series of industrial tragedies across the country, coupled with the lack of transparency and local participation in government pursuit of major projects, continues to drive grassroots environmental activism in China.

The *South China Morning Post* (SCMP) in Hong Kong reported that police warned the public that organizers did not have a permit to demonstrate on that first night, yet thousands filled a central square, some chanting “boycott nuclear waste” while facing off with hundreds of police.

Demonstrators filled the square again the next evening. Reports of scuffles with police, some in riot gear, began to appear online. Photos showed demonstrators with handmade signs and banners featuring such slogans as, “For the next generation, refuse construction of the nuclear waste plant.”

The first trial from the series of Burghfield actions begins September 30.

For more information, visit TridentPloughshares.org.

Paris, France

Opening day of the Eurosatory arms expo, June 13, was enlivened by 50 activists from the French collective Désobéir (Disobey) as they took several simultaneous actions against war. Professionally attired activists entered the suburban Paris exhibition hall. Some crossed the rope lines and climbed on board a Leclerc tank and another vehicle, unfurling banners and pouring red paint on the weapons. A few took photos and video of the protest while others inside displayed banners and spoke out against the business of killing. Outside, more activists rallied and some blocked the doors to the exhibition hall, which had been marked with red paint as well. Police eventually forced all the demonstrators out of the building. They took 15 to the station for questioning and identity checks before releasing them four hours later. A complaint has been filed by the Ministry of Defense and expo organizers, and they may face criminal charges.

Group spokesman Rémi Filliau said, “Eurosatory is itself a crime against peace. Amnesty International reveals that even a French company is here to promote torture equipment! The Leclerc tank that we acted on today, a product of the French company Nexter, was shown during the recent war in Yemen.” Countries subject to United Nations arms embargoes were also among the exhibitors and registered attendees.

For more information, visit desobeir.net.

Faslane, Scotland

A resident of Faslane Peace Camp was held overnight on June 23 after canoeing into the Trident nuclear submarine base at Faslane, north of Glasgow, Scotland. He faces charges for violating military byelaws under the Serious Organized Crime and Police Act. While Parliament debated Trident on July 18, Fiona Montgomery was arrested as she lay in the road, blocking the gate. Her mother was arrested in the 1960s protesting Polaris, Trident’s predecessor. Montgomery was cited and released, but will not be prosecuted.

Last spring, four campers were in court for their attempt to hang an anti-war banner over the 2015 Armed Forces Day parade in Glasgow. In an unusual development, a police officer called as a witness was given a warning by the judge and asked to leave the court. The charges were then dismissed. For more information, contact faslane30@gmail.com.

“The government only highlights the mass investment in the project and its economic benefit, but never mentions a word about safety or health concerns,” a local resident told the SCMP by phone. “We need to voice our concerns, that’s why we went on our protests,” he said.

By Monday, day three of the protests, video posted online showed police assembled to protect city government offices from protesters, and about a dozen people were reportedly detained for throwing stones. Officials who would comment dismissed the protests as parochial, “Not In My Backyard” affairs. On Tuesday, Nagasaki Day, at least 10,000 people defied a police ban on unauthorized gatherings while police told the public to disregard rumors of police violence against demonstrators, and that one had been killed.

On Wednesday, August 10, the local authority reacted to the protests with a single post to its Weibo social media account: “The preliminary work of the nuclear fuel recycling project’s site is suspended.”

Exactly three years ago, similar demonstrations against a uranium fuel processing facility in southern Guangdong province also led local authorities in the city of Jiangmen to back out of the siting process. With another Guangdong city, Zhanjiang, now also on the same short list for the reprocessing facility, authorities there have reportedly joined those in Lianyungang to say the reprocessing plant would not be built in their city.

Nevertheless, port workers, food service and hospital employees in Lianyungang have all since reported being urged to sign pledges not to “spread rumors” or “participate in illegal assemblies”, and instead pressure co-workers to sign on as well.

Compiled from reports in the South China Morning Post and Globaltimes.cn.

continued from page 4

a cannon out of a child’s toy. He describes himself not as a Neo Nazi, but a Neo Confederate. He claims that there are a lot of people like him who hate the federal government, and especially hate President Obama; they are stockpiling weapons and just waiting for the right moment to strike.

The black shooter in Dallas stirs the Beast of white supremacy to raise its head and shake off its hated shackles of “political correctness” and liberal politeness and awoken to its natural state of rage.

Byron is a white guy whom I can only guess suffers from PTSD, because he never has a thought that does not go directly and unfiltered from his brain to his loudspeaker-of-a-mouth, shared with every person in the module. He is constantly on the move, and he never loses at cards because, with his lightening quick brain, he keeps track of every card in the deck, as well as in the hands of all the other players.

Dennis recently overheard an interchange between Byron and Richard, a black inmate, shortly after the news had interviewed participants in a post-shooting protest, who spoke about the 600,000 “stop and frisk” incidents in New York City in 2010. 87% of those actions were against people of color. It began when Byron said, “These black people think that the police always focus just on them.”

Richard: “Have you ever been shot by the police?”

Byron: “No, but my point is that the police don’t just focus on black people.”

Richard: “Have you ever been shot by police?” Byron: “No, but I have been stopped by the police plenty of times and they don’t know me and they treat me like shit. They treat everyone the same.”

Richard, angrier, voice rising: “Have you ever been shot by police?”

“At this point,” Dennis said, “I had my feet pointed back towards the cell. I thought we were going to have a race riot on our hands; but one of Richard’s friends stepped in and said, ‘Let it go, man. It isn’t worth it.’”

On the other hand, Donald Trump obviously does think it is “worth it” to exploit our festering national wound of racism and stand squarely on the side of wounded white working-class pride. Dispensing with the “political correctness” of an acknowledgement of the righteousness and historical roots of their anger, he has cavalierly dismissed Black Lives Matter concerns, saying: “An attack on Dallas police is an attack on the nation. This focus on the police by Black Lives Matter has got to stop. Police are the only force that preserves our civilization. I am standing firmly behind the ‘Men in Blue.’ I am making Law and Order the top priority of the Republican Party.”

• • •

Dear Community,

Had an interesting and very illustrative encounter at work today. Larry, a big white guy about 50 years old, was back at work today after 30 days in the hole. He was explaining to Dennis why he had been in the hole: “A monkey ran up my tree and bit my toe.”

“I am sorry, I don’t know what you mean,” Dennis told him.

“I had a fight with a black guy.”

Though Dennis and I were perplexed and stunned at this blatant racist statement, I assume that about 90% of the white population in here would share Larry’s racial bias, and that is exactly the same bias that Donald Trump is seeking to exploit in the upcoming election.

As Larry and his white working class kin are emboldened by Trump’s blatant rhetoric of reactionary racial violence, I am reading Jacques Ellul’s 1967 book titled *Violence* and find that it has a great deal of relevance to our current situation.

Ellul believes that people in the U.S. are filled with a sense of “optimistic idealism” that blinds us to the essential violence of our history. He refers first of all to the “slow sanctimonious extermination of the [Native Americans], the system of occupying the land... the competitive methods of the leading capitalist groups, the annexation of California along with... Texas – all of this and much besides show that the United States has always been ridden by violence, though the truth was covered over by a legalistic ideology and a moralistic Christianity. Americans [believed] that the Civil War was an accidental interruption of what was practically an idyllic state of affairs; actually, that war simply tore the veil off reality for a moment. [But the truth] is, a tradition of violence is discernible throughout United States’ history” (Ellul).

Yes, violence is indeed the “meat and potatoes” of U.S. history from the Native American genocide, to the war in the Middle East, to the killing of young black people and police in our cities. The only thing unique about the violence in Dallas is that, throughout our

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

campaign nonviolence - milwaukee

As part of Campaign Nonviolence actions around the country, there will be a march to Close the Department of Defense Military Training Centers (ROTC) at Marquette University, and protest Catholic university contracts with the Pentagon to teach war and killing on the campus. Gather at 11:30 am Thursday, September 22 at 16th and Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Nonviolence training will be offered at 7:00 pm Tuesday, September 20 at Casa Maria, 1131 N. 21st. For more information contact BreakingtheSilence@nonviolentcow.org or call 414-342-0158 or 414-379-4162.

chain reaction and #NoWar2016

Nuclear disarmament campaigners around the world are invited to take nonviolent actions at nuclear-weapons related sites under the banner Chain Reaction between July 8, the 20th anniversary of the International Court of Justice case against nuclear weapons, and October 2, the International Day of Nonviolence. These actions aim to build support in the nuclear-armed and nuclear-reliant states for the recent agreement of non-nuclear states to pursue through the United Nations an international treaty banning nuclear weapons. The National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance will coordinate nonviolent direct action at the Pentagon on September 26, in conjunction with the No War 2016: Real Security, Without Terrorism conference. There will be a planning and training meeting as part of the conference from 2–4 p.m. on the 25th. For more info, visit worldbeyondwar.org/NoWar2016.

catholic worker gathering

The 2016 National Catholic Worker Gathering will be in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 7-9, hosted by and at the Las Vegas Catholic Worker community. Sunday liturgy at the National Nuclear Security Site (aka Nevada Nuclear Test Site) and nonviolent action there and at Creech Air Force Base. For more information, visit lvcw.org/gathering2016 or contact the Las Vegas Catholic Worker, 702-647-0728, mail@lvcw.org.

history, most violence has been perpetrated by white men, while in Dallas it was a black man who acted, but a black man trained in Iraq by the U.S. military. Ellul reminds us that: “When a nation trains its men as all nations do in the most extreme forms of violence in order to prepare them for battle, the result is bound to be that the whole nation imitates the violence” (Ellul). Thus, in Dallas we have a confluence of the two major strains of contemporary U.S. violence: the Middle Eastern War on Terror, and the domestic war on the descendents of slaves, Black Lives Matter.

• • •

Dear Community,

I woke up this morning to news reports of a shooting in Baton Rouge by a black man who had shot five police officers, killing three. In related news, police had found a cache of weapons and plans, they said, for a campaign targeting white police. They were pursuing four black males, two of them were 12-year-olds.

Ellul says that reciprocity is one of the characteristics of violence. If we use violence against our foe we should not be surprised if our foe responds with violence. “In one way or another, their blood cries out and violence will seem the only way out. [Then] it will be too late to calm them and create harmony” (Ellul).

Donald Trump’s response to the shooting is to blame the violence on Black Lives Matter. Certainly a more appropriate response would be to apologize for 400 years of black chattel slavery and acknowledge our complicity in the white oppression of African-Americans, and then finally establish a slavery reparations committee that will determine an appropriate amount and distribution of a fund that would attempt to compensate African-Americans for their centuries of toil and unenumerated labor that built the U.S. economy. Such an act of reconciliation could be an important step towards healing.

Yet given the current political climate, hope for such a response seems nothing short of ludicrous. We are thus left with the response of the individual Christian. Ellul tells us that “Christians will be sufficiently and completely present in the world if they suffer with those who suffer, if they seek out with those sufferers the one way of salvation, if they bear witness before God and man to the consequences of injustice and the proclamation of love” (Ellul).

[Jeff Dietrich has just completed a four month prison sentence for trespass at Vandenberg Air Force Base in August, 2015.]

soa watch

The School of the Americas Watch Border Convergence will take place October 7-10 in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, making the connections between militarized U.S. foreign policy and the reasons why people flee to the U.S. for their lives. Learn about the issues in workshops and join international demonstrations and nonviolent direct action to resist militarization, support refugees and end migrant incarceration. For more information, contact School of the Americas Watch, 202-234-3440, info@soaw.org, or visit soaw.org/border.

creech air force base

CODEPINK invites all to join them for another Drone Resistance Week at Creech in Indian Springs, Nevada, November 6–12, 2016. Creech is the training and command hub for a growing web of U.S. military bases making war from afar by drone. Participants will sleep, eat, share chores and rejuvenate on the grounds of the Goddess Temple in nearby Cactus Springs, between daily morning and evening vigils at the base gates. Nonviolent direct action will be planned, and support people are needed. For more information, contact Toby Blomé at ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net. Also, start planning now to join the third annual Shut Down Creech spring action, April 23-29, 2017, organized by CODEPINK, Veterans for Peace, Nevada Desert Experience and Voices for Creative Nonviolence.

arms trade resistance

belgium

Arms dealers and politicians will meet behind closed doors in Brussels on November 10 to collaborate and privatize European “security policy.” Nonviolent actions are being prepared by Peace Action Belgium to let the arms dealers know that they are not welcome. For more information, visit istopthearmstrade.eu/en/dayofaction.

new zealand

Auckland Peace Action has called for help to blockade the annual New Zealand Defence Industry Association Annual Conference and international arms fair, and to create a peace flotilla on the water to resist the accompanying naval warships flotilla, November 16–22. For more information, visit aucklandpeaceaction.wordpress.com

england

The Campaign Against the Arms Trade is building on the recent acquittal of eight people who blocked the set-up of the 2015 biennial DSEI arms exhibition, and has begun planning, training and organizing to shut down the event when it returns to London in September, 2017. For more information as plans evolve, and to get involved, visit caat.org.uk

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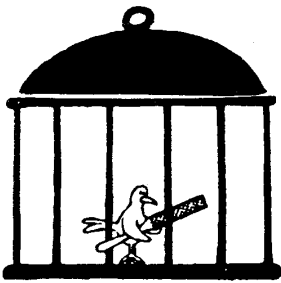
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Update Files



HANCOCK FIELD: The New York State Court of Appeals agreed in June to hear the case of Mary Anne Grady Flores, convicted of violating a 2012 order of protection granted to the then-commander of the base where remote pilots control armed drones overseas. The court turned down a similar appeal affecting another group of Hancock Field protesters just days before accepting Grady Flores’. Both appeals addressed the same issues of inappropriate use of orders of protection by a military base commander. Grady Flores served 49 days of a six-month jail sentence last spring before the sentence was stayed pending consideration of this appeal and she was released. The court is expected to hear the case in late 2016 or early 2017...

MORDECHAI VANUNU: Thirty years after revealing Israel’s nuclear arsenal with photographs he took while working at the Dimona bomb plant, and 12 years after completing an 18-year prison sentence for treason and espionage, Vanunu reports that his latest trial began July 4, “about moving apartment without reporting, for meeting foreigners, and for speaking to Israel media about Dimona nuclear secrets. So the trial started and will continue in the next months. But I am ready to leave Israel any day, any time, very soon. Freedom Now!” Court orders annually renewed since his release from prison forbid him to leave Israel, and he is constantly surveilled and occasionally arrested and jailed for violating these constraints...

WELLINGTON: One protester’s charge was dropped, another person pled guilty, and several defendants opted for a diversion from court. That left 16 people who were in a New Zealand court on July 21 for their first pre-trial hearing for charges of trespass and obstruction during last November’s protest at an international weapons convention. A special crown prosecutor has been brought onto the case, and a trial date may be set at their next court appearance, on September 12...

PYHÄJOKI: Nuclear resisters in Finland are taking a break to consider the next steps in their campaign against a nuclear power project in Pyhäjoki, after an “exhausting struggle” they sustained for over one year at protest camps on the remote Hanhikivi Cape. Last April’s Reclaim the Cape action camp slowed down the widespread forest clearing and earthmoving operations. Despite dozens being arrested and held overnight, only two people were prosecuted, one Finn and another man, a resident of Sweden. As first-time offenders, both were given a suspended sentence of seven months in prison, plus two years probation. They are appealing the sentence...

BÜCHEL AIR BASE: Last year’s Büchel 65 two-month-long series of blockades of the German base where U.S. nuclear weapons are deployed did not result in any arrests, consistent with German law that allows certain peaceful blockades to be permitted temporarily and removed without criminal charges. Police investigated 19 demonstrators for “coercive” blockading, but did not press charges. Instead they went after an activist listed as the owner of the organizing website and who arranged for the adjacent protest camp that served as a coordination center for 35 activist groups and more than 450 people who joined the protest roster for a day or more. Carsten Orth was fined €2,400 by the court in Cochem for violating the rights of assembly by not properly registering the intent of the camp. Orth appealed the judgement. In court on June 22, he argued that each participating group was responsible for their own actions and could have carried them out without the support camp. Also, the organizing was done by a collective, not by himself. Supporters not only rallied outside the courthouse that day, but 22 of them also blocked three gates at Büchel as soldiers and workers arrived for the morning shift. Traffic was backed up two miles for a couple of hours until police carried four demonstrators away from one gate, but made no arrests. The case continues in court...

MENWITH HILL: Lindis Percy will defend herself on charges of violating an order of dispersal specifically targeting the weekly peace vigils she’s long attended outside the U.S.-run spy base in North Yorkshire, England. She has learned that North Yorkshire police consider her mere presence outside the base to be a “protest” subject to the dispersal order, despite her acting only as a legal observer on several occasions this year – i.e. not holding signs or banners, and wearing an identifying jacket. On June 28, she was arrested again for breach of bail conditions

while photographing the positions of barriers at the gate as part of the legal defense she will present at her trial set to begin on September 14. Crown prosecutors have been slow to release documents they were ordered to produce, including security video of the events, which they claim belongs to “the Americans” and is up to their discretion to release to an English court...

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE: Shirley Osgood travelled from California to Las Vegas, Nevada for what she thought would be her August 25 trial for trespass at the drone warfare center last April. But it was only a status hearing, since she was representing herself. The Clark County judge was sympathetic to her travel, and after consultation with a public defender, agreed to dismiss the charge for time served in the local jail on the day of her arrest. The judge allowed Osgood’s brief statement invoking the photo both had seen in the media of the injured young boy in an Aleppo ambulance, and thanked her for her passion. More trials are pending for others arrested last spring...

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

... **Almighty: Courage, Resistance, and Existential Peril in the Nuclear Age** (Blue Rider Press, 2016; ISBN 9780399173752) by Dan Zak tells the story of the nuclear age through the lens of the Transform Now Plowshares activists, Greg Boertje-Obed, Sr. Megan Rice and Michael Walli. While covering the trial of the trio who defied security barriers to protest at the foot of a bomb-grade uranium warehouse in Tennessee, the writer for the *Washington Post*, who says he is “not a historian, physicist, lawyer, diplomat, activist or beat reporter”, realized how little he knew about the U.S. nuclear weapons enterprise and its unfinished history. From Rice’s childhood neighbor who worked on the Manhattan Project and her uncle who was in Nagasaki after the bomb, to United Nations disarmament conferences; from the Marshall Island nuclear refugees to clear-eyed idealism of the Plowshares disarmament activists, **Almighty** tells us what Zak learned and what we should all know. (416 pp. \$27 or less at penguinrandomhouse.com)

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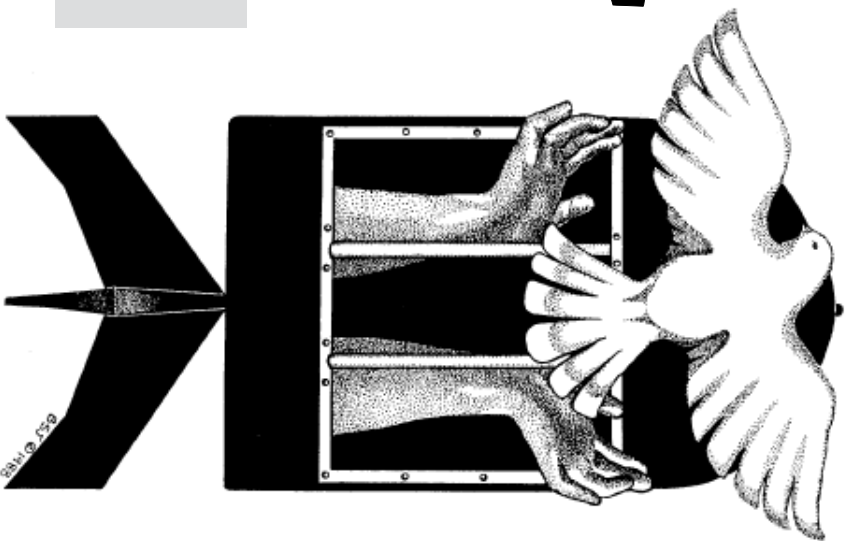
Push for Peltier Clemency

Hiroshima and
Nagasaki Day Actions

Chelsea Manning Faces
New Charges

Dhafir to Seek
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Nonviolent Actions
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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