

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

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COAST TO COAST, RESISTERS JOIN CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE

Campaign Nonviolence is a major project of Peace e Bene to build a culture of peace by “mainstreaming active nonviolence [and] joining with people, organizations, and movements everywhere in the long-term nonviolent struggle to abolish war, end poverty, reverse climate change, and challenge all violence.” Each September, the Campaign coordinates hundreds of affiliates for a week of local and national activities addressing this mission in many forms, including nonviolent direct actions that end with arrests.

Two Campaign Nonviolence events were public protests of ROTC and related military training programs at Jesuit universities.

The presence of these programs at a handful of Catholic universities in the United States has long offended those in the faith who believe that teaching the arts of war and the principle of “kill or be killed” is incompatible with the gospel of Jesus.

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

At Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, demonstrations against ROTC have been going on since the Vietnam War era, fifty years ago. On September 22, a small rally on campus reminded students passing by that Pope Francis, Salvadoran Jesuit martyr Ignacio Ellacuria, Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits of today, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ all resisted military training.

Fourteen people with signs and banners then joined a march to the ROTC building, where they symbolically chained the doors shut and called for it to be shut down.

As the demonstration ended, a Marquette police officer ran to the open doors of the building and tightly handcuffed Don Timmerman, who was standing next to the door with a chain in his hands. Another Marquette police officer appeared and yelled at the rest of the people to disperse or be arrested for trespassing. As they left, one young woman in the group was startled by the armed police and hesitated for a second before she tried to leave. The woman, Tiffany Schettle, was also handcuffed and arrested.

Schettle was taken to the campus police station where she was cited for trespass and released. Timmerman was taken away in an ambulance after he lost feeling in one hand due to the too-tight handcuffs. He eventually ended up at the Milwaukee County Jail where he posted \$150 bail and was released early the following morning,

charged with trespass and disorderly conduct.

Both were in city court on November 11. Schettle initially pleaded no contest, but changed her plea to not guilty on advice from her attorney. Timmerman also pled not guilty, and both are set for a pre-trial conference on December 21.



photo by Susan Ruggles

Milwaukee Catholic Worker Don Timmerman is taken into custody after chaining shut the door of the ROTC offices at Marquette University.

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Ending the ROTC program at Santa Clara University, the “Jesuit University of Silicon Valley,” was the point of a Campaign Nonviolence vigil on the SCU campus in 2015. Every few months since then, San Francisco Bay area members of the Pacific Life Community (PLC) have returned to vigil outside the Mission Church on campus with signs and banners opposing ROTC. On Sunday, September 18, the welcoming Mass for students and parents was held in the athletic building and not the Mission Church. The peace vigilers joined others on their way as they walked through the campus with their

fifth grade of the state’s largest city.

Inside, the STEM program still had four locations set up of hands-on activities for kids. Clustered interactive exhibits involving gravity and inertia, geometric design, and weather simulation were scattered amid Oceana’s F/A-18 Super Hornets, Army and Navy helicopters, and a giant Air Force cargo plane all on display. Math activities employing algebra, fractions, and decimals were spitting distance from a Gatling-style gun from the nose of an F/A-18, which can fire up to 6,000 rounds per minute, and a four-man mini submarine used by Navy Seals to approach targets by water. One entire hanger was filled with STEM exhibits. There, several naval facilities and military contractors sponsored a robotics exhibit, a 3-D printer used to make custom tools, and demonstrations of magnetism and the physics of flotation and submersion. Sharing the hanger were two Navy river patrol boats brimming with machine guns that the kids could swing around and pretend to aim and fire.

Amid the plethora of scientific and technological information available to children at the show, one glaring omission was the purpose for the existence of all the high-tech weaponry on display. Nowhere was their killing vocation acknowledged. Nowhere was the reality for the people on the receiving end of their bullets and bombs even hinted at; the deafening explosions, quaking earth, flying debris, smoke and fire – the instant loss of life, spurring blood, charred flesh, pain and shock, shattering fear, the desperate search for loved ones, and

Thirty Days for Missile Base Line Crossing

Three men arrested during a Hiroshima Day demonstration at Vandenberg Air Force Base were arraigned on November 17 in federal court in Santa Barbara, California.

They were told the prosecutor was asking for jail time for all. Los Angeles Catholic Worker Jed Poole pled guilty to the charge and asked for immediate sentencing. He was ordered to serve 30 days in federal prison and pay a \$40 processing fee. He turned himself in to the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown Los Angeles on December 8.

Chris Knudson also pled guilty and was fined \$120 plus fee and one year supervised probation, while Kenya Catholic Worker David Omondi pled not guilty and will go to trial on February 16.

Los Angeles Catholic Worker Karan Benton rescheduled her arraignment to January 19. She was arrested on the same day for violating a ban and bar letter due to her previous protests. Because the main gate is located on a state highway a few miles inside the base boundary, convicted demonstrators can be barred from otherwise tolerated protest along the roadside.

For more information, visit lacatholicworker.org.



Letters of support should be sent before the end of December to Jedidiah Poole, 74334-115, MDC Los Angeles, Metropolitan Detention Center, P.O. Box 1500, Los Angeles, CA 90053.

signs and banners. SCU security officials told them they had to leave the campus. Vigilers pointed to a sign at the Mission stating that all were welcome for the Mass and continued on. Outside the athletic building, campus security called in local police as demonstrators held their banners and began passing out leaflets against ROTC. Police arrived but made no arrests as the crowd filtered in, many stopping to talk and some supportive of the vigilers’ presence. When finally they folded their banners to go inside, they were told they would be arrested if they went to Mass. A few in the group had already entered, but the

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Catholic Worker Arrested at Oceana Naval Air Show

by Steve Baggarly

The annual Air Show at Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach is the Navy’s largest open house in North America. Some quarter of a million people attend it over three days, and this year it hosted some very special guests – all 6,500 fifth-graders in the Virginia Beach Public Schools. All were students in the school system’s STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and were invited to the base on the first day, otherwise closed to the public, for interactive science displays along with their own private Air Show.

When I learned that this year’s show was targeting fifth-graders, I joined friends at Oceana’s main gate holding signs to encourage the students inside the buses streaming in from all over the city to think about science outside a military context. “STEM for Peace not War,” “Let’s Build a World Without Weapons,” “Technology for Peace not War,” and “Engineer a Future without War.” Ten- and eleven-year-old heads turned and watched us from open bus windows and some little hands returned our peace signs with their own. When the traffic didn’t include buses, we switched signs: “Air Shows Teach Children Mass Violence,” “Nonviolence not Empire,” and “Air Shows Glorify Violence.”

The next day the Air Show was open to the public and, though I’d been banned from the base years earlier for having joined friends climbing first atop an F-22 and then onto a B-52 to hold anti-war banners, I went in to see what kind of instruction had been offered to the entire

the soul-rending howls of new orphans and widows. No one mentioned the inherently indiscriminate nature of air strikes – that every time a bomb is dropped, a wing launcher is activated, or a door gunner opens fire – that women and children, civilians and innocents, are as likely as anything to be blown to shreds. Nowhere were photos of decapitated, dismembered, or mangled bodies in Middle Eastern towns, villages, and deserts. Nowhere was posted the definition of war crimes.

Also not acknowledged was the brutalization of those ordered to do the killing, never mind the possibility that any enthusiastic fifth graders, successfully recruited, might one day come home in a body bag, with traumatic brain injury, without legs, or suffering from moral injury, sexual assault, or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and contemplating suicide. None of the realities of war made an appearance.

Rather, rapt attention was paid throughout the day to a sky filled with airborne performers that included vintage aircraft, an Army Special Operations parachute team, and F-22 Raptors from Langley Air Force Base in Hampton. But the Hornets were the real stars. The Air Show’s centerpiece, the daredevil Blue Angels, are F/A-18’s that, along with Oceana F/A-18 squadrons, took turns rolling, flipping, “walking,” falling, and zooming by in tight formation. Appropriate, for at the same time, other Oceana F/A-18’s, flying from carriers in the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea, were likely dropping

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Resistance Reflections

by Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa

We’ve seen a lot of changes in 36 years of editing and publishing *the Nuclear Resister* newsletter.

The Cold War ended, and new wars have mostly come and rarely gone. Nuclear threats have only added up as more nations tested nuclear weapons and more reactors melted down. Resistance and the number of activists behind bars have ebbed and flowed as movements responded to these things and more.

And now that our future’s been Trumped, it looks like we’re in for a lot more changes in coming years. The American people - including environmental, peace, anti-nuclear, social justice and human rights activists - will need to remain constantly vigilant, and protest and resist what is coming our way.

We will continue the work of the Nuclear Resister, recognizing that it is part of a foundation for nonviolent resistance to the Trump administration’s emerging war and nuclear plans.

Right now we have more questions than answers. There is no way to predict what the next four years will bring in terms of anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance in the U.S. Will there be more prosecutions? More serious charges and stiffer sentences? More activists in prison? Stepped up surveillance and infiltration? More anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance, or less? What increased repression will we see in ALL movements? What will happen to participants in legal protests with a president in office who consistently demeaned and threatened protesters at his campaign rallies?

When we look ahead, we also are concerned for the most powerless in our society, including prisoners. We think about the prisoners the Nuclear Resister encourages support for, some of whom are Muslim, Native American, transgender. Will they face even more repression? As always, we must be ready to swiftly and strongly respond on their behalf, and on behalf of other prisoners as well. Our great hope now is that President Obama will grant clemency to Leonard Peltier and Chelsea Manning, commuting their sentences to time served. Please make time now to take the urgent support actions noted on page 3.



Since 1980, *the Nuclear Resister* has reported on arrests for anti-nuclear civil resistance and supported activists imprisoned for these actions, also including anti-war related arrests since 1990. There are times when

Oceana Naval Air Show, cont.

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bombs on Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and/or Libya. Oceana F/A-18’s have been workhorses of Naval firepower since soon after 9-11 – when the U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq set the Middle East on fire. Since then, some 4 million people have been killed, tens of millions have been maimed or traumatized, more millions have become refugees, and large swaths of the region have turned incubator for ISIS.

Indeed, Air Shows are a powerfully seductive display of some of the most sophisticated technology on the planet and the military’s biggest recruiting and public relations tool. The first line of the Air Show program page dedicated to the Blue Angels reads, “The Blue Angels’ mission is to enhance Navy and Marine Corps recruiting efforts...” Today, our nation is engaged in endless war with the entire globe as battlefield. In addition to 600 domestic bases, the United States has 800 military bases around the world. We are the only nation to divide the world up into military commands with troops assigned to each, and with carriers and submarines patrolling every ocean. We occupy the Middle East, with bases in every Persian Gulf nation except Iran. Our Special Operations forces operate in over 100 countries. We’ve surrounded Russia and China with bases as well as ballistic missile defense sites and have pushed NATO expansion to Russia’s border. We’ve embarked on a \$1 trillion upgrade of all of our nuclear warheads and their delivery systems. The U.S. Department of Defense is the world’s largest employer with over 3.2 million military personnel and civilian contractors on the payroll. It is a Herculean job to train, supply, arm, and deploy troops and sailors to the

this sharp focus has been especially challenging for us, for instance when people are arrested protecting the environment or opposing the death penalty – vital issues that fall outside our editorial focus. Most recently we have been inspired by activists resisting fracking and pipeline projects, including at Standing Rock, where there has been significant and sustained resistance that has lead to hundreds of arrests.

Significantly, most of the charges have been dismissed for lack of evidence and witnesses, but a federal grand jury has been convened, a prosecution tool “historically... used to target resistance movements and create political prisoners,” notes the Water Protector Legal Collective,

which is providing crucial support on the ground in North Dakota. Bond has been posted as needed for arrestees and none are presently in jail.

The spiritual camp established by the Standing Rock Sioux at the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri Rivers back in April has drawn thousands of activists to stand with them in their fight to protect their water source and sacred sites. People came from hundreds of other Indian nations to join in the struggle, making it the largest gathering of Native American tribes in more than a century. Clergy, Catholic Workers, veterans, environmentalists and activists from other movements also came to support the water protectors and stand in solidarity.

Recent lessons coming from the experience at Standing Rock – some new, some very old – can anchor us well in the riptides coming under Trump: the power of community, commitment to nonviolence, responses in the face of repression (tear gas, rubber bullets, biting dogs, water cannons, concussion grenades and more), regular trainings for medics, legal observers and direct action participants, orientations for newcomers, and much, much more.

As we go to press, a recent decision by the Army Corps of Engineers has suspended construction and bought time for water protectors who hope to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline project for good. The struggle continues.

It is clear that all of us who are working to protect the earth and our future need to be prepared for whatever lies ahead - and that includes strengthening connections and standing together with one another, and with other movements involved in resistance.



As always, your thoughts and reflections are welcome.

ends of our empire, and Air Shows play a crucial role in preparing our youth to do their part in future wars.

In essence, Air Shows are religious assemblies. On the flight line, deep reverence for the weapons was palpable. There, God’s attributes as the source of freedom and security, peace and prosperity, were ascribed to the machinery of death. The unwritten Air Show creed is that the planes and choppers make possible life as we know it, and that we owe them our undying allegiance. Yet Biblically speaking, they are “gods of metal,” “the work of our hands,” the idols in our state religion of national security – and at an Air Show, children can actually touch them, sit in their seats, pull their triggers, and run their hands over their bombs. As Americans we ultimately trust in the killing power of our weaponry to save us, and Air Shows are one awe-inspiring way we hand this faith on to our children – one bus load of fifth-graders at a time.

Leaving the STEM display in the hanger, my friend and I left the show and were walking back through the parking lot when security stopped us and placed us under arrest. They held us for a couple hours during which time they searched our vehicle in vain for any banner that we may have had plans to unfurl. My friend was let go and invited to watch the rest of the show. I was given another lifetime ban and bar from a long list of Navy installations in the area and charged with trespassing.

[In court on November 7, Baggarly pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to two days in jail and a \$500 fine. He told the court the fine would go unpaid, and after the night in jail, Baggarly was released the next day.]

where we’re at

Recent weeks since the U.S. election have underlined for us the importance of building and maintaining relationships and staying rooted in community so we can stand strong in the struggles ahead.

A month before Election Day, it was wonderful to be with people at the national Catholic Worker gathering, concluding on October 9 with actions at Creech drone base and the Nevada nuclear test site (see page 4). That same day, twenty people at the School of the Americas Watch Border Convergence staged a vigil and die-in at a Border Patrol checkpoint in southern Arizona. After five hours and threats of tear gas, arrest and federal felony charges, the group was not arrested and they departed with their supporters.

When we returned from Nevada, we joined more than 40 people from Tucson and around the country on October 11 to protest drone warfare outside of Tucson’s Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. It was great to have visiting activists – Buddy Bell, Medea Benjamin, Anne Havill, Betsy Lamb, Chris Nelson, Paki Weiland and others - join Tucsonans in solidarity at our monthly peace vigil!

Since then, here in Tucson, the record-warm autumn got the winter garden off to a good start and we’ve just picked the sole pair of small pomegranates from the young tree. Delicious! Now we’re thinking about where to fit a small fig tree, a year-old heirloom cutting from the Tucson Mission Garden. Maybe near the grape vines? How often we have sung, at nuclear facilities and military bases over the years, that “everyone ‘neath the vine and fig tree, shall live in peace and unafraid. And into plowshares beat their swords, nations shall learn war no more.”

We are grateful for each other, and for all of you in our far-flung community, connected in a beautiful web of commitment, hope and resistance.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, and an abundance of courage, joy, love and peace in the new year,

Felice & Jack

Thanks

Thanks for the donations so many of you have sent in the past month – it’s not too late if you haven’t already! Thanks to Sam, Allison, Sonia, Xiomara, Faith, Betty, Jim, Sarah, Frank, Gretchen and Aston for helping to mail the last issue, and to Ruth for proofreading this 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

Drone Resistance Week at Creech

CodePink’s Drone Resistance Week, November 6-12 at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, drew a diverse group of participants from five western states and Pakistan. Among them were immigrants from Mexico, England and Euskadi (Basque country); a scholar, a retired diplomat and recent and elder military veterans, all led in prayer each morning before daybreak by an elder of the Western Shoshone tribe, on whose territory the premier drone warfare base is located. Participants stayed on the grounds of the nearby Goddess Temple in Cactus Springs, carpooling to daily morning and evening vigils at the base in Indian Springs.

On Thursday morning, November 10, activists blocked the main gate, impeding early morning Air Force commuter traffic. They called upon base personnel and Las Vegas police present to “stand down” or assist in the arrest of Commander Col. Case Cunningham for “crimes against humanity.”

Meanwhile, other protesters carried full size cardboard figures representing some of the 15 Afghan civilian men who were killed while sleeping in their beds by missiles fired from U.S. drones on September 27.

During the protest, as the police gave warnings to disperse, the symbolic “International Peace Patrol,” as they called themselves, announced their own five- and three-minute warnings through a megaphone, ordering military personnel to disperse immediately and to stop being complicit in the crimes against humanity being committed at the base.

Ultimately five activists, holding handcuffs high in the air, carried a huge banner that spanned the road into the base. They repeatedly announced, as they marched slowly toward the boundary line, that they were obliged to arrest the commander. Instead, the five were immediately put in police handcuffs as they crossed the line, and taken to jail in Las Vegas. Toby Blomé, Michael Kerr, Linda Sartor, Christian Stalberg and Juseba Zulaika were held for several hours before being charged with trespass and released later the same day.

The next day being Veteran’s Day, many participants drove into Las Vegas, where Veterans for Peace had recently registered and been placed as the last contingent in the parade.

With parade registration papers in hand, five U.S. veterans, with other peace activists from CODEPINK and Nevada Desert Experience, marched in the parade for more than half of its planned route without any

Round Five: Feds Threaten California Drone Resisters, Again

Once again, drone warfare resisters recently arrested at Beale Air Force Base in California were summoned to appear in federal court, this time on December 13. As on at least four previous occasions, the federal charges were later dismissed, while the monthly campouts, vigils, and occasional blockades and line crossings continue without significant legal consequence. Instead of going to court, Beale resisters will return to the scene of the drone war crimes on that day.

Joining the Campaign Nonviolence week of actions, more than a dozen people vigiled at the gates on September 26, then camped overnight to return early the next morning. Sharon Delgado blogged about the morning action:

This morning I was arrested with four other women [Toby Blomé, Chris Nelson, Shirley Osgood and Cathy Webster] at Beale Air Force Base after crossing onto base property. We were taken by military bus to a building on base, given citations, and released. We may be given an arraignment date and we may go to trial, although in recent months all charges for peace activists have been dismissed. We were wearing blue scarves and we had #enough written on our hands because we took this action in solidarity with the Afghan Peace Volunteers and their blog Our Journey to Smile. Afghan Peace Volunteers is a group of young people working for peace in Afghanistan. I became aware of them when peace activist Kathy Kelly came with us to Beale a couple of years ago. Our blue scarves and the #enough banners and words written on our hands are a response to their invitation “Join us to say #enough.”

Before we were arrested, each of us explained what we have had enough of. I explained that I have had enough of drone warfare. (Beale is the home of the Global Hawk Drone, a surveillance drone that identifies targets for armed Predator and Reaper drones.) I have also had enough of the U.S. Air Force Vision for 2020, which is geared toward “full spectrum dominance” for the purpose of “protecting U.S. interests and investments” as “the global-
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confrontation, and received many gestures of support from parade viewers.

Suddenly organizers from the parade appeared and said they were revoking the permit, and requested the pro-peace veterans and supporters to leave. Soon afterwards, a team of Las Vegas police appeared, cordoned off the Veterans For Peace contingent and forcibly separated it from the parade.

The peace activists tried to negotiate with the police, presenting their parade permit, but police would not discuss the matter. The peace activists were forced off

CHELSEA MANNING UPDATE

Iraq War critic and Army whistleblower Chelsea Manning has personally appealed to President Obama to commute her 35-year prison sentence to time served. Following a second suicide attempt and the election of Donald Trump, who opposes the current policy permitting transgendered people to serve in the military, supporters are very concerned for her health.

In September, Manning had stopped eating until she was approved to meet with a surgeon for treatment of her gender dysphoria. After a few days of fasting, Manning was shown documents that led her to believe she would be provided such care as recommended by her doctor for over one year now.

The second try to end her own life came on October 4, hours after she was given written notice of the punishment for her first suicide try last summer – a week of disciplinary segregation – and immediately moved to the segregation unit. For the remainder of her punishment, Manning was held in a suicide watch cell.

Her attorney Chase Strangio told the *New York Times* his client has endured continuing “demoralizing and destabilizing assaults on her health and her humanity. I worry about the sustainability of her current conditions and her ability to keep fighting under these relentless abuses.”

Manning has been told to expect another disciplinary hearing on the second attempted suicide.

The clemency petition filed in November incorporates her very personal six page statement describing a very intelligent person growing up with an undiagnosed gender dysphoria. It concludes:

“The bottom-line is this: I need help and I am still not getting it. I am living through a cycle of anxiety, anger, hopelessness, loss, and depression. I cannot focus. I cannot sleep. I attempted to take my own life. When the USDB (United States Disciplinary Barracks) placed me

the street, and only allowed to proceed on the crowded sidewalk amongst the spectators. When several of them left the sidewalk to rejoin the parade behind the police line, police threw some to the ground. Veteran Michael Kerr was arrested, handcuffed and held in a police car for about 15 minutes. His handcuffs were removed in front of the TV camera that captured the scene, and Kerr was not charged.

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

in solitary confinement as punishment for the attempted suicide, I tried it again because the feeling of hopelessness was so immense. This has served as a reminder to me that any lack of treatment can kill me, so I must keep fighting a battle that I wish every day would just end.

“I have served a sufficiently long sentence. I am not asking for a pardon of my conviction. I understand that the various collateral consequences of the court-martial conviction will stay on my record forever. The sole relief I am asking for is to be released from military prison after serving six years of confinement as a person who did not intend to harm the interests of the United States or harm any service members.”

Sixty people rallied outside the Leavenworth, Kansas, military prison on November 20 in support of Manning.

For more information, visit chelseamanning.org. [Editors’ note: After more than six years, the Chelsea Manning Support Network is coming to an end. The chelseamanning.org domain will be transferred to representatives of Chelsea Manning on February 1, 2017, for a new website that will launch early in 2017. The steering committee writes, “When we first founded the Chelsea Manning Support Network, and for many years after, we operated with no direct communication from Chelsea. The website we created thus reflects the (often diverse) views of her supporters and fans, not of Chelsea herself. Now that Chelsea is able to speak out publicly, it’s appropriate that her message take center stage. We are stepping aside in order to amplify her voice and message, letting that take center stage in the advocacy efforts going forward.”



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

URGENT SUPPORT ACTIONS – PLEASE TAKE TIME NOW!

For Chelsea Manning: If you have not already done so, sign the online clemency petition at chelseamanning.org/wh.

For Leonard Peltier: Please call the White House comment line at 202-456-1111 and request clemency for Leonard Peltier, or tweet @potus or @whitehouse with #clemencyforpeltier

Inside & Out



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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Jedidiah Poole 74334-112 (30 days – out 1/7/17)
MDC Los Angeles, Metropolitan Detention Center, P.O. Box 1500, Los Angeles, CA 90053.
(Trespass at Vandenberg AFB, 8/6/16)

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)

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

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)

Sit-In for Pilgrim Shut Down

Three activists from the anti-nuclear group Cape Downwinders were arrested at the Massachusetts State House on Friday, September 9. After a rally outside, the group delivered a letter to Governor Baker calling again for him to demand the Nuclear Regulatory Commission immediately close the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth. Their action was prompted by another emergency scram of the reactor that occurred on September 6, the second in three weeks and the third this year due to aging and degraded valves. The latest sudden shut-down came as operators were still powering up after the previous scram.

The demonstrators, including members of Boston Downwinders and On Behalf of Planet Earth, resolved to remain in the Governor’s office and refuse to leave until the Governor made a commitment to uphold public safety.

They took note of the facts that New York Governor Cuomo has called for the closing of the Indian Point reactors due to lack of effective emergency plans to protect people within 50 miles, and Vermont Governor Shumlin was committed to close the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant and it closed. Governor Baker, who for more than a year has refused to even meet with plant opponents, was urged to step up and speak for the people of Massachusetts by calling for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to permanently close the 44-year-old Pilgrim plant now.

State police arrived and around 7:30 p.m., three of the activists remaining were arrested for trespassing – Mary Conathan, Doug Long and Diane Turco. They were cited and released.

At their arraignment a few days later, the judge ordered the trio to stay away from the State House, but this was soon rescinded. The downwinders and others have returned once a month for Shut-It-Down speak-outs at the State House by experts and area residents, who then delivered another letter to the Governor demanding action.

After a year of increased oversight by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Pilgrim remains at the lowest NRC safety rating. In late November, an NRC team arrived on site for a critical two-week inspection. A leaked email from the team has revealed that plant operators appear “overwhelmed” and referred to “a safety culture problem that a bunch of talking probably won’t fix.” The owners have already planned to shut down the costly generating station in 2019.

For more information, visit capedownwinders.info.

Arrested Taking Photos at Vermont Yankee

Clay Turnbull, a trustee and staff person for the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, is facing trial for trespass at the closed Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant.

Last spring, Turnbull and his Chihuahua-Corgi companion dog Chiclet were doing field research on the on-site dry cask storage facility being prepared for the shuttered plant’s irradiated nuclear fuel. Plant owner Entergy Corporation claims the concrete pad and protective canisters will not be visible from the Vermont side of the Connecticut River. Because state regulators cannot consider the safety issues of the *de facto* nuclear waste dump, aesthetics have emerged as a point of legal contention.

Turnbull and his dog walked along the Connecticut River, approaching the plant from the north and being mindful for any posted notice or fence marking the plant boundary. From his work with the Coalition and multiple site visits, Turnbull was quite familiar with the terrain. When he finally came upon a fence and warning signs, he stopped to take pictures.

Police were summoned when the pair appeared in view of security cameras, allegedly engaged in “furtive” conduct. For Chiclet, this meant spirited sniffing along the fence line for potential prey in the wilds by the river. Turnbull was observed on camera crouching near the fence and moving about for the best view of the site until he was confronted by the sheriff’s deputies.

Turnbull isn’t sure if it was the deputies or plant security who demanded he delete all of the photos he’d just taken. He complied under duress, destroying what could have been evidence in his defense.

A county superior court judge has refused to grant Turnbull’s motion to dismiss the charge, following a hearing last summer where Entergy questionably revealed significant details of the location and extent of its security network by showing video surveillance from at least five cameras. Turnbull awaits a trial date.

For more information, contact the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution at necnp.org/contact-us.

Catholic Workers Arrested at Nevada Drone Base and Nuclear Site

On Sunday, October 9, 120 people from 17 U.S. states plus Mexico, Australia, Germany and the Netherlands concluded a Catholic Worker gathering in Las Vegas with protests at the nearby Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly known as the Nevada nuclear test site) and Creech Air Force Base.

A morning liturgy was held in the desert just outside of the main entrance to the nuclear test site. An activist marching band then led the group as they carried signs, banners and colorful butterfly kites down the road to the gate. Thirty-one of the activists crossed onto NNSS property and were arrested for trespass. They were soon cited and released.

The 1,360 square mile site is where the U.S. tested over 1,000 above-and-below-ground nuclear blasts from 1951 to 1992. It is now used for experiments and safety training related to the nation’s nuclear stockpile. Just three days after the protest, an underground explosion was detonated there to test methods for detecting underground nuclear explosions.

The NNSS is on Western Shoshone Nation land, recognized by the U.S. government in the Treaty of Ruby Valley of 1863. The Western Shoshone National Council has declared their nation a Nuclear Free Zone.



photo by Mike Wisniewski

With the Catholic Worker Marching Band playing in the background, Alexandria Addesso and Sam Yergler joined eleven others remembering drone war victims as they block the entrance into Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, October 9, 2016.

They have resisted attempts by the U.S. government to nullify the treaty and have fought for their land to be returned to them.

The group caravanned a short distance down Highway 95 to Cactus Springs, where they had lunch at the Goddess Temple before continuing on to Creech Air Force Base, a center for U.S. drone warfare operations. They were greeted there by at least 30 state and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police vehicles, and many more officers and deputies. While the marching band played, and supporters held signs nearby, thirteen Catholic Workers from across the U.S. blockaded the main entrance of the base. They held signs reading “Killer Drones: Illegal and Immoral”

and others with the names of civilians who have been killed by U.S. drone attacks. They were charged with unlawful assembly and taken to the Clark County Detention Center in Las Vegas.

Alexandria Addesso, Kathy Boylan, Kelsey Chalmers, Austin Cook, John Heid, Steve Jacobs, Allison McGillivray, Phil Runkel, Scott Schaeffer-Duffy, Claire Shaeffer-Duffy. Brian Terrell and Sam Yergler were released from jail five to seven hours later. Marcus Collonge refused to sign the citation

and was released the following afternoon. All of the citations were eventually dismissed.

CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE, CONT.

continued from page 1
others were escorted off campus.

A few weeks later, Pace e Bene director Ken Butigan spoke at SCU’s Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. In the course of his lecture about the challenge of moving from violence to nonviolence, a member of the audience raised the issue of the Jesuit university teaching ROTC students to kill, and invited all in attendance to a vigil scheduled for the next day, October 14.

The PLC intended to vigil and then attend noon Mass. When they arrived at the Mission Church on campus, a class of freshman and their professor, Dr. Riley, approached to talk with the group about their witness. Fumi Tosu, an SCU alumnus living in community at Casa de Clara, the San Jose Catholic Worker, engaged the students for about 20 minutes. He was joined by two others, *Pace e Bene* co-founder Fr. Louie Vitale, OFM and Br. Fred Mercy, SJ in addressing the students. Nearby, others held a banner that read “Close ROTC, Study Nonviolence.”

The students had many thoughtful questions, but the conversation was cut short by the campus security who asked police to expel the vigilers or make arrests. Dr. Riley asked if the conversation could continue in his classroom but a security chief refused, insisting the vigilers leave.

Instead, writes Fumi Tosu:

At the conclusion of our vigil, we folded up our banners and proceeded into the Mission Church to attend daily Mass, as is our custom. The police officers from Santa Clara asked me to accompany them to their vehicle, rather than go to Mass with the others. As I was not under arrest, and within my rights to attend Mass at the Mission Church, I politely declined and joined the others in church. Then, to my surprise, the two officers pursued me into the sanctuary, and proceeded to arrest me while Mass was in progress. They took me to the police substation, cited me for trespass, and released me with a date for my arraignment.

In the days since the vigil, I have had the opportunity to visit the class that came to see us outside the Mission Church that day, as well as meet with a variety of professors, campus ministers, and the University President, Fr. Michael Engh, SJ. The professors I met with offered suggestions on how to keep the conversation going – perhaps a panel discussion, or a one-unit class taught by the Catholic Worker; the campus ministers expressed genuine concern for the welfare of their students, including the cadets; the President apologized for

the arrest, and said he had asked the police to drop my charges [which they did].

For more information, visit casadeclara.org.

PENTAGON

In Washington, D.C., Campaign Nonviolence activities included the three-day No War 2016 – Real Security Without Terrorism conference. The gathering of 700 peace advocates capped off on Monday morning, September 26, with the arrest of activists delivering petitions to the Pentagon. One petition condemned U.S. drone war crimes and growing war spending. In solidarity with a concurrent demonstration in Ramstein, Germany, another petition called for closing the drone war satellite relay station at the U.S. air base there. Another solidarity demonstration was just beginning in Australia, at the U.S. military and spy satellite ground station in Pine Gap (see report on page 6).

While others demonstrated outside in the Pentagon’s “free-speech” zone, the petitioners convened inside the Pentagon’s metro stop entrance. Asserting their “obligations under Nuremberg” to call out the crimes of those who wage war in their name, they demanded a meeting to present the petitions to a representative of the Secretary of War Ashton Carter. Officials refused their demand and warned the group to leave or face arrest. Twenty-one people were arrested for violating a lawful order, cited and released.

About half the group had their charge dismissed, and a few more paid a fee before the scheduled November 3 trial in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia. Defending themselves before Magistrate Ivan Davis, nine activists testified to errors of fact in the police report. Contrary to the report, none of them had been demonstrating earlier in the free speech zone, none of them blocked an entrance and none of them tried to enter the Pentagon. The only officer to testify said that he was not present when the petitions were presented and refused, that none of the activists sat down in the way, and that he could not name anyone who was prevented from getting into the Pentagon.

Any testimony about U.S. war crimes as a reason to petition the Pentagon was cut off by Magistrate Davis, who even threatened Janice Sevre-Duszynska with contempt as she pressed the point.

Davis found all nine guilty as charged. Beth Adams, Felton Davis, Nancy Gowen, Malachy Kilbride, Art

Round Five, cont.

continued from page 3

ization of the world economy... continues, with a widening between ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots.’” I have had enough of the U.S. military enforcing a global order that is enriching the already wealthy, protecting the privileged, exploiting those who are vulnerable, causing massive suffering, and destroying this beautiful earth. #Enough war. #Enough “accidental” (or incidental) killing of children. #Enough suffering. #Enough extrajudicial killing. #Enough.

In October, after an evening vigil and campout, more than a dozen determined demonstrators gathered in the rain on the morning of the 25th. Nine stood with large banners and blocked the main gate at Beale for over 30 minutes. Traffic was backed up for over a mile, while one activist leafletted each driver, most of them airmen.

After California Highway Patrol arrived on the scene and ordered the protesters to disperse from the road, four of the activists walked to the Beale gate boundary line. There they continued to block traffic as they spoke to the military police about the illegal drone wars over Afghanistan. Toby Blomé, Mauro Oliveira, Pamela Osgood and Shirley Osgood then crossed the line and were detained in handcuffs for about an hour in the rain, charged with trespassing, and later released with a citation.

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

CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE, CONT.

continued from page 4

Laffin, Phil Runkel, Manijeh Saba, Eve Tetaz and Sevre-Duszynska were each fined \$350 plus fees.

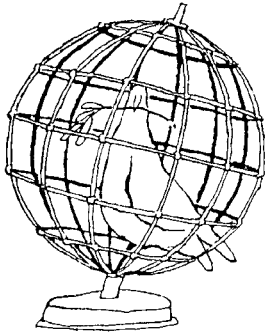
For more information, contact Max at mobuszewski@verizon.net.

NEVADA TEST SITE

Also on September 26, six people were cited for trespass at the Nevada National Security site, known historically as the Nevada nuclear weapons test site. It was the conclusion of a weekend Justice for Our Desert gathering, the Campaign Nonviolence event hosted by the Nevada Desert Experience. The group spent the weekend together with the intent to “Invest in PEACE, not war-making and nuclearism! CELEBRATE the advances in nonviolence and the protection of life in our precious desert region! Dance, Sing, Play, Pray, Love enemies, and bring about long-awaited environmental justice to our desert.”

Those arrested include Clementine Cat, Susan Dillion, George Killingsworth, Ming Lai, Robert Majors and Laura-Marie Taylor. For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

For more information about Campaign Nonviolence, visit CampaignNonviolence.org.



New Zealand

More than 100 anti-war activists and allies from across New Zealand’s social movements joined in a day-long blockade of an annual arms trade expo on November 16.

An Auckland Peace Action spokeswoman told the *New Zealand Herald* that “the arms trade simply has no place in a civilized society. We are taking nonviolent action to stop this expo from happening.”

One point of the group’s mission, to “build solidarity across movements by recognizing the interconnected and disastrous consequences of war, colonialism and capitalism for the majority of people in New Zealand and the world,” was fulfilled as activists from peace, racial justice, indigenous rights, housing, health care, labor rights, environmental and religious organizations stood shoulder to shoulder, obstructing both entrances to the conference venue. Enduring repeated assaults by police and private security guards, they spoiled the local war industry’s big day.

Police avoided making arrests by pushing aside even families and elders among the blockaders in mostly futile efforts to admit the war profiteers. Even the expo sponsor, the New Zealand Defense Industry Association, admitted that at least 350 of 530 registered guests could not enter the conference venue due to the persistent blockades. One person was later charged with two counts of aggravated

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from FC1 Coleman

Day of Mourning
November 24, 2016

Greetings my relatives,

Here we are again. This time the year is 2016. It has been more than 41 years since I last walked free and was able to see the sun rise and sit and feel the earth beneath my feet. I know there have been more changes than I can even imagine out there.

But I do know that there is a struggle taking place as to whether this country will move on to a more sustainable way of life. This is something we wanted to have happen back in the seventies.

I watch the events at Standing Rock with both pride and sorrow. Pride that our people and their allies are standing up and putting their lives on the line for the coming generations, not because they want to but because they have to. They are right to stand up in a peaceful way. It is the greatest gathering of our people in history and has made us more connected than ever before. We need to support each other as we make our way in these times.

Water IS life and we cannot leave this issue for our children and grandchildren to deal with when things are far worse for the natural world than they are now.

And Mother Earth is already in struggle.

And I feel sorrow for the water protectors at Standing Rock because these last few days have brought a much harsher response from the law enforcement agencies there and our people are suffering.

At least they are finally getting attention of the national media.

My home is in North Dakota. The Standing Rock people are my people. Sitting Bull lies in his grave there at Fort Yates. My home at Turtle Mountain is just a few hours north of Standing Rock, just south of Manitoba, Canada.

I have not seen my home since I was a boy, but I still hold out hope of returning there for whatever time I may have left. It is the land of my father and I would like to be able to live there again. And to die there.

THE INSIDE LINE



I have a different feeling this year. The last time I felt this way was 16 years ago, when I last had a real chance for freedom. It is an uneasy feeling. An unsettling one. It is a hard thing to allow hope to creep into my heart and my spirit here in these cold buildings of stone and steel.

On one hand, to have hope is a joyful and wonderful feeling, but the downside of it for me can be cruel and bitter.

But today I will choose hope.

I pray that you will all enjoy good health and good feelings and I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done and continue to do for me and for our Mother Earth.

Please keep me in your prayers and thoughts as these last days of 2016 slip away.

I send you my love and my respect for all of you who have gathered in the name of Mother Earth and our unborn generations. I stand with you there in spirit.

Doksha.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,

Leonard Peltier

[Leonard Peltier is serving two life sentences, wrongly convicted for the 1975 death of two FBI agents while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. On December 5, Peltier was told by a visiting physician that he needs long-requested prostate surgery right away. He was given no further information about when, where, or post-operative care. For updated information, visit whoisleonardpeltier.info]

INTERNATIONAL NOTES South Korea

A total of \$3.4 million in compensation claims against villagers who have protested construction of the navy base on Jeju Island, South Korea, are now being personally served on 116 people and five organizations in Gangjeong. In a September performance art protest against the legal judgement, Park “Dungaree” Sung-soo, one of the 116, stood in front of the Ministry of National Defense and threw 5,000 small coins over the barricades before police carried him away. He was later released from custody.

A peacekeeper who daily facilitates the continuing peace protest at the gate to the now-built navy base was jailed for two days in early December on charges of

insulting a police officer and not responding to their calls. His December 5 arrest came exactly one year after he served four days in jail on a similar charge.

In October, Mayor Cho Kyung-Chul and Mr. Bang Jong-Woon were found guilty in local courts related to a protest in January, 2015, when police dismantled a sit-in tent blocking construction of military housing. The men were given suspended jail sentences and probation, as was a third man for protesting police treatment at a December, 2015 demonstration.

In November, an appeals court upheld the acquittal of five people, including Mayor Cho Kyung-Chul, who were charged with Special Obstruction of Justice in 2012. They were accused of using violence against police in a volatile demonstration just ten days before workers began blasting away at sacred Gureombi Rock to build the navy base. For more news of the struggle against the growing militarization on Jeju Island, visit savejejunow.org.

International Notes continued on pages 6 & 7

12 Ideas Post-Election From Front Line Organizers

compiled by human rights attorney Bill Quigley

#8. **Resistance:** The Center for Constitutional Rights election statement was stark. ‘The dangers of a Trump presidency go beyond the attacks on people of color, women, Muslims, immigrants, refugees, LGBTQI people, and people with disabilities. His campaign was marked by the strategies and tactics of authoritarian regimes: endorsing and encouraging violence against political protesters, threatening to jail his opponent, refusing to say he would accept the results of the election if he lost, punishing critical press. Together with all those who value freedom, justice, and self-determination, we must resist and prevent at all costs a slide into American fascism.’ They concluded, ‘Resistance is our civic duty.’

(Read the entire list at bit.ly/12IdeasQuigley)

For more information, visit aucklandpeaceaction.wordpress.com.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Australia

Hundreds of peace activists from across Australia travelled far into the outback in late September for the Alice Springs Peace Convergence. A number of groups organized events around the 50th anniversary of the Pine Gap Treaty with the United States that established the nearby Joint Defense Facility Pine Gap as a vital satellite link in global spying and warmaking for nuclear dominance, and now with a growing role in mass surveillance and drone targeting.

They gathered with permission of the Arrente, aboriginal caretakers of the land, who established a week-long welcome, healing and unity camp for early arrivals. A Melbourne collective organized a protest camp for the next few days. Nonviolent resistance, a community bike ride, public meetings and a participatory theater series around town titled Lamentations in Landscape rounded out the program leading up to the October 1 national conference of the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN).

On Wednesday, September 28, about 50 people blocked the two-lane paved road leading to Pine Gap during afternoon shift change for the hundreds of local workers. Police stopped traffic on both sides of the blockade and turned drivers around to use alternate dirt road gates but made no arrests. The blockade ended after the rush hour disruption.

Building on the theme of lament, Franz Dowling and Margaret Pestorius had composed “The Pilgrim’s Lament” for their guitar and viola. With Paul Christi on harmonica and singing, they played it in the local shopping mall, at a demonstration in town, and one sunrise at the Pine Gap gate, where they stepped out to block a busload of workers before being dragged away by police.

In the wee hours of Thursday, Margaret Pestorius, Franz Dowling, his father Jim Dowling, Andy Paine and Tim Webb took the lament to the base itself. They were Peace Pilgrims, “not to a holy place, but to the gates of hell,” wrote Jim Dowling. He continues:

England

On July 11, London’s Science Museum hosted a dinner gala for arms dealers attending the annual Farnborough air show and arms expo. The Campaign Against the Arms Trade demonstrated outside the museum, and amidst the clamor of chanting and speeches, many people sat or lay down on the pavement to impede access into the event.

Among the blockaders, the only one arrested was Bahraini refugee Isa al-Aali, who was apprehended and tortured as a teenager in 2013 for his participation in protests against a repressive regime armed by the U.K. and U.S. He fled his native land while out on bail in 2014 and was jailed for six months upon arrival in Great Britain.

He was finally granted asylum in August, 2015, and immediately acted on what he saw as a moral duty to his fellow Bahrainis to stop Great Britain’s export of arms to Bahrain. Al-Aali was among the activists arrested in September, 2015, blocking military equipment being delivered for display at the London DSEI arms fair.

Bahrain was also among the many countries sending

Scotland

With the hilltop fortress of Stirling Castle rising in the background, dramatic video from Scotland on September 15 showed two men stepping into the highway and bringing an armed convoy carrying nuclear warheads to a stop. The convoy’s route to the Royal Navy’s nuclear bomb bunkers at Coulport had been tracked by Nukewatch UK since it left the Aldermaston bomb factory in southern England.

Alasdair Ibbotson, 21, and Brian Quail, 78, were ready as the line of vehicles slowed down for a roundabout. The first police escort and cargo truck rolled by, then the men moved quickly in front of an armored escort truck. As they waved it to a halt, Ibbotson lied down in front of the cab while Quail rushed to wedge himself entirely under the armored escort van. Police jumped from motorcycles and quickly dragged Ibbotson to the side of the road. Quail, who just last March had blocked such a nuclear convoy at a pedestrian crossing in Balloch, posed a

We climbed over an outside fence at the rear of the base, and then climbed the small hill closest to the Raydomes. As we climbed I held out a large picture of a child victim of a U.S. bomb in Iraq. All the while Franz and Margaret played the Lament as in a funeral procession. It was a very moving moment when we reached the top of the hill and the brightly illuminated domes of Pine Gap stretched out before us.

Soon after, the police also arrived. We were arrested and charged under the “Defence Special Undertakings Act” which carries a maximum penalty of seven years in jail for trespass.

This is only the second time this act has been used. The first time was in 2005 when I and three others cut through two security fences and two of us climbed onto one of the buildings. We were convicted by a reluctant jury. But when we were only fined by the judge, the prosecution appealed in a further attempt to send us to jail for as long as possible. The move backfired when a counter appeal overturned our convictions.

This time in court the prosecution was once again thoroughly embarrassed. The local magistrate told them they could not charge us and could not hold us under the Defence Special Undertakings Act until they had written permission from the Attorney General. We were immediately released.

That morning in town, four people locked themselves to the gate of primary Pine Gap contractor Raytheon’s nondescript corporate offices, shutting out workers before the sun rose. Police, sensitive to the publicity, sent workers home early and refused to make any arrests. Fourteen hours later, the activists removed their blockade and retired with their supporters to a local pub to celebrate with the recently released Peace Pilgrims.

Four days later, Paul Christi also entered the base, sang The Pilgrim’s Lament and prayed for a few hours before being arrested. He was released without being charged, but all the Peace Pilgrims were warned they could face new charges.

For more information, visit closepinegap.org.



photo by Alisdare Hickson

Torture survivor Isa al-Aali, a refugee from Bahrain, was singled out for arrest among people blocking an arms trade gala in London, July 11, 2016.

a delegation to the Farnborough show and gala at the museum. Al-Aali was taken into custody and charged with obstruction, then released. He pleaded not guilty in August and is scheduled for trial on January 16.

For more information, visit caat.org.uk

greater challenge as he gripped onto the undercarriage of the van. It took several minutes for six officers to pull him out from under. Both men were taken to the local police station and released.

A few hours later, two people from the Faslane Peace Camp stopped the same convoy in Balloch and got under two vehicles. Police quickly dragged them out and off the road, then off to jail. The next morning, they were dismissed out a side door of court with no further action taken.

Ibbotson was later admonished by the Stirling Sheriff Court, where Quail has a trial date of February 27 for the blockade. Before that, Quail will face trial on January 25 in Dumbarton Sheriff court for the March action.

For more information, visit the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament at banthebomb.org and nukewatch.org.uk.

Germany

Büchel air base

About three dozen members of the German group Youth Network for Political Action took nonviolent direct action against the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpiled at Büchel air force base on September 12. As dawn broke, small groups went to each of the four gates and established blockades, locking onto four tripods and a barrel of concrete. Meanwhile, nine people entered the base and spent nearly an hour occupying the runway, “reviving” it with colorful chalk graffiti, garlands and balloons. Their banner proclaimed “Crossing Boundaries – Ending War”, acknowledging the connection between their fence-crossing action against nuclear arms and war, and the flight of refugees.

The nine were eventually corralled and arrested and taken into custody for identification and questioning. All were released a few hours later and warned of possible prosecution for trespass, interference with air traffic and property damage. Blockaders at three gates removed their tripods before noon, while police removed the person bound to the concrete barrel at the fourth gate but made no arrests.

For more information, visit junepa.blogspot.eu.

Also in September, a court in Cochem agreed to dismiss the prosecution of Carsten Orth in return for his €600 contribution to the charity Doctors Without Borders. Orth had been charged, not for blockading Büchel, but for being the registered owner of the website that helped to organize 65 days of blockades last summer.

Gronau uranium plant

Despite the national commitment to a non-nuclear future, uranium enrichment and nuclear fuel fabrication for other European and overseas nuclear power plants is a continuing industry in Germany. Anti-nuclear activists want to shut down this part of the radioactive trade, as well.

Last summer, a few days after a conference of environmental ministers only briefly addressed the uranium industry, activists blocked both entrances of the uranium enrichment plant in Gronau. Their aim was to shut it down and fulfill this part of the promised nuclear “phase-out” because the ministers had taken no action.

Arriving at 5 a.m. on Monday, July 11, they erected two tripods from long wooden poles at the main gate, each with a small platform lashed on for activists to sustain a sit-in. A long banner opposing uranium transportation stretched between the tripods. Another banner declared “We have come to stay.”

Certain political demonstrations, including some blockades, are permitted under German law. But while the tripods remained standing, police provocatively arrested several demonstrators during the day and held them in custody for 12 hours. Another man was arrested that evening and jailed overnight. The next day at 5 p.m., a much larger police force cleared away the blockade. All of the activists remaining were arrested and taken to police stations in Gronau and Ahaus before being released.

For more information, visit urantransport.de.

Russia

In July, two Russian FSB agents (state police) searched the apartment of Fedor Maryasov, in the closed nuclear town of Zheleznogorsk, near Krasnoyarsk. They arrested him on suspicion of inciting hatred or hostility towards nuclear technicians.

Maryasov is co-chairman of the public ecological organization Nature of Siberia, and during their 90-minute search the FSB seized a computer and three hard copies of a report he authored two years ago critical of the Russian state nuclear corporation, Rosatom. He was taken to the local FSB office for questioning, where he was shown a document analyzing his comments on social media for several years that were the basis for the alleged offense. Maryasov has also initiated an on-line petition, signed by 80,000 people, appealing to President Putin to stop construction of a national nuclear waste repository at Krasnoyarsk. He was released three hours later. Maryasov is known for his public epithets, and described himself as Rosatom’s “most unpleasant public activist.”

India

In India’s parliamentary government, local battles over nuclear power have often become arenas for partisan politics. When Communist Party of India (Marxist) leaders and members gathered on November 13 for a padayatra (pilgrimage by foot) to educate neighboring villagers about and to protest the proposed Kovvada nuclear power plant, police intervened. Despite allowing a yatra organized by competing Telugu Desam Party leaders the month before, the CPI(M) yatra and planned programs were banned. At least five party leaders were wrestled by police from their supporters, arrested and taken to the Ranasthalam police station, where they were released in the evening.



France

Since mid-August, when nuclear dump opponents re-occupied a forested site near the village of Bure in the wake of a temporary legal victory, dozens of “owls,” as they call themselves, have taken up residence. Numerous tree-sitting platforms and other structures have been built to support the expected return of mass protest should the hold on construction activity be overturned this winter. Trees have been re-planted, grains sowed on reclaimed farmland, and the potatoes planted last summer have yielded 300 kg this fall. The call has gone out to block construction machinery on the day after construction resumes or the “owls” are evicted. And on the following Saturday, mass resistance to protect the forest will begin anew.

More criminal charges have come out of last summer’s protests. Two people were charged with painting anti-nuclear graffiti on an abandoned building in the area owned by ANDRA, the French nuclear waste agency. In October, they were sentenced to two months and a €400 fine, both suspended, and ordered to pay ANDRA €500 restitution. These defendants and two others who were arrested during occupation of the site in July refused to give DNA samples, a routine arrest procedure in France. Those charges were dismissed when challenged in court.

In a related case, three alleged “hacktivists” were in court on November 9 in Nancy. They are charged for non-destructive attacks against institutional websites related to large development projects, including two associated with radioactive waste agency ANDRA and its plans for the nuclear dump at Bure. Their trial has been postponed until March 6, 2017.

For more information, visit vmc.camp.

Update Files, cont.

continued from page 8
appears to have been drawn up to target Percy and the weekly peace vigils she and others have held outside Menwith Hill for years. It is now no longer available to prosecute her peaceful activity. Her trial in the small local Harrogate Magistrates Court showed that United States officials who run the base have more influence in court than the crown prosecutor. The U.S. Judge Advocate from the base, a Mr. Halstead, sat behind the prosecutor in court, coaching her. Halstead had arrived at court with the security video Percy had sought as evidence, but announced he could not testify under oath to its validity without permission from U.S. authorities. A major report published on September 6 at theintercept.com details the crucial role Menwith Hill plays in the U.S. drone assassination program...

BRUSSELS: Belgian authorities would apparently rather not arrest and prosecute people who come from across the European Union to resist the annual European Defense Agency conference and arms fair. Last year’s arrestees were only held for a few hours under “administrative arrest,” so not prosecuted. This year, beginning early on the morning of November 10, more than 100 activists participated in blockades and lock-ons at strategic points outside the conference center. This year’s protest was over the plan for public money to fund European arms research and development for the first time. The nonviolent resisters were joined by others linking arms and holding banners to prevent arms industry dealers, bureaucrats and military delegates from entering. Those who did make it inside were greeted by fake blood on the red carpet, and a die-in, and “I will stop the arm trade.eu” ribbons sealing

FUTURE ACTIONS

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

offutt air force base

The 37th Annual Feast of the Holy Innocents’ Retreat & Witness at STRATCOM Headquarter & U.S. Military Space Command will be held in the basement of St. John’s Church, Creighton University campus, Omaha, Nebraska, beginning at 6 p.m., Tuesday, December 27 to Wednesday, December 28, concluding midday at Offutt Air Force Base with a reading of Matthew’s Christmas story, a prayer circle and line crossing for anyone called to do so. For more information, contact Frank Cordaro, frank.cordaro@gmail.com, 515 292-4781; or Jerry Ebner, cwomaha@gmail.com, 402-670-6749.

pentagon

Join members of the Atlantic and Southern Life communities and other peacemaking friends in a time of retreat and nonviolent witness to commemorate the Massacre of the Holy Innocents – past and present. Meet on Tuesday, December 27 at 1:00 p.m. through December 28 at noon at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 1525 Newton St. NW, Washington, DC 20010. Please bring sleeping bags and bedding. This year’s retreat will honor in a special way friend and mentor Dan Berrigan, SJ, who died on April 30, 2016. On Tuesday the program will reflect on Dan’s exemplary commitment to Gospel nonviolence, prepare for nonviolent witness the next day and have liturgy together. Regarding the election outcome, the advice of Dan and Phil Berrigan is instructive with respect to proper attitude toward the political powers: “Pray for Them and Resist Them.” For more information, contact Art Laffin, artlaffin@hotmail.com, 202-360-6416 or Steve Baggarly, 757-423-5420, williamsbaggarly@gmail.com.

lockheed-martin

Brandywine Peace Community will hold their annual Martin Luther King Day of Nonviolent Resistance at noon on January 16, at Lockheed Martin’s corporate campus in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. For more information, contact Brandywine Peace Community, 484-574-1148, brandywine@juno.com.

washington, d.c.

Join the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance in an Inauguration Day Action calling for an end to all warfare, direct or remote by drone, on Friday, January 20. Some will be risking arrest and will need others there in support and solidarity. Meet in the lower level food court at Union Station at 10 a.m. on January 20 for the final planning meeting. The idea will be to process as near as possible to a checkpoint and be visible to the crowds. Model drones, coffins, signs, banners and leaflets will be on hand to get the message across. Expect a very fluid experience with decisions made together along the way. Contact Max at 410-323-1607 or mobuszewski@verizon.net.

off a wide area. Yet no one inside or out was detained or arrested this year, only pushed aside, pulled around by police, and climbed over to attend the event...

PARIS: In November, Rémi Filliau and Sophie Jallier were fined €350 for their Hiroshima Day graffiti and anti-nuclear stickers at the Paris headquarters of Les Républicains political party. Despite the fine, the judge agreed their protest did not constitute “serious injury”, so being held overnight after their arrest was unjustified...

KOODANKULAM: Ruling that criticism in not sedition, the Supreme Court of India on September 5 dismissed one sedition charge against S.P. Udayakumar, a leader of local opposition to the Russian-built reactor on India’s southern tip. More than 8,000 people are implicated in another 21 cases of sedition brought forward since 2011 against neighboring villagers who took part in massive protests before the reactor went critical, and the Supreme Court decision does not apply to them. Many senior officials now admit privately that the unprecedented number of serious charges remain pending without definitive action in order to “scare people” from opposing the reactor and more planned for the site...

OTTAWA: Three people arrested in late May for a peaceful protest inside the lobby of the hotel hosting CANSEC, an annual arms trade fair, have had their charges dismissed...

LIVERMORE: All charges were dismissed before the scheduled September 6 arraignment of 45 people arrested blocking the gate of the nuclear weapons lab last Nagasaki Day, August 9...

bangor

The next Pacific Life Community gathering will be March 5-7 in Port Orchard, Washington, and will include an action at nearby Kitsap-Bangor nuclear submarine base. To prepare for workshop/discussions, participants are encouraged to read and bring along a copy of “A Still and Quiet Conscience,” by John A. McCoy. The book is about the remarkable life of former Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, passionate opponent of the Trident nuclear weapons system, war tax resister and peacemaker. For more information, including how to register, contact Sue Ablao, 360-286-9157; Elizabeth Murray, emurray404@aol.com; or George Rodkey, 253-961-5822.

büchel air force base

Nuclear abolitionists in Germany are organizing for 20 weeks of nonviolent resistance actions at Büchel air force base next year, March 26 – August 9, to demand that U.S. nuclear weapons stockpiled there be sent home, not modernized as NATO plans, and that their government support the U.N. effort to ban nuclear weapons. American abolitionists are invited to endorse the campaign and to join the demand to bring the U.S. nukes home to disarm. A delegation in formation from the United States has taken responsibility for nonviolent resistance at the base gates from July 12-18, 2017. Support actions in the United States are also invited. For more information visit buechel-atombombenfrei.de (click on International & English) and atomwaffenfrei.de. For information about joining the U.S. group, contact John LaForge at Nukewatch, nukewatch1@lakeland.ws, 715-472-4185.

creech air force base

Join CodePink, Nevada Desert Experience, Veterans for Peace, Voices for Creative Nonviolence and more for the 3rd Annual SHUT DOWN CREECH Mobilization against drone warfare on April 23-29, 2017. Details TBA at shutdowncreech.blogspot.com.

hancock air field

Make plans now to join Upstate Drone Action on May 15 for a Spring Action to confront the war crimes perpetrated by Reaper drones piloted by the Air National Guard at Hancock Field near Syracuse, New York. Details TBA at upstatedroneaction.org.

AUTHOR’S QUERY

Friends, I’m working on a biography of Dan Berrigan but of course with much about Phil as well. If you knew one or both of them, I would welcome any stories you care to share. Apart from possible use in my book, all responses will eventually be passed on to the several Berrigan-related archives.
Jim Forest, jhforest@gmail.com

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#183

SHANNON, IRELAND: Dave Donnellan and Colm Roddy were in court twice this fall for hearings on a charge of criminal damage after entering the international airport last May to protest its use by U.S. military aircraft in violation of Irish neutrality. The €200 of damage alleged included a cut fence and crosses painted in red on the runway. In September, bail conditions were eased to prohibit the pair from within five miles of the airport instead of the whole of County Clare. In November, both men were shocked to be arrested as they arrived for court, and presented with more serious charges alleging damages of €3,500. Donnellan was the first to face the judge. He asked that the pilots of the two U.S. aircraft at Shannon that day be summoned as witnesses, because their testimony about who and what was being transported that day, and why, was essential to their defense of justification. The judge asked for a detailed written motion that would be discussed at the next hearing on January 11. Later, when Roddy was called to the bench, he complained about the manner in which he was arrested earlier that day. The judge took interest in his account, and criticized the prosecution for presenting the new charges as it did. He then dismissed the new charge and told Roddy he was free to go and to “just keep walking” out the door, as the original charge had already been dropped in lieu of the new one...

KANSAS CITY: Fr. Carl Kabat defended himself in a municipal court bench trial on October 12, charged with trespass and destruction of property. Last July 4, he poured red paint, symbolizing blood, on the front door of the factory making most of the non-nuclear parts for U.S. nuclear weapons. But the judge was not interested in symbolism or what the place made. Frustrated, Kabat summed up to say, “We must stop this insanity. We have to call things what they are. I did it! We all should do it! And *[looking to the judge]* even YOU should do it!” Instead, Judge Katherine Emke found Kabat guilty of damaging property, but not of trespass. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended, plus two years probation when he must stay away from the plant...

TRIDENT PLOUGHSHARES: To date, two British women have faced trial after being arrested during a month of blockades at the Burghfield Atomic Weapons Establishment. Helen Swanston was in Reading court on September 30, arguing that her blockade of an entrance to Burghfield on June 7 was an effort to prevent a greater crime. Swanston said, “These weapons could never be used legally. If Nuremberg Principles are to be more



than victors’ justice, then it is my duty as a citizen to prevent these war crimes. There are seven food banks in the Reading area, including one at Burghfield and Mortimer; in these times of austerity it is obscene that the government wants to spend £205 billion on weapons it can never legally use. We signed the Non-proliferation Treaty decades ago; it’s time we started to work for peace. Then states like North Korea and Iran wouldn’t be so desperate to get these weapons, which if used would alter our environment for generations.” Defense testimony provided by Dr. Rebecca Johnson, a nuclear weapons expert and consultant to the United Nations and European Union, was enough to persuade the judge to take a longer look at the arguments, and court adjourned until October 19. That day, he acknowledged the sincerity of her beliefs but rejected the legal argument, and found her guilty of obstructing the highway. She was sentenced to one year conditional discharge and charged £200 in costs. Retired Glasgow teacher Mary Millington, arrested for painting “Stop the Deadly Convoys” and peace symbols on the road during a blockade on June 28, was convicted on October 14 of unauthorized road painting and “going equipped” for criminal damage, due to the bolt cutters she had in her possession at the time of her arrest, which she admitted were intended to cut the fence at Burghfield. She was convicted and fined £200 for damage compensation and forfeited her spray paint and bolt cutters. Millington said, “The warheads are regularly transported by road between Burghfield and Coulport in Scotland. Local authorities are not informed when the convoys are to pass through, even though they pose considerable danger to the communities through which they pass. I was seeking to draw attention to this danger through my actions.”...

BANGOR: Sue Ablao and Mack Johnson appeared on September 30 for a mitigation hearing in Kitsap County, Washington District Court, cited for blocking traffic into the nuclear submarine base on August 8. After listening to

each defendant’s testimony, Judge Marilyn Paja dismissed the infractions “in the interest of justice,” and thanked both of them for their service and action. In federal court on September 7, three men who crossed the line into the sub base on Mother’s Day weekend were arraigned for a charge of trespass. All pleaded not guilty. The prosecutor sought an October trial, but this would be a hardship for two of the men, their attorney told the court. The judge questioned the men and learned of Bernie Meyer’s obligation in India, where he has been known for almost a decade as “the American Gandhi.” He was invited to return for two months this fall and again share his studied portrayal of the Mahatma in walks and presentations at conferences and events. The judge also learned of Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Brother Gilberto Perez’s work in Mexico on development and domestic violence projects with desert indigenous people. The prosecutor tried to separate Larry Kerschner for a separate trial in October, but the judge denied the request, and set a consolidated trial for April 5...

LINGEN, GERMANY: Three years after police broke up a blockade of a nuclear fuel fabrication plant, arresting 30 people, only one case proceeded to prosecution. In October, an activist whose criminal acquittal was appealed was fined €50 in a subsequent civil proceeding...

HANCOCK FIELD: Five men arrested during a protest of armed drones piloted from the upstate New York air national guard base were in DeWitt town court November 29 for trial on charges of obstructing government administration, disorderly conduct and trespassing. Their attorney objected when the pool of about 30 potential jurors included only white people, and it was agreed to postpone the proceeding until a more representative pool could be summoned. Trial is now set for late February, 2017...

OAK RIDGE: On December 1, Beth Rosdatter pleaded no contest to obstructing the highway into the gate at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in Tennessee. The Anderson County judge gave her a 30-day suspended sentence and unsupervised probation with the stipulation that she not enter Y-12 property...

MENWITH HILL: Lindis Percy successfully defended herself in September, arguing that the recently-crafted Dispersal Order (DO) under which she was twice arrested last spring at the Yorkshire military communications and espionage base is invalid. Percy exposed the Ministry of Defense police as ignorant of the 2014 law, which itself

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the Nuclear

Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

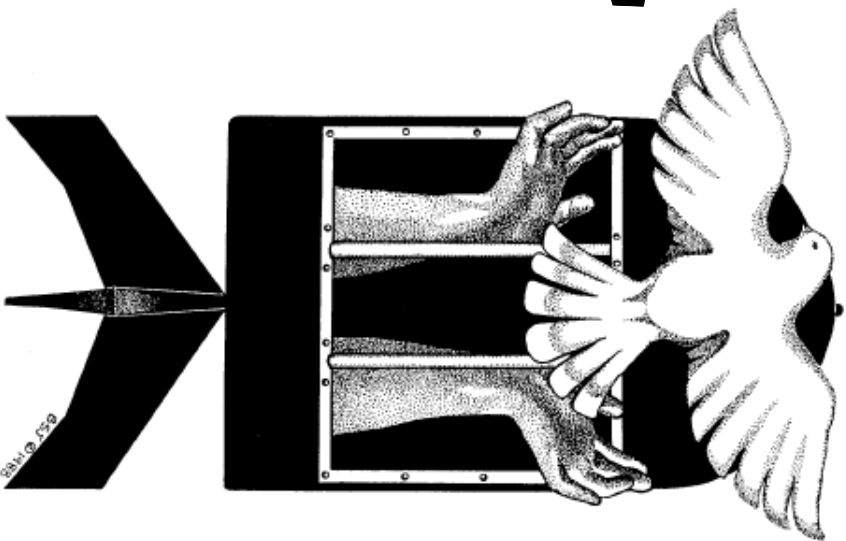
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