**New York Jury Acquits Drone War Resisters**

A jury of six deliberated for only half an hour before returning a verdict of not guilty on all charges for four New York men who blocked the gate to Hancock Field near Syracuse, home to a major hunter/killer drone warfare wing. After three evening sessions in the small DeWitt town courtroom, applause erupted with the jury’s announcement at 11:00 p.m. on March 2.

Daniel Burns, Brian Hynes, Ed Kinane and James Ricks were each charged with obstruction of government admiral and illegal actions. Two counts of disorderly conduct, and faced a year in jail. After court had adjourned, a juror approached defendant Hynes and said, “I really support what you are doing. Keep doing it.”

It was a testament to the potential legal and community impact of a sustained campaign of nonviolent resistance, such as that waged at the New York Air National Guard base since 2010 by the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars. The men were part of a group of seven Coalition members arrested on the 12th anniversary of the Iraq War, March 19, 2015. They blocked the entrance with 8-foot tall replicas of four books to make their case for a citizens’ indictment for war crimes that they sought to deliver to the base commander: the United Nations Charter, Dirty Wars (Jeremy Scahill), Living Under Drones (NYU and Stanford Law Schools), and You Never Die Twice (Reprieve-UK).

Their trial strategy had introduced some flexibility for individual testimony into their defense, with Hynes and Ricks representing themselves while Kinane and Burns were represented by pro bono attorneys Jonathan Wallace and Daire Irwin, whose knowledge of the law was also a check on the unliberally judge. The jury pool was researched for voir dire: supporters produced videotape to show the demonstration was not disorderly; and the defendants, all seasoned activists, spoke mostly with uniformity.

Brian Hynes told the jury, “This is not a case about contested facts, this is a case about contested meanings.” Hynes went on to explain to the jury that they could, in the words of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, acquit for any reason that appeals to their logic or passion.

In powerful testimony, James Ricks told the jury about meeting the families of drone victims and seeing the worst of what war and “flying death” can do. Munitions were brought to tears several times.

Daniel Burns said, “Would any of us deem it acceptable for our precious loved ones to be sacrificed for another nation’s anticipatory self-defense? Of course not! Moreover, if drones were being aimed at my children by another nation’s anticipatory self-defense? Of course not!”

Ed Kinane told the jury in clear and powerful language about his time living in Iraq during the war and about the horror and immoral actions.

“The Pacific Life Community returned to Washington state for their annual gathering, concluding with a blockade of the main gate into the Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The base is the Pacific homeport of the Trident nuclear ballistic missile submarine fleet. The two-day program built on the legacy of the now-retired Raymond Hunthausen. As Archbishop of Seattle in 1984 he declared that “Trident is the Auschwitz of Puget Sound.” Hunthausen’s wages were garnished when he publicly refused to pay the war tax percentage in protest. While joining protests at the base, he was simply “Ray,” sometimes in ordinary clothing.

Snow and rain did not deter the demonstration at the Trident base gate on March 7. More than 40 people joined together for prayer and reading Hunthausen’s words before peacekeepers safely blocked the incoming traffic. Several banners were stretched across the road.

“War is Immoral” read one, and another read, “Abolish Nuclear Weapons.”

Police soon moved in and arrested seven people, who were blocking the road on the state side of the line. Ticketed and released for “pedestrian leaving the curb” were Kelsey Chalmers, Susan Crane, Ed Hynes, Allison McGillivray, Nick Mele, Mary Jane Parrine and Sam Yergler.

Six others who crossed over the marked property line onto the federal side read sections of the Nuremberg Principles out loud before being arrested by military police. Alexandra Adessio, Karan Founds-Benton, Fr. Steve Kelly, SJ, Betsy Lamb, Mary Mele and Charley Smith were charged with trespass and received ban and bar letters before being released.

For more information, visit pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com.
Resistence Reflections

“We refuse to pay for war!

Nearly half of the federal income tax is funding endless war and war preparations. In good conscience, we will not pay this war tax. Some of us live below a taxable income. Many of us who are taxable have chosen to re-direct our refused taxes to organizations that provide for basic human needs.

To explore this form of conscientious objection, please contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee at www.nwtrcc.org or (800) 269-7464 – for information, literature, counseling and guidance.”


For more information, visit www.whoiseandopeliter. info, or contact the ILPDC, P.O. Box 329, Fargo, ND, 58107; 701-293-4806.

Support Action

Please send cards and letters of support to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USPS Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

As a war tax refuser, will you join us? We will add your name to the statement above. To include your own name only, please send an email to: dhsicenken@yahoo.com. Thank you, Kathy Kelly, Kathy Boylan, Daniel Sicken.

Witness Against Torture Marks 15 Years of Guantanamo Prison

Wide arcades overlooked the eight-story atrium of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., creating a space conducive to public protest visible to an audience of legislators, lobbyists, staff and tourists.

On January 11, the 15th anniversary of opening the offshore prison for war captives at Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba, Witness Against Torture (WAT) concluded a week of fasting and action there. Three large banners were hung from the balconies above the central plaza, reading "Shut Down Guantanamo.” “No Torture Cabinet” and "Hate Doesn’t Make U.S. Great.”

Onlookers crowded the balconies to watch the action unfold. Nine members of the group, dressed in orange jumpsuits and black hoods, held a die-in on the ground floor, mourning those Muslim men who died at Guantanamo without ever being charged with a crime. The nine, plus four others, were arrested by Capitol police as supporters sang, “Oh America, don’t believe their lies. Their politics of hate will destroy our children’s lives.”

These actions took place while senators were hearing testimony from President-elect Trump’s picks for Attorney General and Secretaries of State. The hearings were interrupted repeatedly by WAT activists and others voicing their concerns.

On the anniversary of the Guantanamo prison opening, fasting members of Witness Against Torture hold a die-in in the atrium of the Senate Office Building.

Witnesses Against Torture

On the anniversary of the Guantanamo prison opening, fasting members of Witness Against Torture hold a die-in in the atrium of the Senate Office Building.

Pelletier Denied Freedom

In a January 18, 2017 letter addressed to Leonard Peliter’s lawyer, the Obama administration formally denied the request to grant clemency to the imprisoned activist.

Following that heartbreaking injustice, the International Leonard Peliter Defense Committee (ILPDC) is reorganizing, reuniting with the imprisoned Native American activist are now based in Fargo, North Dakota. Peliter will again become eligible for parole this year and a new campaign on his behalf will be launched in April.

Arends, Beth Brockman, Don Cuning, Erica Ewing, Ellen Graves, Martha Hennessy, Sherrill Hogan, Kathy Kelly, Joanne Lingle, Joan Pleume, Manijeh Saba, Helen Schietinger, Eve Tetz, Carmen Trotta and Silke Tudor.

Witness Against Torture gathers each January in Washington for 10 days of liquids-only fasting, dramatic street theater, discussion and reflections by the group, which was born out of a journey to Guantanamo in 2005.

Their annual Fast for Justice and other demonstrations will continue until the prison is closed, torture as policy abolished, and the authorities responsible for each abuse held accountable. For more information, visit www.witnessagainsttorture.com.

Thanks

Thanks to Carol, Duane, Faith, Betty, Sonia, Xiomara, Jim, Paige, and Cindy for helping to mail the last issue, and to Ruth for proofreading this issue.

The Nuclear Resister

POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733
520-323-8697 nukeresister@igc.org ISSN #0883-9875

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One-year subscriptions are US$25 in the United States, US$35 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.

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The Nuclear Resister on MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Collection (1968 - present) of The American Library Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by ProQuest Company, 789 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor, MI 48106 or online at proquest.com.

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

Since 1981, the Nuclear Resister has provided comprehensive reporting and analysis for anti-nuclear civil resistance in the United States, with an emphasis on providing support for the women and men who are seeking to end the nuclear threat. In 1986, the Nuclear Resister also began reporting on anti-nuclear activism in South America, plus overseas anti-nuclear, anti-nuclear war resistance with the same emphasis on prison 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 the community, but spiritually connected to their fellow activists. By increasing public awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to 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 with writing to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors
More Drone Resistance Actions at Beale Air Force Base

It’s still too early to know whether some prosecutors and judges, local and federal, will feel emboldened by the new atmosphere in Washington, D.C. to more vigorously pursue and imprison nuclear- and war-resisters. But a persistent community of war resisters, who come together every month for an overnight campout and drone warfare protest, has continued to act after Trump’s inauguration without missing a beat.

Rain, snow or shine, members of Occupy Beale Air Force Base come to vigil together outside the base, home to the Global Hawk surveillance drone program. Dozens of arrests have been made over the past five years. On at least five previous occasions, the U.S. attorney in Sacramento has summoned Beale resisters to federal court on charges of trespass. And five times, the U.S. attorney then balked, dropping the cases without comment.

Before dawn on the morning of January 25, activists used yellow “Crime Scene – Do Not Cross” tape to mark the Beale Air Force Base sign, alongside a poster stating that “Drone Warfare is a Crime.” Air Force police ignored this warning and instead arrested Flora Rogers and Brian Terrell. After a brief and cordial detention, they were released with federal trespass citations.

“They say ‘if you see something, say something’ but they don’t like it when you do,” remarked Terrell.

Returning peacekeepers gathered at the gate on February 27 in support of Shirley Osgood and Sharon Delgado. Delgado writes:

Shirley and I walked through the main gate to sprinkle ashes on the base in an act of resistance to our government’s endless wars. The ashes symbolize the innocent people incarcerated by our government in faraway lands by drones via remote control. I think especially of the children.

As movements of resistance multiply around the country and around the world, it’s important to include a critique of the permanent war economy and a call to international cooperation and peace.

The Trump Administration’s approach to foreign and military policy is exemplified by attempts to ban Muslims and other immigrants, alienation of allies, threats to revoke torture, promises to raise military spending (again), and the recent Navy SEALs raid in Yemen that resulted in the deaths of at least fourteen civilians, including nine children. The stories told by witnesses of torture.

At Beale today we commemorated the deaths of these people. Demonstrators will be there again tomorrow.

I chose to sprinkle ashes on Beale Air Force Base because the day after tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, a day for repentance and reflection on our mortality. I chose to kneel and pray for mercy for the people my government is targeting, and to plead for the transformation of the hearts and minds of those who continue to carry out these crimes.

For more information, visit upstatedroneaction.org/wp.

— Jared Chase, Franklin County, CA

Vanunu Convicted Again

In December, nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu testified at yet another hearing over alleged violation of parole conditions that have been renewed annually for almost 13 years. Regarded as a hero around the world for revealing evidence of Israel’s substantial nuclear arsenal, Vanunu was kidnapped abroad in 1986 by Israeli agents just as his story made global headlines. He was drugged, bound and spirited back into the country whose police and courts are overwhelmed when controversial activity on federal land prompts a sustained campaign of nonviolent resistance. Only then have federal prosecutors sometimes stepped in to take responsibility for prosecution or found a way to pay the locals to manage the burden.

Four members of the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars created a living nativity scene on the entry road to Hancock drone base on December 23. A pastoral stable backdrop, 8-feet tall, stretched across both lanes, and a banner above the manger they surrounded imagined that, “If Herod had Drones, Jesus, Mary and Joseph Would Have Been Incinerated”

In DeWitt court on March 9, Judge Gideon dismissed the charges. He said his ruling applied only to these four cases, because the charging documents repeatedly referred to the arrests having occurred on federal property, which he declared is outside his jurisdiction.

His ruling, however, recalls past frustrations over the decades by many small local jurisdictions around the country whose police and courts are overwhelmed when controversial activity on federal land prompts a sustained campaign of nonviolent resistance. Only then have federal prosecutors sometimes stepped in to take responsibility for prosecution or found a way to pay the locals to manage the burden.

More information, visit upstatedroneaction.org/wp.

— Jared Chase, Franklin County, CA

Herod Had Drones, Jesus, Mary and Joseph Would Have Been Incinerated

The nativity tableau blockade of Hancock Field, December 23, 2016: “If Herod Had Drones, Jesus, Mary and Joseph Would Have Been Incinerated”

CHASE LOSES GOOD TIME

Jared Chase’s release date has been extended, indicating a loss of presumptive good time while he has been in prison. His expected release date is now listed as June 6, 2019. He continues to be held in the Secure Housing Unit at the state prison in Pontiac, Illinois.

Chase was among three NATO summit protesters framed by undercover Chicago police instigators in May 2012. All were acquitted of state terrorism charges but convicted of mischief. The convictions were appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Chase was given the longest sentence, eight years, and the other two have already completed their time behind bars.

Chase is being treated for Huntington’s disease. According to the Huntington’s Disease Society of America, “Huntington’s disease is a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. It deteriorates a person’s physical and mental abilities during their prime working years and has no cure… Many describe the symptoms of HD as having Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease – simultaneously.”

For more information, visit freethenato3.wordpress.com or Free the NATO 3 on Facebook.com.

Vanunu

Jared Chase Loses

Although Jared Chase has not recently written to many people, he appreciates receiving mail. Please continue to write cards and letters of support to “J” and address them to Jared Chase M44710, P.O. Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764.

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Name

ID# (if needed)

(sentence – in/out date if known)

prison or support address

(action & date)

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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

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)

Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 11921-052 (22 years – out 4/26/22)

FMC Devens Unit GB, Federal Medical Center, Housing Unit at the state prison in Pontiac, Illinois.

As June 6, 2019. He continues to be held in the Secure Housing Unit at the state prison in Pontiac, Illinois.

Jared Chase Loses

Chelsea E. Manning 89289

1300 North Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-2304 (Convicted of possession of incendiary devices while on active duty and making statements critical of military policy)

(Whistleblower convicted on charges related to release of military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes)

Raif Dhaif 11921-052

FMV Denver Unit GB, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 879, Ayrer, MA 01432.

(22 years – out 4/26/22)

(Convicted of providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 97958

SCI Dallas, 1000 Folliard 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, 8/11/11)

Jared Chase

M44710

P.O. Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764. (8 years – out 6/6/19)

(Convicted of possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson during protests at NATO summit in Chicago, May, 2012)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Jedidiah Poole

— Jared Chase

Inside & Out

Anti-War Related Actions

— Jared Chase

March 14, 2017

The NUCLEAR RESISTER

Page 3
On December 27 and 28, over 50 people from the San Francisco Bay area met at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, California to protest and resist the 10th annual Urban Shield event.

Urban Shield combines continuous 48-hour SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) training exercises for law enforcement with a special weapons exhibition. Alameda County originated the event, using plenty of Department of Homeland Security funds plus taxes and corporate sponsorships from private security corporations who profit from sales to both police and militaries.

The protest was organized by Stop Urban Shield, a coalition of community groups led by five racial justice organizations. Under a statement, “United to Stop the Violence,” the coalition has brought together the concerns of community organizers, first responders, and anti-war activists including the War Resisters League and other peace groups as members and endorsers. They all recognize that one consequence of waging so much war abroad has been the creeping militarization of military tools, training, tactics and strategy into local policing. This is seen in the escalat-
ing violence and an increasing war mentality by police in some poor, minority and immigrant communities. The war-game-type training exercises also draw grant money and training time away from traditional disaster preparedness and exercises that build community resilience.

Further blurring the line between promoting public safety and waging war has been the participation of militarized law enforcement units and trainers from several countries with a record of alleged war crimes and human rights abuses. The demonstration highlighted how these issues connect.

Coordinated actions began as soon as the gates opened, with several affinity groups first entering the grounds to hang banners denouncing the event and block certain buildings. Other groups then locked together and block the city street.

A mid-morning rally and march around the fairgrounds cheered on each blockade. Inside, police first arrested ten members of a faith-based blockade group. The gate blockades were then cleared, and police arrested 13 members of Asians 4 Black Lives. All 23 arrested were taken to the Santa Rita Jail, cited and released.

Ten of the 16 were found guilty on March 2 in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia. The assistant prosecutor was observed often nodding her head in agreement during their eloquent sentencing statements, and afterwards thanked the defendants for the education. They were fined $200 plus court costs. For more information, visit dcatholicworker.wordpress.com.

**PEACE CHAIN CONNECTS ISSUES**

**IWAH Vets Arrested in McCain’s Office**

Ten military veterans visited the Washington, D.C. office of Senator John McCain on March 19. The group of Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans went to Senator’s office in support of “Sen. McCain should vote against his nomination.” They stood in formation to request that the former prisoners of war meet with them within 24 hours. McCain refused and were escorted out of the building under arrest.

Marine vet Matt Howard told a reporter, “We have a real concern about an oil executive becoming Secretary of State. We know Shell has ties to the country and a person that has used the military to subsidize his own ability to make a profit.”

A supporter live-streaming the arrests explained the demonstration to a passer-by: “Rex Tillerson represents the vote for endless war, for endless militarization, and for global climate change, she said.”

**Beale, cont.**

**Warship Blockaders Convicted**

Ten defendants, all but one representing themselves, took the stand during two days of testimony, February 1 and 2, before a twelve person jury in Bath, Maine. They all recognized that the reasonableness of their brief blocking of the sidewalk was not to block anything but to open a doorway for my arms.”

Each defendant was allowed to testify “within reason” during the early morning commute.

The activists spanned the entrance, holding life-sized cardboard cut-outs of Dan digital photo by Lin Romano

Richard Latham, 84, told the jury, “My sincere intent was to block anything but to open a doorway for my arms.”

Jason Rawn, the youngest defendant at 41, asked, “Is the message of the possibility of peace reasonable?”

The jury was quick to declare that it was not, returning a guilty verdict at the beginning of the third day of trial. The prosecutor asked that each be fined several hundred dollars as a deterrent, but Judge Billings found their offense to be minor and sentenced them to 30 hours each of community service.

Two more co-defendants had earlier accepted plea agreements and made United Way contributions of $140 each in return for the charge being dropped.

For more information, contact globalnet@mindspring.com.

**Enforcement of the community, and arrestees were escorted past the designated protest area,” sixteen others proceeded down the sidewalk. While some of the group blocked the sidewalk, others made their way to a knoll not far from the sidewalk.
**Bure, France**

The occupation of a woodland in northeast France to prevent its use as the nation's graveyard for high-level radioactive waste continues. ANDRA, the national radioactive waste authority, was established over two decades ago and has been cleared of the underground vaults at the research lab into the nuclear industry's burial plan. Opponents recognized the lab as simply a foot in the door for the final dump, as history has shown. Last summer, after a back-room deal with local politicians, ANDRA began clearing a section of the underground vaults at the research lab into the permanent dump.

A series of demonstrations and mass occupation of the woods led to ANDRA placing hundreds of concrete barricades around their site to keep demonstrators out. But they moved too soon, legally, and a court overturned the land deal, demanding that clearing cease and the area be restored.

When ANDRA, gone, demonstrators toppled the barricades, breaking some. A community of resisters remained camped in the woods throughout the fall and winter, and built a few simple structures as evidence of their intention to remain until the project is scrapped.

When ANDRA tried twice in January to bring heavy equipment into the woods, ostensibly to clear away the rubble of their concrete wall, the “owls” of the forest (the occupiers are known to wear owl masks) blocked the vehicles.

Four days of nationwide mobilization for love of the Lejuc woods began on Valentine’s Day, February 14. It was an organized strike of local authorities, the Lejuc people, who wish to take over the definitive occupation. In the face of an angry crowd of at least 600 people that stretched out along the country road from the House of Resistance in Bure to the woods.

They toured the occupation site, and marchers were encouraged to destroy all of the now-toppled concrete barricades before leaving. They marched back through the village and across the rolling farmland to ANDRA’s lab and new “nuclear mega-bin,” where the complex, marchers found the road blocked by police and riot gear. With no more riot police posed for battle just behind a tall security fence.

Two staged demonstrations began beating a rhythm on the steel guard rails with their pieces of concrete, while others spread out across the fallow fields on either side of the road. Police followed the widening flanks of the occupation, which swelled thinner. The percussion cacophony crescendoed, and a few threw their concrete rocks at the riot police, who responded by firing tear gas and moving the flash-bang grenades. A few dozen militants to the fence itself, and brought down several sections before retreating under an assault of teargas.

Meanwhile, a giant papier-mâché phoenix was rolled up the road and set ablaze, representing the resurrected militancy of the 30-year struggle against nuclear French waste burial schemes. Police arrested only four demonstrators, while hundreds returned to the village of Bure to close the day in celebration that the dump is on the defensive.

The next week ANDRA suffered two more defeats. On February 27, its appeal of the verdict of the Tribunal de Grande Instance (the court of appeal) over the occupation was rejected. The court has upheld the Environmental Ministry’s decision that the protest was legitimate. ANDRA’s application for a restraining order was denied. The court also upheld the environmental authority condemned ANDRA’s application. It must now be referred under stricter rules requiring an impact study, which has never been done. The project has now been overtaken by the popular anger has prevailed. And, faced with a police operation once again, impressive, even disproportionate, it is not the gates of “the library” of ANDRA that bear the expense.

This “eco-library,” perfect symbol of the hypocrisy of the project, is a kind of museum that claims to “preserve the memory of those who have sacrificed for France in Lejuc, this building is the perfect materialization of the contempt in which we are held: “Do not worry brave people, our project respects ecology.”

Understanding this anger, a direct consequence of a legitimate exasperation on the part of inhabitants assimilated to simple guinea-pigs, is essential for the public. The authorities remain responsible for their anti-democratic and authoritarian policy. More and more people are joining our struggle with pride and determination.

In order to put an end to it, one solution is obviously necessary: to stop this policy of contempt and to put an end to this senseless project, the risks unacceptable to humanity, as the vast majority of the population wish.

---

**WRITINGS FROM JAIL**

~ from Leavenworth

**THE INSIDE LINE**

Those outside of prison may not believe that we act like human beings under these conditions. But of course we do. And we build our own networks of survival.

I never would have made it without you. Not only did you teach me these important lessons, but you made sure I felt cared for. You were the people who helped me to deal with all of the fears and phobias of my regular haunts. You were the people who checked on me after I tried to end my life. You were the people that played fun games with me. You never threw anything away because you wished me a Happy Birthday. We shared the pictures and the memories of our holidays together. You were and will always be family.

For many of you, you are already free and living outside of the prison walls. Many of you will come home soon. Some of you will have many years to go.

The most important thing that you taught me was how to write and how to speak in my own voice. I used to only know how to write memos. Now, I write like a human being under these conditions. But of course I could not have done it without you.

From where I am now, I still think of all of you. When I leave this place in May, I will still think of all of you. I will continue to love you. When they try to divide us, and systematically discriminated against us, we embraced our diversity and pushed back. But, I also learned from all of you that you could speak and resist. I grew up and grew connected because of the community you provided.

--

**Statement of support from Asodebrea, bure stop55, bure zone libre and the vigilant inhabitants of Gondrecourt castle**

Since 1987, thousands of people across France have opposed the grim nuclear waste burial project. This long struggle has taken many forms, from the very radical resistance of the inhabitants of the nearby Lejuc woods, in preparation for drilling to expand the underground vaults at the research lab into the permanent dump.

In 23 years, we have been met with contempt by public authorities and we have not been able to take our legitimate opposition into account when we are representative of a large majority of our fellow citizens.

Public authorities who take us for uneducated and intractable people, are presenting public matters without any influence on the progress of the project.

Public authorities that organize a financial irrigation of the local economy unprecedented in our country in order to silence consciences.

Public authorities that allow ANDRA to lie about the results of its studies, to silence the real impacts of the project.

Without any influence on the progress of the project.

--

**INTERNATIONAL NOTES**

**THE NUCLEAR RESISTER**

**WRITINGS FROM JAIL**

~ from Leavenworth

by Chelsea Manning (originally published in the Guardian)

We have a human right to resist. To those who have kept me here for the past six years: minutes after President Obama announced the end of the Iraq war, I was greeted by a call that I would soon be transferred to the prison in Leavenworth. When I was mumbled, I knew that I was to be reported with a view to prosecution so no guarantees of my safety could be given.

When I was afraid, you taught me how to keep going. When I was alone, you taught me how to talk. When I was mumbled, you taught me how to feel. When I was angry, you taught me how to chill out. When I was hateful, you taught me how to love. When I was weighed down, you taught me how to be close. When I was selfish, you taught me how to share.

Sometimes, it took me a while to learn many things. Other times, I would forget it. Sometimes, I would succeed in keeping it. Sometimes, I would fail. Sometimes, I would have to start again and all over again.

We were friends in a way few will ever understand. There was no room to be superficial. Instead, we shared it all. We could hide from our families and from the world outside, but we could never hide from each other.

We argued, we bickered and we fought with each other. Sometimes, over absolutely nothing. But, we were always united.

When the prison tried to break us, all we stood up together. We talked, we fought, we bickered, we struggled. When they tried to divide us, and systematically discriminated against us, we embraced our diversity and pushed back. But, I also learned from all of you that you could speak and resist. I grew up and grew connected because of the community you provided.

--

**The quest of Lindy Percy and the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB)**

The quest of Lindy Percy and the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) co-founded in 1992 is not over. In its appeal what is being decided is a decisive victory in court last September, she was again arrested by Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) while vigiling for peace at the gate of Menwith Hill station in North Yorkshire. MDP are British soldiers tasked with protecting the U.S.-run spy base, and each new group seems ignorant of British law.

Percy writes:

Today, Monday 27 February 2017, I went [unannounced to demonstrate] as usual. I have told the MDP and made it quite clear that whatever they wished me to do was not to be taken lightly.

MDP and which worked well over two plus years. Where they get these ideas from I can’t think

I was told that I had to get back over the “yellow line.” (We have challenged this in court quite a few times – twice different District Judges have said it is a “grey area” and acquitted. Indeed it is. I re-searched it when it was first painted in July 2000.)

It has not been used for sometime – certainly I will not take any notice of it – but suddenly they are using this ... All the laws they have attempted to use I have challenged over the years and they have not used this line.

Percy refused to step back and was then accused of violating a 1994 Public Order Act, long unused after CAAB had challenged it in court.

Where they get these ideas from I can’t think because they got this wrong. I was taken to Harrogate police station by two NYP officers (North Yorkshire Police) and the MDP and which worked well over two plus years.

Percy refused to step back and was then accused of violating a 1994 Public Order Act, long unused after CAAB had challenged it in court.

The custody officer Sergeant Dunn (who I had met before - nice man) informed me that he was not going to authorise detention because I was going to be reported with a view to prosecution so no...
Brisbane, Australia

Brisbane-area Catholic Workers and friends visited the Australian city’s historic Toowong cemetery on Ash Wednesday afternoon, March 1, as the gate stands a large stone crucifix, adorned by a metal sword that marks it as a war memorial.

"From the moment I saw that sword on the cross, I knew I couldn’t let it remain there," said Jim Dowling. From a ladder leaned on the crosspiece, he used a crowbar to remove the sword. He handed it down to Tim Webb, who placed the sword on an anvil and reshaped it into a garden hoe, echoing the Biblical prophecies of Micah and Isaiah that, “They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”

A statement from the men explained their action:

Lent for Christians is a time for reflection and repentance. Lent culminates in Good Friday, the remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus, and Easter Sunday when he rose again. Jesus’ last words to his disciples before he was taken away were those quoted above, “Put away your sword.” For the first 300 years of the Christian church, believers largely obeyed these words and refused to kill in their own defense. Within the church, Emperor Constantine all this changed, and ever since Christians have been blessed countless wars, and ever lead their own.

We come here today to repent all wars blessed by the Christian warrior and to request the removal from the sword from the cross on which our savior was crucified. We come to beat it into a ‘ploughshare,’

If you are looking for more information, visit the Campaign Against the NUCLEAR RESIST.

Paris, France

Greenpeace/France commissioned a recent study that found the French energy giant EDF of economic and technical bankruptcy. Its deep investment in nuclear power is the culprit. New reactors have been built to replace old reactor power plants, but these plants struggle to profit and are increasingly seen as a financial burden.

In one week in mid-December, EDE’s cut its estimate of profit for 2017 and the national financial prosecutor opened an investigation into trading off its power.

That same week, Greenpeace activists took their critique to EDF’s corporate headquarters with three consecutive days of direct action in Paris.

After just 6 a.m. on December 14, 30 activists from across France, plus Germany as well, occupied EDF’s main building, unloaded gear from three big trucks in front of the building. A large alu-

ningum structure on wheels, with the word “BRANKRT-

CF” in block letters, was rolled into place and blocked the revolving doors. Resisters locked arms together inside barrels of mock nuclear waste to block other doors and the plaza in front of the building, while several more climbed the modern building and hung a large banner from nine floors up, its message translated as “$748 in debt with machinery army of liars.” EDF’s chief executive was pictured on the banner, being the main object of Greenpeace’s scorn for his latest assurance that the old reactors will be replaced by new reactors for decades more, recouping any current debt. They held the blockade for more than six hours before police moved in to clear them out, injuring one person in the process.

Undeterred, the nonviolent actionists returned the next day. This time, they brought a raft and life jackets marked with the words “EDF Sink’s”, staging a sit-in in the lobby and again blocking doors. EDF’s PR people were amused. Nineteen activists were arrested and taken to jail.

Supporters wrote, “Our actions and our perseverance reflect the importance of the stakes: namely nuclear safety and the safety of the French in a country where 30 out of 58 nuclear reactors are shut down.”

A necessary risk that the CEO of EDF, Jean-Bernard Lévy, puts on the country. We will come back as many times as necessary to make EDF come to the out of the denial and change course.

They went back on Friday, December 16 before the late winter dawn, and projected their message, two stories tall on the building: “Jean-Bernard, get out of nuclear power.”

Later that day and early Saturday, the 19 jailed activists were all released from custody. Four have been charged for alleged property damage, the charges are pending. EDF will have to pay the fines.

Faslane, Scotland

Last summer, on the eve of the Parliamentary vote to renew and replace Britain’s Trident nuclear missile submarine fleet, the test launch of a missile from the HMS Vengeance failed dramatically. Instead of launching its dummy warhead from off the Florida coast and across the Atlantic Ocean, the missile veered in the opposite direction, towards the coast, before the test was aborted and missile was destroyed.

Prime Minister Theresa May was told, but she kept the news a secret, even from members of Parliament until late January, long after that body had voted in favor of Trident replacement. Parliament demanded an immediate explanation while abolitionists took action at the submarine base at Faslane, Scotland.

On January 24, four activists blocked traffic at the south gate just before the warhead was on the move, calling “Off Target! You can’t cover up a nuclear disaster – Disarm – Resist.” Three sat down in the road, causing a backup of human traffic and three more大海 saw the scene and took the three into custody. They were taken to the station, charged and released.

On February 2, a little earlier in the morning, five people using lock-on devices again blocked the south gate. Police reBackColored some traffic to the north gate, but the backup there grew to over two miles long. The traffic jam only began to clear three hours later, after police had finally cut through the lock-ons and arrested the five.

They were charged and released with conditions and a court summons.

For more information, visit faslanepaceman@protonmail.com.
Yamashiro cannot receive mail in jail. Amnesty Inter-
national has called for supporters to please write to 
the following official: Mr. Hiroji Yamashiro’s urgent 
authorities to immediately release Hiroji Yamashiro; 
to ensure his release, Hiroji Yamashiro is provided with 
adequate medical care and has effective access to his 
family without delay; and to comply with their interna-
tional obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the human 
rights recognized under international law, freedom of 
expression, association and peaceful assembly, as well as 
the rights of people in detention.

Write to Prosecutor General Katuyuki Nishikawa, 
The Supreme Public Prosecutors Offices 1-1-11, Kasumig-
agata, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan; and Prime Minister 
Shinzio Abe, 1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 
- 8980, Japan.

Nuclear Convoy Blockade Trials

Scottish pensioner Brian Quail represented himself in 
Dumbarton Sheriff Court at January and February 
hearings, charged with breach of the peace for blocking 
a military transport vehicle with nuclear weapons at a 
roundabout in Balloch in March, 2016. The Herald reported 
that Quail told the court; “This is not a political matter. This 
is a court of law and I am here to uphold the law. There’s 
no dispute regarding the facts of the case. The problem 
we have is the refusal of the courts to take in the context 
of the actions taken by me. If the vehicle involved was 
in a bomb factory it would not be an offence and considered 
justifiable.”

He added: “I remember Hiroshima as a boy. As we 
speak in this courtroom, a young man sits in front of 
a control panel deep in the ocean ready to fire. Please 
please don’t defend Trident against me. Please defend me and 
humanity against Trident.”

But Justice of the Peace Nicholson sidestepped the 
charge, etc., etc. I was immediately released. I had 
actually spotted this basic flaw ... This complete muddle about the law by the MDP 
police has gone on and on over many years. It is 
deeply concerning that the level of knowledge of the 
Policeman in charge of the case is so woefully lacking. 
They are clearly starting to really test my patience with 
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MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY: Don Timmerman was acquitted of disorderly conduct and trespass at the Jesuit institution during a September protest of military training on campus. In late January, a Milwaukee, Wisconsin municipal court judge considered the evidence of witnesses and photographs of the scene before finding Timmerman not guilty. While he stood trial, more than a dozen people vigilied on campus, calling on the University to be faithful to the Christian Gospel, tradition and morals, and eliminate the ROTC, NROTC and AFROTC programs...

LONDON: Days before a scheduled January trial for obstruction, Crown prosecutors dropped their case against Isa al-Ali for lack of evidence. The Bahraini refugee and torture survivor was the only one arrested when he was plucked from the crowd demonstrating outside the London Science Museum last summer while arms dealers attended a gala celebration...

VOLK FIELD: Bench warrants have been issued in Juneau County, Wisconsin for the arrest and detention for five days of Kathy Kelly and Brian Terrell, for non-payment of a trespass fine for their February, 2016 protest of military surveillance drone training at the air national guard base...

PINE GAP: In February, the Australian attorney general gave permission for police to proceed with the prosecution of six people arrested last September inside the U.S.-operated satellite surveillance outpost near remote Alice Springs. The authorization to prosecute is a requirement of the Defense Special Undertakings Act, under which the activists face a seven year sentence for simple trespass into a prohibited area. They would be only the second activists to face a seven year sentence for simple trespass.

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MINNEAPOLIS: Judge Dorcan’s court on March 15 continued its trial of Roddy. Roddy questioned the authority of the judge to overturn his dismissal by Judge Dorcan had been appealed, and he would have to answer for the red crosses he spray-painted on the runway where U.S. military flights routinely land and refuel in violation of Irish sovereignty and diplomatic neutrality. Roddy and Dave Donnellan are charged for the May, 2016 action. Gardaí [police] at Shannon have, over the years, failed in their duty to investigate torture and complicity in war crimes and systematically dismissed scores of the requests that specific aircraft associated with the U.S. military or CIA for evidence of military contraband or victims of kidnapping (“rendition”) and torture. As a result, many Irish citizens have felt morally obligated to do what the Gardaí are refusing to do, and try to search U.S. and CIA aircraft at Shannon. Roddy questioned the authority of the judge to overturn the decision of his peer and refused to enter a plea to the new charge. It was agreed that his case would return to Judge Dorcan’s court on March 15.

SHANNON, IRELAND: Colin Roddy was surprised to find himself back in Ennis Court on February 15, summoned to answer the charge of criminal damage at the international airport, which he understood to have been dismissed last November. He was told the summary dismissal by Judge Dorcan had been appealed, and he would have to answer for the red crosses he spray-painted on the runway where U.S. military flights routinely land and refuel in violation of Irish sovereignty and diplomatic neutrality. Roddy and Dave Donnellan are charged for the May, 2016 action. Gardaí [police] at Shannon have, over the years, failed in their duty to investigate torture and complicity in war crimes and systematically dismissed scores of the requests that specific aircraft associated with the U.S. military or CIA for evidence of military contraband or victims of kidnapping (“rendition”) and torture. As a result, many Irish citizens have felt morally obligated to do what the Gardaí are refusing to do, and try to search U.S. and CIA aircraft at Shannon. Roddy questioned the authority of the judge to overturn the decision of his peer and refused to enter a plea to the new charge. It was agreed that his case would return to Judge Dorcan’s court on March 15.

Be assured your prison sentence will be commuted...