

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 184

March 14, 2017

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 of 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 administration, trespass and 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 unfriendly 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 unanimity.

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 wreckage of hellfire missiles. Jurors 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 country, I would hope with all my might that the citizens of that country might try and stop their country's illegal and immoral actions.”

Ed Kinane told the jury in clear and powerful language about his time living in Iraq during the war and about the terror sown by drones.

Closing arguments were given by attorneys Irwin and Wallace, as well as defendants Ricks and Hynes.

Originally scheduled for late November 2016, the trial was postponed until February 28 so a new jury pool could be called in order to assure a “jury of his peers” to Ricks, an African-American Muslim.

Two other co-defendants from the “Big Books” action, Julianne Oldfield and Bev Rice, face an additional charge for violating the controversial order of protection granted to the previous base commander. Their prosecution is on hold pending an appeal of that order by another Hancock protester to the New York State Appeals Court, where no decision is expected before next fall. See page 3 for a report of arrests on December 23 at Hancock Field and contact information.

Thirteen Arrests at Trident Nuclear Submarine Base



photo by Fumi Tosu

(L-R) Ed Ehmke, Susan Crane and Mary Jane Parrine block the road leading into Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, March 7, 2017.

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 Ehmke, 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. Alexandria Adesso, 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.

SENTENCE COMMUTED; MANNING TO WALK FREE IN MAY

Chelsea Manning will be released from military prison on May 17. In one of his last official acts, President Obama commuted the army whistleblower's 35-year sentence, which he called “very disproportionate.” Manning's farewell letter to her fellow prisoners is reprinted on page 5, *The Inside Line*.

She will be released almost seven years to the day from her arrest for making public thousands of classified Pentagon and State Department documents that revealed uncomfortable truths about the U.S. war in Iraq and American diplomatic perfidy.



Manning's conviction on multiple charges stands, so she will be dishonorably discharged from the army when

she is released from prison and thus ineligible for veterans benefits. The Chelsea Manning Welcome Home Fund has been established by friends and family. She plans to make her new home in Maryland, and funds raised will be used to pay for her rent, utilities, health care, clothing and other living expenses for the first year after she is released. The money will be deposited directly into her bank account, which is being managed by her current power of attorney. Upon her release on May 17, she will have full control over all funds donated. Visit gofundme.com/welcomehomechelsea for more information and to contribute. If you are interested in offering an in-kind donation or other support, please e-mail: CMreleaseneeds@gmail.com.

Through early May, cards and letters of support can still be sent to Chelsea E. Manning 89289, 1300 North Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-2304.

Resistance 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.”

Signers as of 2/25/2017: Pamela Allee, Bob Bady, Steve Baggarly, Johnny Baranski, Jackie Barshak, Larry Bassett, Nathan Beall, Suzanne Belote Shanley, Ruth Benn, Frida Berrigan, Pam Beziat, Greg Boertje-Obed, Stanley Bohn, Roy Bourgeois, Kathy Boylan, Paul Burks, Joseph Byrne, Jean Chapman, Minga Claggett-Borne, Alan Clemence, Felice Cohen-Joppa, Jack Cohen-Joppa, Carol Coney, Judy Conrad, Frank Cordaro, Tom Cornell, Betsy Corner, Susan Crane, Frances Crowe, Larry Dansinger, Ralph Dolan, Frank E. Donnelly, Jim Douglass, Shelley Douglass, Bill Durland, Genie Durland, Padma Dyvine, shulamith eagle, Aaron Falbel, Raquel Falk, Margie Farren, Katherine Fisher, Maureen A. Flannery, Ken Freeland, Eszter Freeman, Fran Fuller, Bruce K. Gagnon, Rick Gaumer, Carol Gilbert, Rick Gottesman, Clare Grady, David Gross, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton - Archdiocese of Detroit, James Haber, Emilie Hamilton, Clark Hanjian, Larry Harper, Arthur Harvey, Ed Hedemann, David Hartsough, Jan Hartsough, Martha Hennessy, Janet Hicks, Tonia Jodis, Tom Joyce, Barb Kass, Donald D. Kaufman, Randy Kehler, Charlie Keil, Judith Kelly, Kathy Kelly, Stephen Kelly sj, Gene Keyes, John Klein, Phoebe Knopf, Sam Koplinka-Loehr, Loren Kramer, Denise Laffan, Randee Laikind, Scott Langley, Henry Lappen, Linda Leaks, Steve Leeds, Mary Link, Paul Magno, Jonathon Marley, Stephen Matchett, Elizabeth McAlister, Bonner McAllester, John McIntire, Stan McCumber, Karl Meyer, Mike Miles, Rick Mihm, Mary Moody, Anne Moore, Markley Morris, Michele Naar-Obed, Hattie Nestel, Bill Ofenloch, Steve Olschewsky, Patrick O'Neill, Lorin Peters, Mary Jo Pfander, Ruby Phillips, Becky Pierce, Ardeth Platte, Sr. Helen Prejean, Susan N. Quinlan, Robert Randall, Jason Rawn, redmoonsong, Mary Regan, Robert Riversong, Lawrence Rosenwald, Vicki Rovere, Bill Ruhaak, Nelia Sargent, Claire & Scott Schaeffer-Duffy, Jim Schlecht, Ginny Schneider, Don Schrader, Ralph Schwartz, Janice Sevre-Duszyńska, Brayton Shanley, Cindy Sheehan, Joanne Sheehan, Patrick Sheehan-Gaumer, Mary Lynn Sheetz, Daniel Sicken, Alonzo Smith, Joel Preston Smith, Stephen Soucy, William Spademan, Kara Speltz, Mary Sprunger-Froese, Jessica Stewart, Jim Stockwell, Finian D. Taylor, Brian Terrell, Don Timmerman, Patricia Tompkins, Joan Wages, Denise Ward, Paki Wieland, Kim Williams, Thomas A. Wilson DDS, Steve Woolford, Jenny Wright, Lenore Yarger.

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: dhsicken@yahoo.com. Thank you, Kathy Kelly, Kathy Boylan, Daniel Sicken.



photo by Ed Hedemann

Witness Against Torture Marks 15 Years of Guantanamo Prison

Wide arcades overlook 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 as senators were hearing testimony from President-elect Trump’s picks for Attorney General and Secretary of State. The hearings were interrupted repeatedly by WAT activists and others voicing many allied objections to the nominees, leading to 26 arrests including three from WAT.

WAT activists arrested that day, cited and later released, were Chantal de Alcuaz, Jerica

Arents, Beth Brockman, Don Cuning, Erica Ewing, Ellen Graves, Martha Hennessy, Sherrill Hogan, Kathy Kelly, Joanne Lingle, Joan Pleune, Manijeh Saba, Helen Schietinger, Eve Tetaz, 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.



Witness Against Torture photo

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

PELTIER DENIED FREEDOM

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

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

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



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

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

Thanks

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

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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

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

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

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

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

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

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

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 in California, 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 peacemakers 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 incinerated 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 revive 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 the raid are horrendous.

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

continued on page 4



photo Ellen Grady

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

Imagining Herod’s Drones

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-foot 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.”

John Amidon, Ed Kinane, Jules Orkin and Bev Rice were arrested and charged with obstruction of government administration, trespass and two counts each of disorderly conduct. They were cited and released.

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.

For more information, visit upstatedroneaction.org/wp.



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

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 to be convicted of espionage and treason, and sentenced to 18 years in prison. Since completing the full term in April 2004, Vanunu has remained under the subjection of numerous restrictions on his movement, speech and association, been arrested and detained numerous times for violations, and even served additional short jail terms.

This time, he was charged over an unauthorized meeting with two foreigners, Americans, in 2012; for moving to a different apartment in the same building without notifying authorities; and for what he said about Israel’s nuclear weapons program during his first interview with Israeli television.

The court’s mid-January decision was disclosed on January 23. Vanunu is guilty of meeting with foreigners, but was acquitted on the other two charges. Sentencing is expected in March.

On January 30, Vanunu was again before Israel’s Supreme Court, appealing all of the restrictions and asking a panel of the jurists to intervene and allow him to leave the country and join his wife, theologian Kristin Joachimsen, whom he married in 2015, in Norway. Their decision is also expected soon.

For more information, visit vanunu.com and Vanunu’s Facebook page at facebook.com/vanunumordechai.

Inside & Out



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)

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Chelsea E. Manning 89289
1300 North Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-2304.
(original 35-year sentence commuted by President Obama, out 5/17/2017)
(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 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

Daniel Berrigan Honored at Pentagon Action

On December 27 and 28, over 50 people from the Atlantic and Southern Life communities, and other peacemaking friends, gathered for an annual retreat at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, capped by nonviolent witness at the Pentagon to commemorate the Massacre of the Holy Innocents – past and present.

Art Laffin writes:

This year we honored in a special way, our friend and mentor Dan Berrigan, SJ, who died on April 30, 2016. After reflection, liturgy and action planning on December 27, the community gathered shortly before sunrise on December 28 at Army-Navy Drive. While singing “Silent Night”, they processed to the Pentagon’s southeast entrance with signs about the plight of children, banners, and photos, cut-outs and quotes of Dan Berrigan.

Remarkably, there was not the usual squadron of Pentagon police waiting for us to arrive. In fact, there were only several police who were visible much farther away at the checkpoint. As members of the community made their way into 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.



photo by Lin Romano

Outside an employee entrance to the Pentagon on December 28, 2016, blockaders hold a banner quoting the Rev. Daniel Berrigan and a large cardboard cut-out of the late peacemaker and Jesuit priest.

STOP URBAN SHIELD

Last September 9, over 500 people from across 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 arms and 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 the theme “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 infiltration of military tools, training, tactics and strategy into local policing. This is seen in the escalating 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 blocked the entry gates.

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. At a November court appearance, their cases were all continued for one year, pending possible dismissal.

For more information, visit stopurbanshield.org.

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 were charged with having “unreasonably obstructed” the road into last September’s christening of the USS Zumwalt naval destroyer.

The case focused on the reasonableness of their brief sit-in, and the prosecutor objected to any testimony about political motives as reasonable grounds for an anti-war protest at the event. Superior Court Judge Billings countered the prosecutor’s objection to such testimony with the question, “Isn’t it relative evidence why somebody did what they did?”

Each defendant was allowed to testify “within reason” about how they came to take part. All but one were old enough to have been involved in anti-war protests in the Vietnam era.

Richard Letham, 84, told the jury, “My sincere intent was not to block anything but to open a doorway for my country to regain its equilibrium and sanity.”

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.

PEACE CHAIN CONNECTS ISSUES

Friends of the Peace Abbey in Sherborn, Massachusetts engaged in an orchestrated act of civil disobedience on Inauguration Day, January 20.

The eclectic Peace Abbey Foundation creates and installs public works of art that promote peace and nonviolence. The Foundation also supports the Life Experience School, which provides “individuals with learning challenges, complicated by neurological disorders, epilepsy, and/or developmental disabilities with unique opportunities to be actively involved in the community.”

For the Inauguration Day protest, a dozen activists held a large steel Peace Chain between them as they were joined by supporters in front of the bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi on Sherborn’s Main Street.

Each read out a particular grievance, together delivering a clarion call of conscience to resist, from day one, all attempts by Donald Trump to: undermine democratic institutions; ignore the threat of climate change; further unleash racism, sexism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and hate; destabilize global alliances; and create conditions for armed conflict and the use of nuclear weapons.

Those holding the chain then began to move onto Main Street and, when four in the group persisted despite being warned by waiting police, they were arrested.

Environmentalist William Holcombe, disability rights advocates Maureen Gaynor and Courtland Woods, and Peace Abbey founder Lewis Randa were all arrested, taken into custody and charged with disturbing the peace. Gaynor, who lives in Rhode Island, was fined and released. At their arraignment later that day, Holcombe, Randa and Woods pleaded not guilty. At a pre-trial hearing on March 6, their charges were dismissed.

For more information, visit peaceabbey.org.

IVAW Vets Arrested in McCain’s Office

Ten military veterans visited the Washington, D.C. office of Senator John McCain on January 19, as the Senate considered Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State. They stood in formation to request that the former prisoner of war meet with them, veteran-to-veteran, to hear why they believe Tillerson is unfit for the job and McCain should vote against his nomination.

Although he was in the building, McCain refused to meet with the group. Capitol police were eventually called and the vets were ordered to leave the office. Seven veterans, six of them members of Iraq Veterans Against the War and one an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, 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 this has been an industry 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 a vote for endless war, for endless militarization, and for global climate chaos,” she said.

Her video also records one of the women arrestees recalling that, “I have been in wars that didn’t make any sense unless you were making money from oil profits.”

Beale, cont.

continued from page 3

minds of people in my country who accept and perpetuate these atrocities. War is not the answer. God help us all.

The next morning, the drone warfare opponents blocked traffic at Beale’s main gate for over 30 minutes during the early morning commute.

The activists spanned the entrance, holding life-sized cardboard cut-outs of the 15 men killed during a September 27, 2016 U.S. drone strike in eastern Afghanistan. As traffic backed up behind the blockade, activists read the name, age and occupation of each of the 15 Afghan civilian men who were killed that night while sleeping in their beds in Achin district, Afghanistan.

After reciting the victims’ names, Flora Rogers, Mike Rufo, Pamela Osgood and Toby Blomé entered the base to deliver a letter of protest to the commander. They were arrested for federal trespass, cited and released.

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

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

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, established over two decades ago what was billed as a research lab for nuclear waste disposal outside the farming village of Bure. What resistance there was at the time was overwhelmed by the legal and financial resources of a deeply nuclear nation. Opponents recognized the research lab as simply a foot in the door for the final dump, as history has shown.

Faced with the fact, they joined together to purchase an old farmhouse in the village in the early 2000s, slowly transforming it into a community center for education and action against the nuclear industry's burial plan.

Last summer, after a back-room deal with local politicians, ANDRA began clearing a section of the nearby Lejuc woods, in preparation for drilling to expand 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

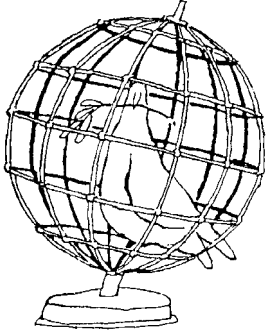
barricades around their site to keep demonstrators out. But they'd moved too soon, legally, and a court overturned the land deal, demanding that clearing cease and the area be replanted.

With ANDRA gone, demonstrators toppled the barricades, breaking some. A community of resisters remained camped in the woods through 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 culminated February 18 with a spirited march 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 pick up a piece 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 “eco-library”. Nearing the complex, marchers found the road blocked by police in riot gear, with even more riot police poised for battle just behind a tall security fence.

Energized demonstrators 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 demonstration, their line stretching thin. The percussion cacophony crescendoed, and a few threw their concrete rocks at the riot police, who responded by firing tear gas and flash-bang grenades. A few dozen militants got 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 French nuclear 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 overturned permit to clear the woods was rejected, and the environmental authority suspended ANDRA's application. It must now be refiled under stricter rules requiring an impact study, which has never been done. The next day, an administrative court overturned the back-room deal that had set up the land grab to begin with.

The setbacks for ANDRA mean the “owls” and their supporters can consolidate the occupation and local support while preparing for the next confrontation in the courts and in the woods.

For more information visit www.vmc.camp (in French).

Menwith Hill, England

The quest of Lindis Percy and the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) she co-founded in 1992 is not over. Despite what seemed 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 tell me to do I will not take any notice – their credibility as a professional police force has been greatly undermined over the years – culminating in the fiasco of last year and this afternoon. There have been many, many examples.

I had been there for about 10 minutes, up by the safe place agreed by NYP [North Yorkshire Police] and the MDP and which worked well over two plus years.

I was told ... that I had to get back over the “yellow line.” (We have challenged this in court quite a few times – twice two different District Judges have said it is a “grey area” and acquitted. Indeed it is. I researched 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 them since.

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 (a total waste of NYP time – the MDP always used to take me down to Harrogate themselves).

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

continued on page 7

Statement of support from Asodedra, 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 first years to the long-term resistance that has anchored around Bure, where a hypocrite “research laboratory” has been set up.

For 23 years in Bure, we have been met with contempt by public authorities who refuse 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 malleable people by organizing pseudo public debates 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 nuclear mega-bin, to spread its propaganda into schools and to grab thousands of hectares of our land ...

Faced with years of this unworthy treatment of a democracy, it is inevitable that the anger ends up expressing itself outside the spaces tolerated by the authorities and with other than a flower between the teeth.

This Saturday, February 18, after a joyous and festive event where all the generations were gathered in support of the occupation of the forest and in reaction to the construction of the wall of shame in Wood Lejuc, the popular anger has prevailed. And, faced with a police operation once again impressive, even disproportionate, it is 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 the environment.” Unique in France, 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 authorities because they are 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*

February 13, 2017

by Chelsea Manning
(originally published in *the Guardian*)

To those who have kept me alive for the past six years: minutes after President Obama announced the commutation of my sentence, the prison quickly moved me out of general population and into the restrictive housing unit where I am now held. I know that we are now physically separated, but we will never be apart and we are not alone. Recently, one of you asked me “Will you remember me?” I will remember you. How could I possibly forget? You taught me lessons I would have never learned otherwise.

When I was afraid, you taught me how to keep going. When I was lost, you showed me the way. When I was numb, 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 be compassionate. When I was distant, 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, and you would remind me.

We were friends in a way few will ever understand. There was no room to be superficial. Instead, we bared 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 a family. We were always united.

When the prison tried to break one of us, we all stood up. We looked out for each other. 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 when to pick my battles. I grew up and grew connected because of the community you provided.

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 the trauma of my regular haircuts. 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. Who wished me a Happy Birthday. We shared the 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 still 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, with dreams, desires and connections. 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. And to anyone who finds themselves feeling alone behind bars, know that there is a network of us who are thinking of you. You will never be forgotten.

[Before her sentence was commuted, Chelsea Manning was serving a 35-year sentence for revealing war crimes and other information to the public. She will be released from military prison on May 17.]

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Brisbane, Australia

Brisbane-area Catholic Workers and friends visited the Australian city's historic Toowong cemetery on Ash Wednesday afternoon, March 1. At 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 could not not remove it," 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 Christianity, his followers largely obeyed these words and refused to kill their enemies. With the conversion of Emperor Constantine all this changed, and ever since Christians have blessed countless wars, and even lead their own...

We come here today to repent all wars blessed by the Christian churches. We come to remove the sword from the cross on which our savior was crucified. We come to beat it into a "ploughshare,"



Brisbane Catholic Worker Jim Dowling removes the sword from the cross on the Toowong Cemetery War Memorial, March 2, 2017.

in this case a garden hoe. The ploughshare is a symbol of life. The sword is a symbol of death. We choose life.

We willingly accept any consequences of this call to repentance, as we remove and convert the blasphemous sword from the cross. We pray that other Christians will join us in recognizing our past and present sin in bearing the sword while worshipping the nonviolent Jesus.

We pray for a time to come when all Christians will refuse to kill their brothers and sisters in war.

Following the conversion of the sword, a priest celebrated mass with the men and their supporters gathered around the memorial.

Dowling and Webb were arrested and charged with willful damage, as was witness Andy Paine. They were released with a March 16 court date.

For more information, email Jim Dowling at penangke_j@bigpond.com.

Jeju, South Korea

Although the Korean navy base on Jeju, the Peace Island, is now open, the community of resistance in Gangjeong Village continues public protest while networking with others in Okinawa, Taiwan and elsewhere who are opposing military expansion in the region. At home, new friction with the military has developed, as reported recently in their newsletter, Gangeong Village Story.

Grace writes:

Gangjeong community welcomed the last month of 2016, anticipating the usual busy schedules preparing for the end of the year. What they hadn't expected were the consecutive arrests of community members. On December 5, one of the activists, M, was arrested and taken by force to Jeju Eastern Police Station from the naval base gate, while he was preparing for the daily protest. The arrest was on the charges of defying the police summons for investigation, as the police had accused him for the crime of insult over a verbal dispute in March.

A well-known villager, Kim Miryang, was arrested at her work place on December 13 on the same charges that she hadn't responded to the summons. In November, she and the naval base guard quarreled over the issue of installing flags near the naval base, which escalated into a legal dispute. In both cases they weren't let out from jail for 48 hours, as they used the right of silence. These arrests were quite shocking for the community, for one could never get familiar with such a situation, but also because of the severity of the arrests over such minor charges. It was evident once again that the community is still a target for constant abuse by the police authority.

A recent Supreme Court decision in a case involving Mayor Cho Kyung-chul's part in a 2015 sit-in to stop construction of military housing in the village reduced his sentence. In its ruling, the court acknowledged that he "did not directly exercise material power, that it is difficult to consider his deed as pursuing of private interests, and that there are points to be taken into account in the motives of resistance claimed by the protesters."

For more information, visit the blog at savejejunow.org.

Paris, France

Greenpeace/France commissioned a recent study that accused French energy giant EDF of economic and technical bankruptcy. Its deep investment in nuclear power is the culprit. New reactors it has partnered to build are behind schedule and reactor pressure vessels have been installed with substandard steel, adding huge costs to already over-budget projects and risking future catastrophe.

In one week in mid-December, EDF cut its estimate of profit for 2017 and the national financial prosecutor opened an investigation into trading offenses described by Greenpeace.

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

Just after 6 a.m. on December 14, 30 activists from across France, plus Germany and Belgium, unloaded gear from three big trucks in front of the building. A large aluminum structure on wheels, with the word "BANKRUPT-CY" 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 "\$74B in debts with nuclear energy and it is not over." 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 can keep running safely and profitably 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 Sinks", staging a sit-in in the lobby and again blocking doors. EDF and police were not 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 corrupted by anomalies. An unnecessary risk that the CEO of EDF, Jean-Bernard Lévy, puts on the country. We will come back as many times as necessary to ask EDF to come 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, onto 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 damages caused by the chalk-and-water paint they used to paint "EDF is sinking" on the windows. Trial is currently set for March 23.

For more information, visit www.greenpeace.fr.

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 the missile was ordered to self-destruct.

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 7 a.m., behind a banner reading "Off Target! You can't cover up a nuclear disaster – Disarm – Resist." Three sat down in the road, causing a backup of hundreds of cars. Police were soon on 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 redirected 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, contact faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com.

Warton, England

Early on the morning of January 29, Reverend Daniel Woodhouse, a Methodist minister in Leeds, and Quaker activist Sam Walton entered BAE Systems' Warton site intending to disarm warplanes bound for Saudi Arabia.

In a statement they carried with them, the two men wrote that, "We take this action in order to prevent the export of weaponry that will almost certainly be used in war-crimes." The fighter jets were due to be shipped from the base in the next few weeks. A Saudi-led coalition has been carrying out devastating airstrikes in Yemen since 2015, and international human rights organizations have condemned the bombings, with widespread allegations of war crimes.

Both were arrested and held overnight "on suspicion of criminal damage" in Blackpool.

After being released on bail, Woodhouse and Walton said: "BAE security found us just meters from war planes bound for Saudi Arabia. We're gutted that we couldn't disarm a plane and stop it being used to carry out airstrikes in Yemen. We could have saved lives by preventing Saudi war crimes in Yemen.

"The U.K. government has blood on its hands and we need to do everything we can to stop the transfer of weapons and show these sales are illegitimate. By providing weapons and support Britain is deeply complicit in Saudi war-crimes, and it's vital that we bring an end to this immoral, abhorrent trade."

The men return to court on April 27.

Andrea Needham writes:

On 29 January 1996, I was one of a group of women who disarmed a Hawk warplane at BAE's Warton factory in Lancashire. The plane was destined for Indonesia, where it would be used in the ongoing occupation and genocide in East Timor.

Exactly 21 years later, and now in the era of social media, I was idly perusing Facebook on a Sunday morning when I saw that two men had broken into the very same factory, with the intention of disarming warplanes being sold by BAE to Saudi Arabia, for use in their crimes against humanity in Yemen.

What wonderful news to wake up to! And how uncannily similar a situation to the one we faced in 1996: British government sells weapons to despotic regime, dismissing evidence they're being used against civilians; campaigners do everything in their power to stop the sales, but the government and the weapons manufacturer insist the sales must continue; activists break into the factory and attempt to disarm the weapons themselves.

The 1996 disarmament action of Needham and three other women – the Seeds of Hope East Timor Ploughshares – was eventually deemed lawful by a jury.

For more information, visit the Campaign Against the Arms Trade at caat.org.uk.

Okinawa, Japan

compiled from Amnesty International and media reports

Japan has jailed three activists in the opposition to the expansion of U.S. military bases in Okinawa, and concern is particularly focused on the situation of 64-year-old Hiroji Yamashiro, acknowledged as the leader against expansion of the Futenma marine air station into Oura Bay, Henoko, plus new landing bases for the Osprey tiltrotor aircraft inside a forest preserve in Takae.

He has been held in solitary confinement since his arrest on October 17, and only his lawyer is permitted to visit. Yamashiro was hospitalized for malignant lymphoma in 2015, and medical tests at the end of December showed a decline in his health.

Yamashiro was first charged with allegedly cutting a wire fence around a construction site near Takae. Three days after his arrest, an additional charge was brought against him for obstructing and assaulting an Okinawa defense bureau officer at the protests. On November 29, more than a month later, a third charge was then brought against Yamashiro for laying blocks and forcibly obstructing site construction in late January 2016, effectively extending his pre-trial detention further.

Japanese criminal law experts issued a statement on December 28, 2016, calling for his urgent release, claiming that his current detention lacks justifiable grounds and was therefore unconstitutional. All requests for bail have been repeatedly denied and on February 20, the Japanese Supreme Court upheld his continued detention without bail on the pretext he might destroy evidence already in the state’s custody.



Yamashiro cannot receive mail in jail. Amnesty International has called for supporters to please write to the following officials in their own language urging authorities to immediately release Hiroji Yamashiro; to ensure that, pending his release, Hiroji Yamashiro is provided with adequate medical care and has effective access to his family without delay; and to comply with their international obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, as well as the rights of people in detention.

Write to Prosecutor General Katsuyuki Nishikawa, The Supreme Public Prosecutors Office 1-1-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan; and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, 1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 - 8968, 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 convoy laden 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 this 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 bank robbery 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 don’t defend Trident against me. Please defend me and humanity against Trident.”

But Justice of the Peace Nicholson sidestepped the 78-year-old campaigner’s argument based in Scottish law. Instead, Nicholson found him not guilty because his actions had not caused fear and alarm. “...[A] breach of the peace ... must cause a reasonable person to be in a state of fear or alarm, not simply irritation,” he determined, and found Quail not guilty.

Quail faced the same charge in another court on March 13, this time for blocking a nuclear weapons convoy last September in Sterling. After a three hour trial, Judge Bromby found him guilty, concluding that, “lying under any vehicle on a public road ... would cause a reasonable person fear and alarm.” He also found no basis for Quail’s claim of necessity because Crown witnesses had not testified that the convoy contained weapons of mass destruction. Quail was fined £200 and he immediately refused to pay.

“I won’t pay any fine imposed by any court that implies that Trident is legitimate or legal,” he told the press. “Trident is the worst thing in the world. The epitome of Evil. I do infinitesimally small things against it, because that is all I can do. But consent by silence I cannot give.”

For more information, visit banthebomb.org.

FUTURE ACTIONS

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

sacred peace walk

The 2017 Sacred Peace Walk, hosted by the Nevada Desert Experience, leaves Las Vegas on Friday, April 7, concluding at the Nevada Test Site on Thursday, April 13, with an opportunity for line-crossing. The Walk will also focus on the threats of nuclear waste to the sacred Yucca Mountain. Outdoor camping and four walking days totaling about 60 miles are planned, but other accommodations can be made with advance notice. Cost per walker for meals, porta-potties and support transportation are about \$200 per walker, so contributions towards this expense are appreciated from participants and sponsors. For more information and registration materials, visit nevadadesertexperience.org or call 702-646-4814.

creech air force base

Join CodePink, Nevada Desert Experience, Veterans for Peace, Voices for Creative Nonviolence and more on April 23-29, 2017 for the 3rd Annual SHUT DOWN CREECH National Mobilization to Resist Militarized Drones and Perpetual Wars. Preparations for nonviolent direct action will take place on Monday and Tuesday, April 24 & 25, to prepare for the action planned on Wednesday, April 26. Monday morning arrival is highly encouraged so that those risking arrest and all support people are well prepared. Local affinity groups are encouraged to consider and/or plan other forms of nonviolent resistance before arrival. Details and registration at shutdowncreech.blogspot.com, or contact Toby Blomé of Bay Area CODEPINK, ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net, 510-215-5974 or Brian Terrell of VCNV, brian@vcnv.org, 773-853-1886.

lockheed-martin

Brandywine Peace Community will hold their annual Good Friday Stations of Justice and Peace, including nonviolent resistance, beginning at noon on April 14 at Lockheed Martin, Mall and Goddard Boulevards in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. For more information, contact Brandywine Peace Community at 610-544-1818 or brandywine@juno.com.

büchel air force base

Nuclear abolitionists in Germany are organizing for 20 weeks of nonviolent resistance actions at Büchel air force base from 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.

Menwith Hill, cont.

continued from page 5

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 law is woefully lacking. They are clearly starting all over again and will try anything.

For more information, visit caab.org.uk.

Update Files, cont.

continued from page 8

the primary right of passing and repassing the highway.” He sentenced them each to a conditional discharge of 6 months, with costs of £100 and surcharge of £20 (£120 total). In a joint statement, the defendants declared: “We stand by what we said in court – Trident is an illegal and immoral waste of money, a crime against humanity and God. The prosecution said we could just have joined in a prayer vigil to the side of the road, instead of lying in it; we said our consciences wouldn’t allow that. We believe prayer is important but sometimes our faith compels us to put our whole bodies in the way of injustice and violence. The Bible says religious acts are meaningless unless we also stand up for the poor and needy; we are called to bring a just peace with hope for all. We will continue to seek peace, and to take the consequences of doing so. It’s a small price to pay for the chance to challenge an evil like nuclear weapons.”...

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. For more information call 315-308-0048. Action details TBA at upstatedroneaction.org.

brussels, belgium

The international No to NATO - No to War network is organizing a counter-summit to the planned NATO summit on May 24-25, in Brussels, Belgium. Recognizing that this will be among the most important meetings of NATO leaders in the military alliance’s history, following the Brexit vote and a new U.S. administration, a major international demonstration is also being planned, alongside acts of civil disobedience opposing NATO. For more information, visit no-to-nato.org.

coulport, scotland

As the Nuclear Ban Treaty Conference at the United Nations adjourns, Trident Ploughshares will host the Coulport Disarmament Camp, July 8-16, 2017, for the peaceful disruption of the United Kingdom’s Trident nuclear weapons arsenal in Scotland. Everyone who opposes Trident and its grim replacement is invited for ten days of camping, plotting and taking nonviolent direct action ... the possibilities are enormous. All welcome for as little or as long as you can stay. Bring friends, make friends, and enjoy camping in an ancient oak woodland adjacent to MOD Coulport, where the nuclear weapons are stored in sinister bunkers deep inside the hillside by one of the most beautiful lochs in Scotland. For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

...Coordinated protest of military training at Catholic Universities is the goal of alumni and others at four of the 17 Jesuit Catholic Universities across the United States that host ROTC, NROTC and/or AFROTC on campus. Join with others to coordinate nonviolent actions in Christian opposition to this curriculum of war and killing without conscience. For more information, including a list of the Jesuit Catholic universities, or to join in country-wide action, please contact Bobsyouruncle@sbcglobal.net.

...An International Anti-nuclear Summer Camp will be held in Döbeln, Germany, from July 17-23, 2017. European activists are organizing a family-friendly gathering for activists and organizers to strengthen networks, share knowledge and experience, discuss strategy, and engage in public nonviolent action. For more information, visit www.nuclear-heritage.net, or email summercamp@nuclear-heritage.net.

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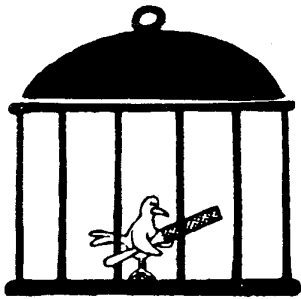
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Update Files



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 vigiled 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-Aali 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 group charged under the Act, and a date for trial by jury has not yet been set. In 2005, four people who also entered Pine Gap to protest its vital war-making function and violation of Australian sovereignty were convicted under the Act but acquitted on appeal...

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE: In Santa Barbara on February 16, David Omondi was convicted of trespass at the California missile base last August. A federal judge holds court monthly in Santa Barbara, and Omondi will return on May 18 for sentencing. Co-defendant Jedediah Poole recently served a 30-day sentence for the same protest. Fellow Los Angeles Catholic Worker Karan Benton was in the same court on January 19, pleading not guilty to violating a ban and bar letter by her mere presence at the Hiroshima Day demonstration where Omondi and Poole were arrested. After learning that Benton is battling cancer, Judge Louise LeMonthe dismissed the charge and will remove it from her record when Benton’s doctor verifies her diagnosis...

BOSTON: Three Cape Downwinders were surprised when an assistant district attorney spoke with them before their arraignment. He’d read about their work to educate the public and push policymakers to shut down the aging Pilgrim nuclear power plant and was supportive of their many efforts. When their case for sitting in at the Governor’s office was called, they entered a plea of “responsible.” On the matter of sentencing, the prosecutor spoke to the judge as a defense attorney might, arguing successfully that Mary Conathan, Doug Long and Diane Turco deserved neither fines nor probation...

SHANNON, IRELAND: Colm 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. Gardai [police] at Shannon have, over the years, failed in their duty to investigate torture and complicity in war crimes and systematically dismissed scores of formal requests to search 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 and legally obliged to do what the Gardai 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...

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND: Fifteen people were on trial together in mid-February, arrested for trespass at various blockades of a major weapons expo in 2015. The foundation for much of the prosecution’s case began to crumble when the owner of the venue admitted that there is a public easement around the TSB Arena, meaning that the protests were not on private land. That meant nine charges had to be immediately dismissed. Later in the week, other charges were dismissed when video evidence contradicted police testimony, or police testimony was deemed unreliable. Finally only Laura Drew remained in the dock, one of three people who had chained themselves to a door in the carpark beneath the arena. Judge Mill referenced High Court precedent about warnings, and he found her not guilty. “While I find it reasonable and lawful for the police to cut [her] free and then require [her] to leave, and arrest if they did not do so within a reasonable time, the evidence is that this did not occur,” he said. “While it could be inferred she had no intention to leave, there was no warning or opportunity to do so. The evidence therefore does not satisfy me there was a warning and the charge is not proved and [is] therefore dismissed.”...

BURGHFIELD: Two groups arrested during the No Faith in Trident blockades of the British nuclear weapons factory last June had different recent outcomes in court. Five members of the Quaker group had their case thrown out mid-trial in December when the judge determined the prosecution had not proven the resistance action amounted to aggravated trespass. It was necessary to prove that the senior police officer on hand had a reasonable belief that the trespass was of an aggravated nature. However, the officer in question testified that he was only following orders from a more senior officer who was not on the scene, and so had not formed the reasonable belief on his own, as the statute requires. In January, five members of the Put Down the Sword group, all in their 30s, testified in Reading Magistrates Court that their die-in was not “willful obstruction of the highway,” but a manifestation of their religious belief, protected under articles of the European Convention on Human Rights concerning religion, expression and assembly. District Judge Khan expressed admiration for the defendants and their “compelling evidence,” including an Oxford lecturer who addressed the importance of resisting nuclear arms to Christians of all stripes, from pacifists to Just War believers. But Khan did not agree and, in any case, “these rights have to yield to

continued on page 7

the Nuclear

Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

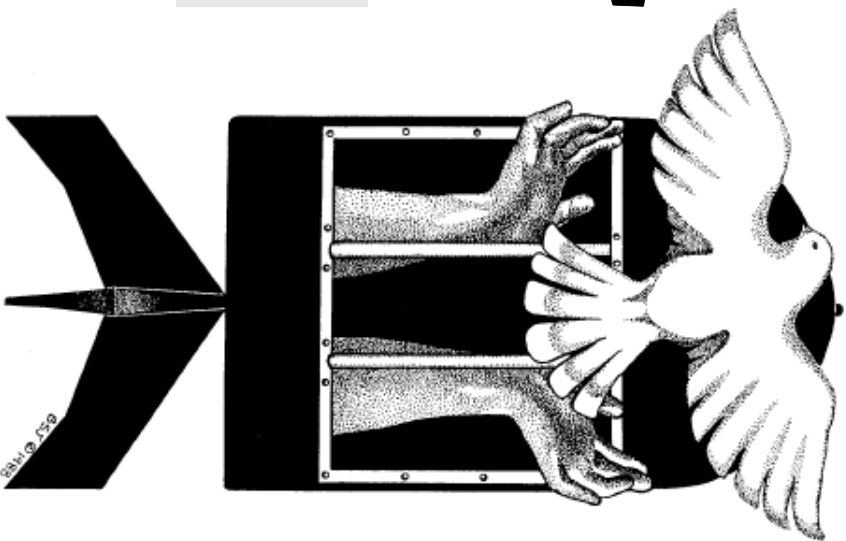
Thirteen Arrests at
Trident Nuclear Sub Base

New York Jury Acquits
Drone Resisters

Chelsea Manning to be
Free in May

Vanunu
Convicted Again

Leonard Peltier
Denied Freedom



#184 March 14, 2017

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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