

# the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 185

June 8, 2017

## Good Friday Rituals of Resistance



photo by Ellen Grady

Drone warfare resisters in New York depict the modern cruxifixion represented by drone warfare at a Good Friday, 2017 blockade of Hancock Field near Syracuse.

## Hancock Field

On Good Friday morning, April 14, a rented truck stopped just outside the gate of Hancock Field, an Air National Guard Base located on the backside of the city-owned Syracuse Hancock International Airport. The National Guard's 174th Attack Wing conducts lethal drone missions overseas while also training mechanics and operators on MQ-9 Reaper drones that practice take-off and landing every day alongside the commercial air traffic.

Members of the Upstate New York Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars quickly unloaded another set of the large props that have come to characterize the theatrical tableaux the group creates for protest blockades.

For this day, three 10' tall Reaper drone replicas were mounted upright on plywood bases, resembling the three crosses on Calvary. Three people in orange jumpsuits, representing victims of U.S. drone strikes in seven majority Muslim countries, stood with their heads covered in black hoods, their arms stretched out and hanging from the wings of the drone as if crucified. Eleven others carried smaller drone crosses bearing the words, "Drones crucify..." and one of the litany of victims: Children, Families, Love, Peace, Community, the U.S. Constitution, the U.N. Charter, the Rule of Law, U.S. Treaties, Due Process and Diplomacy.

As the activists set this stage, military police brought out signs directing traffic to another gate. A "War Crimes Indictment" was delivered to the guardhouse, and supporters used a megaphone to speak about the action to the guard members and law enforcement who were soon on the scene.

After about an hour, police moved in and arrested nine people: John Amidon, Mark Colville, Brian Hynes, Tom Joyce, Ed Kinane, Ray McGovern, Joan Pleune, James Ricks and Jessica Stewart.

All were taken to a nearby sheriff's station where they were charged with trespass and disorderly conduct.

As they sat in their cells waiting for release, one of the officers told them that they should be fishing or at the beach. James Ricks replied that it wasn't their intention to be in his jail cell, but that there were mitigating circumstances. Another officer then told the first, "He's in there because he has a conscience, and you would be fishing because you don't!"

The defendants have their first court appearance on July 13.

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

From their Action Statement:

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. Recognizing that 70% of our nation identify as Christian, we come to the gates of the Hancock

drone base to make real the crucifixion today. As Jesus and others were crucified by the Roman Empire, drones are used by the U.S. Empire. In Roman times, crosses loomed over a community to warn people that they could be killed whenever the Empire decided. So, too, our drones fly over many countries threatening extrajudicial killings of whoever happens to be in the vicinity.

On this Good Friday, we recall Jesus' call to love and nonviolence. We're asking this base and this nation to turn away from a policy of modern-day crucifixion. Let's embrace Jesus' call to build the Kingdom of God on Earth instead of killing suspected enemies and innocents, including children. In the process, we are also crucifying Children, Families, Love, Peace, Community, Diplomacy, Rule of Law, U.S. Constitution, U.N. Charter, U.S. Treaties and Due Process.

What if our country were constantly being spied upon by drones, with some of us killed by drones? What if many bystanders, including children, were killed in the process? If that were happening, we would hope that some people in that attacking country would speak up and try to stop the killing. We're speaking up to try and stop the illegal and immoral drone attacks on countries against which Congress has not declared war.

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

## Nevada

The Good Friday line crossing at the Nevada nuclear test site was the second such protest there during Holy Week. The Las Vegas Catholic Worker marked the Nuclear Stations of the Cross outside the historic Mercury gate, prelude to a line crossing and the arrest of seven people. The four women and three men were briefly held in custody, then released with a citation for trespass and no court date.

Just the day before, April 13 and Maundy Thursday, the three dozen or so participants in the 2017 Sacred Peace Walk ended their pilgrimage with rituals of foot-washing and line-crossing at the Mercury gate. Nye County sheriff's deputies arrested 16 people for trespass. The nine women and seven men were soon cited and released from the large holding pens next to the road.

The Sacred Peace Walk was the 23rd annual spring pilgrimage from Las Vegas to the remote desert ground zero. Along the way, the walkers demonstrated at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs on Tuesday morning, April 11. Some of them began a die-in, blocking the entry road to the drone warfare center with their supine bodies placed together in the shape of a cross. Others talked to the workers who were stopped in their cars and trucks as traffic backed up.

When police finally arrived on the scene, the  
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## FREEDOM FOR CHELSEA MANNING

Chelsea Manning walked out of the U.S. military prison at Leavenworth, Kansas before dawn on May 17. Back online, she posted photos of her sneakers as she left the prison, her first pizza, and a champagne toast to celebrate her freedom.

The 35-year sentence for the whistleblowing army intelligence analyst was commuted by President Obama in January, and her freedom came just short of seven years following her arrest.

Out of prison, Manning is "statutorily entitled to medical care while on excess leave in an active duty status," while her court martial conviction is on appeal, according to an Army spokesperson. She is now living in Maryland.

Shortly before her release, Manning wrote:

For the first time, I can see a future for myself as Chelsea. I can imagine surviving and living as the person who I am and can finally be in the outside world. Freedom used to be something that I dreamed of but never allowed myself to fully imagine. Now, freedom is something that I will again experience with friends and loved ones after nearly seven years of bars and cement, of periods of solitary confinement, and of my health care and autonomy restricted, including through routinely forced haircuts. I am forever grateful to the people who kept me alive, President Obama, my legal team and countless supporters.

I watched the world change from inside prison walls and through the letters that I have received from veterans, trans young people, parents, politicians and artists," she continued. "My spirits were lifted in dark times, reading of their support, sharing in their triumphs, and helping them through challenges of their own. I hope to take the lessons that I have learned, the love that I have been given, and the hope that I have to work toward making life better for others.

While not a pacifist, Manning acted on her belief that war is a bad idea and should be avoided – and if it can't be avoided, it should be thoroughly discussed and debated openly, and, for her country, declared by Congress. The videos, war logs and State Department memos she brought to the public light changed the debate if not the tragedy of recent U.S. wars.

She will be interviewed in June by JuJu Chang of ABC television for a special edition of *Nightline*.

Contributions are still being accepted to her Welcome Home fund at [gofundme.com/welcomehomechelsea](http://gofundme.com/welcomehomechelsea).

Follow Manning on [twitter.com/ychelsea](https://twitter.com/ychelsea) and Instagram at [@ychelsea87](https://www.instagram.com/ychelsea87).

## Missile Attack on Syria Sparks Protest & Arrests

Widespread anti-war protests were reported the day after President Trump ordered a fusillade of Tomahawk cruise missiles into action against an air base in Syria.

### NEW YORK CITY

On Friday night, April 7, hundreds of people joined a march down New York City's Fifth Avenue from Trump Tower through Times Square on to Union Square, where an anti-war demonstration was already underway. The growing demonstration brought traffic to a standstill in the area.

After the Union Square rally, marchers headed back uptown. Police intervened to stop the return to Trump Tower near Fifth Avenue and 25th Street, and arrested nine people for obstructing pedestrian traffic.

### JACKSONVILLE

A protest that same afternoon in a park in Jacksonville,  
*continued on page 5*

# Resistance Reflections

## Nuclear Resister Betsy Lamb in jail... for how long?

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa, editors

The Nuclear Resister newsletter’s print deadlines are not always well-timed when it comes to prisoner support. With three months between issues, people can spend a couple of months in prison and we might not have the opportunity to include their name and prison address on page 3 (Inside & Out) and encourage people to write them a note of support.

That was the case with German anti-nuclear activist Hanna Poddig (see page 7, Germany/Gronau), who entered prison in early May and was released shortly before this issue went to press. We are glad that we are able to quickly inform readers about jailed activists via the Nuclear Resister’s website (nukeresister.org), Facebook and Twitter, our social media supplements to the comprehensive print edition of the Nuclear Resister!

On June 7, while we were wrapping up this issue of the newsletter, six Pacific Life Community (PLC) activists

appeared for their arraignment in federal court. When they were arrested in March at the Trident nuclear sub base in Bangor, Washington, one of the six, Betsy Lamb, was three weeks shy of completing her probation sentence issued for crossing the same line in August 2015.

Because of this violation, the same judge who had sentenced her to probation now asked for a bond to guarantee her return for trial on September 6. He also demanded that Lamb promise not to undertake any action at a military base that might violate the law.

Lamb, 78, told the court that while she was not planning any such action and had never missed a court date, she could not in good conscience make such a promise. If conscience and faith dictated, she might be compelled to take another nonviolent action at a military base.

Before signing, Lamb amended the text on the form by writing in the words “as my conscience allows.”

Judge David Christel looked at the form and told her,

“You can’t do that.” He also rejected Lamb’s offer to wear an ankle monitor and report regularly to her probation officer. When it was clear her conscience would not be compromised, he ordered Lamb remanded to the custody of the U.S. marshals and set a detention hearing for Monday, June 12.

While the court was focused on Lamb’s conscience, it overlooked having the other defendants sign off on the conditions for their pre-trial release, which avoided the possibility that others might join her in prison for the same reason.

So when friends are with us over the weekend to fold newsletters and label and stamp envelopes, we’ll be thinking of Betsy, locked up in the SEATAC federal detention center in Seattle. Check the prisoner list on the Nuclear Resister website at nukeresister.org/inside-out/ to see if she is still in jail, and if so, where you can write to her.

Thank you, Betsy!

**They are in there for us,  
we are out here for them.**

## Good Friday, continued

*continued from page 1*

blockaders were warned to leave or be arrested. All but five left the road. Vera Anderson, Kelsey Chalmers, George Killingsworth, Séamus Knight and Megan Ramsey were arrested and taken to jail in Las Vegas. All were cited and released by late that night.

For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

## Pentagon

A group of students from Loras College in Iowa again travelled to Washington, D.C., for part of their spring break. They joined the annual Faith and Resistance retreat and public witness with members of the Atlantic Life Community, Jonah House and the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker. A few dozen people met Thursday, April 11, at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church for a day of reflection, sharing, action planning and liturgy on the theme “Standing with the Crucified – Stop Crucifixion Today.”

Fr. Pat Cunningham, who has lived in South Korea for the last 22 years, spoke to the group about the decade-long nonviolent resistance to a new naval base on Jeju, the Peace Island of Korea. Later, the group viewed the film *Theologians Under Hitler* and were joined by its producer for an animated question and answer session. Fr. Cunningham and the students led the group in liturgy and foot-washing to conclude the evening.

The next morning the ad-hoc community processed from Army-Navy Drive to the police-designated protest zone at the Pentagon with signs and small crosses naming today’s casualties of empire.

During the procession the Loras students led the group in song. As hundreds of Pentagon employees streamed into work and numerous police were on hand, four people remained on the Pentagon sidewalk, subject to arrest, continuing to process toward the building holding signs: “For the Children – Stop all Warring,” “Our Prayer – A Disarmed World,” “We Will Not Raise Our Children To Kill,” and “Mother of All Bombed – Forgive US.”

Police allowed them to proceed halfway down the sidewalk before they were arrested, taken to the Pentagon Police processing center, and released after several hours. Kathy Boylan, Joe Byrne, Bill Frankel-Streit and Paul Magno were charged with failure to comply with a lawful order and given a notice to appear in federal court on June 1. The charges were later dismissed.

While they were in custody, the others were joined by local activists in front of the White House for another public witness. Enacting a “contemporary crucifixion” on Pennsylvania Avenue, eleven crucified victims wearing black robes took turns standing on a crate with arms outstretched on a cross. A reflection was read for each of the victims of war, racial violence, nuclearism, prison, poverty and economic exploitation, torture and abuse of the environment. As each victim came off the cross the group sang, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” There were no arrests.

For more information, visit jonahhouse.org and dccatholicworker.wordpress.com.

*Thanks to Art Laffin for his report.*

## Livermore Lab

More than 100 people gathered at the Livermore nuclear weapons lab on Good Friday for early morning worship. This year’s liturgy, fifty years after Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his historic Beyond Vietnam

speech, asked “Where Would Dr. King Be Today?”

Organizers declared, “We believe Dr. King’s spirit is with us at the Livermore Lab where new nuclear weapons continue to be designed, saying once again, ‘In a day when ... guided ballistic missiles are carving highways of death through the stratosphere, no nation can win a war. Today it is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence; it is either nonviolence or nonexistence.’ We look at the wars, the oppression and the ongoing efforts to protect our planet; we still have before us the work to end what Dr. King described as ‘the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism.’”

After worship, a procession to the gate stopped to mark contemporary Stations of the Cross. Police arrested 28 people who crossed the line, citing them for unlawful assembly. At their May 15 court date, they learned that no charges had been filed.

For more information, visit epicalc.org.

## Lockheed-Martin

Robert Smith writes:

At noon on April 14, the Brandywine Peace Community held their annual Good Friday Stations of Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Resistance at Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Crosses were laid between banners and signs, while a bell of peace tolled. Each station had a reading ranging from Chief Sitting Bull to Sojourner Truth, Howard Zinn, Dr. King, Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Daniel Berrigan, Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, William Penn, Gandhi and Jesus.

The backdrop was war, forever more war: U.S. cruise missiles attacking Syria, a near-nuclear bomb (the mother of all bombs) dropped on Afghanistan, the threat of nuclear war with North Korea. Lockheed Martin, the U.S. #1 war profiteer, the world’s largest arms producer, was the obvious place for us to be on Good Friday.

At the 13th and 14th Stations – Jesus is taken down from the Cross and laid in the tomb – the following was read by the group:

We mourn all the victims of war and terror. We know that the profits of Lockheed Martin rest on war, militarism and the violation of the earth. We have for far too long suffered in silence the social ravages of empire, corporate greed and a war economy. With each passing day, it worsens with the stamp of Trump. But still we hang on insisting that where war is business, as here at Lockheed Martin, there cannot be business as usual. We resist Lockheed Martin with Jesus’ love and a continuing commitment to justice, to honoring the earth, to peace, to the cross of nonviolent resistance.

The readings came to an end, the bell continued to toll, and a line of people with prayers (pleas, really) for peace stood across the main driveway entrance. All the same people it seems. Maybe a few others the next time?

Those arrested were taken to the Upper Merion police station and released with a disorderly conduct citation: Theresa Camerota, Beth Centz, Carrol Clay, Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Tom Mullian, Paul Sheldon and Fr. Patrick Sieber, OFM.

For more information, contact Brandywine Peace Community at 484-574-1148, brandywine@juno.com.



photo by Fumi Tosu

**Betsy Lamb and a friend outside the gate of the Trident submarine base in Bangor, Washington on March 7, 2017.**

## Thanks

Thanks to Frank, Faith, Jim, Sarah, Sonia, Cindy, Leonardo and Kathleen for helping to mail the last issue, and to Ruth for proofreading this issue.

### the Nuclear Resister

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#### YOU CAN HELP!

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

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

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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



Treat Her With Respect

Mother's Day at Bangor

Fifty-five people were present on May 13, the day before Mother's Day, to demonstrate against the Trident submarines and their nuclear weapons at the Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Washington state. They gathered at the gate along the side of the road with a full-size inflatable Trident missile (45' long, 7' diameter), and behind a long, multi-colored banner reading "The Earth Is Our Mother – Treat Her With Respect."

Mother's Day in the United States was initiated in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe as a day dedicated to peace. The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action sponsors the annual demonstration at the nuclear submarine base.

Music was provided by the Seattle Peace Chorus Action Ensemble. Susan Crane, who served 17 months in federal prison for the 2010 Disarm Now Plowshares

action at the base, spoke to the group about the late Fr. Daniel Berrigan and his warning that a nuclear war will be legal; that the courts and judges will approve.

"But our faith and conviction reminds us of the command: no killing and no war," she said. "We are here to act for the next generations, and we are here for active nonviolent solutions and actions. And we are not alone. There are many signs of resistance, signs of hope around the world. Every nonviolent action, no matter how small, creates hope. And together, these small instances of hope are precursors, a taste, a glimpse, of a nonviolent world."

Ground Zero member Tom Rogers lamented, "Our kids deserve to grow up in a world without nuclear weapons. It is a failure of our generation that they must live in fear of nuclear annihilation and bear the cost of a

massive modernization of our nuclear weapons complex."

At the end of the rally, six people carried the banner into the six-lane road, blocking traffic briefly. They were removed from the highway by the Washington State Patrol. A short time later, eight other people carried the mock missile into the road and were also escorted off by the State Patrol.

Cited for being pedestrians on a roadway and released after an hour were James Brecht, Susan Crane, Ed Digilio, Lisa Johnson, Mack Johnson, Paul Kikuchi, Cliff Kirchmer, Kim Loftness, Margarita Munoz, Elizabeth Murray, Ramon Nacanaynay, Chris Rogers and Michael Siptroth.

Thanks for Ground Zero for the report.

BANGOR TRIAL UPDATE

Three men who crossed the line at the Bangor gate at the May, 2016, demonstration were in federal court in Tacoma, Washington on April 15 to face trial on trespass charges.

Larry Kerschner, Bernie Meyer and Gilberto Perez had stipulated to the facts of their line-crossing. They had carried a colorful banner onto the base with symbols linking nuclear weapons and climate change, and a sign with an illustration of then recently-deceased Fr. Daniel Berrigan and his words, "Know where you stand and stand there."

Leonard Eiger writes:

The court, as it has done in every case involving nuclear resisters at the Bangor base, granted the government's motion in limine, which disallowed presenting any defense involving the necessity defense, international law regarding the use of nuclear weapons, and the policies of the U.S. government regarding the use of nuclear weapons. At attorney Blake Kremer's request, however, the court agreed to give some leeway in the defendants' testimony.

Kremer noted to the court that the defendants have lived lives of service to humanity, and that they are united in the belief that nuclear weapons are illegal and immoral.

On the stand, Gilberto Perez, a Buddhist monk in the Nipponzan Myohoji order, spoke of how he prayed as he and the other defendants crossed the blue line onto the Bangor base. When asked by

Kremer what he would do for the cause of peace, he replied that, "I would be willing to give my life; to spend the rest of my life in jail." Perez noted that he is willing to sacrifice himself to get across the message that we can use diplomacy with Russia, North Korea and China and prevent nuclear war.

In his testimony, Larry Kerschner said that people do not consider the implications of the use of nuclear weapons and their effects. "We tried to wake people up to what Trident can do – the indiscriminate killing of mass numbers of people."

Bernie Meyer said that, "the experts are warning us... we have to give up business as usual," and that there must be "trust" among world leaders in order to solve the existential problems we face, particularly nuclear weapons and climate change. He also quoted former Secretary of Defense William Perry who recently said that it is up to the people to speak out and demand action on nuclear weapons.

In part of Blake Kremer's closing statement he

said, "These defendants have knowledge that some courts and legal scholars believe they have a right and even an obligation to bring their message of peace and nonviolence to the base commander and the government, and that the importance of this message makes it necessary and legally justifiable for them to stand on base while attempting to deliver this message." Sadly, the court made it impossible for the defendants to use any defenses that have been recognized in other courts!

The three were convicted and sentenced to one year probation, 100 hours of community service in organizations "unrelated to the prevention of nuclear proliferation" and \$35 in court fees.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org. To download a 20-page summary of the trial, including complete court statements by the defendants and Kremer's closing statement, visit bit.ly/T3Trial or email nukeresister@igc.org to receive it via email.



photo by Leonard Eiger  
Larry Kerschner, Bernie Meyer and Gilberto Perez after their April 15 trial in the Tacoma federal courthouse.

JARED CHASE UPDATE

Thanks to freethenato3.wordpress.com

Jared "Jay" Chase is the last remaining NATO 3 defendant in prison. He was arrested on May 16, 2012, along with Brent Betterly and Brian Jacob Church in the lead up to the anti-NATO protests in Chicago, Illinois. The three were originally charged with 11 felony counts under the Illinois state version of the USA Patriot Act, including material aid for terrorism, conspiracy to commit terrorism and possession of an incendiary device. What surfaced after their arrests was that two undercover cops, "Mo" and "Gloves", had worked to entrap these three activists and others as part of Chicago's surveillance and targeting of the local activist community.

The NATO 3 went to trial in January 2014 and were acquitted of all terrorism charges. They were found guilty of possession of an incendiary device with the intent to commit arson, possession of an incendiary device with the knowledge that another intended to commit arson, and mob action.

Church and Betterly have been paroled from prison sentences of five and six years.

Jared Chase was sentenced to eight years. He was diagnosed with Huntingdon's Disease before trial, a fatal, degenerative genetic disorder that results in personality changes, irritability, impulsiveness and impaired judgment. He is not receiving treatment for this disease from the Illinois Department of Corrections. In April 2016, Chase was sentenced to an additional year in prison for squirting a shampoo bottle of his human waste at a correctional officer. His release date has been extended two times now. Currently, he is set to be released in June 2019.



Jay Chase's birthday is June 12. He's been in segregation for a long time. He enjoys getting mail but is not writing back to many people, so updates are sparse. Please send a card or letter to Jared Chase, M44710, P.O. Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764.



**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)

Inside & Out

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

**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: Chelsea Manning**

*Angry Driver Threatens  
Beale Blockade*

Monthly overnight campouts and nonviolent direct actions continue at Beale Air Force Base, the Global Hawk surveillance drone center north of Sacramento, California. These high-altitude, long-endurance surveillance drones serve commanders of “non-continuous operations representative of the current combat tempo” with real-time imagery of action on the ground.

In late March, enough vigilers were present to protest simultaneously at all three gates early in the morning, blocking traffic with four bodies and a banner across one of the gates.

One banner read, “U.S. Drone Kills 49, while praying in mosque, Syria (March 16, 2017).” A leaflet distributed to stopped drivers asked, “How would you feel if a foreign country attacked your place of worship? Beale personnel in the Global Hawk drone program witness this carnage on their computer screens. What toll is taken on their psychic and spiritual well-being?”

Military police were apparently caught off-guard, as traffic was stopped for almost an hour. The blockade was lifted before anyone was arrested.

Protesters returned to Beale on May 22 and 23 for their monthly overnight and vigil. In the morning, Air Force police had placed traffic cones in the entry road to separate traffic into three lanes – one lane to exit, one lane for the military entering the base and another for contractors and civilians going in. Just before 7 a.m., Elliott Adams, Shirley Osgood, Mauro Oliveira and Michael Kerr moved the cones so that they blocked the roadway, and then they laid down across the road.

The contractors began trying to drive around this die-in blockade, and the activists moved their bodies and the cones closer to maintain it. One big 18 wheeler drove down the shoulder of the road past all of the stopped traffic. When the angry driver came to the gate, he stopped with the driver’s side tire just a foot and a half from Elliott Adams’ legs.

The other blockaders and Chris Nelson rushed in front of the truck, yelling and trying to keep

the driver from running over Adams. The driver started screaming and swearing, revving his motor, honking his horn and threatening to drive over Adams’ legs.

Air Force police were slow to intervene, perhaps because the truck had not yet entered the base.

Adams writes, “Once [the driver] had stopped, two things happened. First, he was now blocking the road so no one could get through. Second, the power balance shifted. Now psychologically it was harder for him to start the truck rolling, [having] full knowledge of what would happen.”

Finally, one of the police spoke to the driver, while military traffic was redirected to another gate.

Adams continues, “There was lots of adrenaline flowing in all groups; actionists, truck drivers, military security guards, and me.”

Michael Kerr said afterwards, “It was a scary moment with a VERY angry driver forced to stop less than two feet from Elliot Adams’ lower legs. I kept telling Elliot to move his legs as it wasn’t worth losing them. Later he said he felt positive that he could move them safely if the truck moved again. I am not sure! We finally moved and let the driver go into the gate along with a lot of backed up contractor trucks.”

The four blockaders then walked onto the base and were arrested.

“That was a cliff-hanger,” said Nelson, who was not arrested. “I kept thinking of Brian Willson,” recalling the Vietnam veteran and peace activist whose legs were severed in 1987 by a munitions train at the Concord Naval Weapons Station in California that sped into a long-running protest of arms shipments to Central America.

Despite the regular federal trespass citations being issued, prosecutors have yet to follow through in court.

For more information, visit facebook.com/ OccupyBealeAirForceBase.

*Thanks to Barry Binks for his report on the May arrests.*



photo by Jerry Monroe Maynard

**Drone warfare opponents block non-emergency traffic on Nevada State Highway 95 during the morning commute to Creech Air Force Base, northwest of Las Vegas, April 26.**

**SHUT DOWN CREECH 2017**

*Drone War Resistance  
in Nevada*

Drone warfare resisters escalated their tactics during the 3rd annual Shut Down Creech actions, April 23–29. That week, activists from across the United States joined daily themed vigils at the gate of Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada, and two blockades shut down non-emergency traffic on Nevada State Highway 95. The highway is the main road leading from Las Vegas to the rural air base where lethal missions are remotely piloted for the Pentagon and CIA.

Complementing the nonviolent actions were evening educational programs in Las Vegas, including one featuring two Air Force whistleblowers who worked in the drone program. A commercial aired on Las Vegas TV stations during the week, urging that drone pilots “refuse to fly.”

On Wednesday morning, April 26, seven activists blocked the base entrance while dressed in black, holding symbolic tombstones bearing the names and ages of children killed by U.S. drone strikes. Stretched across the road in front of the activists were seven child-sized coffins bearing the names of the countries where U.S. drones have waged constant war: Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan and Libya.

Simultaneously, several miles south, eight people blocked traffic on Highway 95. Before police arrived, some of the protesters slowed the speeding traffic with signs and props, while others stretched huge banners across the highway to express their demands: “Shut down Creech” and “Drone Pilots, Refuse to Fly.”

Another activist talked to drivers in stopped vehicles about the crimes committed by the drone pilots and operators at the base. Police arrived 15 minutes later and the blockade was lifted. No arrests were made.

The next day, April 27, activists again blocked Highway 95 several miles away from the base, stopping only Creech-bound traffic until police arrived. Toby Blomé and Ronald Mecklosky were arrested on the scene and taken into Las Vegas, where they were held on \$2000 bail, each. Later that day, Blomé’s daughter Margeaux Temeltas, who had been present both days providing support for the highway blockades, was lured by police away from the group’s camp site and also arrested. Mecklosky and Temeltas were released that evening, while Blomé was held until 4 a.m. the next day.

Shut Down Creech was organized by CODEPINK, Nevada Desert Experience, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and Veterans for Peace.

For more information, visit shutdowncreech.blogspot.com or contact Toby Blomé, ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net, 510-215-5974 or Brian Terrell, brian@vcnv.org, 773-853-1886.

*Peltier Meets Attorney as  
Campaign Regroups*

Leonard Peltier remains at the federal prison in Coleman, Florida, where a three-week lockdown was recently lifted. He is meeting with an attorney to complete a request for transfer to a lower security prison, closer to his family. The International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee will provide information about how to support this request once it has been filed.

The committee also anticipates an updated medical report by the end of June, as an abdominal aortic aneurysm reported last winter remains untreated.

The Committee has rebuilt the campaign website at www. whoisleonardpeltier.info, with a sign-up for email updates at the bottom of the page and a gallery of Peltier’s paintings available for purchase.



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

**MILITARY REFUSER  
RYAN JOHNSON RELEASED**

An AWOL recruit turned war resister has been released from military prison in San Diego after serving a ten month sentence.

U.S. Army soldier Ryan Johnson returned from Canada and surrendered to military authorities last summer. On September 26, Johnson pleaded guilty to missing movement and remaining away from the military for 4,175 days (nearly 11½ years) before a “Special Courts Martial” at Fort Irwin, California. He was sentenced to 10 months in the brig and was recently released.

Johnson was assisted by civilian attorney James Branum, who has defended several returning war resisters.

Like many young recruits in the months following the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Johnson was promised what the Army could not deliver: a non-combat supply logistics job. By the time he was ordered to deploy as a machine-gunner, Johnson had no combat training and was suffering from a spinal cord injury during training that, in the rush to deploy as many soldiers as possible to Iraq, went untreated. He was told to pack his prescribed opioids and get treatment in Iraq. He believed that with his disability he would be a burden to his unit, not an asset.

While a large factor in the decision Johnson made with his wife Jennifer to leave the Army without authorization was the back injury, he was also increasingly disturbed by the stories of battlefield atrocities told by returning soldiers. He called the GI Rights Hotline for advice, and

while exploring his options, was soon in contact with war resisters and conscientious objectors, even attending the May, 2005 court martial of refuser Pablo Paredes. Finding harmony with and inspired by their actions, Johnson faced a choice between cutting his losses and turning himself in or escalating his resistance. He chose the latter.

Ryan Johnson told Amy Goodman on Democracy Now! in 2005, just before he and Jennifer crossed the border into Canada:

RJ: “...it’s a really big political decision you have to make. You have to decide that you want to really get the word out there about what’s going on with the soldiers, and this makes like an international type thing. You go there and it gets the word out there a little bit more than just staying at home and going to jail and everything.”

AG: “And you’re willing to do that?”

RJ: “I would love to be able to just show people, you know, that it’s not worth it and that this war is illegal.”

In Canada, the Johnsons were active in the small community of war resisters and helped start a chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War there.

Following their personal decision to return to the United States, Courage to Resist established a fund at couragetoresist.org/support-ryan to help Ryan and his wife Jennifer relocate after his release.

For more information, visit couragetoresist.org.

# Ground the Drones!

## Resistance at Des Moines Drone Command Center

With President Trump increasing the number of armed drone war attacks, the Des Moines Catholic Worker community and local Veterans for Peace (VfP) chapter hope to boost anti-war resistance. They initiated a Stop the Killing 24/7 War Zone Picket Line campaign at the gate of the Iowa Air National Guard’s 132nd Wing drone command center on the south side of Des Moines.

The picket was established on May 11 and got rained out for one day that week, and continued with a handful of stalwarts and supporters dropping by. A dozen people were present on Armed Forces Day, May 20. They gathered directly in front of the closed gate to share thoughts and reflections with each other.

Former priest and Des Moines Catholic Worker Frank Cordaro preached on the biblical theme of the Watchman, reading from Ezekiel 33. He issued a challenge to the local Catholic community in particular, and Christians generally, to take an honest look at the mission of the drone command center and move away from a posture of blind nationalism on issues of war and peace.

When their witness concluded, National Guard security personnel informed the group they were on Guard property and must leave. All but Cordaro moved back to the vigil site on the grass nearby. Cordaro was arrested and taken to the Des Moines police station. He was cited for trespass, given a letter barring him from the base and then released with a court date of May 30.

A small group returned each day to vigil in the

### Missile Attack Arrests, cont.

*continued from page 1*

Florida, dissolved into a melee that ended with six arrests. A vociferous supporter of President Trump, who had been heckling the speakers and intrusively videotaping the crowd of 50–100 demonstrators, hopped up on the platform next to organizers, waving a flag in their faces and shouting over them with his own bullhorn.

Police intervened only when speaker Connell Crooms tried to stop the swinging flag and scuffled with the provocateur. In the ensuing fracas, police arrested six people including Crooms. Police later claimed the young, hearing-impaired, black union organizer had “changed the dynamic of the crowd [by] talking about police profiling and the targeting of young black men,” just before the dispute began. Crooms can be seen on one video being pummeled by police, and he had to be hospitalized briefly before being jailed overnight with the others. Gary Snow, the provocateur known to organizers from other recent counter-protests, was not arrested.

Five who were – Coombs, Thomas Beckham, Christina Kittle, David Schneider and William Wilder – were there to protest the missile attack. They face varied misdemeanor and felony charges including inciting a riot, resisting arrest, possession of marijuana, battery of a law enforcement officer and affray. All were released the next day on bail. A sixth person, self-described Trump supporter Robert Sheffield, was not involved with the group but was arrested when police saw him throw a cup of liquid at a female protester. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five days in jail.

Ten days later, at another protest demanding Trump release his tax returns, police identified Joshua Weber as the masked man who grabbed the cord of Gary Snow’s megaphone on April 7. When questioned about that event at the tax protest, Weber was initially uncooperative. He was taken into custody and charged with resisting the arrest without violence, but not for his actions on April 7.

Supporters organized under the name Justice for the Jax5 demanded the charges be dropped. On June 1, the state did just that for Connell Crooms and David Schneider. The next day, Beckham, Kittle and Wilder all pleaded guilty to reduced misdemeanors charges. They were sentenced to 25 hours of community service. The state attorney’s office also reported that after investigating his role, Snow would not be charged. Because protest organizers did not obtain a permit, their investigation determined that “Snow had an equal right to be in the same public space.”

For more information, contact justiceforthejax5@gmail.com.

June 8, 2017

landscaped grass outside the gate, prompting the deployment of a low chain fence to mark the base boundary from the broad shoulder of the road.

On Saturday, May 27, the sixteenth day of the vigil, VfP members from Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and Des Moines led a “Say NO to Iowa Reaper Drones” demonstration. Des Moines Catholic Worker and VfP member Al Burney stood with the VfP flag, cap and t-shirt, blocking the closed gate of the command center. Base security and Des Moines police soon arrested Burney and took him into custody on the base. He was released at the gate with a citation for trespass and June 6 court date.

In the busy arraignment courtroom the following Tuesday, a long-acquainted city judge William Price greeted Frank Cordaro as he approached the bench. “Frank, where’ve you been?”

Cordaro told him. He was pleading guilty, and “modeling my efforts after Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker movement, who in the 1950s protested the annual air raid drills in New York City for five years in a row until the city stopped having the air raid drills. Dorothy and the Catholic Worker pled guilty, refused to pay any fines and court costs and preferred to go to jail as a penance for those killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”

Whatever jail time he did in this campaign, Cordaro said, he would do as penance for those killed by U.S.-led drone wars, especially those killed connected with the work and mission of the Iowa Guard drone command on the south side of Des Moines.

Judge Price said, “So you want to go to jail, is that it?”

“No,” Cordaro said, “Nobody want to go to jail! All I am saying is, it don’t matter if you send me to jail or not, I’m going to keep coming back.”

The judge said he wasn’t going to fine him, because he knows he won’t pay. How about community service?

“No,” Cordaro told him. “I do that for a living.”

Jail seemed the court’s last option. “But there’s no room at the inn,” the judge pleaded, an overcrowded jail allusion he hoped would persuade the Catholic activist. It did not.

Cordaro was sentenced to 48 hours in jail, which he served immediately.

The vigil has been a challenge for the small group of initiators to sustain. The action has yet to spark the broader community interest and personal commitment needed to sustain such a presence. Nevertheless, the core group will continue this summer for at least several hours a day, a few days each week, while open to more participation.

Frank Cordaro returned to the vigil on June 3 and again crossed the line in protest. He was arrested and cited for trespass, then released at the gate with a June 15 court date.

For more information, contact Gil Landolt, Veterans for Peace, peacevet@hotmail.com, 515-333-2180 or Frank Cordaro, Des Moines Catholic Worker, frank.cordaro@gmail.com, 515-490-2490.



photo by Frank Cordaro  
**Veteran for Peace Al Burney takes a stand at the gate of the drone warfare command center in Des Moines, Iowa, May 27.**

## Christening of Destroyer Prompts Shipyard Blockade

A wet spring snowstorm did not postpone the christening of the U.S.S. Thomas Hudner, the latest navy destroyer to sail out of Bath Iron Works (BIW) in Bath, Maine. Likewise undeterred were three dozen peace activists from Massachusetts to Maine calling for the immediate conversion of the shipyard to the production of commuter rail systems, offshore wind turbines, solar and tidal power systems – all viable economic enterprises along the eastern seaboard.

With signs and banners, they greeted the few who arrived to attend the outdoor ceremony on April 1. Some of them approached the gate with their signs. When they were denied entry, nine people blocked the entrance and refused to leave. They were soon arrested without incident and taken into custody.

Bob Dale, Bruce Gagnon, Natasha Mayers, Jason Rawn, Mark Roman, Lisa Savage, Jessica Stewart, Mike Tork and Russell Wray were each charged with trespass and released after posting a \$60 bail.

In court on May 16, all pled not guilty. Jury selection was set for September 7, with a trial date to be determined.

Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Nuclear Power and Weapons in Space and a long-time resident of Bath, credited the local district attorney’s office for sparking the protest. In February, Gagnon could not attend the last day of trial and sentencing for an earlier protest at BIW. When he was sentenced on March 8 to 30 hours of community service, the prosecutor objected that the sentence would not deter protest at future events. For example, she cited the upcoming April 1 christening of the new stealth destroyer.

Gagnon told the *Bangor Daily News*, “We appreciated the tip ... on the date of the next blessing by a resurrected Jesus Christ who I suppose comes back as a militarist – and a Navy man. Most of us in the peace movement can’t quite swallow the idea of Christ giving his blessing for a \$1.5 billion instrument of war.”

For more information, contact globalnet@mindspring.com.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES France

The stage is set for a second summer of dramatic resistance to a planned permanent nuclear waste dump about 140 miles east of Paris.

On April 26, a court ordered all of the occupying anti-nuclear activists out of a contested communal forest, the Bois Lejuc, where the government nuclear waste authority ANDRA wants to drill ventilation shafts for the dump, and the “owls” have been living through the winter. But the forest-dwelling activists have not abandoned their makeshift homes in the trees.

Despite the order, an appeals court ruling in late February invalidated a 2014 vote by the municipal council in Mandres-en-Barrios to sell the woods. Legally, the woods still belong to all of the villagers.

The council responded by calling on short notice for a second vote on the matter on May 18. That day, a heavily militarized police force surrounded the building where the council met. Police outnumbering residents patrolled the streets of both Manders-en-Barrios and neighboring Bure, where the House of Resistance has been the center of organizing against the dump for more than a decade. The church and town hall were both blocked off, and tear gas was used against demonstrators at the barricades.

The council again voted 6-5 to sell the woods, and has again been challenged in court. Thirty-five people – one third of the village residents – have appealed the vote to a regional court for the same reason the first vote was overturned. The council majority has glaring conflicts of interest, the Mayor is accused of forgery in the process, and a town vote in 2013 to reject the sale is ignored.

Just a few days later, on May 22, the Nancy Court of Appeal upheld a separate judgement that forest clearing and other work carried out by ANDRA last summer was not permitted. The agency still has no legal authorization or legitimacy to resume its work. It has not paid the fine, nor adequately rehabilitated the landscape it illegally destroyed.

Meanwhile, on May 2, hundreds of dump opponents had turned out to support farmer Jean Pierre Simon at the high court in Bar-le-Duc. He’s charged with helping

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# INTERNATIONAL NOTES



agirpouirlapaix.be photo

One of several affinity groups who joined the blockade of the NATO summit meeting in Brussels, May 25

## Belgium/NATO

A broad international coalition of peace activists, environmentalists, anti-globalists, and more were involved in a month of preparation and action for the NATO summit in Brussels at the end of May.

A week of training sessions in early May prepared hundreds of people for demonstrations and mass nonviolent action. Many of those who were trained joined the peace camp in a nearby park that served as an activity hub from May 21-26.

On the morning of May 23, ten peace activists pitched tents inside the offices of the European Commission. Their occupation denounced steps by the European Union to begin subsidizing a military research programme carried out by the arms industry. Around noon, the police removed the activists from the premises and recorded their ID. No arrests were made.

An estimated 24,000 people took part in the “Trump Not Welcome” and “No to NATO, No to War” march on Wednesday, May 24. While President Trump demanded more blood money from members of the nuclear-armed alliance, the marchers’ theme was “People First, Not War.” Marchers also demanded that NATO members join the negotiations for the future Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and ultimately sign it.

## Ireland

On the night of April 25, Irish peace activists Edward Horgan and Dan Dowling discreetly entered Shannon Airport. They headed on foot to Taxiway 11 where two U.S. Navy planes were parked. Despite official neutrality, successive Irish governments have let the U.S. military make regular use of Shannon for rest and refueling to and from war zones in the Middle East and Africa.

“Rendition” flights have been documented through Shannon carrying kidnapped terrorism suspects to Guantanamo and secret prisons. Transportation of weapons and ammunition beyond the personal gear of the thousands of soldiers passing through Ireland is prohibited, but Irish authorities never inspect the airplanes.

Instead, they’re protected – this night by an Irish army patrol and a civilian police officer. The two activists got as far as the aircraft before they were spotted, and the patrol and police cars surrounded them with blue flashing lights.

Horgan presented the police with a 34-page document titled “List of children killed in Middle East related wars.” He’d only begun to compile it, but already the list included almost 1,000 names, a tiny fraction of the up to one million children estimated to have died needlessly in the Middle East since the first Gulf War in 1991.

Horgan told the *Clare Champion* that he will bring the list into court. “I will use it as evidence in the case myself. I want the gardaí (police) to be aware that because they are not searching the planes, we and they are complicit in the killing of these innocent children.”

The activists asked the soldiers and police to search and investigate the U.S. aircraft. Instead, they were arrested, handcuffed and taken to Shannon police station. They were held for twelve hours and charged with property damage on the basis of graffiti found painted on one of the engines: the words, “Danger Danger Do Not Fly!”

After a short hearing in Ennis District Court, both men were released on bail. Dr. Horgan was ordered to stay away from Shannon as a condition of his bail while

On the afternoon of May 25, more than 150 people joined actions to disrupt the arrival of NATO delegates at the alliance’s new headquarters for the summit. Greenpeace activists scaled a construction crane nearby and hung a large banner simply declaring “#RESIST”.

Three groups of activists occupied three different highway sign platforms that spanned the motorway, hanging protest banners over the road that Trump and the other leaders would travel. Police had to block the road while they spent two hours dislodging the activists, arresting 37 while the summit program was briefly delayed.

Meanwhile, about a hundred people occupied the major intersection by the headquarters. Many locked down while a samba dance and clowns relaxed the atmosphere.

While it had been negotiated with the police that the blockade at the crossroads could remain until 5 p.m., at 4:45 p.m. the police moved in and made 91 arrests. The arrestees were bussed away from the site and jailed while their details were recorded. They were then released.

For more information, visit [agirpouirlapaix.be](http://agirpouirlapaix.be) and [vredesactie.be/en](http://vredesactie.be/en).

Dowling must not enter County Clare.

They returned to court on June 7 to have the bail conditions reconsidered and begin discovery of evidence. They were surprised when Judge Durcan refused to accept jurisdiction and moved the case up to the Circuit Court for a jury trial.

On the matter of bail conditions, Dowling was partly successful in having his conditions modified.

Horgan agreed to post a €500 personal bond, but not with the other five proposed conditions to his bail. Four having to do with his residency, reporting to police and answering police calls to a mobile number he must provide were removed as unnecessary and punitive for a person with no criminal convictions.

The disputed condition forbid him from being at Shannon Airport, Shannon town and environs. While quite willing to sign an agreement to stay away from the airport itself, he told the court it would be a violation of the Constitution of Ireland to forbid his attendance at the monthly nonviolent peace vigils outside the gates.

The judge moved on to other matters, and it was clear Horgan was not free to go until he signed the form. The court clerk tried to sort out a compromise with Horgan, police and the prosecutor. The officials decided that if he did not sign the new form, the court would revert to the one he signed after his arrest. Horgan then revoked his signature.

After more discussion, he agreed to sign the new, less onerous conditions despite his constitutional objection to the provision, and reserved the right to appeal the matter. No trial date has been set.

Meanwhile, Colm Roddy was in court on March 15, trying to resolve the farce of a once-dismissed charge for protest at Shannon being revived with a summons last fall. The prosecutor who’d moved to overturn the judge’s dismissal did not show for court and put the hearing off again.

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

## South Korea

Since it was first announced in the summer of 2016, opposition to the deployment of the United States’ THAAD missile defense system in South Korea has been fierce.

It has centered around a former golf course in Seongju, the chosen site for the launchers, radar and other support systems in an agricultural area 150 miles south of the border with North Korea.

Escalating tension between North Korea and the United States while President Trump was coming into power and corrupt South Korean President Park Geun-hye was being forced out of office was exploited for the rapid deployment of the controversial system in March and April, even before land use rights had been granted to the United States. The United States and South Korean military pushed for the action before the May 9 presidential election, as the deployment was opposed by all the major candidates.

Demonstrations and vigils held since last summer gave way to round-the clock resistance from area residents, joined by peace activists who came from across the country.

Won Buddhist monks, whose sect founders lived in the area a century ago, were blocked from their traditional pilgrimage route. They began a 24/7 presence in March beside the road leading to the site, and were joined some days by hundreds of other area residents.

“The primary teachings of our grand master was about peace,” one of the monks, Won Ik-son, told a reporter. “The deployment of THAAD is accelerating the pace of war. The whole Korean Peninsula could be destroyed at any time by conventional weapons. The deployment of THAAD hasn’t done anything but escalate that.”

Twice on March 29 police tried to escort truckloads of equipment for evaluating the site’s geology but were stopped by the large group of resident elders, activists and Buddhist monks sitting in.

The next major clash came on April 20, as soon as the two governments announced a hasty land use agreement. Before dawn, police rushed into the village again, detaining villagers in an attempt to avert blockades of two convoys of support equipment headed to the golf course. Two arrests were reported during the day of confrontation between police and residents, and one monk trying to stop a truck was violently arrested and hospitalized.

Over the next two weeks, up to a thousand demonstrators were met by as many as 4,000 riot police, who set up road blocks to control traffic through the area.

Two launchers and the radar system were reportedly delivered early in the morning of April 26, completing the system but for the missiles themselves. At least ten people were injured during blockades, and two hospitalized with broken bones.

On April 30, more supply trucks were turned back by sit-in blockades, with more injuries and two more arrests reported.

On two occasions when vehicles were mobilized for use as barricades, police had smashed windows to remove the occupants and clear the vehicles out of the road.

Officials and media have tried to dismiss the protests as simple parochial concerns over land use, but the meaning of the massive military response required to install the system is not lost on local residents.

“THAAD is a weapon of war,” 64-year-old farmer Ms. Lin Soonboon told *The Washington Times*, as people of all ages banged drums and danced in a circle nearby. “I don’t want a war here. I want more Americans to be conscious about this issue. Korea and America should work together forever, but this will only be possible if more Americans think about peace.”

None of the resisters are reported to remain in custody, and the deployment of four more missiles for the system without notifying the newly elected president Moon Jae-in has kept the controversy very much alive.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

...An **International Anti-Nuclear Summer Camp** will be held July 17-23 in Döbeln, Germany. An international organizing group of the Nuclear Heritage Network invites anti-nuclear activists, organizers and others interested in international networking to this exchange of experiences and knowledge regarding nuclear policies, and for skill sharing, preparing common campaigns, actions and projects. Email for more information to [summercamp@nuclear-heritage.net](mailto:summercamp@nuclear-heritage.net). More information on this camp and other European anti-nuclear events upcoming this summer and fall can be found at [www.nuclear-heritage.net](http://www.nuclear-heritage.net).



## Germany

### LÜNEBERG

Climbing activists provided a fitting backdrop when the German city of Lüneberg closed off the town square for a gala ceremony to welcome home the Germany army.

The local deployment in support of the NATO mission in Syria came back to Germany on March 31. The city expected 1,500 people gawking at the soldiers and tanks, and brought in hundreds of police as well, just in case. Only a third of the expected admirers turned out.

So when two climbers rappelled from a rooftop and hung anti-war banners on a building overlooking the empty reviewing stand, a SWAT team was ready with ropes for some arresting action in front of a crowd that cheered on... the activists!



photo by J. Gerull

#### Climbing activists in Lüneberg unfurl their banners.

One climber protested militarism loudly with a large bullhorn while the other hung two banners reading “War is Terror, Only With More Money” and “The greatest betrayal is service to the fatherland.”

The special tactics police team removed the climbers from their perches, and took them and two supporters into custody. They were released a few hours later with prosecution pending while thousands of dollars in climbing equipment remains in the custody of the police. For more information, visit [blog.eichhoernchen.fr](http://blog.eichhoernchen.fr).

### GRONAU

In Germany, where nonviolent political blockades have been mostly decriminalized, an anti-nuclear activist who refused to pay a record €1,650 fine went to jail instead.

In 2012, Hanna Poddig and others blocked a uranium transport train. The action was part of an international campaign targeting the production of uranium reactor fuel that involves several facilities across Europe. The train was forced to return to the fuel fabrication plant in Gronau. The Gronau plant has supplied fuel rods for a tritium production reactor in South Carolina, a direct link between civilian and military nuclear programs.

On May 11, Poddig turned herself in to the jail at Hildesheim to serve up to 110 days in lieu of the fine.

“Of course I could pay the fine,” she said, “but that would make the punishment less visible. [This is] the highest penalty ever imposed on an arrest warrant. It is important for me to make this at least public.”

A few days later, U.S. folk singer David Rovics joined local musicians for an impromptu concert on the sidewalk outside the prison attended by more than 60 people. They learned later that at about the same time guards came out to demand they stop playing, Poddig was being moved to an isolation cell in the basement, so she could not hear her supporters outside.

Jailers claimed her vegan diet was “too expensive” and it took a court order to allow her more commissary money to supplement her diet with vegan commissary purchases. A letter describing “a particularly absurd incident” was censored by the warden and not sent out. Subsequently Poddig was transferred to a women’s prison two hours away.

Supporters pledged enough towards her fine that she was released on June 2.

“The jail system is not reformable,” she concluded after her brief experience. “Anyone who wants to achieve something in jail must fight back. And whoever does not have a large supportive circle outside, as it is, has a lot more trouble, of course.”

Pointing to the “absurdity of the system,” she noted

# FUTURE ACTIONS

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

## u.s. mission to the u.n.

Join the New York City War Resisters League and many others for a blockade of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. on June 19 to call attention to the dangers of nuclear weapons and to protest the United States’ blatant refusal to participate in U.N. negotiations to ban nuclear weapons. Gather at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 19 at the Isaiah Wall (First Ave. & 43rd St.), then march two blocks north to block the entrances of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. (First Ave. & 45th St.)

## rivers of blood II at the u.s. capitol

“...This I believe to be the privilege and the burden of all of us who deem ourselves bound by allegiances and loyalties which are broader and deeper than nationalism and which go beyond our nation’s self-defined goals and positions. We are called to speak for the weak, for the voiceless, for the victims of our nation and for those it calls ‘enemy,’ for no document from human hands can make these humans any less our brothers...” – Martin Luther King, Jr. from *Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence*.

The words of Martin Luther King Jr. at Riverside Church, fifty years ago and exactly one year before his assassination in 1968, are just as powerful today calling us with urgency to speak out, renounce our comfort, act, and break the silence to the ongoing U.S. wars and militarism.

Join the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance on Wednesday, July 12, for the first in a series of nonviolent resistance actions lifting up Martin Luther King’s 1967 Beyond Vietnam speech, where he named the United States as the greatest purveyor of violence. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Union Station food court near the Walgreens for the final planning meeting before proceeding to the U.S. Capitol building. If the weather permits, participants will move outside for the meeting, so try to be on time. Please bring to wear a t-shirt that has been painted with red paint to simulate blood. For more information, please contact [joyfirst5@gmail.com](mailto:joyfirst5@gmail.com).

## 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](http://tridentploughshares.org)

that just two weeks imprisonment will cost the state more than her fine would have brought in.

Another woman who took part in the same protest, well-known rope-climbing activist Cecile Lecomte, had her fine reduced to only €20, or one night in jail. The warden paid it, apparently to avoid the publicity that could accompany her imprisonment.

For more information, visit [nirgendwo.info](http://nirgendwo.info) (German language)

## Australia

Joseph “Smokin’ Joe” Mekhael, a Sydney, Australia DJ notorious for stunts and theatrical antics as the self-styled General of the Save the World Army, was arrested for disrupting a war memorial service. The dawn memorial at Sydney’s Cenotaph on ANZAC Day, April 25, honors the settler colonialists’ first major military action in World War I.

During a minute of silence, Mekhael stood up at the end of the street and shouted, “The courageous will never be silent as long as these wars continue. Senseless violence. Stop the wars. Bring peace to the world.” As police hustled him away, he kept on chanting into the quiet, “Stop the war, stop the war!” and “Freedom!”

Mekhael was arrested and charged with behaving in an offensive manner in a public place and resisting police, then released on conditional bail. In court May 18, a related charge of creating a nuisance was read out. Mekhael asked for time to consider the added charge before entering any pleas, and his case was adjourned to June 15.

*Read more International Notes starting on page 5.*

## livermore lab

Commemorate the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the place where scientists are creating new nuclear weapons. Rally and nonviolent action at Livermore Lab, corner of Vasco and Patterson Pass Roads, Livermore, California, on Wednesday, August 9 at 8:00 a.m. Program with speakers, musicians and more, followed by procession to the gates of the lab to protest the Trump administration’s nuclear weapons policies. For more information, call 925-443-7148 or 510-839-5877.

## war starts here/germany

A week-long action camp outside Europe’s premier combat training center in Altmark, Germany from July 31 – August 6 will address the roots of conflict now driving refugees into Europe with anti-war and anti-racist action around the theme *War. Power. Flight*. For more information, email [info@war-starts-here.camp](mailto:info@war-starts-here.camp) or visit [www.war-starts-here.camp](http://www.war-starts-here.camp).

## 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](http://buechel-atombombenfrei.de) (click on International & English) and [atomwaffenfrei.de](http://atomwaffenfrei.de). For information about joining the U.S. group, contact John LaForge at Nukewatch, [nukewatch1@lakeland.ws](mailto:nukewatch1@lakeland.ws), 715-472-4185.

## dsei london

Nonviolent direct action at the September DSEI arms trade fair in London will build on past experience with the strategy “if we can stop the set-up, we can stop the arms fair.” The Campaign Against the Arms Trade is coordinating five days of themed disruption of the exhibitors’ delivery and set-up, September 4–8 at the National Pavilion. This will frame a narrative leading into a Big Day of Action on Saturday, September 9, the eve of the world’s largest exhibition for the business of war. Trident Ploughshares will be working with other groups to organize the No to Nuclear Day on Wednesday, September 6. Trainings for direct action begin this summer. To get involved, visit [tridentploughshares.org.uk](http://tridentploughshares.org.uk), [caat.org.uk](http://caat.org.uk) or email Lucie at [events@caat.org.uk](mailto:events@caat.org.uk).

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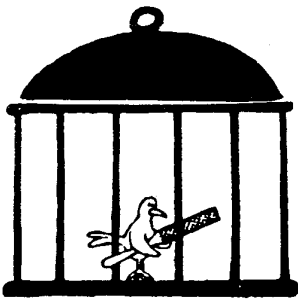


# Update Files

**VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE:** David Omondi was sentenced on May 18 to six months in federal prison for trespass last August 6. He is free pending appeal of the sentence...

**OKINAWA:** After being denied bail on minor charges and spending five months in jail, leading Okinawa peace activist Hiroji Yamashiro finally appeared in court on March 17. He acknowledged cutting a barbed-wire fence at a U.S. military base but denied charges of obstructing business and causing bodily injury to a local official. “I have been forced to remain in long-term detention for the past five months. My isolation has been anomalous and constitutes an unjustifiable clampdown,” he is reported to have told the court. “Okinawa’s anti-war movement will press onward, even more powerfully than before. Our fight will not be stopped.” Two other men facing similar charges from the same protests were also in court and entered not guilty pleas. Yamashiro was released on bail the following day. His trial is expected to begin in August. Against the long-expressed wishes of the majority of the people of Okinawa, construction of a sea wall to reclaim part of Oura Bay for a new U.S. marine base began on April 25. Thousands of people have turned out on multiple occasions since then, continuing to protest outside the gates of Camp Schwab...

**MORDECHAI VANUNU:** The Israeli nuclear whistleblower has been sentenced to community service for violating his post-prison prohibition on contact with foreigners. Sentencing in March followed conviction in January for having a brief conversation with two Americans in a cafe. “I left prison and they put me in another prison,” he told Jerusalem magistrates court. “I performed my punishment and they keep on punishing me.” Vanunu was released in 2004 after serving an 18-year prison sentence, much of it in solitary confinement, for providing evidence of Israel’s secret nuclear weapons program. Vanunu is



forbidden to leave Israel, just one of a set of restrictions on his residence, personal contacts and movement that were imposed upon his release from prison. The restrictions have been renewed annually since then, most recently last month. “To all those who are following this case,” he wrote, “My message is continue to demand my freedom, my right to be free from this prison without end.”...

**BRITISH AEROSPACE:** Rev. Daniel “Woody” Woodhouse and Sam Walton were formally charged on April 27 with two counts of criminal damage under £5,000 to a perimeter fence and hangar door at the British Aerospace factory in Warton, Lancashire. The two men entered the site last January, intent on disarming warplanes built there for export to Saudi Arabia. They were apprehended just before they reached the aircraft. Their next court date is July 10...

**BRISBANE:** Australian prosecutors have now charged four people in connection with the Ash Wednesday removal of a sword from the face of a large stone cross in a local cemetery’s war memorial. Jim Dowling, who pried the sword loose, and Tim Webb, amateur blacksmith who beat it into more of a hoe than a plowshare, will face trial alongside witnesses Andy Paine and Franz Dowling beginning July 19 in Brisbane magistrates court...

**WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE:** Charges have been dismissed against 16 activists who hung banners and staged a die-in in the atrium of the Hart Senate office building on January 11, the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Guantanamo prison camp...

**GERMANY:** After four days of trial this spring, it is still not resolved whether it was a criminal act for the defendant to bring food to a pair of protesters locked down and blocking passage of a uranium transport train in August, 2014. Trial resumes June 21 in Hamburg. Two other prosecutions from anti-nuclear actions in 2011 and 2016 are continuing this summer in Germany, as well...

## France, cont.

*continued from page 5*  
set up the occupation last summer by lending his tractor and a trailer full of straw bales to the effort. During the July, 2016 eviction his vehicles were seized as evidence and have not been returned. Noting the ongoing land ownership dispute, the judge postponed his trial, and any hope of getting his equipment back, until September 12.

Facing forced expulsion at any time from their wooded redoubt, dump resisters have called for people to gather at the House of Resistance in Bure the evening of any eviction action to begin planning for re-occupation two weeks later. Regardless, a national week of action to reinforce the occupation is set for June 19-26, the anniversary of the first occupation.

After forest occupiers were evicted in July 2016, one man was later convicted for accidentally biting the gendarme who grabbed his head from behind. He was sentenced to six months in jail, suspended on the condition he stay out of the Meuse for two years.

“Florent,” as he is known, nevertheless continued to campaign and is one of the “owls” still in the forest. On March 27, he went public with his refusal to cooperate with the declaration that he is “inadmissible” in the Meuse district.

“You are obliged to internalize the repression,” he told a reporter, explaining his decision. “You become your own jailer. It’s perverse... I did not want to stand alone anymore, stay quietly at home and live the struggle by proxy.” Nor does he want to “endorse this masquerade” by appealing the order.

For more information, visit [vmc.camp](http://vmc.camp).

the Nuclear

# Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

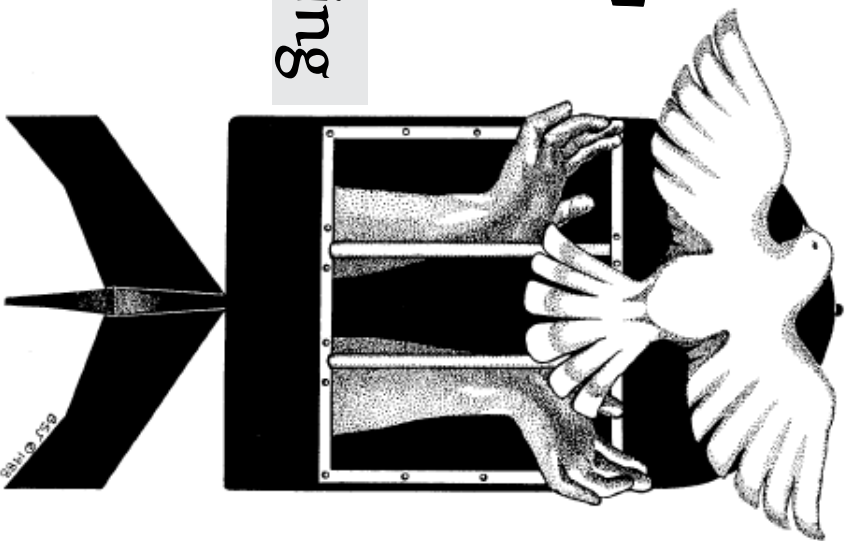
Freedom for Chelsea Manning

Good Friday  
Rituals of Resistance

Nationwide Drone War  
Resistance Actions

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#185 June 8, 2017

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ABOUT AND  
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& ANTI-WAR  
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Resistance Reflections  
Future Actions  
...and more

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